



The Peace of Wild Things

art nature stillness
a 5 day immersive retreat

21 - 25 August

Camp Purple, Mukteshwar



Inspired by Wendell Berry's poem 'The Peace of Wild Things', this five-day immersive art-nature-stillness retreat is an invitation to step away from the noise, urgency, and anxieties of everyday life and return to the unhurried wisdom of the natural world. We gather in the mountains to slow down, rest, observe, and create. Through wondering and wandering, picturing and poeting, dreaming and doodling, we will seek refuge and inspiration in nature and practice the art of noticing.

Dates

August 21st -25th

Location

Camp Purple, Mukteshwar

Cost

₹26,250 per person
(Excludes travel & art materials)



ITINERARY

Day 1: Sunset Salutations (with Poems and Praises)

An easy evening cliff hike to watch the sunset, read and write poems celebrating the wonder hidden within ordinary moments and to explore how paying attention can become a creative and contemplative practice. Back at the camp, we will experiment with visual poetry- a form that combines words, drawings, symbols, and marks on the page.

Day 2: Playing with Water

A trek to a mountain waterfall for a picnic and watercolor experiments with abstraction and mark-making, followed by some 'me' time at the camp. Post dinner, we will gather again for some star trekking and star gazing and some 'drawing in the dark' activities.

Day 3: A Date with Birds

An early morning forest hike to spend some quality time getting to know the local birds and their surroundings. We will draw birds from memory, observation as well as our imagination. We will take back nature's gifts-fallen treasures back to the camp for a session of journaling combining notes, drawings, questions, and reflections.

Day 4: Masti with Mast Pahadis -Lunch with the Locals

A slow day at the village for a leisurely lunch with the locals along with some unhurried exchanges and conversations. We will do some visual documentation of mountain wisdom- local sayings, recipes, folk tales shared by our hosts. Back in our journals, these fragments will become a living archive of the day. Late evening, We will set up a small exhibition of all our work and throw an art party to celebrate the last day of our art retreat.

Day 5: Traces of you

On our final morning together, we will gather for a collaborative print-making session, with cloth as our canvas, that brings together traces of everything we have encountered over the past few days, leaving behind a record of our time together in the mountains, followed by a farewell breakfast.



ABOUT THE LOCATION

Camp Purple, Mukteshwar, Uttarakhand

Camp Purple is not a resort and not a luxury campsite. It's a quiet space in the Kumaon Himalayas where days are slow, nights are star-filled, and experiences feel personal. Located away from crowded tourist zones, Camp Purple offers an authentic camping stay in Mukteshwar with nature walks, village trails, and local food.

Set on the Mukteshwar ridge, Camp Purple is located about 335 km from Delhi and 50 km from Nainital. Surrounded by apple and peach orchards and forested hills, the camp sits at an altitude of 7,290 ft, offering panoramic Himalayan views and a calm mountain setting.

Stay & Facilities

American Safari tents,

Basketball/volleyball court,

Hangout huts,

Running water,

Clean washrooms,

Delicious pahadi meals with local, seasonal produce

How To Reach

Kathgodam → Camp: 54 km drive

Delhi → Camp: 350 km drive

Delhi → Pantnagar: 1h 5m flight + 3h drive

Mumbai → Bareilly: 2h 25m flight + 4h drive

Cabs easily available

Few local buses also available.



ABOUT THE FACILITATORS

Pooja Dhingra is an independent conceptualizer, graphic designer, art director and founder of Compassion Contagion-an online archive of hope and resilience and Rafooghar - a socially engaged art practice and a community space in New Delhi.

She loves making things for her own amusement. She would much rather work from a moving train or a snow-capped mountain peak than from an office cubicle. Ideas tend to find her in the wilderness: while hanging upside down from a tree in Kochi, chasing butterflies through the hills of Kumaon, wandering in search of stories in Nagaland, cycling through the forests of Corbett, dancing with Atsaras in Bhutan, or sipping masala chai amid the tea gardens of Munnar.

@that_thing_i_do

Shivangi Singh is an artist, illustrator, and educator and is interested in visual storytelling and pictorial narratives as a tool for reflection, education, and community engagement. Her work draws from folklore, urban legends, and personal memories, often taking the form of drawings, paintings, comics, picture books, zines, and collaborative publications.

@idlerdoodler





PACKING YOUR ART KIT

We encourage participants to travel light and bring materials they already enjoy using. The focus of the retreat is on observation, play, and process rather than specialized art supplies.

This is a suggestive list of materials:

1. Loose papers and bound sketchbooks - A4, A5, A6 - assorted sizes of your own choosing (varying between 120gsm cartridge and 300gsm watercolour paper)
2. Watercolours, or any loose water based mediums like gouache, poster colors
3. Coloured pencils and crayons (oil pastels, dry pastels)
4. Drawing and Writing Inks and Nib Ink Pens
5. Different coloured ball pens/gel pens - of your own choosing
6. Brushes of different sizes
7. Graphite and charcoal pencils of different sizes - HB to 6B
8. Sharpener, Erasers
9. A favourite poem, song, story, or book to share with the group (optional)
10. Glue stick, single sided and transparent tape
11. Scissors, cutters

For details & bookings: 9810800465



WILDRIFT ADVENTURES KUMAON

A Grassroots Corporate,

We are a group of mountain cool people generally known as mast pahadis. To us life matters. We celebrate everything. Our songs grow in our fields. We are the fabled simpletons when it comes to the rat race. Our favourite past time is lying around uselessly in the grass meadows watching the moon rise.