

22 HIKING AND CAMPING EQUIPMENT RENTAL



HIKING AND CAMPING EQUIPMENT RENTAL

1. INTRODUCTION

Hiking and camping equipment rental in Uttarakhand offers outdoor enthusiasts the opportunity to explore the state's scenic landscapes without investing in costly gear. Given the region's popularity among trekkers and adventure seekers, several rental services provide high-quality equipment, ranging from tents, sleeping bags, and backpacks to trekking poles, cooking gear, and more. These rental services cater to both seasoned hikers and first-time campers, ensuring that visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of the Himalayas while having access to the right tools for a safe and comfortable outdoor experience.

2. SERVICE & ITS APPLICATION

The service of hiking and camping equipment rental in Uttarakhand provides adventurers with the necessary gear to explore the state's diverse and rugged landscapes, including its trekking routes, campsites, and natural reserves. This service is especially valuable for those who don't wish to invest in expensive equipment for occasional outdoor trips or travelers who prefer to travel light. Here's a look at the services and their applications:

Rental of Basic Camping Gear

- **Equipment:** Tents, sleeping bags, mats, camping stoves, cooking utensils, and lanterns.
- **Application:** Used by trekkers and campers who prefer a DIY approach to setting up camps in various areas like the Valley of Flowers, Nainital, or on the slopes of the Himalayas. The service allows campers to explore remote areas without the need to carry heavy gear.

Trekking and Hiking Gear

- **Equipment:** Trekking poles, hiking boots, backpacks, rain covers, headlamps, and hydration systems.
- **Application:** Ideal for trekkers exploring popular routes such as the Roopkund trek, Kedarkanth, or Hemkund Sahib trek. Renters can enjoy the trek without bringing bulky gear, ensuring comfort and safety during the hike.

Winter and High-Altitude Gear

- **Equipment:** Down jackets, thermal wear, snow boots, gaiters, ice axes, crampons, and gloves.
- **Application:** Essential for winter treks or high-altitude expeditions like those in Auli, Nanda Devi, and the Kumaon region, where the weather can be unpredictable and temperatures drop significantly.

3. DESIRED QUALIFICATION FOR PROMOTER

The promoter of a hiking and camping equipment rental business in Uttarakhand should have a mix of technical expertise, business skills, and a passion for the outdoors. Desired qualifications include degrees in Outdoor Education, Business Administration, or Tourism, along with experience in adventure tourism and equipment rental management. Familiarity with local terrain is crucial. Key skills needed are leadership, customer service, logistics, and marketing. Certifications in outdoor leadership and first aid enhance credibility and safety standards. This blend of knowledge ensures effective service, sustainable practices, and successful business operations in Uttarakhand's thriving adventure tourism market.

4. BUSINESS OUTLOOK AND OPPORTUNITIES

The business outlook for hiking and camping equipment rental in Uttarakhand is promising, driven by the region's growing popularity as an adventure tourism destination. With an increasing number of trekkers, nature enthusiasts, and adventure tourists visiting the state every year, the demand for high-quality and affordable outdoor gear rental is expanding. Here's an overview of the business outlook and opportunities:

1. Growing Adventure Tourism:

Uttarakhand is home to some of India's most iconic trekking routes, like Roopkund, Kedarkantha, Valley of Flowers, and Hemkund Sahib, attracting domestic and international tourists. As adventure tourism grows, so does the demand for equipment rental, as many visitors prefer not to carry heavy gear on their travels. The increase in short-term trekking and camping expeditions, especially for people without extensive outdoor equipment, makes renting a cost-effective and practical solution.

2. Tourism-Driven Demand:

The state sees a surge in tourism, especially during the peak seasons for trekking and camping, like summer and winter. This seasonal demand can be capitalized on by offering flexible rental services, targeting tourists during high footfall months. The introduction of eco-tourism and offbeat destinations within Uttarakhand also leads to a rise in outdoor activities such as camping, nature walks, and eco-friendly treks, further boosting the need for rental services.

3. Ease of Access and Affordability:

Renting camping and hiking gear is an affordable option, especially for those who occasionally participate in outdoor activities. With the high cost of outdoor gear, especially for high-altitude and winter treks, renting offers a more practical and affordable alternative. Renters do not need to worry about maintaining, storing, or transporting equipment, making it an attractive option for travelers.

Opportunities

1. Expanding the Product Range:

Offering a wider range of equipment can attract a more extensive customer base. Beyond standard tents, sleeping bags, and backpacks, renting items like snow boots, snowshoes, mountaineering gear, cooking equipment, and first aid kits could cater to specialized needs, especially for winter and high-altitude treks.

Offering services such as guided treks with equipment rental can provide added value, targeting those new to trekking or unfamiliar with the terrain.

2. Custom Packages for Groups or Families:

Group or family trekking and camping packages could be a lucrative market. By offering group discounts, specialized tents, and family-friendly equipment, rental services can tap into the growing family adventure tourism market. Providing equipment bundles, including everything a group or family would need, could make the rental service more appealing.

5. MARKET POTENTIAL AND MARKETING ISSUES

Market Potential

Uttarakhand, renowned for its natural beauty and trekking routes like Roop Kund and Valley of Flowers, has significant market potential for hiking and camping equipment rental services. The state's thriving tourism sector, especially adventure tourism, drives high demand for quality rental gear among domestic and international trekkers. Post-pandemic trends indicate increased outdoor tourism, with a growing preference for eco-friendly and economical options. Rental services cater to these needs, offering affordability and convenience for occasional adventurers, thus enhancing the appeal of Uttarakhand as a prime destination for hiking and camping.

Marketing Issues

While the market potential is significant, there are several marketing issues that businesses in this sector need to address for success:

- **Seasonality of Demand:**

The demand for hiking and camping gear is mainly seasonal, with peaks during the trekking and camping seasons (summer, autumn, and winter). During the off-season, the business might face a dip in demand. To counteract this, companies should focus on diversifying their offerings by targeting niche markets (such as winter sports or adventure events) offering services like off-season promotions, gear storage, or maintaining year-round partnerships with tour operators.

- **High Competition:**

With the growing popularity of adventure tourism in Uttarakhand, many rental businesses may enter the market, increasing competition. It's essential to differentiate the service based on equipment quality, pricing, customer experience, and unique selling points (such as eco-friendly gear or bundle packages). Effective

branding and marketing strategies will be critical in standing out in a competitive market.

- **Customer Awareness:**

Many potential customers may not be aware of the availability of rental services. Effective marketing strategies, such as online advertising, social media outreach, influencer partnerships, and collaboration with tour operators, are essential to raise awareness and reach tourists. Word of mouth and positive reviews from past customers can significantly influence decisions in the tourism industry. Offering excellent customer service, high-quality gear, and competitive pricing can help build a loyal customer base.

6. BUSINESS INPUTS AND MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS

Starting a hiking and camping equipment rental business in Uttarakhand requires careful consideration of both the physical inputs (equipment and materials) and non-physical inputs (resources, knowledge, and support systems). Below is a breakdown of key business inputs and material requirements for such an enterprise:

Equipment and Gear Inventory

The core of any hiking and camping equipment rental business lies in the quality and variety of the available equipment. To cater to the diverse needs of customers, the following types of equipment should be part of the rental inventory:

a. Basic Camping Gear

- **Tents:** Different types of tents are available for various weather conditions, including two-person tents, family tents, and waterproof tents for rainy or snowy conditions.
- **Sleeping Bags:** Suitable sleeping bags for different temperatures (summer, winter, and high altitude).
- **Sleeping Mats:** Comfortable and compact mats or pads for sleeping.
- **Camping Stoves and Cooking Gear:** Portable stoves, cookware, and fuel canisters for cooking during camping.
- **Camping Chairs and Tables:** Lightweight, foldable chairs and tables for campsite comfort.
- **Headlamps/Flashlights:** Essential for nighttime navigation, particularly in remote camping areas.

b. Hiking and Trekking Equipment

- **Backpacks:** Various backpacks for short and long treks, with hydration systems and comfortable straps.
- **Trekking Poles:** Adjustable poles to provide balance and reduce strain on rugged trails.
- **Footwear:** Hiking boots, waterproof shoes, and trekking sandals suitable for different terrains.

- **Clothing:** Weather-appropriate gear, such as thermal jackets, rain jackets, hiking pants, and moisture-wicking shirts.
- **Climbing Gear:** For high-altitude treks, items like harnesses, ropes, carabiners, crampons, and helmets.

c. Specialized Equipment

- **Winter Gear:** Snow boots, snowshoes, crampons, ice axes, and insulated clothing for winter expeditions.
- **Survival Kits:** Basic first aid kits, fire-starting kits, emergency blankets, multi-tools, and whistles.
- **Navigation Tools:** Maps, compasses, GPS devices, and altimeters for guiding trekkers in remote areas.
- **Water Purification Gear:** Water filters, purification tablets, or portable water bottles with built-in filtration.

7. OPERATIONS AND EXECUTION PROCESS

The success of a hiking and camping equipment rental business in Uttarakhand relies on smooth operations and an efficient execution process. From the moment a customer expresses interest in renting equipment to the return of the gear, a well-structured system is crucial to ensure customer satisfaction, timely deliveries, and quality control. Below is a step-by-step breakdown of the operations and execution process:

Customer Inquiry and Reservation

a. Customer Engagement

- **Inquiry Channels:** Customers can inquire about available equipment through multiple channels: phone, email, website, or in-person at a physical store (if applicable). The business should ensure timely responses to all customer queries to maintain high service standards.
- **Online Platform:** An easy-to-use website or mobile app that allows customers to browse available gear, check rental rates, and make bookings is essential. The platform should provide details about each piece of equipment, including its specifications and suitability for various trekking conditions.
- **Customer Consultation:** For customers unfamiliar with the equipment, offering online consultations, phone assistance, or in-store consultations helps ensure they select the right gear for their needs.

8. MANPOWER REQUIREMENT

Sr. No	Particulars	No.	No of month in the year	Wages/Salaries per month (Rs. In Lakhs)	Annual Expense (Rs. In Lakhs)

1	Administrative support and owner (self-employed)	1	12	0	0
2	Experienced Driver	1	6	0.12	0.72
3	Maintenance Staff	1	12	0.06	0.72
4	Tour Guide	1	6	0.1	0.6
Total					2.04

9. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Sr. No.	Activity	Time Required (in months)
1	Site Selection for Shop	0.5
2	Arrangement of Finance	1
3	Car and Equipment purchase	1
4	Vehicle Registration	1
5	Staff Hiring	0.5
7	Marketing	1
Total time required (some activities shall run concurrently)		5

10. COST OF PROJECT

Sr. No	Particulars	Annual Expenses (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Land	-
2	Building (Rented)	0.24
3	Plant & Machinery	8.25
4	Equipment and Furniture Exp.	3.10
5	Misc. Fixed Asset	0.02
6	Preoperative & Preliminary Exp.	0.13
7	Working Capital	1.25
Total Project Cost		12.99

11. MEANS OF FINANCE

Sr. No.	Particulars	Annual Expenses (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Promoter's contribution	5.20
2	Bank Finance	7.80
Total		12.99

12. LIST OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

A. MACHINERY

Sr. No	Particulars	Unit	Price per Unit(Rs. in lakhs)	Total Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Computers with all necessary hardware and installed Windows	1	0.25	0.25
2	Jeeps	1	8.00	8.00
Grand Total Amount				8.25

B. FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT

Sr. No	Particulars	Unit	Price per Unit(Rs. in lakhs)	Total Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	Trekking Equipments	10	0.05	0.50
2	Tents	10	0.04	0.40
3	Eco-Friendly Supplies: Solar-powered lighting, biodegradable utensils, etc.	10	0.01	0.10
4	Sleeping Bags			0.02
Total Rs.				3.10

13. SUPPLIERS OF MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Wildcraft India

- Specialty: Outdoor gear, including backpacks, sleeping bags, tents, trekking apparel, and accessories.
- Website: wildcraft.com
- Contact: You can inquire about wholesale or bulk pricing through their website or contact their customer service team.

b. Decathlon India

- Specialty: Affordable and high-quality outdoor gear, including tents, sleeping bags, trekking poles, hiking boots, and camping stoves.
- Website: decathlon.in
- Contact: Decathlon provides bulk purchase options for businesses. You can reach out via their website or through their dedicated B2B section.

c. The North Face

- Specialty: Premium outdoor gear like tents, backpacks, sleeping bags, climbing equipment, and apparel.

- Website: thenorthface.com
- Contact: You can contact them directly through their website for wholesale or corporate sales inquiries.

c. Amazon India

- Specialty: Wide range of hiking and camping equipment, from essential gear to advanced trekking accessories.
- Website: www.amazon.in
- Contact: You can use the Amazon seller directory to find bulk sellers and inquire about business purchases.

14. SALES REALIZATION AND PROFITABILITY

Sr. No	Service	INR
1	Trekking Gear Rental Package (Shoes, Poles, Backpack, Down Jackets, etc.)	3.6
2	Camping Gear Rental Package (Tents, Sleeping Bags, Camping Lights, Cooking Utensils etc.)	4.5
3	Set of Trekking Equipment	0.576
4	Pick up and drop facility (from city/town to base location)	4.32
5	Waterproof Trekking Shoes	1.62
6	Down Jackets	2.43
7	Camping Tents	2.7
8	Sleeping Bags	2.025
9	Guide	0.675
Total		22.446

14. PROFITABILITY PROJECTION

Sr. No	Particulars	Annual Expenses (Rs. in lakhs)
A.	Sales realisation	22.45
B.	Cost of production	
i)	Raw materials	0.15
ii)	Utilities	0.10
iii)	Manpower Cost (Salaries/wages)	2.04
iv)	Administrative expenses	0.04
v)	Packaging Cost	0.00
vi)	Material Lost Cost	0.10
vii)	Selling & distribution expenses	0.66
viii)	Repairs & maintenance	0.10
ix)	Rent	0.24
x)	Interest	0.94

xi)	Misc. expenses	0.00
	Total (B)	4.37
	Gross profit/loss (A – B)	18.08
	Less: Depreciation	1.29
C.	PBIT	16.79
D	Income-tax	-
E	Net profit/loss	16.79
F.	Repayment (Annual)	-0.51
G	Retained surplus (E-F)	17.30

14. BREAK-EVEN ANALYSIS

Fixed cost	
Land & Building Rent	0.24
Depreciation	1.29
Interest	0.94
Manpower	0.61
Total Fixed cost	3.08
Variable cost	
Raw materials	0.15
Utilities	0.10
ManPower	1.43
Administrative expenses	0.04
Selling & distribution expenses	0.66
Total Variable cost	2.38
Contribution margin	20%
Break-Even Point in Value	15.39

15. STATUTORY APPROVALS

The following statutory approvals will be required:

- **Business Registration**
- **Shop and Establishment Registration**
- **GST Registration**
- **Environmental Clearance (If Applicable)**
- **Forest Department Approval**
- **Tourism Department Registration**

16. TRAINING CENTERS AND COURSES

Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM)

- **Location:** Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand
- **Course Offerings:** NIM is one of the premier mountaineering institutes in India and offers various courses on mountaineering, trekking, and adventure sports. While they do not offer equipment-specific training, the courses cover all outdoor activities, including the proper use and maintenance of camping and hiking gear.
- **Specialty:** Mountaineering, trekking, adventure training, and outdoor survival.
- **Website:** www.nimindia.org
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** +91-01374-223-396
 - **Email:** info@nimindia.org

Uttarakhand State Tourism Development Council (USTDC)

- **Location:** Dehradun, Uttarakhand
- **Course Offerings:** USTDC offers a variety of training programs in adventure tourism, including trekking, camping, and wilderness survival skills. They may provide training in outdoor equipment handling and camping practices as part of their adventure tourism courses.
- **Specialty:** Adventure tourism training, trekking, camping, and other outdoor activities.
- **Website:** www.uttarakhandtourism.gov.in
- **Contact:**
 - **Phone:** +91-135-2712400
 - **Email:** info@uttarakhandtourism.gov.in

1. Swayam Portal (<https://swayam.gov.in>)

These training centers provide valuable courses in event management, decor planning, and wedding coordination.

Disclaimer

Only a few machine manufacturers are mentioned in the profile, although many are available in the market. The addresses given for machinery manufacturers have been taken from reliable sources, to the best of knowledge and contacts. However, no responsibility is admitted, in case any inadvertent error or incorrectness is noticed therein. Further the same have been given by way of information only and do not carry any recommendation.