

Roopkund Lake

March 11, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Roopkund Lake Latest News

Roopkund Lake, often called Skeleton Lake, is famous for the hundreds of human skeletons found around its icy waters.

About Roopkund Lake

- Roopkund, also known as the "**lake of skeletons**" is a **glacial lake in Uttarakhand**.
- It is situated at **5,029 metres** (16,500 ft) above sea level at the **base of Mt. Trishul** in the **Garhwal Himalayas**.
- Measuring a mere 130 feet in width, the lake is **encased in ice for the majority of the year**.
- It is **surrounded by snow-capped peaks** and lush green meadows.

Roopkund Lake Mystery

- It is called the "lake of skeletons" as the **glacial body conceals** numbers of **human skeletons, some with preserved flesh**.

- Depending on the season and weather, the lake, which remains frozen for most of the year, expands and shrinks.
- **Only when the snow melts** are the **skeletons visible**.
- The skeletons in the lake were **first discovered** by a patrolling **British forest ranger in 1942**.
- These skeletal remains, **dating back to around the 9th century AD**, have led to various theories about the cause of death.
- Scientific studies used **radiocarbon dating and DNA analysis** to learn more about the victims.
- **Key discoveries from scientific studies:**
 - The remains belong to more than **300 individuals**.
 - The skeletons came from **different time periods**.
 - **Deaths** occurred in **at least two separate events**.
- **Researchers identified three ancestry groups:**
 - **South Asian individuals** who **died around 800 CE**
 - A **Southeast Asian individual** from around **1800 CE**
 - A **group with ancestry linked to Eastern Mediterranean** regions such as Greece and Crete
 - This discovery **challenged the earlier belief** that all the **skeletons belonged to a single disaster**.

Source: **MC**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/roopkund-lake/>

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