

Supplies for Kolti

Part III: Walking to the Village

We were to leave for the village from Lal Tibba. Lal Tibba is a favorite tourist destination in the area as the location offers an amazing view of the Himalaya range, at least when the clouds are not obscuring the views. There is a lookout stand and a little café.

We found the Pahari villagers waiting with donkeys as planned.



Villagers bring donkeys to carry flour bag and school supplies

The Paharis knew exactly what to do with the flour bags. First, they put the flour bags into burlap bags, and then they used thick string to attach two of the bags together, so that each donkey could carry two bags, one on each side.



Sacks are stuck together for loading on donkeys

Then the bags and school supplies were loaded onto the mules.





The process took awhile, and then we were on our way down the trail to the village.



Making our way down the narrow trail

John and I did not know what we were getting into with this walk. The path was very steep and rough in places and covered with loose and sharp stones.



Trek down to the village on a brisk day with occasional light rain

The Himalayas are very crumbly mountains. These men and their mules were so sure footed and moved at a rapid pace, though. It was hard to keep up with them, even though they were carrying on lively conversations with each other all the way to the village. They were such good company. The scenery was amazing, as well, so we had to stop to take photos, which slowed things down.



Finally, Bulbir called out that we were almost there. This is what we saw:



View of village and school in far distance

After walking about 45 minutes, we were actually about half way there. We were just close enough to see our destination. The school and a few houses are the white patch on the small ridge right above the plants. It looked like a very long way to us and it was.

But these men make the trip up and down to work in Mussoorie every day and were not even winded. The mules seemed to know where they were going and did not get off track.



Trek down over a rugged trail