

# **ASPEN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COMPANY**

## **Kali River Stand Up Paddleboard/Raft Trip**

**AITC is offering a 12-day SUP/Rafting trip on the Kali River located in the Foothills of the Himalayas on the border between India and Nepal, from October 28-November 10, 2015. The price of this trip will include all hotel/resort fees, all food, all transportation which will be by trains, buses, and jeeps, all group gear i.e. tents, stoves, and cooking kit, and the fee for the guides. The guides will be Ron Rash who has traveled extensively in this part of India, the state of Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand is India's newest state. Charlie MacArthur, owner of Aspen Kayak and SUP Academy, will be the lead guide on the Kali River. Charlie is world renown for his SUP and kayak skills. The Kali River has many challenging sections of whitewater with some sections of class 4 rapids. The good thing is we have a choice of either by passing these rapids on foot or riding the more challenging sections in the raft. We always have options. Expeditions India will be handling the support raft and they will be providing all of the camping gear for the trip. This trip will be limited to only 8 guests and the section of the Kali River we are running may qualify for a first descent.**

October 28: We will meet in New Delhi at the Legend Inn Hotel. The Legend Inn is a wonderful hotel in the heart of Delhi, one of the most vibrant and busiest cities on earth. The Legend Inn, [www.thelegendinn.com](http://www.thelegendinn.com), is located at E-4, East Kailash, New Delhi-110 065 India. Email: [thelegendinn@gmail.com](mailto:thelegendinn@gmail.com). Phone: +91-11-46153333.

October 29: Our first full day in India will be devoted to absorbing the sights and sounds of Delhi. We will visit many historical landmarks in the city including the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Chattak Chowk, and much more. We will be returning to our hotel in the afternoon to rest up for tomorrow's travel.

October 30: Prepare yourself for travel in India, try to find that calm centered place and enjoy the experience, whatever that experience may be. We will be traveling east by train to Haldwani and then by jeeps north to Pithoragarh. Hopefully, we will arrive in Pithoragarh late in the afternoon. Our stay in Pithoragarh will be at a government run guest house. In Pithoragarh we will be meeting Anvesh Singh Thapa our lead river guide with Expeditions India. Anvesh and I have run the Kali River twice before, never with a group of SUP enthusiasts. Pithoragarh will be our only opportunity to see the High Himalayan Mountains to the north, the Panch Chulis.

October 31: Today we finish buying any needed supplies at the local market, a very entertaining shopping trip for first time westerners. After our shopping trip we then head to the village of Jauljibi, our take off point on the Kali River. We will only be doing a half day on the Kali River. This will be a good introduction for everyone to see what we

are up against and for the guides to see the volume of water on the Kali; it changes from day to day. Most or all of our camping will be on sand bars along the river. Tents will not be needed this time of year due to the fact that the monsoons have ended weeks ago and insects are generally not a problem at this elevation.

November 1-November 7: On these days the routine will be similar with morning breakfast, breaking down of camp, loading rafts, and preparing for departure. There will be plenty of time for Charlie to give instruction and for us to practice. The Kali has many long stretches of flat water between rapids to help us become comfortable on moving water. We will also, have time to scout the challenging rapids to find the best lines or to make a decision as to whether we SUP, kneel down, ride the raft, or walk the shore. We always have a choice and peer pressure of any type will not be tolerated except for Charlie. On our second or third day on the river we will come to the confluence of the Kali River and the mighty Sarjur River and at that point we may notice a difference in the volume of water and speed.

November 8: Today will be short day on the river and our last day. Somewhere below Puniagiri Devi will be our take out point. We will be saying our good byes to Anvesh and his crew as we head back to Delhi. Tonight will be hot showers, clean sheets and good food after camping for so many days on the river.

November 9: This will be a travel day to Agra to see the Taj Mahal, a creation of love by Emperor Shah Jahan to his wife Mumtaz Mahal. No journey to India would be complete without a visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra.

November 10: Today we travel back to Delhi, for some us will be departing India in the late evening to travel back home for others there will be staying to explore other parts of India. The official end of the expedition will happen in the late afternoon.

### **The Kali River SUP/Raft trip ends in Delhi.**

**The cost for this trip is \$4,950.00. We will arrange all transportation back to Delhi. The price includes all travel costs in India, hotels/resort, food, group gear i.e. tents, stoves, cooking gear, rafting equipment, life jackets, helmets, and boating/SUP instructions.**

**The cost does not include rescue in the event of an emergency. Please, have rescue insurance or additional funds for this purpose. The cost does not include changes in transportation caused by a natural emergency or manmade disaster.**

**You will be responsible for personal gear for the trip i.e. the right clothing, sleeping kit, and pack. Please, keep your pack weight under 25 lbs.**

**Please, contact Ron Rash at [ronlrash@aol.com](mailto:ronlrash@aol.com) or phone: (970) 379-8585, if you want more information or if you want to go on this unique trip.**

**To give enough time for acquiring visas and make travel arrangements I should receive all confirmations for this trip by September 25, 2015.**

**Thank you!**

More details: This is not a trip where you will see other westerners. You will find yourself immersed in a different culture and challenged by the travel, weather, and the flora and fauna. You will be traveling through stinging nettle that you will do well to avoid. The Himalayans are the home to the Himalayan black bear, leopards, monkeys, birds of all types, and even tigers in the lower elevations. They even have the Mountain Magpie except it looks considerably different than our Magpies back home. As far as vaccinations the only one I strongly urge that you are up to date on is your tetanus shots. All other vaccinations are up to you and dependent more on whether you will be traveling after our trek in the Indian plains. Please, check with your personal physician. Please, make sure your health insurance covers you for international travel. The guides will be carrying complete first aid kits, plus satellite texting devices.

The checklist: One backpack, capable of carrying 3,000 cubic inches, sleeping bag rated to 20F degrees (a synthetic bag is recommended over down due to the humid conditions), sleeping pad, lightweight hiking boots, 3 pairs of socks, river shoes or chacos, 2 pairs of underwear, long hiking pants or shorts, long sleeve sun shirt, wool or synthetic sweater, wind shirt with hood, wool hat, full brim sun hat, 2 bandanas, sunglasses, high quality rain gear, 1 synthetic t-shirt, camera, headlamp and spare batteries, pen and journal, insect repellent, 2 1 liter water bottles, sun block, bowl and spoon, toothpaste and brush, personal toiletries and medications. We will boil or use Aqua Mir for all water purification.