

UTTARANCHAL

ALMORA

Location: Kumaon (Uttaranchal)

Main Attraction: Nanda Devi Temple

Best Time: April to June and September to November

Languages / Dialect: Hindi, English, and Kumaoni

Almora is one of the most beautiful places in Kumaon region. The glamour and glitter, which is seen in Ranikhet and Nainital, is totally absent in Almora. In this point of view Almora is very virgin hill-station and is full of scenic beauty. It appears that Mother Nature has spread and blessed this place with her pure love. Nestled in the lap of nature this region has small houses built on the slopes and splendor of this place is added colorful attire of the natives. Just besides city flow the Koshi (Kaushaki) and Suyal (Salmali) rivers.

In the 9th century Almora was ruled by Katyur dynasty. By 16th century rulers from Chandravansh ruled this place. King Balo Kalyan Chand established this town in 1563. This place was then Capital City of Kumaon region. The forts, monuments and palaces built by the rulers of Chandravansh and Katyur dynasty are even today evidence of the splendor this place had in the past. In 1790 Almora passed in the hands of Nepal Gorkhas. The British's gained control of this place from Gorkhas in 1815.

Almora is situated on a hillock, which is in Horseshoe shape and is surrounded by dense forests of fur and pine trees. In the backdrop are the lovely snow-capped peaks of Himalayas. Almora has been able to retain the tradition and ancient culture even when other places are being influenced by modern trends. The absence of any town planning and inclusion of tiles and stones on the pavements and houses prove that this place has not yet adopted the modern technology in a big way. Right in the middle of the town is the Nanda Devi temple and Narsingh temple are evidence of the great faith of people in their God. Culturally also this place is very rich and all round the year Almora celebrates many festivals and cultural events.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Public Museum: Near Almora bus stand is the Govind Vallabh Pant Public Museum. This museum provides a deep insight of the development of art, culture, life style of this region. It has very rich collection items relating to Archaeological, Historic and cultural significance. This museum has unique collection of 'Apen', a folk style of painting. One can have a good view of the various aspect of this style painting. This museum is open from 10:30 in the morning to 4; 30 in the evening.

Nanda Devi Temple: This ancient temple is one of the main attractions of Almora town. This temple is hundreds of years old and carries deep faith of many people from this area. The images and statues on walls of this temple are intricately and delicately carved. They are very attractive and almost true to life depiction has been done. Every year a fair, Nanda Devi fair, is organized here. People from all over the place come and participate in this fair. Groups of young men & women dance on the pulsating music of the mountains.

Chetai Temple: The local people have much faith on this temple. The Chetai temple is located eight kms from Almora. This temple is surrounded by dense fur and pine tree forest. If you are a nature lover then you will certainly enjoy this place.

Bright & Corner: Two kms from Almora is situated Bright and Corner. This place became famous for excellent sight of sunset and sunrise. From Bright and Corner a different kind of view

is obtained of dawn and dusk. The unusual calm and peacefulness during this time is rarely felt on any other hill station offering a similar view. Serene and calm circuit house very close to this point is an added attraction. Nearby is the Vivekanand library in Ramkrishna Kutir. In this library one can find many books relating to philosophy and spiritual thinking. There is also a place dedicated to Swami Vivekanand. It was at this place Vivekanand spend few days while his stay in Himalayas.

Deer Park: Deer Park is located some three kms from Almora. An evening stroll in Deer Park has its own pleasure.

Simtola: This is a picnic spot about three kms from Almora town. The whole place is covered with pine and fur trees. The calmness and peaceful environment has fun of its own kind.

EXCURSIONS

Jageshwar: Jageshwar is located 34 kms from Almora. There is an ancient Shiva temple at Jageshwar. Huge fur trees surround this temple. In fact, this temple is in the series of ancient temples, which were built in Kumaon region many centuries ago. The Jageshwar Shiva temple carries archaeological importance too. The architecture of this temple is worth giving a close examination.

Gannath: Gannath is known for natural caves and ancient Shiva temples. This place is 47 kms from Almora. It is good place for nature lovers and ideal for spending your day with surpassing beauty. Every year on Kartik Purnima day a fair is organized here.

Klamath: From Klamath one gets a good view of Almora town and the adjoining area. The sight of the nearby hills is amazing. This place is 4.5 kms from Almora. Close to Kalimath is Kasar Devi. There is temple dedicated to Kasar Devi. This temple dates back to second century. One can go on foot from Kalimath to Kasardevi, which is hardly one kms.

Katarmal: After the Sun temple at Konark, Orissa, Katarmal has the second important sun temple in the country. This temple is almost 800 years old. But this temple has not received the amount of attention it must have received. Due to neglect, the sun temple at Katarmal is in very bad shape. One feels very sad that a monument of such historical importance has been left to decay like this. This temple has some unique architectural style and the images carved on the walls are very intricately done. All this is bound to attract attention of the visitor. This place is 17 kms from Almora.

Binsar: This place has received its name from Lord Binsar Deo or Shiva. Binsar is 30 kms from Almora. The Chandravansi King Kalyan built the Shiva temple. This temple is built at a height of 2,412 meters. The peace and calm of Binsar provides peace of mind and soul.

Bageshwar: Bageshwar is the commercial town of Kumaon region. This town is some 90 kms from Almora. It is located along the River Saryu. There is temple dedicated to Lord Bagnath from which this place derives its name. This temple was built in 1450. A little away from Bageshwar is the Pindari Glacier. At Bageshwar one has good accommodation facilities.

Baijnath: Baijnath is a place of much historical importance. This is 71 kms from Almora and 21 kms from Bageshwar. There are many ancient temples at Baijnath. These temples have historical and archaeological importance. These temples have Shiva, Ganesha, and Parvati as the presiding deities. Most of the temples are located along the Gomti River. Rulers of Katyur dynasty built these temples in 12th and 13th century.

Martola: This lovely place with gardens and forests is located 10 kms from Almora. Martola is so scenic and picturesque that many foreigners decided to settle here. This place is a good picnic spot.

Koshi: Natural beauty of this place surpasses any other place. Koshi is 12 kms from Almora. The Govind Vallabh Pant Environment Research Institute is located here. There is guesthouse, which provides good and comfortable stay at Koshi.

HOW TO GET THERE

The best way to access Almora is by bus. The winding and spiraling roads take you though deep valleys and dense forests. One enjoys the journey to Almora by bus as the speed is slow, scenic

beauty of the region are clearly visible. There are bus services to Almora from almost anywhere in Uttaranchal and some of the services operate from outside the state too. The conducted tours by private travel agents and tour operators are always there. The nearest airport is that of Pantnagar. The nearest broad gauge railway head is Kathgodam. Kathgodam is 91 kms from Almora and is connected by trains from cities all over the nation. The small gauge line terminates at Lalkuan, which is 112 kms from Almora.

PLACE TO STAY

Accommodation in Almora is largely centered on the Mall. However, one can easily get reasonable budget accommodations over here. There is also KMVN's Holiday Home, a tourist bungalow, with cottage accommodations.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Kasar Devi Mela: The picturesque old part of the town of Almora is the venue for the fair held twice a year.

Shravan Mela: Jageshwar lying in the beautiful Jatganga Valley, housing one of the 12 jyotirlingas of India is a complex of 12 temples in all.

Somnath Mela: The Somnath Fair held on Vishuwat Sankranti day is celebrated in the Shiva Temple at Masi.

Devidhura Mela: The Devidhura Fair is held on the day of Raksha Bandhan in August, at the Varahi Devi Temple.

Ram Lila: The festival of Dussehra is celebrated with great pomp and show all over Kumaon.

SHOPPING

When one comes to Almora one does not forget to taste the sweets here, which are quite famous. Particularly Singora and BAL Mithai are liked by one and all. Apart from sweets, Almora is famous for Rabbit wool cloths. A special breed of Rabbit, Angora produces wool, which is very soft, fine and very warm. Warm clothes made from this wool are famous all over the world. In Almora one can get good bargains at comparatively low prices. Then there are decorative items, brass items and other kind of metal utensils, which are quite popular among the visitors. One can purchase woolen garments at reasonable rates from the Garud woolens. This shop is part of the Kumaon Schedule Tribe Development Corporation at Shikhar Hotel compound. For Bronze and Brasswares & decorative items one can have a look in shops at Lal Bazaar and Chowk Bazaar.

CLIMATE

April to June and September to November are the best seasons to visit Almora. In fact except the rainy seasons, Almora can be visited any time of the year. During summers the temperature of this place is comparatively more than any other hill stations. Even then evening and morning temperatures are low enough to wear light warm cloths. The fun of walking among hills in warm sunlight cannot be described in words. During winters festival of Dussehra has its own added attraction.

NEARBY CITIES

Bareilly:	195 kms.
Nanital:	67 kms.
Haldwani:	95 kms.
Ranikhet:	52 km
Kausani:	51 kms.
Pantnagar:	127 kms.
Delhi:	380 kms.
Pithoragarh:	122 kms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

POPULATION:	About 54,000 people reside in this city.
MAIN LANGUAGES:	Kumaoni & Hindi

BADRINATH

Location: Right Bank River Alaknanda

Altitude: 3,133 Mt. above Sea Level

Dedicated To: Lord Vishnu

Built In: 8th Century A.D

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Badrinath Temple: Perched at an altitude of 3,133 Mt. above sea level, in the middle of a beautiful valley, it is located on the right bank of holy river Alaknanda. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the temple of Shri Badrinathji is 15 Mt. in height, built in the form of a cone with a small cupola of a gilt bull and spire.

Legend dates the temple prior to the Vedic age, though the present temple is believed to have been established by Adi Shankaracharya, the 8th century AD, Hindu reformist.

The temple has been renovated several times due to earlier damages by avalanches and looks modern now with a colourful "Singh Dwara" or the main entrance gate. The temple has three parts - Garbha Griha (the sanctum sanctorum), Darshan Mandap (for pujas) and Shobha Mandap (for devotees to assemble).

It is believed that the image of Badrinath had been thrown into the Alaknanda River during the time of the Buddhist era and later retrieved and reinstalled by Shankaracharya during the following Hindu revival.

There are 15 idols in the temple complex. Finely sculpted in black stone, the Badrinath (Vishnu) image is a metre high. Other images include those of Laxmi (Vishnu's consort), Garurh (Vishnu's mount), Shiva, Parvati, and Ganesh etc.

With its great scenic beauty and attractive recreational spots in the vicinity, Badrinath attracts an ever-increasing number of secular visitors each year.

Panch Dharas: a) Prahalad Dhara (b) Kurma Dhara (c) Urbasi Dhara (d) Bhrigu Dhara (e) Indra Dhara.

Panch Shilas: (a) Narad Shila (b) Varaha Shila (c) Garurh Shila (d) Markandeya Shila (e) Narsingh Shila.

Tapt Kund: Natural thermal springs on the bank of the river Alaknanda, where it is customary to bathe before entering the Badrinath temple.

Narad Kund: A recess in the river, near Tapt Kund, forming a pool from where the Badrinath idol was recovered.

Brahma Kapal: A flat platform on the bank of river Alaknanda. Hindus perform propitiating rites for their deceased ancestors.

Sheshnetra: 1.5 km away is a boulder having an impression of the legendary snake, better known as the Sheshnag's eye.

Charanpaduka: 3 km away is a beautiful meadow where the footprint of Lord Vishnu is seen on a boulder.

Neelkanth: A pyramidal shaped snowy peak (6,597 mt) towering above Badrinath, presents a dramatic sight. It is popularly known as the 'Garhwal Queen'.

Other Four Badris: Yogadhyan Badri: The temple of Yogadhyan Badri, one of the five Badris, is located at Pandukeshwar (1920 Mt.) just 24 km short of Badrinath on Rishikesh-Badrinath highway. The image here in a meditative posture, is worshipped at Badrinath. According to the myth, the Pandavas handed over Hastinapur to king Parikshit and retired here.

Bhavishya Badri: The temple of Bhavishya Badri is at an elevation of 2,744 Mt. and is surrounded by dense forests. Located at Subain near Tapovan about 17 km east of Joshimath on Joshimath - Lata - Malari route. Pilgrims have to trek beyond Tapovan, up the Dhauliganga River. Tapovan has sulphurous Hot Springs and the view of the Tapovan valley towards the north is breathtakingly beautiful. Traditionally it is believed that a day will come when the present route

to Badrinath will be inaccessible and Lord Badrinath will be worshipped here. Thus the name 'Bhavishya Badri' which literally means the Badri of the future.

Bridha Badri: About 7 km short of Joshimath, on the main Rishikesh- Badrinath motor road, is Animath. It is believed that Adi Guru Shankaracharya worshipped Badrinath or Lord Vishnu here before the enshrinement of Badrinath. The temple of Bridha Badri is open throughout the year.

Adibadri: Adibadri is also one of five Badris and is situated quite far from the cluster of the other four, which form the Vishnu-Kshetra. Approachable from Karnaprayag by a motorable road on way to Ranikhet, are remains of 16 small temples. Seven among them are more ancient, with flat roofs belonging to the late Gupta period. Local tradition assigns the building of the temples to Shankaracharya. The main temple of Narain is distinguished by a raised platform in the pyramidal form where the idol is enshrined. Sculpted out of black stone, the idol of Lord Vishnu is a metre high.

EXCURSIONS

MATA MURTI TEMPLE: Devoted to the mother of Sri Badrinathji. Other important temples include Seshnetra Temple, Urvashi Temple and Charanpaduka.

Valley of Flowers: East of Badrinath is the exotic Valley of Flowers in a conical shape with the river Pushpawati flowing through it. This valley has been declared as a National Park to regulate camping, cooking, grazing etc. which disturb environmental conditions and endangers a number of endemic flora. The valley is a 19-km trek from Govindghat. The base camp being Ghangaria, 14 km from Govindghat, where lodging and boarding facilities are available. It was in 1931 that Frank Smith and Holdsworth stumbled into this valley while returning from their successful Kamet expedition. Their subsequent writings on the valley evoked a great deal of interest among people, both at home and abroad.

MANA VILLAGE: Inhabited by an Indo-Mongolian tribe, it is considered as the last Indian village before Tibet. Vyas Gufa, Ganesh Gufa, Bhim Pul, Vasudhara Falls (3.6 km) are among the places near Mana village.

Alka Puri: 15 km from Badrinath via Mana village lays the source of Alaknanda River from the glacier snouts of Bhagirath - Kharak and Sate Panth glaciers. The spot is supposed to be the abode of Kuber, Yakshas and Gandharvas.

Sato Panth: 25 km from Badrinath and located at an elevation of 4,402 Mt. above sea level is a three cornered lake of serene water with a circumference of about 1 km. The lake is named after the Hindu triad Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh who are believed to occupy one corner each of this lake. The treks hazardous and full of dramatic views. An experienced guide is advisable. There is no place to rest except in between caves. Cooked food, stove etc, must be carried from Badrinath itself.

Arwatal: For the more enterprising, a trek to Arwatal (3,980 Mt) via-Mana, Ghastoli and Aruanala is rewarding. Through hazardous icy and snowy terrain a number of streams have to be crossed. Badrinath to Ghastoli is 17 km and Arwatal is approximately another 18 km. Photography is prohibited in this area and a guide is essential.

Vyas Gufa (Cave): Near Mana village, this is a rock-cave where Ved Vyas is believed to have composed the Mahabharat and the pauranic commentaries.

Bhim Pul: On the other side of Mana village, a massive rock forming a natural bridge lies over the roaring Saraswati River. It presents a spectacular view of water thundering down through the narrow passage under the rock and is believed to have been placed there by Bhim, the second eldest among the five Pandava brothers.

Vasudhara: As the name suggests, Vasudhara is a magnificent waterfall with a height of 122 Mt. This place is 5 km from Badrinath out of which 2 km is motorable upto Mana, the last village of India on this border.

HEMKUND SAHIB: Situated at a height of 4,329 Mt, near the Valley of Flowers, is the holy lake Hemkund, associated with Guru Gobind Singh. Encircled by seven snow-clad peaks and their associated glaciers, the crystal clear serene waters of the lake reflect the surroundings

enchantingly. The glaciers from Hathi Parvat and Sapt Rishi peaks feed the lake and a small stream called Himganga flows out of this lake.

According to the holy Granth Saheb, it is believed that Guru Govind Singh, the 10th Guru of the Sikh faith, meditated on the banks of this lake in one of his earlier births. It has not only become a place of pilgrimage for the Sikh community but also for the Hindus and people of other faith. There is a Sikh Gurudwara and a Lakshman temple built on the bank of the lake. According to the legends, Lakshman was brought here after he fell unconscious in the war with Ravana.

Govindghat: Situated at the confluence of Alaknanda and Lakshman Ganga rivers. The road here diverts to Valley of Flowers National Park (26 km) and Hemkund Sahib (28 km).

Joshimath: 42 km from Badrinath. The winter home of Shri Badrinathji, Joshimath is situated on the slopes above the confluence of Alaknanda and Dhauliganga. Of the four "Maths" established by Adi Guru Shankaracharya, Joshimath is in the north.

AULI: Auli is 15 km from Joshimath at an elevation of about 2,500 - 3050 Mt. In summers, Auli Bugyal (meadow) is inviting. The cable car from Joshimath to Gorson via Auli not only offers a picturesque view of the Himalayan ranges but also makes Auli ideal for winter sports. Trained coaches organize regular skiing courses of varying duration. The Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam provides skiing equipment, as well as boarding, lodging and transport.

Pipalkoti: 83 km from Badrinath. It is an extremely beautiful scenic spot.

CHAMOLI: A scenic spot 10-km from Gopeshwar on Badrinath Highway.

Nandprayag: Situated at the confluence of Alaknanda and nandakini rivers. Temple: Gopayi.

Karnaprayag: Situated at the confluence of the Pindar and Alaknanda rivers. The road from here diverts to Ranikhet, Almora and Kausani and Gwaldam and Kund. Temples: Uma and Karn.

Rudraprayag: Situated at the confluence of the Alaknanda and Mandakini rivers. The road diverts to Kedamath from here. Temples: Rudranath and Chamunda Devi.

Srinagar: The old capital of Garhwal, it is also a cultural and educational center. Important sites - Kamleshwar Temple, Kalyaneshwar Temple and Shankar Math.

Deoprayag: Situated at the confluence of Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers, it is commonly believed to be the birthplace of Ganga. Important pilgrim spots are Shiv Temple and Raghunath Temple.

Situated in the lap of Nar-Narayan Parvat, with the towering Neelkanth peak (6,597mt) in the background, Badrinath is one of the most revered Hindu shrines of India.

It has been said that "there were many sacred spots of pilgrimage in the heaven, earth and the other world but neither is there any equal to Badrinath nor shall there be one."

It is believed that to revive the lost prestige of Hinduism and to unite the country in one bond, Adi Guru Sri Shankaracharya built four pilgrimage centers in Four Corners of India. Among them were Badrikashram in the north, Rameshwaram in the south, and Dwarkapuri in the west and Jagannath purl in the east. Badrinath situated at an elevation of 3,133 Mt. is considered to be amongst the most pious.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Mata Murti Mela (September): During this fair, the priests of Badrinath Temple worship Mother of Sri Badrinathji.

Janamashtami (July/August): Special prayers and festivities are held at the temple on the occasion of the birth of Lord Krishna.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	3sq.km	
Climate		
Month	Max Temp.	Min Temp
April	3°c	0°c
May	5°c	0°c
June	14.5°c	5.9°c
July	18.2°c	10°c

August	18°c	10.5°
Sept.	16°c	8.5°c
October	12.5°c	5.6°c
Nov.	5°c	0°c
Dec.-Mar.	Sound Bound	Snow Bound
Rainfall	1460mm	

Best Season: May to October every year the temple usually remains open from first week of May to 2nd week of November.

Clothing	May	June-Sept.	Oct.-Nov.
	Heavywoollens	Lightwoollens	Heavywoollens
Languages:	Hindi, English and Garhwali		

HOW TO GET THERE

Air - Nearest airport is at Jolly Grant (315 km away), Dehradun.

Rail - Nearest railheads are at Rishikesh 297 km away and Kotdwara 327 km away, which are connected with major cities of North India. Rishikesh is directly connected by rail with Howrah, Mumbai, and Delhi & Lucknow. There are two routes to Badrinath from Delhi:

Route 1: Delhi-Rishikesh: 287 km by rail, Rishikesh-Badrinath: 297 km by road.

Route 2: Delhi- Kotdwara- 300 km by rail, Kotdwara- Badrinath- 327 km by road.

A motorable road with Rishikesh, Kotdwara, Dehradun, Haridwar and other hill stations of Garhwal and Kumaon Hills connects Road Badrinath.

Delhi-Rishikesh: 238 km via Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Roorkee, and Haridwar. Rishikesh-Badrinath:

297 km via Devprayag, Srinagar (Garhwal), Rudra-prayag, Gauchar, Karnaprayag, Nandprayag, Chamoli, Pipalkoti, Helong, Joshimath, Vishnuprayag, Govindgaht, Hanumanchatti and Badrinath. Road Condition: Metalled with some unmetalled patches.

Taxi - Private taxis and other vehicles are also available between Rishikesh and Badrinath on hire. Rates are not fixed.

Bus - State Transport Corporation operates regular bus services from Delhi to Rishikesh daily with intervals of half an hour.

Transport Companies operating regular bus services from Rishikesh to Badrinath during season is:

1. G.M.O.U. LTD.
2. T.G.M.O.U. LTD.
3. YATAYAT AUR PARYATAN VIKAS SAHAKARI SANGH LTD.
4. S.S.S.LTD.
5. RUPKUND TRAVELS LTD.

Other Facilities: STD service, Post and Telegraph Office, Govt. Dispensary & Police checkpoint are available in Badrinath.

PLACE TO STAY

(1) Andhra Bhawan	08	Beds	(21) Maharastra Bhawan	378	Beds
(2) Jhun Jhunwala Cottage	04	"	(22) Raghunath Ashram	225	"
(3) Modi Bhawan I	12	"	(23) Manavakalyan Dharamshala	360	"
(4) Modi Bhawan II	12	"	(24) Parmarth Lok	200	"
(5) Modi Bhawan III	24	"	(25) Halwasia Dharamshala	50	"
(6) Mittal Cottage	06	"	(26) Birla Dharamshala	50	"
(7) Chand Cottage	24	"	(27) Dhodwa Dharamshala	40	"
(8) Shankaracharya Sadan	20	"	(28) Cadiya Dharamshala	20	"
(9) Badrish Sadan	22	"	(29) Tantiya Dharamshala	150	"
(10) 11) PiloGujarat Bhawan	04	"	(30) Bangar Dharamshala	100	"
(11) Pilo Dharamshala	80	"	(31) Swaminarayan Dharmshala	50	"
(12) Kali Kamli Dharamshala	150	"	(32) Bholagiri Dharamshala	30	"

(13) Bejoria Dharamshala	18 "	(33) Jan Dharamshala	60 "
(14) Mansingh Dharamshala	160 "	(34) Jalaram Dharamshala	60 "
(15) Rishiganga Dharamshala	140 "	(35) Roopali Dharamshala	08 "
(16) Sadhu Bhawan	50 "	(36) PWD Inspection House	08 "
(17) Punjab Sindh Dharamshala	300 "	(37) Jal Nigam Rest House	04 "
(18) Atachi	48 "	(38) Jal Sansthan Rest House	04 "
(19) Geeta Bhawan	216 "	(39) Forest Rest House	04 "
(20) Balanand Ashram	84 "	(40) DGBR Rest House	08 "
		(41) Hotel Devlok	70 "

Restaurant

- (1) Vijaya - Laxmi Restaurant
- (2) Saket Restaurant
- (3) Urvashi Restaurant

(4) several other ordinary restaurants Liquor and non-vegetarian food are prohibited.

BAGESHWAR

Location: Uttaranchal

Famous As: Pilgrimage Center

Attraction: Baijnath Temple

A PILGRIM CENTRE

Filled with the religious aura and peace of the soul and mind after the visit to Baijnath, the visitor inevitably becomes a pilgrim and his steps lead him to the confluence of the sacred Gomti and Saryu, at Bageshwar.

Mentioned on the copper plate here, like in Varansi, the spirit of Siva prevails. This is his town. An entrancing spot in the valley, it is pilgrim center, with the 15 shrines and ancient temple of Baijnath, built in 1450 AD, that gives the town its name.

In the month of January, thousands of pilgrims converge here to the Uttargayani Fair to have a dip in the holy waters of the confluence. Fasting and chanting, they worship Siva in the temple built for Him many centuries ago. During the Katyuri rule, it was one of the administrative centers, near their capital.

BINSAR

Location: Uttaranchal

Attraction: View of the Himalayas

Height: 2412 m.

Best Season: April to June & September to October

THE SCENIC HAMLET

Binsar, once the summer capital of the Chand Rajas (7th to 8th centuries) is located at a distance of 34 kms from Almora. It is one of the most scenic spots in the Kumaon Himalayas and a well acclaimed hill resort.

Binsar is an idyllic hamlet whose chief attraction is the panoramic view of the Himalayas -a 300-km stretch of famous peaks which includes Kedarnath, Chaukhamba, Trishul, Nanda Devi, Nanda Kot and Panchchuli. In olden days, the devout came to pray at the Temple of Bineshwar (an aspect of Shiva) built of by Raja Kalyan Chand.

Binsar hills known as Jhandi Dhar, rising to a height of 2412 m, offer an excellent view of Almora town, Kumaon Hills and the greater Himalayas. From the complex, a walk through dense oak and rhododendron forest leads to a vantagepoint at the summit, which affords an uncluttered view of the Himalayan range and the surrounding valley

The surroundings abound in alpine flora, ferns, hanging moss and countless species of wild flowers.

EXCURSIONS

Almora: (34 kms.) The district head quarter of Almora has still maintained its old traditional character which can be felt in the tiled roofed houses and paved streets. Places of tourist interest here are bright-end-corner, Chitai Temple, Kasar Devi, Deer Park, Nanda Devi temple & Ram Krishna Mission Ashram.

Jalna: (59 kms.) At a height of above 5500 feet, Jalna provides a wide panoramic view of the Himalayas. A number of orchards produce a variety of fruits such as apricots, peaches, pears, plums and apples. Nearby is the temple of Kutumbhari Devi & Banari Devi considered to have been constructed in the 9th century AD?

Katarmal: (51 kms.) Katarmal is a must for history lovers. It houses the famous sun temple built by the Katyuri rajas some 800 and 900 years ago, atop a steep hill.

Jageshwar: The temple town, housing one of the 12 jyotirlingas in India, stands on the Almora-pithoragarh road, in the beautiful Jataganga valley. The grand temple complex, consisting of 124 temples, is famous not only for its exquisite craftsmanship but also for its pristine beauty due to its proximity to the forests of thick Deodar.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Pantnagar, 157 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Kathgodam, 120 kms.

Road: Binsar is well connected by roads, to all prominent towns- Almora (34 kms.), Nainital (120 kms.) & Delhi (418 kms.).

PLACE TO STAY

Nanda Devi, KMVN Tourist Bungalow. Forest Rest House.

NEARBY CITIES

Almora:	34 kms
Nainital:	120 kms
Pantnagar:	157 kms.
Kathgodam:	120 kms.

OTHER INFORMATION

Tourist information and reservation: Manager Tourist Bungalow, Binsar, District Almora, and Uttaranchal. Manager Holiday Home, Almora, District Almora, Uttaranchal.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Altitude:	2412 m.	
Temperature:		
Summer	Max. 29.4°C	Min. 9°C
Winter	Max. 4.4°C	Min. 2°C
Rainfall:	85 CMS average.	
Clothing:		
Summer:	Cottons/Light Woolen.	
Winter:	Heavy Woolens	

CHAMOLI

Location: Northern Uttaranchal

Main Attractions: Badrinath, Kedarnath

Skiing Resort: Buggy Aula

Best Season: Throughout the Year

Chamoli is located in the northern part of Uttaranchal. The district of Chamoli was earlier a part of Pair Garhwal. In 1960, the district of Chamoli was created with its head quarters at Gopeshwar, which is famed for its salubrious climate. The main locations are Karanprayag, Okhimath and Joshimath.

The northern part of Chamoli shares its border with Tibet in China, and the adjoining districts are those of Uttarkashi, Teri, Pair, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh and Almora. Chamoli constitutes of the most revered of all the Hindu pilgrimages like Badri Nath, Kedarnath, Hemkund Sahib, Panch Badri, Tapovan; the magnificent temples at Gopeshwar, Triyuginarayan; and the enchanting Valley Of Flowers are some of the major tourist attractions that add to the beauty of the place. The world famous snow covered skiing resort at Bugyal.Auli is any skiing enthusiast's paradise.

Gopeshvara, situated on a hill-plateau, 3 miles from the town of Chamoli on the bank of the Alakananda, a tributary of the Ganga, is known for the Gopeshvara Mahadeva Temple.

WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES:

Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary: Founded in 1972, Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary sprawls over an area of 967 sq. km of the Garhwal Himalayas. This stretch of the Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts affords a splendid view of mountains and dales, forests and grasslands, exotic butterflies and flowers.

Nanda Devi National Park: Nanda Devi National Park lies in Chamoli District, within the Garhwal Himalayan. The main entry point to the park is via Lata Village, some 25km from Joshimath Township.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: The nearest airport is Jolly Grant, Dehradun.

Rail: Rishikesh and Kathgodam are the convenient railheads.

Road: Buses are available from Gopeshwar, to all the parts of Uttarakhand. Chamoli is on NH NO.58 and is well connected with the other cities.

Mandakini and Dhauliganga Rivers flows through the district.

PLACE TO STAY

Being a nice hilly hideout Chamoli has pretty good options of accommodation from good deluxe to budget hotels and tourist lodges.

CHAMPAWAT

Location: Uttaranchal

Attractions: Baleshwar Temple, Nagnath Temple

Best Season: April to June and September to October

Languages / Dialect: Kumaoni, Hindi and English

THE LAND OF KURMAVTAR: Situated 1,615 m above sea level, Champawat was originally the capital of Chand Raja of Kumaon. Located 76 kms. From Pithoragarh, it was at Champawat that lord Vishnu is said to have incarnated as Kurmavtar; hence Kumaon came to be known as Kurmanchal.

A small fort and the temples of Baleshwar, Champadari, Ratneshwar and Durga adorn the city. Champawat is famous not only from historical and archaeological point of view but also for its abundant scenic beauty and marvelous sculptures.

The places worth seeing near Champawat are Narsinh Danda, Hingla Devi, Hidimba -Ghatotkach Temple, Maneshwar, Karanteshwar & temple of Surya at village Ramak.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Baleshwar Temple: The group of temples dedicated to Baleshwar, Ratneshwar and Champawati Durga; built by the early Chand rulers, stand with intricate structural carvings that enthrall the visitors. The carvings and paintings on the ceilings of these temples are evidence of the ancient glory and artistic excellence of the era.

Nagnath Temple: Rohilla and Gorkha invaders devastated this ancient temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, in the 18th century. A huge carved doorway and a double-storeyed wooden structure remain now. The Nagnath temple is an excellent example of traditional Kumaoni temple architecture.

EXCURSIONS

Punyagiri Temple: (55 kms.) It is one of the most famous temples of Kumaon. Thousands of pilgrims visit the shrine during the period of April to June. A distance of 6 kms has to be trekked.

Mayawati Ashram: (23 kms.) Headquarters of Adwait Ashram, it was sanctified by Swami Vivekanand and is also known for its charming surroundings.

Devidhura: (45 kms) Situated at a height of 1615 m, Devi Dhura is well known for the temple of Barahi Devi. A fair is held here annually on “Raksha Bandhan”.

Abbot Mount: Situated amongst thick forests of oak and deodar, Abbot Mount is one of Kumaon’s idyllic hill resorts for peaceful secluded holidays.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Pithoragarh, 80 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Tanakpur 89 kms.

Road: Well connected to Nainital, Haldwani & Tanakpur. Local Transport: Jeeps, Taxis, Ponies, and Dandi.

NEARBY CITIES

Pithoragarh:	76-km
Devidhura:	45-km
Tanakpur:	89-km

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	5 sq. km.
Population:	1702 (1991 census).
Altitude:	1,615m above sea level.
Clothing:	Summer: Light Woollens. Winter: Heavy Woollens.

CHOPTA

Location: Uttaranchal

Nearby Attractions: Tungnath, Gopeshwar

Altitude: 2,900 Above Sea Level

Languages: Hindi, Garhwali

Chopta situated on the Gopeshwar-Ukhimath Road about 40 kms. From Gopeshwar is at an altitude of about 2,900-m above sea level. One of the most picturesque spots in the entire Garhwal region, Chopta provides a breathtaking view of the Himalayan ranges and the surrounding areas.

EXCURSIONS

Tungnath: (3 kms.) Situated at an elevation of about 3,680 metres above sea level, the temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. En route exotic varieties of rhododendrons, white flowers and shrub like trees can be seen in abundance.

Kanchula Korak Musk Deer Sanctuary: (7 kms.) On the Chopta-Gopeshwar road, Kanchula Korak Musk Deer Sanctuary is famous for breeding musk deers. This sanctuary covers an area of 5-sq. m and is an ideal place for tourists to view rare Himalayan wildlife. This place is also popular for its dense forests and aromatic flowers.

Gopeshwar: (39 kms.) The district headquarters of Chamoli, situated at an elevation of 1500 m above sea level is a picturesque place with salubrious climate.

Ukhimath: (31 kms.) This is the winter seat of lord Kedarnath and worship is done here during the winters when the temple of Kedarnath remains closed. The temples of Usha and Anirudh, Shiva and Parvati are worth a visit.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Jolly Grant, 226 kms, Dehradun.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Rishikesh, 209 kms.

Road: Well connected by motorable roads.

NEARBY CITIES

Tunganath:	3-km
Gopeshwar:	39-km
Ukhimath:	31-km
Rishikesh:	209-km
Dehradun:	226-km

DAKPATHAR

Location: Uttaranchal

Excursion: Kalsi, Lakha Mandal

Situated On the Bank of: River Yamuna

Languages / Dialect: Hindi, English, and Garhwali

MODERN RECREATION CENTRE: Located on the foothills of Shivaliks, on the banks of river Yamuna, Dakpathar is the newly developed recreation center of GMVN (Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam). It is a tourist complex with spacious lawns & gardens, and has a full standard size swimming pool, where facilities for coaching are available.

EXCURSIONS

Water Sport Resort- Asan: 11 kms. From Dakpathar, GMVN offers water sport facilities here, which include water skiing, sailing, boating, kayking, canoeing and hovercraft, ride.

Kalsi: It is located 6 kms. From Dakpathar enroute Chakrata, on the banks of the confluence of two rivers, Tons & Yamuna. Here exists an Ashokan edict, inscribed on a sizeable rock and preserved by the Archeological Survey of India.

Lakha Mandal: Past Yamuna Bridge, Lakha Mandal is 80 kms on Kalsi-Yamunotri Road. Scattered here, are hundreds of idols of archaeological importance. According to a legend, the Kauravas made a shellac house here and conspired to burn the Pandavas alive.

Poanta Sahib: 16 kms from Dakpathar across the Yamuna River is Poanta Saheb. Here, on the bank of Yamuna river is the gurudwara of Guru Govind Singhji. Devotees and tourists come here in large numbers to worship and see the beauty of the place.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Jolly Grant, 70 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Dehradun, 45 kms.

Road: Well connected by motorable roads to all major cities of India. Dehradun (45 kms), Chandigarh (140 kms) & Delhi (300 kms).

NEARBY CITIES

Kalsi:	6-km
Paonta Sahib:	16-km
Dehradun:	45-km
Lakha Mandal:	80-km
Chandigarh:	140-km

DEHRADUN

Location: 2,200ft above the sea level

Founded by: Legend Guru Dronacharya

Attractions: One of the most developed cities of India

The Doon Valley is situated between the two most important rivers of India. I.e. Ganga & Yamuna are most picturesque having moderate climate, nestling a number of places of tourist interest.

It is named after Guru Dronacharya - A great teacher in Mahabharat epic. The renowned religious town of Rishikesh, the queen of hills Mussoorie, the renowned sulphur springs at Sahastradhara

and a part of Rajaji National Park, the quit Chakrata hills all lie in this district. Also visit the Chardhams.

Dehradun is situated at an altitude of 2200 feet above sea level. It is one of the most developed cities of India having moderate climate. The places to be visited nearby are Sahastradhara (14 Kms.) Robbers cave (8 Kms.) Forest Research Institute (5 Kms.) Tapkeshwar Temple (5.5 Kms.), Laxman Sidh (12 Kms.) Malsi Deer Park (9 Kms.)

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Rajaji National Park: Rajaji National Park, situated at the edge of the sprawling Dehradun valley, was founded in 1966 and spreads over an area of about 820 sq. km. Nestled in a lush valley of the Shivalik Range, the park is an ideal holiday resort with its many picnic spots and excursion sites for the nature lover.

Tapkeshwar Temple: Tapkeshwar Shiv temple is an ancient place of worship.

EXCURSIONS

Mussoorie: Famous as queen of hills this charming hill station is situated at an altitude of 3000 metres above sea-level and is 36 Kms. from Dehradun, connected by a good motorable road.

There are a number of good hotels besides a tourist bungalow, PWD inspection house and couple of Dharamshalas.

The places to be visited nearby are Municipal Garden (4 Kms.) Kempty Falls (14 Kms.) Gunhill (through cable car) Depot Hills (5 Kms.) The Jheel (6 Kms.)

Mussoorie is also accessible from Dehradun through trekking. For details of trekking route between Dehradun and Mussoorie,

Dhanaulti (26 Kms.) Surkhanda Devi (35 Kms.) Chamba (57 Kms.) New Tehri (70 Kms.) Nagtibba (48) Kms.)

Sahastra Dhara: Located 14 km from Dehradun is the famous picnic spot called as the Sahastra Dhara. Noted for their astounding beauty the medicinal sulphur waterfalls are a great attraction.

Asan Barrage Popularly known as Dhalipur Lake, Asan Barrage, created in 1967, was developed By Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN), as a water sports complex in 1994.

Rishikesh A celebrated spiritual centers, Rishikesh enjoys a calm environment, impressive waterfront and dense forest hills. Virtually a town of saints, sages and scholars, Rishikesh is a large religious centre situated at the right bank of river Ganga.

There are a number of Ashrams where religious discourses are held for the benefit of the visitors. The place is also a renowned centre for Yoga teachings.

River rafting is another attraction for Rishikesh.

A number of organizations have established their camps 15 kms. Upstream. Good hotels are available in addition to a tourist bungalow and many Dharamshalas.

Skiing at Mundali Located in the Dehradun district of Uttaranchal, Mundali is 129 kms from Dehradun via Chakrata Dak Pathar

Under the Yamuna Hydrel Scheme, Dak Pathar has emerged as a tourist spot, which boasts of lush green lawns and blooming gardens. It is 45 Kms. situated on Dehradun - Chakrata road and is connected by regular bus service.

Lakha Mandal Temple Lakhmandal is situated on a hill slope along the bank of the Yamuna in district Dehradun. It is a site rich with ancient remains of temples, sculptures and inscriptions, some dating from as early as fifth century AD

Jhanda Fair The Jhanda Fair marks the arrival of Guru Ram Rai, the Sikh Guru, at Dehradun.

Lakhawar Mela Lakhawar fair is a village fair, held during the months of September- October.

Kalsi It is about 5 kms. From Dak Pathar on way to Chakrata, where there is an Ashoka edict inscribed on the sizeable rock. National Archaeological Department preserves it.

Chakrata Situated at a distance of 92 Kms. from Dehradu, at an elevation of about 700 feet. Chakrata is known for its serene environ and sylvan charm. The place is devoid of all artificiality and one can move in perfect calm & in pollution free atmosphere.

The northern part of Chakrata sub-division, Provides most fascinating area for trekkers and nature lovers. Covered by dense virgin forest dotted with attractive village of colourful Jaunsari tribe, the area is dominated by 10,000 feet high peak of Kharamba.

On its northern slopes is situated Mundali (9,000), where skiing is possible during the period from November to April. Deoband (9,000) Kanasar (8500), Kathiyan (7000) (all connected by road), Molta (7000), Tiger Fall near Chakrata are some other spots worth visiting. The famous temple of Mahasu Deota at Hanol is annually visited by thousands of pilgrims from Garhwal and Himachal Pradesh.

Laxman Sidh This picturesque place about 12 Kms. from Dehradun on Hardwar road is frequented by a large number of people especially on Sundays. Legend has it that a saint underwent penance at this place. The place is connected by local bus service.

Lakhamandal About 80 Kms. from Mussoorie on Mussoorie - Yamnotri road Lakhamandal is believed to be the place where Duryodhana of Mahabharat episode conspired to burn alive the Pandavas in the Lakshyagriha a house specially constructed with shellac.

There is a temple believed to be constructed in the eighth century with a number of carved figures on stone, which are of archaeological significance.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Jolly Grant airport is the nearest airport situated 24-km from Dehradun

Rail: Dehradun has got a railway station of its own, connected to all the major cities of the state.

Road: Being a capital city of Uttaranchal is well connected with all the major cities of the state.

NEARBY CITIES

Meerut:	170 km
Chandigarh:	175 km
Mussoorie:	36 km
New Delhi:	235 km

MUSSOORIE

Location: Garhwal Hills

Altitude: 2500 meters above sea level

Nearby Attractions: Lal Tibba, Gun Hill, and Kempt Falls

Excursions: Yamunotri Bridge, Nag Tibba, and Dhanaulti

Mussoorie is located in the Garhwal hills. Due to its immense natural beauty, Mussoorie is known as the queen of hill stations. In 1820 Captain Young from the British army was influenced by the beauty of this place and made this place his residence. This marked the foundation of a hill station called Mussoorie. The name, Mussoorie, is derived from plants of 'Mussoorie', which were found in abundance here. After its discovery, this hill station gradually developed as a center of education, business, tourism and beauty.

Mussoorie is located at a height of 2,500 meters in the green Himalayan range. Due to its location and beauty Mussoorie is considered as the best hill station in the northern region. The modern bungalows, malls and well-laid gardens, which are located on the small hills around the area, are enough to attract any tourist.

Mussoorie is an excellent respite for tourists and people who want relief from the hot sultry conditions of the plains. Nature has gifted Mussoorie everything, which makes a place beautiful. With the onset of summers tourists start coming here.

As heat increases in the plains number of tourist inflow also increases proportionately. Mussoorie is very close to Delhi, its overnight journey and one can return in one day. So, some people come here to spend their weekends. Also, the major Hindu pilgrimages like Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, Yamunotri, Haridwar, Rishikesh are not far from this place.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Tibetan Temple This temple is located in happy valley area of Mussoorie. Both Company gardens and Tibetan temple can be seen in one day. They are located one kilometer from Lal

Bahadur Shastri National Administrative Academy. The Tibetan temple is evidence to rich Tibetan cultural heritage. This temple is sure to attract attention of tourists.

Lake Mist This place is seven kilometers on way to Kempty. Lake mist offers a perfect resting-place for tired and weary tourists. One has to pay Rs. 25 to enter Lake mist. There are good accommodation facilities here.

Mussoorie Lake This Lake is located some seven kilometers on the highway to Dehradun. The gateway of this lake appears to be welcoming tourists from Dehradun. The entry charge to this lake is Rs. 15. One can enjoy boating at this lake. One also gets a very good view of the Dun Valley from this lake. The villages surrounding Mussoorie can also be seen from here.

Lal Tibba This place is highest point in Mussoorie. Lal Tibba is located in Landour area, which is the oldest inhabited place in Mussoorie.

Gunhill is second highest point in Mussoorie. From Gunhill Mussoorie appears to be changing colours every other minute. Each moment a different scene appears before your eyes. There are many shops on the hilltop so one can have a small little picnic here.

Municipal Gardens The municipal or the Company gardens was previously (before independence) was also known as Botanical gardens of Mussoorie. Famous geologist Dr. H. Fackner laid these gardens in the last century.

Kempty Falls Kempty Falls are located 13 kms from Mussoorie. John Mekin developed this place as a tourist destination after 1835.

Camel's Back Road This road starts from Link hall in Kulri Bazaar and ends at Library Bazaar. One can enjoy horse (pony) rides on this road or just walk down the path. The road is three kilometers long.

Charlieveli Hotel This was the first hotel in Mussoorie. Charlieveli Hotel was only hotel in India, which was under Queen Mary, who later became Queen of Britain. Since the last century till independence this hotel was very famous both in India and abroad.

Cloud End A British major had a building constructed in 1838. This beautiful building was converted into hotel and was named Cloud End. It got the name because it appears that the clouds have ended here. From this place one can have a good view of the valley. Cloud end is located some eight kilometers west of Mussoorie hills. Due to its location, at the end of horizon, it is very popular among the Honeymooners and Foreign tourists. Good place to take break from crowd.

Ven Chetna Kendra 2 kms from Mussoorie on Tehri bypass is a spectacular picnic spot called Ven Chetna Kendra. It also has park. The whole area is covered with Deodar forests and thick undergrowth. The main attraction of this place has been animals in the park. Taxi or bus can access it.

EXCURSIONS

Dehradun: Located 29 Kms. from Mussoorie, Dehradun is a must visit place.

Rishikesh: Rishikesh is known as the Tapo Bhumi or the place for meditation of the Gods. Rishikesh is one of the popular pilgrimages for the Hindus. At this place the Ganges leaves the mountains and prepares herself to begin a long journey through the plains.

Haridwar: Gateway to the four pilgrimages in the Utrakhand region is located on the foothills of Shivaliks.

Yamunotri Bridge: This Bridge is located 27 kms from Mussoorie on the Chakrata road. This bridge is famous for fishing. But for fishing here one has to take permission from the Divisional Forest Officer, Mussoorie.

Nag Tibba: 55 kms from Mussoorie is very good place for trekking. Nag Tibba, as it is called, is the highest place around Mussoorie. Thick dense forests surround it. The actual trekking for Nag Tibba starts some 21 kms away from the place. The 34 kms journey from Mussoorie is done on Taxi or Bus and the rest is covered on foot. This trek has its own charm and fun. The trek starts at Thathyud. 7 kms from here there is the forest department's rest house. To stay in the rest house reservations have to be done with Divisional Forest officer, Mussoorie. Note that there is no accommodation at Nag Tibba.

Bhadraj Temple: This temple is 15 kms from Mussoorie. Principle deity of the temple is Brother of Lord Krishna, Balram. Every year in the third week of August on Shravan Sankranti day a festival is celebrated here.

Dhanaulti: Dhanaulti is located 25 kms from Mussoorie on Tehri-Mussoorie highway. Here one has got good accommodation facilities. While going towards Dhanaulti, there is lovely green forest of fir and pine trees. These forests cover the Himalayan ranges lending them an unparalleled beauty. The fresh air and lovely surroundings fills you with enthusiasm and energy.

Sarkunda Devi: This place is 35 kms from Mussoorie. To access this place one has to go till Khaddu Khal by vehicle and then cover 2 kms on foot or on ponies.

Sahastra Dhara Located 14 km from Dehradun is the famous picnic spot called as the Sahastra Dhara. Noted for their astounding beauty the medicinal sulphur waterfalls are a great attraction.

Jhari Pani Falls: These falls are located some 8.5 kms on the Jharipani-Mussoorie road. Seven kilometers of the road to these falls is covered by taxi and rest 1.5 kilometers has to be covered on foot.

Dehradun - Mussoorie Trek

HOW TO GET THERE The nearest Airport to Mussoorie is 60 kms away from the place. The airport is called Jollygrant Airport but there are no regular flights to this place. As such Mussoorie does not have a direct rail link. Dehradun Railway station serves for Mussoorie too. This station is linked with Superfast trains to other major cities in country.

From Dehradun one can hire a taxi or take a bus to Mussoorie. The queen of hill stations is well connected with roads with other major cities. There are regular bus services from various metros and other tourist destinations in Uttaranchal as well as from outside the state. Bus services are provided by State transports. There are conducted tours to Mussoorie too.

PLACE TO STAY In Mussoorie, one will feel shortened of accommodation options, except may be in the peak season and the variation include luxury, economic and budget hotels. There is tourist lodges and cottage accommodation also available over here.

SHOPPING Mussoorie is famous for wooden decorative and gift items. But one can also bargain brass statues and ceramic vases. Some good showrooms are located on the Mall where one can look for wooden boxes, brass statues, Tibetan Prayer wheels and vases. The hand carved oakwood-walking stick is also popular among tourists. In the markets, photographs can be clicked wearing a dazzling Garhwali Dress. To be photographed in Garhwali garb against a painted Himalayan range makes a wonderful picture.

Pure Ladakhi Shawls are bit costly but are worth a good purchase here. The antique Jamawar Shawls carry heavy price tags but they are worth having a look if not being purchased. Nowadays modern techniques are being applied in weaving these shawls, which has reduced its price.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. - Kulri Bazaar, The Mall (Near Ropeway) Mussoorie, Uttaranchal (India).

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. - 74 / 1, Rajpur Road, Dehradun-248001, Uttaranchal India
Uttaranchal Tourism Office - Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd., Chandralok Building, 36, Janpath, New Delhi-110001. India

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. - 432 / 4, New Civil Lines, Old Hyderabad, Lucknow - 226001 India

CLIMATE

Mussoorie is a hill station, which has pleasant climate around the year. It is a very cool place with greenery at its full bloom during September to November. The best seasons to visit Mussoorie are between April to June and again during September to November.

When the plains of North India experience heat waves, Mussoorie provides a welcome break. September - November is springtime here. During this season Himalayas are clearly visible. It is better to avoid monsoons as the roads to Mussoorie are in bad shape. Same thing applies for the winter when roads are blocked due to snowfall.

NEARBY CITIES

Dehradun	36 kms.
Haridwar	90 kms.
Dhanaulti	26 kms.
Chakrata	26 kms.
Gangotri	250 kms.
Rishikesh	77 kms.
Shimla	276 kms.
Delhi	278 kms.

DHANALTI

Location: Uttaranchal

Founded by: Mussoorie

Main attractions: Surkanda Devi, Chamba

Languages: April to July & September to November.

Dhanaulti, located amidst thick, virgin forests of deodar, rhododendron and oak has an atmosphere of perfect peace & tranquility. The long wooded slopes, lazy outings, cool caressing breeze; warm and hospitable inhabitants, lovely weather and fabulous view of snow-covered mountains make it an ideal retreat for a relaxed holiday. Situated on the Mussoorie - Chamba route, Dhanaulti is 25 kms. From Mussoorie.

EXCURSIONS

Surkanda Devi: (10 kms.) The temple of Surkanda Devi is situated on the top of the mountain. Thickly covered by dense forests, at an altitude of about 2,903m above sea level, it is place of great religious significance. A fair is held every year on "Ganga Dussehra" (May-June) in which thousands of people participate. For reaching the temple, one has to trek about 2 kms, along the motor road at Kaddu Khal.

Mussoorie: The queen of hill stations.

Chamba: (48 kms.) The upcoming township of Chamba situated at a height of about 1676m provides a panoramic view of the Himalayas and Bhagirathi valley from above. The Chamba-Mussoorie fruit belt is also famous for its delicious apples.

New Tehri: (37 kms.) The district head quarters of Tehri Garhwal, at New Tehri is a recent development. It will soon become an important center of attraction on the completion of the dam at Tehri, when the huge lake will become a picturesque spot. Facilities are being developed here.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Jolly Grant, Dehradun (82 kms).

Rail: Nearest railhead is Dehradun, 60 kms.

Road: Well connected to Dehradun (60 kms.), Delhi (325 kms.) & Rishikesh (107 kms.)

PLACES TO STAY

GMVN Tourist Bungalow. Forest Rest House. Hotel Dhanaulty Breeze. A couple of guesthouses also offer good accommodation

NEARBY CITIES

Mussoorie:	25-km
Chamba:	48-km
New Tehri:	37-km
Dehradun:	60-km
Rishikesh:	107-km

GENERAL INFORMATION

Temperature (oc): **Summer:** Max: 31.5; Min: 7.4

Winter: Max: 7.2; Min: 1.0

Clothing:

Summer: Light Woollens

Winter: Heavy Woolens.
Altitude: 2286 m above sea level

GANGOTRI

Location: Garhwal

Altitude: 3,200 Mt

Dedicated To: Lord Shiva

This sacred shrine, situated at an altitude of 3,200 Mt is the source of the river Bhagirathi. The mountain peaks of Shivling, Satopanth and Bhagirathi sisters surround it. Accessible by a motorable road, it is one of the most pious Hindu pilgrimages.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Temple Of Gangotri As the legend goes; Raja Bhagirath used to worship Lord Shiva at the sacred stone near which the temple is located. It is believed that goddess Ganga first descended to earth from Heaven, at this stone. Amar Singh Thapa, the Gorkha Commander of Garhwal, in the 18th century AD constructed this temple. It is also believed that the Pandavas came here to perform the great 'Deva Yagna' to atone the death of their kinsmen in the battle of Mahabharata.

Submerged Shivling Submerged in the river, this natural rock Shivling is the place where, according to mythology, Lord Shiva sat when he received the Ganga in his matted locks. It is visible in winter months when water level decreases.

EXCURSIONS

Kedartal A spectacular lake situated at a distance of about 18-km trek from Gangotri, negotiable through a rough mountain trail. The trek is very tiring and testing even for a hardy trekker. There is no facility of any kind on the way and one has to make all arrangements in advance. A local guide is essential. The lake is crystal clear with the mighty Thalaysagar (sphatikling) peak forming a splendid backdrop. The place is about 15,000 feet above sea level and is the base camp for scaling to Thalaysagar, Jogin, Bhrigupanth and other peaks.

Kedar Ganga Sangam Around 100 yards from the Ganga temple flows the river Kedar Ganga. Starting from the Kedar valley, this river meets the Bhagirathi River on its left bank.

Gaumukh this is the snout of the Gangotri glacier and the present source of the Bhagirathi river. The devotees who do not miss the opportunity to have a holy dip in the bone chilling icy water hold it in high esteem. The 18-km distance from Gangotri has to be covered on foot or by ponies. The trek is easy and many people come back to Gangotri the same day. Porters and ponies are available for excursions to Gaumukh and other trekking routes at Gangotri. There is a Tourist Bungalow at Bhojbas, 14 km from Gangotri where lodging and other facilities are available.

Bhaironghati 10 km from Gangotri. Astride the road to Uttarkasi and near the confluence of Jat Ganga and Bhagirathi rivers is situated, Bhaironghati. The temple of Bhairav Nath surrounded by thick forests is worth visiting.

Bhairon Mandir after traveling by road from Lanka to Bhaironghati one has to cross the Jahanvi River on foot. After crossing the Jahanvi River and moving uphill, the Bhairon temple can be seen.

Harsil 26 km from Gangotri. Located in the topographically mountainous district of Uttarkasi, this hamlet is famous for its natural beauty and delicious apples. Harsil is situated at a distance of 72 km from Uttarkasi on the main highway to Gangotri and is at a height of 2,620 Mt above sea-level.

From Harsil, the adventurous tourist can trek to Sat Tal, situated just above Dharali, 2 km beyond Harsil, to be greeted by the rewarding sight of seven lakes situated amidst beautiful natural surroundings. The Harsil-Jangala Chatti route is amidst dense Deodar forest.

Gangnani 55 km from Gangotri. Noted for its thermal springs and close-up views of famous mountain peaks, its peaceful and tranquilizing environment provides an ideal setting for meditation.

Bhatwari 70 km from Gangotri. It is a small upcoming town located at about 25 km from Gangnani.

Maneri 92 km from Gangotri. It has lately emerged as a place of tourist interest as a result of the construction of a dam across the Bhagirathi River, from where the water is fed to the turbines through an 8-km long tunnel at Tiloth in Uttarkasi. The resultant lake at Maneri has added to the charm of the place.

Uttarkasi 107 km from Gangotri. An important pilgrimage center equated with Varanasi or Kashi in divinity. It is located in a wide stretch of the valley.

Situated at a distance of 155 km from Rishikesh, the last railhead, at an elevation of 1,150 Mt above sea-level on the bank of river Bhagirathi, this picturesque town is also the district headquarter. From the religious point of view as well, it is considered important because the temple of Lord Vishwanath, is located here where a massive iron trident is erected. Description about this temple is given in 'Kedar Khand' (Skand-Puran). The other important temples situated here are Ekadash Rudra, Bhairav and Gyaneshwar. The temple of goddess Kuteti Devi is situated at the top of hills about 1.5 km away.

The Nehru Institute of Mountaineering is also located on a hill above the town, 5 km away. Close by at Ujeli are a number of Ashrams and temples. On the occasion of "Magh Mela" (January 14), every year people from far and near visit Uttarkasi to take a holy dip in Bhagirathi along with the idol of their village deity.

Dayara Bugyal, in the local language means "high altitude meadow." The road to Dayara Bugyal branches off near Bhatwari a place on Uttarkashi-Gangotri road about 32 km from Uttarkasi. Vehicles can go up to the village of Barsu from where one has to trek a distance of about 8 km to reach Dayara. Situated at an elevation of about 3,190 Mt above sea level, this vast meadow is second to none in natural beauty. During winters it provides excellent ski slopes over an area of 28 sq. km. From this spot one can trek down to Dodi Tal, which is about 30 km away, through dense forests.

GAUMUKH

Location: Uttaranchal

Altitude: 12960 Feet

Significance: Source of River Ganga

Distance from Gangotri: 18 kms

Gaumukh, the source of river Ganga, is situated at a height of 12,960 feet. The Gangotri Glacier, which lies at a height of 13,662 ft beyond Chaukhamba, extends as far as Gaumukh. The Ganga gushes out of the glacier, here.

This is the snout of the Gangotri glacier and the present source of the Bhagirathi River. The devotees, who do not miss the opportunity to have a holy dip in the bone-chilling icy water, hold it in high esteem.

The 18-km distance from Gangotri has been covered on foot or by ponies. The trek is easy and many people come back to Gangotri the same day. Porters and ponies are available for excursions to Gaumukh and other trekking routes at Gangotri.

There is a Tourist Bungalow at Bhojbasu, 14 km from Gangotri where lodging and other facilities are available.

HARIDWAR

Location: Uttarakhand Region (Uttaranchal)

Main Attractions: Har Ki Pauri, Chandi Devi Temple

Best Season: September to June

Nearby Attractions: Rishikesh, Deoprayag

Haridwar-- gateway to the four pilgrimages in the Uttrakhand region, is located on the foothills of Shivaliks. It is on the banks of River Ganga. The Ganga leaves the mountains and enters the plains with Haridwar being the first major town on the plains.

Though the Ganges does not lose its rapids completely nevertheless it becomes very quite and calm here. The water is clean and people prefer taking bath on the numerous ghats built on the river shores. It is said that taking bath here purifies the soul and opens the way for the ultimate freedom, Nirvana.

Haridwar has earned fame as being the place, which has been blessed by the trinity of Lord Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma. It is also one of the major Shaktipeeths.

Down the ages, Haridwar has purified the mind, the body and the soul. Not only in spiritual or religious terms Haridwar has come up as a major learning center for arts, science and culture. This place has maintained the Gurukul tradition of teaching. This ancient tradition of teaching has maintained its fervour in Haridwar.

Haridwar has since ages been a source of Ayurvedic medicines and has been providing herbal remedies. Haridwar one of the first towns to be developed on Ganges is still lush and green with forest and trees. With Rajaji Park in the vicinity Haridwar has also been the destination for the wildlife and nature lovers. The city acquires a unique charm in the evening when the ghats become breath taxingly beautiful with thousands of Diyas and Marigold floating in the waters of Ganges.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Har Ki Pauri This ghat is one of the most sacred ghats in India. People say that Vikramaditya in memory of his brother Bhartrihari built this ghat. This ghat is also known as Brahmakund. In the evening a Maha Aarti is performed on this ghat. It is any visitor not misses an event, which is a must.

Chandi Devi this temple is on the top of a hill called the Neel Parvat, which is on the other side of the river Ganga. The King of Kashmir, Suchat Singh, constructed the temple in 1929 AD. Chandi Devi is a three-km trek from the Chandi Ghat.

Mansa Devi This temple is located on top of a hill called the Bilwa Parvat. The ropeway can reach the temple or one can take the normal trekking route to the top. The top of the hill gives you an excellent view of Haridwar.

Kavand Mela The fair is held ten days before Shivteras, during the Hindu months of Shravan & Phalgun.

Daksha Mahadev Temple Four kms from Haridwar is a town called Kankhal. Mythology says that the king of this place King Daksha Prajapati performed a yagya. His daughter, Sati was married to Lord Shiva. But Daksha was not happy with this marriage and did not invite Shiva-Sati in the Yagya.

But Sati came and was insulted by her father. She could not take the insult and burnt herself in the yagya kund. On hearing this followers of Shiva killed Daksha. But later Mahadeo (Shiva) brought Daksha to life. The Daksha temple is an attribute to this legend. This place is one of the five sacred places in Haridwar.

Sapt Rishi At one place Ganga divides her into seven small streams. This place is known as the Sapt Rishi and provides a very pleasing sight.

Maya Devi it is one of the Shaktipeeths in India. This ancient temple of Maya Devi is also the Adhishthatri deity of Haridwar. It is said that when Lord Shiva was carrying his wife Sati, who had burnt her self to keep the honour of her husband, then the heart and navel of Sati had fallen at this place.

Gurukul Kangri University This University is known for its unique system of education. It is located on the Haridwar-Jwalapur bypass road. This old institution follows the ancient tradition of Guru-Sishya pattern of education. The institution also has the Ved Mandir Museum which is has a very good collection of archaeological exhibits and displays artifacts which are of historical value.

Beauty Point On the Mansa Devi temple road, about two kilometer from Haridwar is a point which provides an excellent view of Haridwar and the near by greenery. This place is called the beauty point, as the sight from here of the surrounding is very exciting and enthralling.

Neel Dhara Pakshi Vihar This place is an enchanting bird watching point particularly during the winters. There are various species of birds, which can be spotted here. Around Laljiwala on the banks of river Ganges one can expect the Siberian Cranes, which are one of the prized visitor to this Pakshi Vihar.

EXCURSIONS

Rishikesh 24 kms from Haridwar is Rishikesh. This place is known as the Tapo Bhumi or the place for meditation of the Gods. Rishikesh is one of the popular pilgrimages for the Hindus. At this place the Ganges leaves the mountains and prepares herself to begin a long journey through the plains.

Dehradun: This hill station is located in the Shivalik hills. Just 54 kms from Haridwar. The thick woods and scenic beauty of the place is enough to capture the imagination of any tourist.

Mussoorie: The queen of hill stations is just 89 kms from Haridwar. The salubrious climate and deep woods makes it an ideal hill station.

Piran Kalier On the outskirts of Roorkee is the Dargah of Hazrat Makhdum Allauddin Ali Ahmed 'Sabir'. It is a must for any visitor to visit this place. The place is known as Piran Kalier and is located 23 kms South of Haridwar. This Dargah is famed for its mystical powers and is visited in large numbers both by Hindus and Muslims. In fact this place is a living example of Hindu-Muslim unity. During the Rabeull month of Islamic calendar, an Urs is celebrated from the first day of sighting the moon to the sixteenth day.

Chila At Chila is located the Rajaji National Park a popular destination for nature and adventure lovers. The pristine scenic beauty and rich biodiversity of the park has been attracting wildlife lovers from India and abroad The Park has 23 species of mammals and about 315 avifauna species.

Deoprayag: This is again one of the sacred places for the Hindus. At this place the aggressive Alaknanda merges with the gentle flowing Bhagirathi. The place is 95 kms from Haridwar.

HOW TO GET THERE

In the region Air Services are available only upto Jollygrant airport in Dehradun, but the Railways have a station at Haridwar. This major pilgrimage center has been well connected by trains to all the major towns of India. In fact trains bring the major load of pilgrims and tourist inflow to Haridwar. The national high way no.45 crosses through the city so it is connected to other cities of the State as well as other towns in India in an efficient manner.

There are buses available from Delhi to this place. The state transport has ordinary as well as deluxe and semi-deluxe buses on this route for long distance travel.

There are private buses, which take you to nearby places, and also some of these private deluxe buses run on the long distance routes.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

Ardh Kumbh: Though all the Hindu festivals are celebrated here with pomp and gaiety, it is the Ardh Kumbh, which attracts the mind of any tourist to this place. The Ardh Kumbh is held every six years and the last Ardh Kumbha of this century ended this year. It is said that a holy dip in the river Ganges during the Kumbh gives you Moksha or Nirvana.

People gather in huge number to take the holy dip during these holy days. There are Saints, Naga Sadhus, Politicians almost every one is here. The city is overflowing with people. If going to Haridwar during the Ardh Kumbh then avoid the over crowded ghats. Every there is reports of stampedes and the various factions or Akharas of Sadhus clash with each other. Ensure your accommodation well in advance if going during the Kumbh.

SHOPPING

Haridwar is a pilgrimage center and visitors come here to visit the temples so as such there is no particular item, which can be recommended to be bought here. But Haridwar offers you some

good handicraft items, which can be kept as decorative pieces or can be used as gift items. In the markets surrounding the temples, one can find jewellery imitations, which are very popular among the devotees. The bangles, chains, ear and nose rings are some items, which can be bought there.

Then the shops also have items made of stone. From Rishikesh, Ganga enters the plains and in all this area it sheds its load of stones, which are not only polished naturally but also come out in amazing shapes and sizes. These stones are used to make small idols, which are very neatly, delicately and intricately carved.

Look out for Kitchen set toys made from stone. You can also get some items of talk stone. The main shopping centers are Moti Bazaar, Upper Road, Jwalapur, and Kankhal. The UP handloom Emporium is near the Bharat Mata temple and the government Emporium, Gandhi Ashram is near the Haridwar post office.

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

Regional Tourist Office - Haridwar, Uttaranchal, India.

Tourist Bureau - Laltarao Bridge, Haridwar, Uttaranchal, India

Tourist Information Center - Railway Station, Haridwar, Uttaranchal, India

Tourist Reception Center - 36, Chandralok Building, Janpath, New Delhi - 110 001

CLIMATE

Haridwar is located at a height of almost 300 meters. One should never expect any sort of pleasant high altitude climate here. During the summers the temperature usually hangs around 40 degrees but winters sees the mercury dipping as low as six degrees. So neither of the seasons is suitable or ideal for tourists to venture in Haridwar. The monsoons further add to the miseries of the visitors. The best seasons to visit Haridwar are some where between September and June.

NEARBY CITIES

Delhi	214 kms.
Rishikesh	24 kms.
Meerut	129 kms.
Mussoorie	90 kms.
Badrinath	290 kms.
Yamunotri	240 kms.
Dehradun	52 kms.
Kedarnath	250 kms.
Ambala	168 kms.
Saharanpur	81 kms

KAUSANI

Location: Kumaon Region (Uttaranchal)

Altitude: 1890 m above Sea Level.

Originally Called: Valna

Best Time: September to April

THE ETHEREAL TOWN Located 53 km to the north of Almora, Kausani, is a picturesque hill station famous for its scenic splendor and its spectacular 300 km-wide view of the Himalayas? Snuggled amongst thick, dense pine forests, atop a narrow ridge, the view of the snow covered Trishul and Nanda Devi is so vivid that one gets a feeling of the snow being within touching distance.

The ethereal sunrise that Pithoragarh offers has attracted thousands of visitors to this place time and again. Eulogized by poets and philosophers, this scenic and beautiful spot has on offer something or the other for every visitor from sightseeing, history, sport and pilgrimage to complete relaxation all year round. In 1929, Mahatma Gandhi stayed here at the Anashakti Ashram, and was greatly impressed by its environs.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Anashakti Ashram: It is located at a quiet place where the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi spent some days. Set against the breathtaking beauty of the Himalayas, this Ashram offers a good resting-place for travelers. It also has a magnificent library.

View of the Nanda Devi Hill: Some spectacular views of the hills exist and several snow-capped peaks spanning a 300-km range can be seen from vantagepoints around. One of the best spots from which one can photograph the Nanda Devi Range is the State Bungalow at Kausani. A particularly good time is prior to sunrise when one can watch the sun slowly lighting up the tips of the Nanda Devi Range.

EXCURSIONS

Bajjnath: (19 kms.) Situated on the banks of the Gomti River and just below the Kausani Ridge are Bajjnath, an important pilgrimage and historic center. A group of ancient temples dating back to the 12th and 13th century line the bank of the river, presenting a beautiful sight. Their intricate carvings and stonework are simply awe-inspiring.

Bageshwar: (42 kms.) This important Shaivite center stands at the confluence of rivers Gomti and Saryu. The famous Baghnath temple built by King Lakshmi Chand in 1602 AD, adorns the city. Not only temples but also the sacred confluence & famous Uttarayani Fair held annually in mid- January, also make it a revered spot for pilgrims, who often equate it to Varanasi, in divinity and sanctity.

Gwaldam: (48 KMS.) At an altitude of 1829 m, this typical small Himalayan town surrounded by fruit orchards is an ideal base for trekking to Roopkund and Pindari glaciers (in Kumaon Himalayas).

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Pantnagar, 180 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Kathgodam, 142 kms.

Road: The hill station is well connected by road to all nearby towns.

NEARBY CITIES

Bageshwar:	42 kms
Gwaldam:	48 kms
Pantnagar:	180 kms.
Kathgodam:	142 kms

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	5.2 sq.km.
Population:	4046 (1991 census).
Altitude:	1890 m above sea level.
Clothing	summer: Light Woolens. Winter: Heavy Woolens.

ADI KAILASH TREK

Location: Garhwal Himalayas (Uttaranchal)

Base: Kausani

Highest Altitude: 4770m

OM Pravat (3220 M) - Adi Kailash (4770 M) Adi Kailash also known as Chhota Kailash is an area of great natural beauty, peace and serenity. During this trek one gets an opportunity to view the snow peaks of Annapurna, thick forests, waterfalls and wild flowers.

Duration: 23 days.

ITINERARY

1st Day: New Delhi - Kausani (430 kms by bus). Lunch at T.R.H. Bhowali / Night halt at Kausani watching Himalayan view / Sun rise/Sunset in Kausani.

2nd Day: Kausani - Dharchula (199 kms. by bus). Lunch at T.R.H Chaukori / Night halt at Dharchula KMVN.

3rd Day: Dharchula - Pangu (19 kms. by bus / 9 kms by trek). Lunch / Night halt at T.R.H. Pangu.

4th Day: Pangu - Sirkha (8 kms. by trek). Lunch / Night halt at T.R.H. Sirkha

5th Day: Sirkha - Galgad (14 kms. by trek). Lunch / Night halt at TRH Galgad

6th Day: Galgad - Malpa (10 kms. by trek) lunch / Night halt at TRH Malpa

7th Day: Malpa - Budhi (8 kms. by trek). Lunch / Night halt at TRH Budhi.

8th Day: Budhi - Gungi (17 kms by trek). Lunch / Night halt at TRH Gungi

9th day: Gunji - Navidang (18 kms. by trek), Lunch / Night halt at TRH Navidang.

10th Day: Navidang - Om Pravat Darshan from Navidang.

11th Day: Navidang - Gunji (18 kms by trek). Lunch / Night halt at T.R.H. Navidant.

12th Day: Gunji - Kutti (19 kms by trek). Lunch / Night halt at T.R.H. Kutti. Tent Accommodation.

13th Day: Kutti - Jollingkong 14 kms by trek). Lunch / Night halt at Fibre Hut in Jollingkong.

14 Th Day: Jollingkong - Adi Kailash / Jollingkong (4 kms. by trek). Darshan Adi Kailash / Parvati Saroval Lunch / Night halt at Fibre Huts in Jollingkong.

15th Day: Jollingkong - Kutti (14 kms. by trek). Lunch / Night halt at Kutti in tents.

16th Day: Kutti - Gunji (19 kms. by trek). Lunch / Nigh halt at TRH Gunji.

17th Day: Gunji - Budhi (17 kms. by trek). Lunch / Nigh halt at TRH Budhi.

18th Day: Budhi - Malpa (8 kms. by trek). Lunch / Night h alt at Malpa

19th Day: Malpa - Galgad (10 kms by trek). Lunch / Night halt at Galgad.

20th day: Galgad -Sirkha (14 kms, by trek). Lunch / Night halt at T.R.H. Sirkha.

21st day: Sirkha - Dharchula (17 kms. by trek / 19 kms. by bus.) Lunch at Twaghat / Night halt at T.R.H. Dharchula.

22nd day: Dharchula - Champawat (210 kms. by bus). Lunch at Pithoragarh / Night halt at TRH KMVN, Champawat.

23 day: Champawat - New Delhi (360 kms by bus). Pack lunch on the way. Tour concludes

TOUR END

BAGESHWAR - SUNDERDHUNGA TREKKING

Location: 36 Kms from Kausani (Uttaranchal)

Base: Bageshwar

One Way Trek: 41 Kms

BAGESHWAR SUNDERDHUNGA TREK: 36 kms from Kausani, at the confluence of the rivers Gomti and Saryu lies this religious town of Bageshwar is adorned by temples and places of worship and is often equated, by pilgrims, with Varanasi in its divinity and religion. Bageshwar is also the base for the popular trekking routes of Sunderdhunga, Pindari and Kafni glaciers.

KAUSHAMBI

Location: Uttaranchal

Significance: The Capital of 'Vatsa Janpad' Ruled by King Udyana.

Attractions: Archaeological Site

Located 51 kms from Allahabad, Kaushambi was the capital of 'Vatsa Janpad' ruled by King Udyana, during the time of Buddha. The ruins of an ancient fort stand testimony to its antiquity.

It was when Lord Buddha visited this city that Kaushambi attained true prominence. He came in the 6th and 9th year, after his enlightenment and delivered several sermons, elevating it to a center of learning for Buddhists.

Kaushambi is attributed to the Pandavas and their descendant, king Parikshit. A wealthy merchant of the city is said to have built the monastery of Ghositarama. Referred to as a flourishing city in the 6th century in the early texts of the Buddhists, Kausambi was situated on the banks of river Yamuna.

Archaeological Importance: A large number of architectural and sculptural remains; terracotta figurines and other relics reflect the high aesthetic and technical advancement of the people of Kaushambi. All the Buddhist structures are now in ruins.

KEDARNATH

Location: Kedarnath Range (Uttaranchal)

Houses: Shrine of Lord Shiva

Nearby attractions: Vasuki Taal, Gauri Kund, and Triyuginarain

Altitude: 3581 m above sea level

The Kedarnath shrine, one of the 12 jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva, is a scenic spot situated, against the backdrop of the majestic Kedarnath range. At an altitude of 3,581 Mt it is a 14-km trek from Gaurikund.

Dedar is another name of Lord Shiva, the protector and the destroyer. Shiva is considered the embodiment of all passion-love, hatred, fear, death and mysticism, which are expressed through his various forms.

There are more than 200 shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva in Chamoli district itself; the most important one is Kedarnath. According to legend, the Pandavas after having won over the Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war felt quality of having killed their own brothers and sought the blessings of Lord Shiva for redemption. He eluded them repeatedly and while fleeing took refuge at Kedarnath in the form of a bull.

On being followed he dived into the ground, leaving his hump on the surface. The remaining portions of Lord Shiva appeared at four other places and worshipped there as his manifestations.

The arms appeared at Tungnath, the face at Rudranath, and the belly at Madmaheshwar and his locks (hair) with head at Kalpeshwar. Kedarnath and the four abodes mentioned shrines are treated as Panch Kedar.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Kedarnath Temple an imposing sight, standing in the middle of a wide plateau surrounded by lofty snow covered peaks. The present temple, built in 8th century AD by Adi Shankaracharya, stands adjacent to the site of an earlier temple built by the Pandavas.

The inner walls of the assembly hall are decorated with figures of various deities and scenes from mythology. Outside the temple door a large statue of the Nandi Bull stands as guard.

Dedicated to Lord Shiva, the exquisitely architected Kedarnath temple considered to be more than 1000 years old. Built of extremely large, heavy and evenly cut Grey slabs of stones, it evokes wonder as to how these heavy slabs had been handled in the earlier days.

The temple has a "Garbha Griha" for worship and a Mandap, apt for assemblies of pilgrims and visitors. A conical rock formation inside the temple is worshipped as Lord Shiva in his Sadashiva form.

Shankaracharya Samadhi the Samadhi of Adi Guru Shankaracharya is located just behind the Kedarnath temple. It is said that after establishing four sacred Dams in India, he went into his Samadhi at an early age of 32 years.

EXCURSIONS

Chorabari (Gandhi Sarovar) Only a km trek away from Kedarnath. Floating - ice on the crystal clear waters of the lake fascinates the visitors.

Vasuki Tal Situated at a height of 4150mt, the lake is surrounded by high mountains and offers an excellent view of Chaukhamba peaks.

Gaurikund It is the base for a trek to Kedarnath and serves as a roadhead. The village has a temple dedicated to Gauri and hot water springs.

Sonprayag Situated at the confluence of Sone Ganga and Mandakini rivers. The road to Triyuginarayan diverts from here.

Trijuginarayan According to legend, this was the place where the wedding of Lord Shiva and Parvati was solemnized. In front of the Shiva Temple is an eternal flame, which is said to be a witness to the marriage. It can be reached by a 12-km drive from Sonprayag.

Guptkashi Famous for the temples of Ardhnarishwar and Vishwanath.

Ukhimath Winter home of the deity at Kedarnath temple and the seat of the Rawal of Kedarnath. Connected by bus services to Rudraprayag and other major centers.

Agastymuni The temple of sage Agastya is the main attraction here.

Panch Kedar Madmaheshwar, Tungnath, Rudranath and Kalpnath with Kedarnath from the Panch Kedar, the five most important temples of Lord Shiva in Garhwal Himalayas.

Madmaheshwar One of Panch Kedars, the temple of Madmaheshwar is located at an altitude of 3,289 Mt above sea level, on the slope of a ridge, 25-km northeast of Guptkashi. There is a motorable road from Guptkashi to Kalimath.

The best statue of Har Gauri in India measuring over a meter high is found in the Kali temple. The trek from Kalimath to Madmaheshwar is distinguished by wild unparalleled scenic beauty and engulfed by Chaukhamba, Kedarnath and Neelkanth peaks. Gaundar at the confluence of Madmaheshwar Ganga and Markanga Ganga is the last settlement before one reaches Madmaheshwar, the place where Lord Shiva is worshipped in the form of belly.

Tungnath the arms of Lord Shiva came out as per the Kedarnath myth at Tungnath. He is worshipped here as one of the Panch Kedars. Tungnath Temple at an altitude of 3,680 Mt is the highest Shiva shrine among the Panch Kedars but the easiest to reach from Chopta, the nearest roadhead.

The main stupa, once an imposing structure dates back to the 5th century BC it was 25m in diameter and 25m tall. There were lesser stupas strewn around the main stupa. Besides these, there are some remnants of monasteries and shrine-rooms.

A large number of architectural relics and ruins, sculptures and figurines, coins and other find highlight the importance that the city held for devout, in the past. The site also yielded a large number of punch marked and cast coins along with unique terracotta sculptures, which can be viewed in the Allahabad Museum.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: There is no direct air connection.

Rail: The nearest rail terminus is at Allahabad.

Road: Buses and taxis are available for reaching Kaushambi.

PLACES TO STAY

As Kaushambhi is catching up in the Buddhist Circuit itineraries, there have some good developments as far as accommodation facilities within the city are concerned. Still for more and better options, Allahabad is the best option, varying from luxurious to economic hotels.

NEARBY CITIES

Allahabad: 51-km

Chitrakoot: 132-km

Kalinjar: 150-km

RUDRANATH

The face of Lord Shiva is worshipped at the Rudranath temple, at an elevation of 2,286 Mt above sea level and is 23 km from Gopeshwar. 5 km of the distance is motorable and the rest 18-km has to be trekked.

The trek passes through wild orchards and picturesque bugyals and involves trekking over high ridges (some times 4,000 Mt). The temple site provides magnificent views of Hathi Parvat, Nanda Devi, Nanda Ghungti, Trishuli and many other peaks. There are a number of holy kund near Rudranath temple namely - Suryakund, Chandrakund, Tarakund etc. The entire area is utterly enchanting and unmatched in scenic beauty. Anusuya Devi temple is located on the trek to Rudranath involving an additional trek of 3 km.

Kalpeshwar The hardier tourist may like to trek about 35 km to Kalpeshwar, where the locks (hair) with head, of Lord Shiva are worshipped. Located in Urgan Valley at an altitude of 2,134 Mt above sea level, the temple is a further 10 km trek from Rudranath to Helong, the motor head on Rishikesh- Badrinath route.

Chandrashila the Chandrashila peak provides a rare panoramic view of innumerable snow-clad peaks. The trek from Tungnath passes through forests of rhododendron and alpine meadows.

Deoria Tal At an altitude of 2,440 Mt, the beautiful lake of Deoria Tal is located on the Chopta - Ukhimath motor road about 3 km away from Sari. Another trek is from Ukhimath.

In the early morning, the snowcapped peaks, including Chaukhamba and Kedamath are clearly reflected on the lake waters. This lake also provides an excellent venue for angling, as well as birdwatching.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area:	3sq. Km		
Rainfall:	1475 mm.		
Best Season:	May to October		
Climate:	Months	Max. Temp.	Min. Temp.
	April	5°c	0°c
	May	14°c	5.7°c
	June	18°c	9°c
	July	17.5°c	10.5°c
	August	17.8°c	8°c
	September	15°c	8°c
	October	12°c	5°c
	November	4°c	0°c
	Dec.-Mar.	Snow Bound	Snow Bound

Clothing

May	Heavy woolens
June to Sep.	Light woolens
Oct. to Nov.	Heavy woolens
Languages	Hindi, Garhwali and English.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air - Jolly grant Dehra Dun 239 km away from Kedamath of which 225 km is by road and rest 14 km is on foot.

Rail- Railhead at Rishikesh, 221 km away of which 207 km is by road and the rest 14-km is on foot. Railhead at Kotdwara, 250 km away, of which 236-km is by road and rest 14 km, is on foot.

Road - Kedarnath is approachable on foot from Gaurikund, which is connected by road with Rishikesh, Kotdwara, Dehradun, Haridwar and other important hill stations of Garhwai and Kumaon Hills.

Bus -This service is available at Rishikesh, Haridwar and Kotdwara for Gaurikund. During Yatra season, some special Yatra services are also arranged to Gaurikund.

Distance from Rishikesh to Kedamath 223 km, via Deoprayag 70 km, Srinagar 35 km, Rudraprayag 34 km, Tilwara 9 km, Aqastyamuni 10 km, Kund 15 km, Guptkashi 5 km, Fata 1 km, Rampur 9 km, Sonprayag 3 km Gaurikund 5 km, Rambara 7 km, Garurchatti 4 km, Sri Kedarnath 3 km.

Transport: Buses, private taxis and other lightvehicles also ply between Rishikesh and Gaurikund-Badrinath and back. The charges are not fixed. Horses, Dandies and Ponies are available at Gaurikund for going and carrying luggage to Kedarnath.

PLACES TO STAY

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) Arti Bhawan 10 Beds | (9) Bharat Sewa Ashram 103 |
| (2) Bitko Cottage 04 Beds | (10) Bombay Bhawan 40 |
| (3) JanataDharamshala 04 Beds | (11) Madras Bhawan 50 |

- (4) Kali Kamli Dharamshala 141
- (5) Gujarat Bhawan 40
- (6) Nepali D
- (7) J.K. Griha 20haramshala 50
- (8) Bhajan Ashram 100

- (12) Travelers Lodge 33
- (13) Saraf Cottage 4
- (14) Chand Cottage 4
- (15) Modi Bhawan 8
- (16) Birla Bhawan 14

KHIRSU

Location: Uttarakhand

Altitude: 1700 m Above Sea Level

Nearby Attraction: Ghadiyal Devta Temple



Excursion: Pauri, Dhari Devi

The snow-laden mountains of Khirsu tempt the tourist in the winters, while the panoramic view of the central Himalayas attracts tourists in the summers, when one can get a clear view of 300 named & unnamed peaks.

Located 19 kms away from Pauri at an altitude of 1700 meters, Khirsu is a peaceful spot, free from pollution. Only chirping birds break the tranquility of the adjoining thick oak and deodar forests and apple orchards. The ancient temple of Ghadiyal Devta in the vicinity is well worth a visit.

EXCURSIONS

Pauri: (19 kms) Pauri is situated at an elevation of 1,814 m above sea level, on the northern slopes of Kandoliya Hills. Pauri district, the head-quarters of the region, provides a panoramic view of the snow clad Himalayan peaks of Bandarpunch, Swargarohini, Jonli, Gangotri group, Jogin group, Thalaiya Sagar, Barte Kanta, Kedarnath, Kharcha Kund, Sumeru, Satapanth, Chaukhamba, Nilkanth, Gauriparbat, Haatiparbat, Dronagiri, Nanda Devi and Trishul.

Places on interest around Pauri are Kandoliya (2 kms.) Kyunkaleshwar Shiv temple (3 kms.), Ransi Stadium (93 kms.), Nagdevta (3 kms.) A walk along the 4km long road from Kandoliya to Buwakhel, through oak and pine forests is really refreshing.

Dewalgarh: (22 kms.) Established in the 14th century, it was the capital of Garhwal rajas before being shifted to Srinagar. The temples of goddess Raj Rajeshwari and ruins of an old palace are unique examples of architecture of Garhwal.

Dhari Devi: (48 kms.) Situated on Srinagar-Badrinath Highway on the bank of Alaknanda, Dhari Devi is believed to be the ancient "Kali-Siddh Peeth".

Ulka Giri: Ulka Giri is a 2-km drive to Chaudatakhel and then a 2-km easy trek. This panoramic place commands a magnificent view of mountains and valleys, at an altitude of 1900 m.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Jolly Grant, 145 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Kotdwar, 115 kms.

Road: Well connected by a motorable road.

PLACES TO STAY

Accommodation is available at the Tourist Rest House and in private hotels that are present in Khirsu.

NEARBY CITIES

Pauri:	19-km
Dewalgarh:	22-km
Kotdwar:	115-km

LANSDOWNE

Location: Uttarakhand

Altitude: 6000 m Above Sea Level

Excursion: Kotdwar, Jwalpadevi

Specialty: Hill Station

THE TRANQUIL HILL STATION Lansdowne was originally a popular hill station with the British's. Attracted by its salubrious climate and natural beauty, they established a cantonment here.

The famous Garhwal Rifles of the Indian Army also have its command office here.

Lansdowne is situated at an altitude of 6000 m above sea level, enroute Kotdwar- Pauri Road, 45 kms from Kotdwar. Surrounded by thick oak and blue pine forest, it is a very charming place for a quiet holiday as it is devoid of the usual hustle and bustle of hill stations.

EXCURSIONS

Kotdwar: (45 kms.) It's a gateway to the hills and one of the rail terminuses for Garhwal. The nearby places of interest include ancient Karnva-Ashram (14 kms.), where Shakuntala gave birth to prince Bharat, after whose name the country is called Bharat Varsh, Sidhballi Temple (3 kms.) and Charaik Hills (20 kms).

Jwalpadevi: (52 kms.) It is one of the known religious areas of the entire division on the main Pauri Kotdwar Road. A large number of devotees come here during Ashtami (April & October), to pay obeisance to the Goddess.

Tarkeshwar Mahadev: (930 kms.) This Shiv Temple situated at an altitude of 2092 m, atop a hillock surrounded by a thick forest of Deodar, blue pine and oak, is among one of the ancient 'Siddhpeethas'. The highlight of this place is that even at an altitude of 2092 m, there are water pools.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Jolly Grant, 125 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Kotdwar, 45 kms.

Road: Well connected by a motorable road- Delhi (295 kms.), Haridwar (95 kms.) & Dehradun (150 kms.).

NEARBY CITIES

Delhi	295 kms
Haridwar	95 kms
Dehradun	150 kms

MUKTESHWAR

Location: Uttaranchal

Famous As: A Himalayan Resort.

Attractions: Ramgarh, Bhowali

52 kms. From Nainital, Mukteshwar set atop a high ridge is a beautiful Himalayan resort, surrounded by fruit orchards and thick coniferous forest.

It provides a majestic view of the Himalayas and the Almora town below, in glittering moonlit nights.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

The View of Himalayas: Mukteshwar provides a panoramic view of the magnificent Himalayas. This splendid view has been a great attraction to the visitors.

Indian Veterinary Research Institute: The Institute, well known for its contributions in the research relating to animals, is located here.

EXCURSIONS

Ramgarh: (26 kms.) It a picturesque hamlet, that has many orchards of apple, plum, peaches and apricot. This fruit belt of Kumaon is famous for its juicy fruits all over India.

Bhowali: (40 kms.) Situated at an altitude of 1706 m, on the main Haldwani- Almora Road, Bhowali is a popular health resort.

Ghorakhal: (37 kms.) Famous for the temple of Gollu Devta, a demi-god highly revered by the Kumaonis. The famous Sainik School of India is also located here.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Pantnagar, 95 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Kathgodam, 72 kms.

Road: Well connected by motorable roads with the surrounding areas.

PLACES TO STAY

KMVN Tourist Bungalow.

District Board guesthouse.

NEARBY CITIES

Ramgarh:	26 kms
Bhowali:	40 kms
Ghorakhal:	30 kms
Nainital:	52-kms
Pantnagar:	95 kms
Kathgodam:	72 kms

NAINITAL

Location: Uttaranchal

Sightseeing: Snow View, Naina Peak, and Kilburi

Excursions: Sat Sal, Bhim Taal, and Naukuchia Taal

A small town in the hills of Kumaon, Nainital is a lovely hill station surrounded by mountains on three sides. Once this area had many lakes and it was called the City of 60 lakes or 'Chakta'.

Most of the lakes in the region have disappeared and whatever remains is just a glimpse of what they might have been in the past. Today the life of Nainital revolves around the lake of Naini. But there are few other lakes around Nainital, which are equally beautiful and attractive as the Naini Lake.

River Ramganga originates from the Doodha Taali ranges in district Pauri Garhwal. It enters into district Nainital, before re-entering into district Pauri Garhwal.

A Britisher called Lord Barron discovered Nainital in 1841. The weather, the surrounding and the mesmerizing beauty of this area attracted the British administrator who turned this place into the summer capital of the United Province. Being a major tourist place Nainital is always bustling with visitors and it is always better if accommodation and other facilities are prearranged.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Hanuman Garhi: This place is of religious importance. Situated at a height of 1951 meters this place was established by Baba Neem Kiroli. A very beautiful Hanuman mandir is at the top. From Hanuman Garhi watching the Sunset is very soothing. You can walk down from Nainital to Hanuman Garhi.

Naina Devi Temple: The attractive lake of Nainital is said to be the eyes of Sati, wife of Lord Shiva. Sati jumped into the sacrificial bonfire. Lord Shiva to mourn the death of his beloved wife carried the body across the country. The remains of her body fell at various places, which today are sacred worship places for the Hindus.

St. John's Church: This church was built in 1847. A brass memorial is kept in memory of the persons who were buried in the infamous landslide. The few bodies, which could be dug out, were buried in the church premises.

Snow View: The Snow viewpoint is located at height of 2270 meter from the sea level. The ropeway or the ponies available at the Mallital can reach this place.

Naini Lake: Naini Lake or Naini Taal, the picturesque blue green lake is located in the district of Nainital. It is from this lake that the city of Nainital, the beautiful settlement by the lake, derives its name. Naini Lake is so called because of its eye-like shape.

Naina Peak: Known as the China peak this peak is the highest point in Nainital. From here Nainital appears as a bowl. You can walk or take ponies to the peak. From this peak you can

capture the exciting views of Nainital. Naina peak also gives a good view of the Camelback peak. There are no hotel or restaurant on the top so carry food and water along with you.

Kilburi: Kilburi is slightly away from Nainital. 12 kms from the main town, this place is peaceful and quite. Located amidst green forests this place provides a break from crowds of the city. Kilburi gives a very good view of the Himalayas. The forest department has got its guesthouse here. Kilburi takes you into the laps of nature from rush of the cities.

Observatory: The clear skies over Nainital prompted the government to setup an observatory here. The observatory has one of the most advance telescopes in India. With the help of this telescope the movement of stars, planets and other heavenly bodies can be calculated to great precision. The entry in the observatory is by permission and timings are fixed. It will be better if you collect the prior information about the place.

Zoo Gardens: Naini Tal has a small but a very beautiful Zoological garden. There are many animals kept here which includes Deers, Bears, Tigers and many more. The hygiene and cleanness of the zoo is a point, which attracts the mind even if one ignores it. Not surprising this zoo is one of the cleanest zoos in the country. The zoo can be reached on foot or taxi can be hired.

HORSE RIDING: Any visitor coming to Nainital cannot miss the joy of riding a horse on the Mall. Not only at the Mall but to reach the Snow viewpoint, Tiffin top, Kilburi from the Mallital area one can hire ponies and horses. You can go around the town riding the horse. In fact one of the ways to experience Nainital is on a horses back. The flora and fauna of the region can be closely watched from the horses back. You can go to the interiors of nearby area and get a first hand experience of the mountain life of Nainital. The municipal corporation has fixed the rates of horse riding and one should avoid paying more than the prescribed rates.

The corporation has also issued identity card to the photographers who hang around the Tallital and Mallital region. Get yourself clicked on a horse to keep as a moment from Nainital.

EXCURSIONS

Sat Tal (Seven Lakes): On the way from Nainital to Bhimtal is a group of seven lakes called the Sattal. Nature has really provided this place beauty in abundance. There is government Bungalow where you can spend the night. Taxis and buses are available to Sattal from Nainital. It is 22 Km from Nainital.

Bhimtal: The myth goes that the lake was built during the Mahabharata era. You can get taxis and buses at regular interval from Nainital. On the Nainital-Bhimtal road is Mahra Village. Here through the efforts of Dr. Yashodhra Mathpal a rich collection of the cultural and archeological items has been made. These artifacts from the Utrakhand region give you an insight into the cultural heritage of this area. At Bhimtal you can enjoy boating and have food at the restaurant on the island in middle of the lake. Bhimtal is 23 kms from Nainital and there are good accommodation facilities at the place.

Ranikhet: The hill station, idyllic in its charm, Ranikhet with its majestic pine trees, is 59.5 kilometers from Nainital.

Naukuchia Lake: Just four kms from Bhimtal is lake with nine corners hence it is known as the Naukuchia Lake. This is an ideal place to spend your holidays and relax. The lake is full of lotus and is surrounded by forest with a backdrop of the mountains, all this creates an ideal condition to enjoy boating in here or sit on the banks and feel the breeze coming from the lake. There are regular bus and taxi services to this place and the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam has got its rest house where you can stay.

Nanda Devi Fair: Nanda Devi Mela is a fair of great religious and cultural significance. It is held at Nanda Devi Temple in September to commemorate the memory of Goddesses, Nanda and Sunanda.

Ramgarh: From Nainital this place is the 26 kms. The environment is very good for health. Apple groves and trees of many other fruits surround the whole place. You have a rest house to spend your night.

Ram Nagar: Ramnagar is 49 kms from the Jim Corbett National Park but this place is famous for wild life trekking. One can watch the animals from close quarters. Nearby are the famous Gargia temples. During the seasons when the Corbett Park is open for visitors, the local travel agents and operators conduct one-day sight seeing tours from this place. Ram Nagar is 65 kms from Nainital. **Mukteshwar:** Once this place was the cantonment for the British troops. Today this place has been converted into a Veterinary Research Institute. Mukeshwar is full of natural beauty and from here the snow-clad peaks of the Himalayas are clearly visible. The greenery of this place attracts visitor's attention. Mukteshwar is only 52 kms Nainital but very few bus services are available for the place.

HOW TO GET THERE

The nearest railway station is that of Kathgodam which do trains from Delhi and Howrah connect. The narrow gauge trains come from Lalkuan, which is 55 kms from Nainital. From Lalkuan and Kathgodam regular taxi and bus services are available for Nainital. Nainital is well connected by buses with other parts of the state. Inter state services are also available. The state transport corporation as well as the private operators has their buses on this route.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS each year in the month of September a fair is organized which is dedicated to Naina Devi. This festival is held in traditional flavor. Whole Nainital suddenly wakes up and the town is decorated like a bride. This festival is host to a number of traditional Dance and singing programs.

In October / November the UP tourism organizes a Winter Festival which acts as window to the rich culture and tradition of the area. Other Fairs & Festivals

SHOPPING the Mall is the main shopping center in Nainital, which has some of the good shops where one can do some, shopping. In Nainital the main items to be bought are the woolen garments, decorative pieces made from wood. The decorative colorful candles are one thing every traveler to the place takes back with himself. For the woolen garments the Bohtia Bazaar is the best place whereas the Mall road and the Mallital are places for good bargain of candles and wooden stuff.

CLIMATE Nainital is located in the Kumaon hills and the weather is very pleasant throughout the year except during winter months. The temperature is not very high at any time but in winters it becomes very cold. The lake here regulates the climate of Nainital, which showers rain almost every afternoon. The best time visit the place is between April to June and then again in September October. The months of January to March are marked by the snowfall, which is for a very short time. It is advisable that contact any local person before going to Nainital to watch snowfall.

NEARBY CITIES

Delhi	322 kms.
Lucknow	401 kms.
Almora	67 kms.
Ranikhet	59 kms.
Bareilly	141 kms.
Haldwani	40 kms.

GENERAL INFORMATION

POPULATION:	About 36,000 People reside in this city.
MAIN LANGUAGES:	Kumaoni, Garwali, Hindi and English.

PITHORAGARH

Location: Uttaranchal.

Attractions: Jaul Jibi, Rameshwar.

Best Season: April to June & September to October.

Language/Dialect: Kumaoni, Hindi and English.

The Mini Kashmir the easternmost hill district of Uttaranchal, Pithoragarh is often referred to as “Miniature Kashmir”. Nestling in a small valley, barely 5 km long and 2 km wide, the town also known as Sore Valley was an important landmark of the Chand Rajas of Kumaon. It is situated at an altitude of 1,650 m above sea level and has the facility of three spoken languages, namely Hindi, Kumaoni and English.

Pithoragarh is the district headquarters and its government buildings are housed in the hill fort of Pithoragarh at a distance of 7 kms. From the main town. From the Chandak Hill located at around 2000 meters, one gets a panoramic view of snow range extending from Trishul, Nanda Devi, Panchchuli group and mount Appi of Nepal.

PRIME SITES

The Hills: Pithoragarh boasts of majestic peaks like Nanda Devi East, Nanda Devi West, Trishul, Hardeol, Nandakhat, Rajrambha, Bambadhura, and the Panchchuli group amongst others.

Glaciers: Pithoragarh has its fair share of magnificent glaciers too, like the Milam, Namik, Ralam, and Meola and Balati glaciers. From these flow the mighty rivers of Kuti, Dhauli Ganga (East), Gori Ganga, Ram Ganga (East), Saryu and Kali (Sharda), which provide ample scope for rafting and canoeing.

Gangolihat: Gangolihat, an important religious site, lies 77 km from Pithoragarh. At the ancient Kali temple, a colorful fair is held during Navratris. The famous Patal Bhuvneshwar caves are located 14 kms away.

EXCURSIONS

Jauljibi: (68 kms.) A large fair is held annually at the confluence of rivers Gori and Kali, in the month of November. It is also popular with people of Nepal.

Rameshwar: (36 kms.) Situated at the confluence of rivers Ram Ganga (East) and Saryu. A large fair is held every year in the temple of lord Shiva on Makar Sankranti (Jan/Feb).

Thal Kedar: (16 kms.) An important religious centre also noted for its natural beauty. A large fair is held on Shivratri (Jan/Feb) every year.

Munsiyari: (154 kms.) The center as well as the gateway of Johar region, it is situated at an elevation of 2298 m. Snuggled in the folds of snow clad mountains, Munsiyari is the base camp for treks to Milam, Ralam and Namik glaciers.

Punyagiri Temple: Punyagiri temple is one of the most well known temples in the Kumaon region. Lakhs of pilgrims visit the shrine during April to June. The site is around 20 km from Tanakpur, out of which 6 km is to be trekked.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Naini Saini (Pithoragarh), 5 kms.

Rail: Nearest railhead is at Tanakpur 151 kms.

Road: Well connected by a motorable road.

Local Transport: Buses and Taxis.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Area: 6.47 sq. km.

Population: 27753 (1991 census).

Altitude: 1650 meter above sea level.

Clothing summer: Light Woolens.

Winter: Heavy Woolen.

RANIKHET

Location: 59.5 Km. from Nainital

Attraction: Natural Beauty

Discovered in: 1869

A QUEEN'S FIELD The ancient Aryans had designated the region of the Central Himalayas as the Celestial Land - the Dev Bhumi; the coloring of the foliage has to be believed. March and

April is flower time in the foothills, while June and July bring the wild flowers to the upper regions, where the dwarf rhododendron bushes resplendent with pink and mauve blooms the region in all their glory.

The flowering plants amaze and confuse, when; different branches of the same plant yield flowers of different colours and varying fragrance. European tourists, over the centuries have, enthused ecstatically over its valley, meadows, cliffs, hills, snow-capped mountains, serpentine rivers and crystal clear rivulets here and there displaying the rainbow. The hill station, idyllic in its charm, Ranikhet with its majestic pine trees, is 59.5 kilometers from Nainital.

Here amidst the rustling and encircled by dazzling white peaks, glistening in the sun, once camped a beauteous Queen of legend and lore, giving the town its name-Rani (Queen)-Khet (Field) falling in love-with the beauty of the place, she decided to stay and built a palace near what is now the Ranikhet Club.

Discovered and built entirely by the British in 1869. On a visit here, late Prime Minister Nehru commented, "I wish more of our people living in plains below, would visit the Himalayas... They can have their fill of flower and noble trees in primival forests. They can breathe the free unattained air, which invigorates and they can return strengthened in body, mind and spirits.

Weaving an instant spell on the visitor, Ranikhet does not witness the paradox of a "madding" rush of visitors with the onset of summer and the corresponding departure with the summer's end, but draws visitors all the year round.

THE ENCHANTED VICEROY Acclaimed as a 'heavenly hill station', and one of the best in the world, it won the heart of Lord Mayo, who was the Viceroy of India from 1869-72. Enchanted by the scenic setting, he gave serious thought of shifting the Army Headquarters from Shimla to Ranikhet. The hill station offers the pleasure of golf and well-equipped club, besides the long and short walks and beautiful picnic spots.

The residential club offers temporary membership to tourists providing them all the benefits of the tennis courts, excellent golf links, indoor recreational facilities and use of the club's rooms and excellent cuisine.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

NandanDevi Fair Nanda Devi Mela is a fair of great religious and cultural significance. It is held at Nanda Devi Temple in September to commemorate the memory of goddesses, Nanda and Sunanda.

Upat and Kalika With one of the best 9-hole golf links in the country; Upat is a boon to the enthusiast. With the added attraction of private orchards, it is 5.6 km away. Just one kilometer from Upat is Kalika with its famous temple to the Goddess Kali. It also has good forest nursery.

A beautiful snowcapped mountain peak is available on the other side of the golf link at Upat.

Chaubatia as the name implies, these are four, fruit gardens, with a Government Fruit Research Centre, complete with a fruit sales depot and cafeteria. It is 10 kilometers from Ranikhet.

Bhalu Dam Main Source of the town's water supply comes from the Bhalu Dam, 3.2 kilometers from Chaubatia. It is famous for its fishing.

Majhkhali on the Ranikhet - Almora road, 13 km, is a spot of entrancing, celestial beauty. Here is an awe-inspiring view of the majesty of the Sonya peaks. The U.P. Government Agriculture Farm is situated here.

Co-operative Drug Factory Three kilometers down the road to Ramnagar, is unique venture. Here are manufactured, on co-operative basis, Ayurvedic drugs from local herbs. The factory deals with the drugs from the research stage down to production.

EXCURSIONS

Nainital A lovely hill station surrounded by mountains on three sides once called "Chakta" or the land of 60 lakes.

Sat Tal Picturesque spot where nature reigns supreme in all her beauty, Sat Tal, or Seven Lakes is 21 kilometers from Nainital. Here are seven small but exquisite lakes; including Panna, Nal-Damayanti, Sita, Government and the Sukha Tal Lakes in the midst of thick tall, pine oak trees.

Here, too, is a tiny wild life sanctuary Ashram run by Dr.Stanley Jones of America. The Nal-Damyanti Lake is loaded with a variety of fish.

Bhim Tal Named after one of the Pandava brothers, this, the largest lake in the district, is 1701 meters by 454 meters making it 265 meters longer than Naini Lake. Situated at a level of 1371.6 meters it is 22 kilometers from Nainital. Known for its robust majesty, Bhim Tal has an exquisite gem in the middle of the lake - an islet situated within the range of temple bells, which have been chiming for the last 300 years in the 17th century edifice, beneath the shadow of the towering mountain as it rushes precipitously down to the emerald green of the lake. The island, situated close to the northeast side, is only 91.4 meters from the shore.

Naukuchia Tal (1218 meters) A haven for the fishing enthusiasts, this fine lake, with nine corners, is four kilometers to the northeast of Bhim Tal.

Tarakhet Beloved of Gandhi On the same road, 8 kilometers away, is the spot; Mahatma Gandhi fell in love with and stayed for a length of time during the days of the Independence struggle. Here, he came for peace of mind, which he always found. Now a developing townships, the house Gandhi stayed in, GandhiKuti, and Prem Vidhyalaya are the chief attractions. There is a good Rest House, built in beautiful surroundings.

Khairna and Bhikiasen they are situated on forest road, 22 km and 53 kilometers from Ranikhet respectively - famous for fishing.

Mainla only 13 kilometers from Bhikiasen and 66 km from Ranikhet, out of which 13 km are negotiated by a bridle Path; lead to beautiful Mainla, in the midst of the mighty mountains.

Bhowali (1706 meters) Eleven kilometers to the east of Nainital, Bhowali is an ideal spot for those in search of fragrant pines, for a day's outing, weekend, or even the whole summer. Enclosed by a pine forest, the crisp, salubrious air makes it an ideal spot for the finest T.B.Sanatorium in the state. It also has a Rest House and Tourist Bungalow, besides a few ordinary hotels.

Hanuman Garhi and Observatory an ecstatic spot reputed for its glorious sunset, the Hanuman Temple, has turned lately into a pilgrim centre as well. Near the temple are U.P. Government Astronomical Observatory and the Satellite Tracking Centre well worth a visit.

HOW TO GET THERE

Rail: There is a railhead situated at Kathgodam, 84-km away from Ranikhet.

Road: Buses from all over Kumaon, including from the railhead Kathgodam.

Local Transport: For local transportation within the town jeeps, taxis and local buses are available.

PLACES TO STAY

Being one of the famous hill stations of the state, Ranikhet is well equipped with both luxury and economical budget accommodations.

NEARBY CITIES

Majhkhali:	13-km
Mainla:	13-km
Dwarahat:	35-km
Nainital:	59.5-km

RISHIKESH

Location: 24 Kms from Haridwar (Uttaranchal)

Main Attraction: Lakshman Jhula, Swarga Ashram

Best Season: Throughout the Year

Main Languages / Dialect: Garhwali and Hindi

Rishikesh is just 24 Kms from Haridwar. Located in the laps of lower Himalayas, this place is considered to be the access point of three other pilgrim places of Badrinath - Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri the four great places, which combine to make Chardham. Rishikesh is surrounded by scenic beauty of the hills on three sides with Holy Ganga flowing through it.

The whole place is considered to be sacred, as it is believed that meditation at this place leads to attainment of salvation. There is many temples-some ancient, some new along the river Ganges. The Riverside is dotted by the ashrams of Sadhus and sages. Rishikesh is also famous for ashrams teaching Yoga.

In the 60's even the Beatles could not miss the charm of Rishikesh and they came here to meet their Guru. The Ganga, which is known for its strong currents and fierce behavior up stream, suddenly becomes slow and gracious here. At Rishikesh, Ganga leaves the mountains and joins the plains for her long journey.

Rishikesh is not only an attraction for pilgrims but it also attracts foreigners who want to know about Hinduism, who want to spend some time close to the Lord; people who love rafting come here to conquer the rapids of Ganga. Rishikesh is also an ideal base camp for trekking in the nearby Himalayas.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Lakshman Jhula This suspended iron bridge was building in 1939 and has been a major attraction among the tourists. Ram Jhula- the other suspended Iron Bridge was recently constructed between Shivanand Ashram and Sawarg Ashram.

Swarga Ashram One can find numerous temples here. This place has the eating joints and shops where one can do shopping. The beautiful statues in the area mesmerize the visitors.

Gita Bhavan this newly constructed building is famous for its attractive paintings and statues from the Hindu mythology. Situated just across the Lakshman Jhula.

Triveni Ghat this is a bathing Ghat. Daily in the morning and evening there are thousands who take bath here and enjoy the Maha Aarti being performed. It very soothing to sit on the banks of the river and enjoy the cool breeze from the river.

Neelkanth Mahadev Mela Situated at a height of 1675 m, on a hill above Swarg Ashram, Neelkanth Mahadev is one of the most revered temples of Rishikesh.

Nilkanth Mahadeo Mythology says that in the ancient times when the ocean was being churned for 'amrit' (Potion for immortality), first venom oozed out. Lord Shiva drank the venom at a place, which is now called Nilkanth Mahadeo. It is 12 kms from Rishikesh and is surrounded by peaceful forests

EXCURSIONS

White Water Rafting The challenge of violent rivers is no less than that of the rugged mountains. The icy heights of the Himalayas are the source of some of India's mighty rivers. Fed by innumerable streams, they race along tortuous boulder-strewn beds, cutting deep gorges and breaking into silvery-white rapids.

Dehradun the Doon Valley situated between the two most important rivers of India. I.e. Ganga & Yamuna are most picturesque having moderate climate, nestling a number of places of tourist interest.

Mussoorie The queen of hill stations.

Haridwar Gateway to the four pilgrimages in the Utrakhand region is located on the foothills of Shivaliks.

Valley of Flowers the famous Valley of Flowers with the largest concentration of various species of wild flowers is off the Rishikesh-Badrinath road, 16 km from Govindghat.

Chila: It is just 20 kms from Rishikesh. The whole place is covered with forests and provides very pleasant environment. Government has declared Chila a sanctuary. A canal from Ganga feeds the reservoir where one can spot many animals. One can stay at the tourist lodge and enjoy the peaceful scenic surroundings.

Narendra Nagar: 15 kms on the Rishikesh Chamba road is located the historical town of Narendra Nagar. This town is of archaeological importance. The King of Tehri Narendra Singh built the town. Narendra Nagar has recorded many events, which have left their impact on the town. The Royal palace is worth seeing and the huge magnificent Nandi bull cannot escape your attention.

Kunjapuri: Close to Narendra Nagar, situated at 7000 ft this place is covered with dense forests. From here one can get a glimpse of the peaks and valleys.

Auli: One of the well-established Sports Circuit of the state of Uttaranchal. With their wide-open spaces above the snowfields of Garhwal and Kumaon, the place offers an exciting possibility - ski touring amongst the glaciers. The cross-country runs of 10-20 km with added advantage of fresh powder snow from crisscrossing streams, tearing down the snowlines of the European Alps.

Devprayag: The Rivers Alaknanda and Bhagirath leave the mountains and merge at this place. From here they get the name Ganga. A peaceful holy place. It has got the ancient Raghunathji Temple.

HOW TO GET THERE

Rishikesh does not have an airstrip of its own. But there are trains from all the major cities in the plains. The best transport for Rishikesh is by bus. Bus services are available from far and near places. Particularly there are regular services from Haridwar, which is just half-an-hour journey from Rishikesh.

PLACES TO STAY

Rishikesh does not have any big hotels in the five star categories but there are other hotels, which offer comfortable stay. The Ashrams also provide accommodation facility. There are also dharamsalas and guesthouses, which offer good, inexpensive stay. The Garhwal Vikas Manda Nigam's guest has dormitory as well as single and double rooms for the tourists.

SHOPPING

Being a pilgrimage place, the glamour of big shop bargains is absent but Rishikesh offers you handicraft items made of shells, beads and pearls. Sarees, kurtas, sheets and rugs can be purchased from here. You can buy these items from the government approved U.P handloom shop, Khadi Bhandar, Garhwal wool and craft shop etc.

CLIMATE

The climate here is continental type but its location in the foothills gives it a pleasant weather throughout the year. One can visit Rishikesh any time of the year.

NEARBY CITIES

Delhi	238 Kms
Uttrakashi	154 kms
Dehradun	42 kms
Kedarnath	228 kms
Haridwar	25 kms
Mussoorie	77 kms

GENERAL INFORMATION

MAIN LANGUAGES: Garhwali and Hindi

SITLAKHET

Location: Uttaranchal

Excursions: Ranikhet, Dwarahat

Best Season: May-June & September-October

Language / Dialect: Hindi, Kumaoni and English

Located 24 kms from Ranikhet, Sitalkhet is a picturesque spot commanding a view of the majestic Himalayas. The forest area abounds with fruit orchards and herbal plants used in medicines.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Syahi Devi Temple: Just about 4 kms. From Sitalkhet does the local people worship the famous temple of Syahi Devi, which is the presiding goddess.

Natural Spring: Nearby is the natural spring from where the first water scheme for Almora town was initiated some seventy years ago.

Khoont: Just 2 kms below Sitalakhet is the village Khoont, which is the ancestral village of late Pt. Govind Vallabh Pant, freedom fighter & former Home Minister of India.

EXCURSIONS

Ranikhet: (24 kms.) As the name denotes, it is said that a queen of the hills was so pleased with the place that she camped near the present site of Ranikhet club and since then the place is known as Ranikhet. The natural beauty of the place with its salubrious climate, balmy breeze and the captivating Himalayan panorama attracts tourists all the year round. The nearby places of tourist interest are Chaubatiya Gardens, Bhalu Dam, Jhoola Devi Temple, Ram Mandir, Haida Khan Mandir (Chileanaula), Kalika Temple and Majkhali.

Dwarahat: (64 kms.) This archaeologically and historically important town is situated on the Karnaprayag Road from Ranikhet. Once the capital of the Katyuri rajas, it is famous for its Syalde- Bikhauti fair, held in April every year and for the group of temples dedicated to Mrityunjaya, Dhvaj, Badnirath, Maniyan, and Kachri Devtas. 6 kms. From Dwarahat is the famous Dronagiri temple.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: Nearest airport is Pantnagar, 162 kms. Via Almora.

Rail: Nearest railhead is Kathgodam 125 kms. Via Almora (35 kms.).

Road: Well connected with Ranikhet, Almora and Haldwani.

Local Transport: Taxis, Jeeps, and Buses.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Altitude: 1829 m above sea level.

Clothing: summer: Light Woolens.

Winter: Heavy Woolens.

UTTARKASHI

Location: (155 Kms From Rishikesh) Uttaranchal

Main Attractions: Maneri, Nachiketa Taal

Best Season: May-June, September-October

Languages/Dialects: Hindi, Garhwali

TREKKER'S DELIGHT Uttarkasi is located in the northern part of Uttaranchal. Uttarkasi was originally a part of Tehri Garhwal. But soon after independence, when Tehri Garhwal Kingdom merged with India, it was made a district of the Kumaon division.

In 1960, it was made a border district with the district headquarters at Uttarkasi. The district is more important because of the two very significant Pilgrimage-centers viz. Gangotri and Yamunotri, the source of the two rivers, Ganga (Bhagirathi) and Yamuna.

The major locations of the district are Dunda, Puroia, Rajgarhi and Bhatwari. Major tourist attractions are Chaurangi Khal, Bhairon Ghati and Gangotri. Yamuna, Rupin and Bhagirathi Rivers flow through the district.

PRIME ATTRACTIONS

Govind Wildlife Sanctuary: Situated amidst the lush green meadows of the Uttarkasi district, the most beautiful part of the Garhwal region with its magnificent snowballed peaks and glaciers, the sanctuary is spread over an area of 953 sq. kms.

Uttarkasi: Uttarkasi is a regional centre, 155 kms. From Rishikesh and is the administrative headquarters of the district. Several trekking companies operate from here and the town is also the base for the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, where Bachhendri Pal, the first Indian woman to climb to the summit of Mt Everest, was trained. The town is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Bhagirathi River, drawing pilgrims to its Vishwanatha Temple, sacred to Shiva.

Nachiketa Tal: Situated between Panchangaon and Fold Gaon, this beautiful lake is perennially filled with water. There is greenery all around and a small temple at the bank of the lake gives a serene look to the location.

Maneri: On way to Gangotri at a distance of about 13 kms. From Uttarkasi, Maneri has lately emerged as a place of tourist interest as a result of the construction of a dam across the Bhagirathi River, from where the water is fed to the turbines through an 8 kms. Long tunnel at Tiloth in Uttarkasi.

Gangnani: Gangnani, about 37 kms. From Maneri, is the hot water spring at Gangnani where one can have a refreshing bath?

Dodital: Situated in the midst of deodar, cheer and bamboo forests, Dodital is situated at an elevation of 3307 meters. The water of the lake is sparkling and crystal clear. The famous Himalayan trots are found in abundance in the lake.

Dayara Bugyal: Bugyal in the local language means “high altitude meadow”. Situated at an elevation of about 10,000 feet above seal-level this vast meadow is second to none in natural beauty. During winter, it provides excellent ski slopes over an area of 28 sq. kms. The panoramic view of the Himalayas from here is breathtaking. There is a small lake also in the area, and to camp by its side would be memorable event.

Harsil: The Bhagirathi valley is most enchanting and preserves many colorful spots in its lap. Situated at a distance of 72 kms. From Uttarkasi on the main highway to Gangotri, at an elevation of 2623 meters, this sylvan hamlet is famous for its natural beauty and delicious apples.

Sat-Tal: Sat-Tal meaning seven lakes is situated just above Dharali, 2 kms. Beyond Harsil. The trek of about 7 kms is rewarding as this group of lakes is situated amidst beautiful natural surroundings. It also provides lovely camping sites.

Bhairon Ghati: On way to Gangotri, Bhairon Ghati is a place where one can stay and enjoy the mountainous landscape. A temple of Bhairon here is visited by scores of pilgrims. The awe-inspiring lofty peaks, deep gorge of Jahnvi and Bhagirathi rivers and the towering deodar trees provide a rare natural bonanza.

Gangotri: The shrine of Gangotri situated at an elevation of 3200 meters above sea level, amidst captivating surroundings is 100 kms. From Uttarkasi. The temple, constructed by the Gorkha general, Amar Singh Thapa in the 18th century, is situated on the Right Bank of Bhagirathi. It is visited by Lakhs of pilgrims every year. A number of ashrams are located on the other side, some of which provide accommodation facilities to the visitors.

Kedartal: This spectacular and enchanting lake is situated at a distance of about 18 kms. From Gangotri, negotiable through a rough and tough mountain trail. The lake is crystal clear with the mighty Thalaysagar (Sphatiklin) peak forming a splendid backdrop.

Gaumukh: The Gaumukh glacier is the source of Bhagirathi (Ganga) and is held in high esteem by the devotees who do not miss the opportunity to have a holy dip in the bone chilling icy water. It is 18 kms. From Gangotri.

Nandan-Van Tapovan: These two spots are situated opposite the Gangotri glacier further up from Gaumukh, at a distance of 6 kms. From where visitors can have a superb view of the majestic shivling peak.

Yamunotri: The shrine of Yamunotri, source of river Yamuna is situated in the direction opposite to Gangotri and the road bifurcates and goes to Yamunotri from Dharasu, a place between Rishikesh-Uttarkashi. Situated at an elevation of 3235 meters above sea level, the shrine of Yamunotri is one of the ‘four dams’ of Uttarakhand.

Har-ki-dun: Har-ki-dun is famous for its natural beauty and is a popular destination for trekkers at the height of 3566m; Har-Ki-Doon is a land of unparalleled beauty in the whole district of Uttar Kashi.

White Water Rafting: Rafting is done on river Bhagirath.

Kush Kalyan, Belak Khal Range: About 16 kms. From Malla, which is 28 kms. From Uttarkasi on GANGOTRI Road, the meadow of Kush-Kalyan is situated at an elevation of 11000 feet. Further west, it extends up to Chaurangi-Khal. Trekking along this range is an enjoyable experience. During winter, all these places provide vast expanse of ski-slopes.

HOW TO GET THERE

Air: No direct air link.

Rail: No direct rail connection.

Road: The district is well connected by road.

Local Transport: Buses, Taxis, Tempos, and Auto-Rickshaws.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Temperature:

Summer:

Max: 23 oC; Min: 9 oC

Winter:

Max: 8 oC; Min: 2 oC

Clothing:

Summer:

Light Woolens.

Winter:

Heavy Woolens.