**Uttarakhand**

1. **Almora**

Almora became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Originally Almora district was formed on 1st September 1846, by carving out of Kumaon district. It is situated in Kumaon hilly terrain of the Himalayas in the state of Uttarakhand. Almora district is mainly drained by the Kosi River.

Chand kingdom was founded in Baramandal, the town of Almora was founded at this centrally located place in 1568 by “Kalyan Chand” at this place which he called 'Alam Nagar'. Also, in the days of the Chand Kings, it was called Rajapur. Almora was previously known as 'Rajpur' during the early phase of Chand rule, which is mentioned over a number of ancient copper plates. Almora is believed to have gotten its name from **Kilmora**, a kind of sorrel, a short plant commonly found here, which was said to be used for washing the utensils of the sun temple at Katarmal.

The district is bounded by –

North – Bageshwar district,

East – Pithoragarh district,

West – Chamoli district,

South – Nainital district.

Almora is famous for its unforgettable natural beauty, hand-crafts, bio- diversity, delectable cuisine and historically rich monuments. Insiders say that this picturesque place boasts the proud of being workplace of many of the ascetics that is like legend Swami Vivekanand and the great poet Sumitranandan Pant.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Zero Point**

It is located in Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Zero Point is the highest point in Binsar. Zero Point, one has to walk inside the sanctuary for 1.5 kilometres. A guided trek up to Zero Point is the recommended way to explore the green beauty of the Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary. It is also a great location for bird-watching.  The view of the skies from Zero Point is mesmerising, especially during sunset and sunrise. One can see panoramic view of the Himalayas including peaks like the Kedarnath Peak, Shivling, and Nanda Devi.

* **Nanda Devi Temple**

A historic temple is placed in the center of the town of Goddess Nanda Devi. An interesting feature of Nanda Devi temple is image carving on the temple walls. Nanda Devi festival is held in the month of September every year.

* **Bright End Corner**

This place, locating 2 km away from the main city of Almora, is famous for pleasant scenes of Sunrise and Sunset. A circuit House, Swami Vivekanand Memorial and Vivekanand Library is also situated there.

* **Kasar Devi Temple**

Kasar Devi is a famous temple on a hilltop dedicated to the local deity of Kasar Devi, situated 8 km away from Almora. Kasar devi is one of the famous temples perched on the hill Kashya. It is a village situated near Almora i.e in Uttarakhand. Village got its name after the ancient and historical temple Kasar devi temple. It is believed that Swami Vivekanand visited Kasar devi in 1890's. Every year Kasardevi fair is celebrated on a huge level.

* **Someshwar Temple**

It is situated 35 km away from Almora city, Someshwar is famous for its ancient Lord Shiva Temple. This temple was constructed by Raja Som Chand from Chand Dynasty.

The major industries are manufacturing, IT, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture, energy, construction, tourism, finance, healthcare, telecommunications, mining, and retail.

The major crops are rice, wheat, millet, tea, apples, peaches, apricots, plums, etc.

1. **Bageshwar**

Bageshwar became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Originally Bageshwar district was formed on 15 September 1997, by carving out of Almora district. The major river that flows through Bageshwar district, is the Sarju River (also known as the Saryu River).

Bageshwar district, was historically known as Danpur, and was ruled by Katyuris during the 7th century AD. After the disintegration of the Katyuri kingdom in the 13th century, the area remained under the rule of Baijnath Katyurs, direct descendants of Katyuri kings. In 1565, king Balo Kalyan Chand annexed Danpur along with Pali, Barahmandal and Mankot to Kumaun. Bageshwar gets its name from this ancient temple of Lord Shiva set in the heart of the town. According to mythological legends, sage Markandey lived here and the place was visited by Lord Shiva in the form of Bagh or tiger.

The district is bounded by –

Northwest & west – Chamoli district,

Northeast & east – Pithoragarh district,

South – Almora district.

Bageshwar - On the coast of the confluence of River Gomti and Saryu is known between people as the center of faith and tourism. Many ancient temples are limited in its boundaries like Bageshwar Mahadev, Hanuman Temple, Bhairav Temple, Kalika Temple, Panchnam Junnarka, Datatrey Maharaj. Vaneshwar Temple etc.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Gauri Udiyar Cave**

It is located about 8 more km from the town, one can pay homage to one of the few holy shrines in the city, that are located inside a natural cave, at the Gauri Udiyar. In Kumaoni dialect, 'Udiyar' stands for a small rock cave, where tigers and other wild animals live. The cave measures about 20x95 square meters and enshrines several images of Lord Shiva.

## Sunderghunga Trek

It is located around 36 km from Bageshwar. Sunderghunga also known as Valley of Beautiful Stones (literal translation), is located in the Pindar region and the trek to this place starts from Song. The length of this picturesque trek is around 54 km. Both the treks (Pindari Glacier and Sunderghunga Glacier) have a common route till Kathi after which it diverges.

## Chandrika Temple

It is located about 2 km away from the town, is the Chandika Temple, known to attract hoards of followers and inquisitive souls from around the world during the nine-day long festival of the Hindu female deity, Goddess Durga.

* **Pindari Glacier treks**

Pindari Glacier treks are organised by several tour operators. These are 5–15-day treks to about 15,000-16,000 ft, complete with tents, porters and guides. They are held in September-October, after the monsoons. The campsites are in scenic locations, far away from regular rest houses.  In the Kumaon hills, visitors can head out on the stiff trek trails from Munsiyari to the Milam Glacier, Nimak Glacier and Nanda Devi National Park trail.

* **Pandusthal Trek**

Pandusthal is believed to be the place where the war between the Kauravas and the Pandavas took place. It is after a long trek of 20 Kms, will one reach this place that offers one of the most beautiful views of the Himalayas.

* **Vijaypur**

Vijaypur located at about 30 km away from Bageshwar is a place where loads of people come just to enjoy the overall view of the place and to feel relax from their daily work. The place offers you stunning views of mountains covered with snow.

Bageshwar's largest economic sectors include agriculture, trade, transportation, municipal, tourism and resource extraction.

The major crops are rice and wheat.

1. **Chamoli**

Chamoli became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Therefore, Chamoli district was formed on 24th February 1960, by carving out from Pauri Garhwal district. The administrative headquarters of Chamoli district is in Gopeshwar. The major river that flows through Chamoli district are Alaknanda, Dhauli ganga, Pindar.

The history of Chamoli dates back to the 6th century A.D. Initially, it was under the rule of King Bhanu Pratap of Panwar dynasty of Garhwal, who founded Chandpur-Garhi as the capital. The word "Chamoli" is Sanskrit Language word is "Chandramoli" (Chandra (Moon) + Moli (Wears Moon on Head) Which meaning is the Hindu god Shiva.

The district is bounded by –

North - The Tibet region,

East - Pithoragarh and Bageshwar districts,

West – Rudraprayag district,

Southwest – Pauri Garhwal district,

South – Almora district.

Chamoli district is the pride of the state Uttaranchal studding with major pilgrimage center of the country like Badrinath, Joshimath and Hemkund Sahib, Snow-Clad Himalayan Peaks and phenomenon natural sceneries. Chamoli is reputed for its shrines and temples and birth place of 'Chipko Movement', which led the focus of the whole world.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Vasundhara Waterfalls**

Vasundhara Waterfall is a captivating sight and offers equally bewitching views of the mountain peaks and glaciers. Situated 5km from Mana, it is said that is you have committed a sin, the fall will divert away from you.

## Gopinath Temple

A very famous temple, it attracts pilgrims in large number. The temple was built by Raja Saggar and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. As per the legend, the king saw a cow giving milk on Shiva Lingam daily and he constructed a temple there. Today, it is one of the main attractions of the place.

## Rudranath

It is one of the Panch Kedars in the world, Rudranath is a place of immense religious significance and is situated in the Chamoli district of Garhwal. The town hosts a large Lord Shiva temple and requires devotees and trekkers to undertake a thrilling 21 km long trek to reach it. It has one of the five body parts Lord Shiva divided himself into to avoid the Pandavas. The temple also has idols as well as statues of Kunti, Pandavas, and Draupadi. All the devotees who visit the temple take a bath in the holy Narad Kund situated near the temple before going inside the temple.

## Brahmatal Trek

A paradise for adventure lovers and nature buffs, Brahmtal Trek is nothing short of fascinating and thrilling. Hidden away in the secluded region amidst the ridge, the lake provides an ideal destination for the intriguing trekkers. According to mythology, Lord Brahma meditated here. The real beauty of this trek lies in the entrancing view it offers of snow-clad Himalayan ranges.

## Valley of Flowers

Valley of Flowers is located in Chamoli district (near Badrinath), approximately 300 km to the north of Rishikesh.  Valley of flowers is a World Heritage Site for its wild untamed blooms surrounded by white peaks. This 'paradise' of nature lovers was discovered by Frank Smythe along with R. L. Holdsworth in the 1930s.

Chamoli district's major industries include hydroelectric power, handicrafts, and animal husbandry.

The major crops are rice, wheat, potato, pulses, millets and seasonal vegetables.

1. **Champawat**

Champawat became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Earlier, Champawat district was formed on 15th September 1997, by carving out from Pithoragarh and Nainital districts. The largest and the main city of the district is Tanakpur. Champawat district is part of the Kumaon division. The major river that flows through Champawat district is the Kali River.

History describes this town as the capital of the Chand dynasty (10th to 16th century), Champawat is steeped in history and heritage. Today, it is best known for its temples, many of which date back to the times of the Chand rulers. Champawat gets its name from princess “**Champawati**”, the daughter of King Arjun Deo, who ruled the region and had his capital here. Folklore also says that Champawat finds a reference in the Hindu epic Mahabharata.

The district is bounded by –

North – Pithoragarh district,

East – Nepal,

West – Nainital district,

South – Udham Singh Nagar district.

This place is very famous for the beautiful architecture and carvings on the temples, Baleshwar Mahadev Temple being one of them. Champawat is a beautiful town with breathtaking landscapes and terraced fields, which cover the valley. A river snakes past these landscapes and fields forming a beautiful picture. Lofty Himalayan Peaks offers heart-touching views and plenty of things to do.

**Other places to Visit:**

## Kranteshwar Mahadev Temple

It is located at a distance of about 6 kms from the district centre of Champawat, the temple is a small complex of stone made structures, and is locally known as the Kandev or Kurmapad. It is atop a hill at a height of 6000 meters, so you may want to be ready for a mini trek to it. The panoramic view of the temple is simply majestic and worth your trip outside the town.

* **Lohaghat**

Lohaghat is a beautiful hill station located in the Champawat district in the state of Uttarakhand. 5 km away from Abbott Mount, this ancient town is an important place for temples and is flocked by tourists due to its historical and mythological significance. This sleepy little town is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The serene climate, pine and oak trees and verdant greenery are what beckons people to this exquisite location.

The district is known for its traditional handicrafts and local products, which include woodwork, woollen items, and textiles. These products often cater to tourists and contribute to the local economy.

The major crops are rice, wheat, maize, mandua, potato, pulses, millets and vegetables etc.

1. **Dehradun**

Dehradun became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Dehradun serves as the capital of Uttarakhand. The major river that flows through Dehradun district is the Yamuna River.

Dehradun had been a part of the Garhwal Kingdom except for the brief interlude of the Rohillas. The city is believed to have been named after the camp, or dera, established by Baba Ram Rai, elder son of the seventh Sikh Guru, Guru Har Rai, who came here in 1675. In 1842, Dun was attached to Saharanpur district and placed under an officer subordinate to the Collector of the district but since 1871 it is being administered as separate district.

The district is bounded by –

North – Uttarkashi district,

East – Tehri Garhwal and Pauri Garhwal districts,

West – Sirmour district of Himachal Pradesh,

South – Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh.

Dehradun is a world known education hub hosting some of the prestigious institutions like the Forest Research Institute, Doon School, ONGC, Indian Military Academy, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Studies, Survey of India and Botanical Survey of India etc. Also, Dehradun is best known for its pleasant and milder climatic condition throughout the year.

**Other places to Visit:**

## Mussoorie

Mussoorie is one of the most popular hill stations located at a distance of 290 km from Delhi in the Dehradun district of Uttarakhand. With a backdrop of the Shivalik range of Himalayas and doon valley, Mussoorie, also known as Queen of The Hills, stands at an altitude of 7000 feet above sea level. With a cool and pleasant climate throughout the year, Mussoorie was once the British summer capital. One of the most popular tourist attractions in Mussoorie is The Mall (also known as the Mall Road), which is a slightly steep boulevard with eateries and other shops lining its entire stretch. Another major highlight of Mussoorie is the Ropeway to Gun Hill. Gun Hill is the second highest peak in Mussoorie, and tourists can avail of the cable car ropeway ride to Gun Hill, which offers an enchanting view of the entire city as well as the surrounding Himalayan mountains.

* **Robber’s Cave**

Robber's Cave, locally known as Gucchu Pani, is a river cave formed in the Himalayas, about 8 kilometers from Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This river cave is believed to be an abode of Lord Shiva and is very close to Sahasradhara or 'The Thousandfold Springs' in Uttarakhand. Its speciality is that river water flows out from the middle of the cave. The cave is a narrow gorge formed between a conglomerate limestone formation.

* **Mindrolling Monastery**

Mindrolling Monastery, also known as the Buddha Temple Complex, is the largest Buddhist Vihara of India, training monks for over 300 years. Being an architectural masterpiece with several sections, the monastery is a visual wonder. It also houses the tallest Stupa in Asia.

* **Forest Research Institute**

It is Established in the year 1906, the Forest Research Institute is a premier institution in the field of forestry research in India. Nestled in the serene backdrop of the Doon Valley, Forest Research Institute is also a significant tourist attraction of Dehradun. The Institute has been used to film various Bollywood films.

* **Dehradun Zoo**

It is located at the base of the Shivalik range, Dehradun Zoo, formerly known as Malsi Deer Park, is a zoological garden. It is home to two horned Deer, tigers, Neelgai, Peacock and many other animals. This well-maintained zoological garden is an ideal place for a picnic.

* **Daat Kali Temple**

Daat Kali Temple in Dehradun is dedicated to the Goddess Kali. Devotees come here to seek blessings before starting a new chapter of their lives and also for the darshan of a flame that has been continuously burning since 1921. It is said that the Daat Kali Temple houses an idol of the Goddess that was put there during the early 1800s when it was constructed.

* **Paonta Sahib**

Paonta Sahib is a vibrant, industrial town located in the Sirmaur district of Himachal Pradesh, a few kms from Dehradun. Apart from hosting significant industries, it is also a prominent place of worship for the Sikh community. The noted Gurudwara Paonta Sahib, built in the memory of Shri Guru Gobind Singh, is situated on the banks of the river Yamuna in this town and attracts many pilgrims round the year.

* **Fun Valley Dehradun**

It is located within Uttarakhand's Golden Triangle - Dehradun, Haridwar and Rishikesh, Fun Valley is an amusement park cum resort. The largest amusement and water park in North India, it is equidistant from the 3 towns. With a number of thrilling rides, it is a great place to enjoy a day in Dehradun with family and friends.

* **Kedarkantha Trek**

It is situated in the lap of mountains of the Tons River Valley, Kedarkanth is a stunning place offering an easy, classic trek. It is a lovely ridge peak accessible throughout the year with plethora of rewarding adventures. Kedarkantha peak is covered with snow during winters presenting a breathtaking sight. The trek to this peak also gives you an opportunity to explore the exotic flora and fauna of the protected area of Govind National Park.

# **Sai Mandir Dehradun**

Dedicated to Shirdi Sai Baba, the Sai Darbar Temple in Dehradun is situated along Rajpur Road. It is frequented by a plethora of devotees who come to pay their tribute to Sai Baba by offering chadars, flowers and sweets, and to attend the aarti organized every evening. Sai Temple is admired for its marble structure which is adorned with several colorful glass paintings.

### **Rajaji National Park**

Nestled amidst the majestic Shivalik ranges, Rajaji National Park is a picturesque destination for wildlife buffs and nature lovers. The national park is spread over an area of 820.20 square kilometres and known for housing over 50 species of mammals and 300 species of birds. You can take a jeep or elephant safari here and spot a range of fauna, including some endangered ones, such as the Asian elephant, tiger, Himalayan black bear, wild cats and sloth bear. If you love birdwatching, keep your binoculars and cameras handy for some rare sightings.

* **Tiger View Jungle Camp**

It is around 10 km from Dehradun and situated in Goolar Khalla village, Tiger View Jungle Camp is yet another popular attraction among wildlife enthusiasts. It is particularly known for protecting the endangered Indian tiger. Besides camping in the wilderness, you can go for a jungle safari here to spot a variety of flora and fauna. The natural beauty of the place will transport you to a different world, away from the urban hustle-bustle. Spotting majestic tigers in their natural habitat will make for a unique experience altogether.

* **Guru Ram Rai Gurudwara**

Guru Ram Rai Gurudwara is visited by people from all states and religions. This illustrious holy place is also the oldest of its kind in Dehradun. The Gurudwara showcases a stunning blend of Indo-Islamic architecture with domes, minarets and murals adding a distinctive charm to it. When you step inside, you can see many religious inscriptions as well as murals and portraits of gods, goddesses, saints and sages on the walls. The Gurudwara premises has a huge pond as well.

The National Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Survey of India, and many educational institutions like Doon University, Uttrakhand Technical Institute, Indian Institute of Petroleum, Uttaranchal University, Forest Research Institute, Wildlife Institute of India, Rashtriya Indian Military College and Indian Military Academy are also situated here.

The major crops are Basmati rice, tea and litchi orchards.

1. **Haridwar**

Haridwar became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Prior, Haridwar District was established on 28th December, 1988, by carving out from Saharanpur District of Uttar Pradesh. Haridwar is one of the seven holiest places in Hinduism and known for its ghats along the Ganges River where pilgrims come to take holy dips.

Haridwar is one of the seven sacred cities of the Hindus and is a major pilgrimage centre (also known as Gateway to God). It has been known by many names; originally it was called Kapila, for the sage who once lived there. Its present name means “Door to Hari”; Hari is one of the names of Vishnu, a principal deity of Hinduism.

According to a mythological legend, Prince Bhagirath performed penance here to salvage the souls of his ancestors who had perished due to Saint Kapila's curse. Bhagirath was blessed and the holy river descended on the earth and its water revived the sons of King Sagara. Following the tradition of Bhagirath, devout Hindus stand in the sacred waters here and pray for the salvation of their ancestors.

The district is bounded by –

North – Dehradun district,

East – Pauli Garwal district,

West – Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh,

South - Muzaffarnagar and Bijunor districts.

Haridwar is famous for the Kumbh and Ardh Kumbh fairs that are held once in every 12 and 6 years respectively. Millions of devotees assemble here during this auspicious occasion and take a dip in the holiest river of India. It is said that drops of amrit (nectar) obtained after the 'Sagar Manthan' fell at four places Haridwar, Allahabad, Ujjain and Nashik and the Kumbh fair is held at these four sacred sites.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Mansa Devi Temple**

Mansa Devi Temple is a famous temple in Haridwar in Uttarakhand that is dedicated to the goddess Mansa Devi, who is considered to be a form of Shakti and is believed to have emerged from Lord Shiva's mind. It is one of the 'Panch Tirths' or the five pilgrimages in Haridwar. The ropeways that lead up to it is also a popular attraction.

* **Rajaji National Park (Chilla)**

The park endowed with pristine beauty and rich bio-diversity covers an area of 820 sq. kms on the edge of the Doon Valley about 10 kms from Haridwar. Famous for its wildlife, especially for tigers and elephants, Rajaji National Park is a Tiger Reserve. It is spread over 3 districts of Uttarakhand including Dehradun, Haridwar and Pauri Garhwal. Apart from the Jeep Safari and Elephant Safari, the 34 km jungle track is a major attraction here.

* **Shanti Kunj**

Shantikunj is a world-renowned ashram and the headquarter of All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP) located in Haridwar. The Shantikunj ashram has Yagya shala, Gayatri Mata Temple, Akhand Deep, Devatma Himalaya Temple, temples of ancient Rishis and an Exhibition of Divine Culture. Various training camps are also organised for the upliftment of moral and spiritual values. Those seeking inner peace and divine inspiration, Shanti Kunj is the place to be.

* **Daksha Mahadev Temple**

A famous temple in Kankhal, Haridwar Daksha Mahadev Temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is named after King Daksha Prajapati, the father of Goddess Sati. Also known as Daksheswara Mahadev Temple, it houses the Yajna Kund and the Daksha ghat on the left of the main temple where devotees take a dip in the holy Ganga River. The mythological legends state that King Daksha Prajapati, the father of Sati (Lord Shiva's consort) performed a yagya here, but didn't invite Lord Shiva.

* **Pawan Dham**

Pawan Dham, an ancient temple in Haridwar located at Bhagirathi Nagar, Bhupatwala, is a non-profit organization and a revered site among Hindu pilgrims. The major highlight of the temple is the gorgeous idol of Lord Krishna preaching the Bhagavad Geeta to Arjun. The stunning interiors and divine atmosphere of Pawan Dham attract devotees.

* **Ma Anandamayi Ashram**

It is located in Kankhal in Haridwar, Ma Anandamayi Ashram is a spiritual centre and ashram dedicated to Sri Ma Anandamayi who was a prominent Bengali mystic and a spiritual personality. The ashram has a mausoleum or a Samadhi which houses the grave of Ma Anandamayi. The complex houses several buildings meant for meditation, yoga and similar activities.

* **Vaishno Devi Temple**

Vaishno Devi Temple of Haridwar is marked by tunnels and caves that lead to the inner sanctum containing the shrine of Goddess Vaishno Devi. The divine temple houses three deities - Lakshmi, Kaali and Saraswati. The Vaishno Devi Temple in Haridwar is a frequently visited site, both by religious devotees and nature lovers because of the stunning view of the surrounding landscape. After climbing a flight of steep stairs and crawling through a narrow tunnel, the devotees are blessed with the sight of the idol of Maa Vaishno Devi and the replicas of the 12 Jyotirlingas in India. It is widely believed that the Vaishno Devi Temple of Haridwar was constructed in the memory of Trikuta, a devotee of Lord Ram. She prayed to him so devotedly that he agreed to marry her in his last earthy carnation. This is also one of the Shakti Peeth Temples.

* **Adbhut Temple**

It is located in Haripur Kalan in Haridwar, Adbhut Mandir is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. With a backdrop of green hills, blue mountains and the cascading river, the temple offers peace and calm like no other place. It is visited by tourists and devotees alike.

* **Bilkeshwar Mahadev Temple**

Bilkeshwar Mahadev Temple is situated in the valley of Billa Parvat near Har ki Pauri in Haridwar and is dedicated to Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati. It is believed that the site at which the temple sits is the same spot where Goddess Parvati worshipped Lord Shiva and he accepted to make her his wife. Being surrounded by woods in a hilly area, the Bilkeshwar Mahadev Temple is a weekend getaway and picnic spot for the locals and the visiting tourists.

* **Birla Ghat**

It is one of the ancient ghats in Haridwar, the Birla Ghat is a pristine and tranquil site, situated adjacent to Vishnu Ghat. Situated on the banks of the pious River Ganga, there is a flight of stairs that lead towards the holy water, enabling the devotees to take a dip and absolve their sins, as is believed by many. Security barriers are installed near the flight of stairs to prevent people from drowning while bathing in the Ganga River's strong water current.

Haridwar has two manufacturing plants, Heavy Electricals Equipment Plant (HEEP) and Central Foundry Forge Plant (CFFP).

The major crops are Rice, wheat, sugarcane, Pulses and oil seeds.

1. **Nainital**

Haridwar became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Originally Nainital district was formed on 24th September 1998. Nainital District is located in Kumaon Division, and is located in the lower Himalayas. Haldwani is the largest city in the district. The major river that flows through Nainital district is the Gaula River.

The hill station town of Nainital was founded in 1841. According to historic reference, Nainital existed during pre-historic period. At the time, it was ruled by the Khasi dynasty and thus was introduced as ‘Khasidesh.’ There are many stories behind the name of Nainital. One of the stories is when King Daksha (Father of Goddess Parvati) didn’t invite Lord Shiva in an occasion, Goddess Parvati had become very angry and jumped into the Fire and became Sati. When Lord Shiva was moving the dead body of her sati to Kailash Parbat, her left eye fell into the lake and thus the name of this city has become Nainital where “Nain” means “Eye”.

The district is bounded by –

North – Almora district,

East – Champawat district,

West – Pauri Garhwal district,

South – Udham Singh Nagar district.

It is also known for the revered Naina Devi temple, which stands on the edge of the lake. Jim Corbett National Park is another reason beside magical Himalayan peaks and scenic lakes to visit here. Sherwood School, St. Josephs', Kumaon University, ARIES (State Observatory) are some of the top educational institutions within city limits. Snowfall in winters, Yachting, Boating and Trekking also attracts visitors.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Neem Karoli Baba Ashram**

The Neem Karoli Baba Ashram is a quaint little ashram and Hanuman Temple that is located on the Nainital-Almora Road and is popular as Kainchi Dham among the visitors. Situated about 17kms from Nainital, this temple sits deftly in the lap of nature oozing spiritual vibes and serenity at the height of 1400 meters above the sea level, this modern pilgrim centre has been built in and dedicated to Shri Neem Karoli Baba, who was a Hindu saint and Guru and had a lot of devotees from all over the world. **Steve Jobs** had come to India in 1974 to become his devotee, though sadly he had passed away by that time.

* **Naina peak**

Naina peak, also known as China peak or Cheena peak, is positioned almost 6 km north to Mallital. Naina peak is considered to be the highest point of Nainital, situated at a spectacular elevation of 2615 meters. Reviving scenes of peaks covered with charming white snow, give an amazing experience to the people visiting Naina peak.

* **Nainital Zoo**

The animal lovers can enjoy the collection of different breeds of animals and inhabitants in the Zoo, situated at an altitude of 2100 meters above sea level. Being at a very high point, this Zoo is also known as "High Altitude Zoo". The Zoo is located around 2 km from the bus stand, which is a habitat of animals like Hill Fox, Palm Civet Cat, Leopards, Snow Tigers (Siberian Tiger), Monkeys, Barking Deer, Silver Pheasants, Himalayan Black Bears, White Peacocks, Rose Ringed Prakeet, Wolves and Sambhars etc. This zoo is presently known as Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo.

* **Raj Bhawan**

The Raj Bhawan was made in 1899 as the summer residence of the Governor of North West Province. It was designed with Victorian Gothic style by F.W. Stevens. The Raj Bhawan is a two-story mansion consisting of 113 rooms, a swimming pool, a large garden and a golf court too. Currently it is the official guest house for the state guests and the Governor of Uttarakhand.

## Eco Cave Gardens

It is famous for its interconnected rocky caves, hanging gardens and the musical fountain, the Eco Garden are a set of six small caves in the shape of various animals. Located in the Mallital area of Nainital, you need to crawl your way in. Eco Cave Garden is set up to give tourists a glimpse of the natural habitat of the Himalayan Wildlife by constructing different caves for different animals, similar to their natural home. Lit with petroleum lamps, the most popular caves are Tiger Cave, Panther Cave, Apes Cave, Bat Cave and Flying Fox Cave.

There are many industries throughout Nainital. Mostly, they are in the paper and candle works. But there are also industries in the field of fibre glass, steel industries and leather works. Haldwani is one of the biggest business centers of Uttarakhand especially Kumaon. It connects the kumaon region with Railway lines. It is also emerging as the IT hub of Uttarakhand.

The major crops are Rice, wheat, maize, soybean, ragi, zinger, lentil, pea, tomato, cole crops, brinjal, bhindi, guava, jackfruit.

1. **Pauri Garhwal**

Pauri Garhwal became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Its headquarters is in the town of Pauri. The major river that flows through Pauri Garhwal district is the Alaknanda River.

The Katyuri kings comprised the first historical dynasty, which ruled over unified Uttarakhand from 800 to 1100 and left records in the form of inscriptions and temples. At the end of 15th century, Ajaypal ruled Chandpurgarh and succeeded in unifying and consolidating various principalities on the region. His kingdom came to known as Garhwal.

This district is bounded by –

North - Chamoli, Rudraprayag & Tehri Garhwal districts,

East – Almora & Nainital districts,

West – Dehradun & Haridwar districts,

South - Bijnor & Udhamsingh Nagar district.

Various pilgrimage site attracts devotees to this exotic land, Kyunkaleshwar Mahadev Temple one being them. Popular festivals like Uttarayani, Bhandara and Sharadostav in the district are celebrated with pomp and show. With various outdoor activities to do and chilly weather, Pauri is a paradise landscape to visit around.

**Other places to Visit:**

## Chaukhamba View Point

Chaukhamba View Point can be defined as a perfect amalgam of city lights and lush green hills. This view point is located at a distance of 5 km from the town of Pauri and is covered with a dense network of forests all around it. Blessed with a beautiful blend of Himalayan peaks, oak green trees and city lights, Chaukhamba is the most picture-perfect destination in the entire town of Pauri. As a tribute to this place, the snow-clad mountain peaks that are visible from this view point have been named as Chaukhamba points.

### **Jim Corbett National Park**

Gracefully furnished by verdant bosky mountains, fancy regions, waterholes and meadows, Jim Corbett National Park is an astonishing wildlife destination in Pauri Garhwal Region. This national park is possibly one of the most exotic places to visit in Pauri Uttarakhand to take a sight of the endangered Royal Bengal Tiger. Other species that can be found here are- Barking Deer, Asian Elephants, Nilgai, Rhesus Macaque, Sambar, Leopard, ild Boar, Jackal, and Langur.

### **Ramganga Dam: Birdwatcher’s Delight**

Ramganga Dam, also recognized as the Kalagarh Dam greets thousands of travelers. The dam is crowded with various kinds of birds that present it as a suitable place for birdwatching. Wildlife fans who trek to the park to forbear amazing experience while discovering the wildness of nature. An unusual truth about the dam is that its formation stretched for 13 longspun years before it ultimately began its services.

### **Nag Dev Temple**

Nag Dev Temple is another interesting temple to visit in Pauri. The temple is dedicated to the serpent God Nag and being popular among locals, the temple experience visitors throughout the year. The temple is located amid the dense forest and numerous adventure enthusiasts take this exciting trek of 1.5 kilometres to reach here.

### **Adwani: Refreshing Gateway**

Adwani is a tranquil hamlet nestled amid lush green valleys and is truly a paradise for nature lovers. It is located at a distance of nearly 17 kilometers from Pauri and serves an ideal destination for those who are looking for a leisurely vacay while admiring the mystic beauty of the Garhwal region.

The major industries are handicrafts, forestry, and education.

The major crops are Barnyard Millet, Amaranth, Finger Millet, Cole Crops, Potato, Peas, Peaches, Plums, Pear, citrus, stone fruits.

1. **Pithoragarh**

Pithoragarh district was formed on 24th February 1960, by carving out of Almora district. The major river that flows through Pithoragarh district is the Kali River.

The first recorded history is from the time of the great Rajputa King Prithviraj Chauhan. It is said that when he expanded his kingdom, he named this place as 'Rai Pithora' since it was a Rajput tradition to name a place after settling there. Also, the town was ruled by Chand Rulers in ancient Times.

The district is bounded by –

North - Tibet Autonomous Region of China,

East - Darchula and Baitadi districts of Nepal,

West - Almora district,

South - Bageshwar district.

Pithoragarh is known as Mini Kashmir because of its beauty. It is a paradise for nature lovers which is located in the center of four hills. Pithoragarh is popular as being the starting point for treks to the Milam Glacier and the Darma Valley. Being a border town, Pithoragarh is also an important base of the Indian Army.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Chandak**

Chandak is a hill with an opportunity for a small trek situated on the north side of the Soar Valley. Located at a distance of 8 km from Pithoragarh, this beautiful place also offers its visitors a taste of adventure in form of hang gliding.

#### **Kapileshwar temple**

Another addition the beauty of Pithoragarh is Kapileshwar Temple. It is located in a 10 m gaping cave; this Shiva Temple is dearly attached to Pithoragarh which is just 3 km away. Visit the Temple during Mahashivratri and spot the endless charm of snowy mountains as you chant mantras with other devotees.

* **Askot Sanctuary**

Askot Sanctuary also known as the **Askot Musk Deer Sanctuary**, it is spread across an area of 600 sq kilometers. The elevation of the area differs from 600 meters to 7000 meters above sea level and is a home to various species of flora, fauna and avi-fauna. The various species of wildlife like The Musk deer, Leopard, Brown Bear, and Jungle Cat etc with a plethora of various resident and migratory birds can be found here.

* **Jhulaghat**

Jhulaghat is located at the Indo-Nepal border and is located 36 kilometers from Pithoragarh. The town is best visited during winters where the climate is cool and the views of the valley are amazing. The Kali River that flows through the town is one of the major attractions of the town and is also known for its rafting spots.

* **Thal Kedar**

A holy place dedicated to Lord Shiva is also known for its mesmerizing beauty and spell binding surroundings. Located 15 km from the town, this temple can only be reached by trekking either from Pithoragarh or from Nakuleshwar Temple. Thal Kedar is situated at an altitude of 2000 m and attracts large number of devotees during Shivratri.

## Jayanti Temple Dhwaj

It is located about 18 kilometers from Pithoragarh, on the Didihat road, is Totanaula, from which the Jayanti temple is accessed after a three-kilometer steep and difficult climb. The cave temple of Lord Shiva is located on the way, about 200 feet below the main temple. The Panch-chuli and Nandadevi Himalayan peaks can be seen in all their glory from the hilltop where the Jayanti shrine is located.

Traditional crafts like weaving, woodwork, and local artistry are practiced here. The region's biodiversity includes valuable herbal and medicinal plants. The mineral deposits present in the district are magnesium ore, copper ore, limestone.

The major crops are Paddy, Wheat, Maize, Mandua, Soyabean, Lentil, etc.

1. **Rudraprayag**

Rudraprayag district was established on **16th September 1997,** by carving out from Chamoli, Tehri and Pauri districts. It lies at the confluence of two rivers Alkananda and Mandakini.

Rudraprayag was the part of Kedar Khand in ancient times. Rudraprayag is of immense significance for the pilgrims of Char Dham Yatra, as it is the junction for visiting Badrinath and Kedarnath Dham. This city is venerated as one of the five sacred confluences or the 'Panch Prayag'. Rudra is another name of lord shiva that is why Rudraprayag is named after Lord Shiva. An ancient shrine is dedicated to Lord Shiva in the form of 'Rudra'.

The district is bounded by –

North - Uttarkashi district,

East - Chamoli district,

West - Tehri Garhwal district,

South - Pauri Garhwal district.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Rudraprayag Temple**

A notable religious temple of this district, Rudraprayag Temple is christened after Lord Shiva and is just the place where the Alaknanda and Mandakini rivers come together. So, this is the main temple on the religious story of Narad after which the place was named as Rudraprayag. The mythical tale also tells us that here Narad revered Lord Shiva to teach him music and Lord Shiva tutored him in the avatar of Rudra or the God of Music. A rock also ought to be at the temple once which was known as Narad Shila or the stone where Narad meditated.

## Augustmuni Temple

It is around 10 km from Rudraprayag and is a wonderfully sacred temple. Augustmuni Temple is the place where August Rishi worshipped Lord Shiva and this temple is situated in the Augustmuni village of Rudraprayag. There is an August Kund and a temple devoted to Lord Shiva plus during Baisakhi there is a grand celebration organized which is attended by many ardent Hindu pilgrims.

* **Ukhimath**

Ukhimath is a popular destination which is better known as home of Madhyamaheshwar and Kedarnath during the winter season. The place is situated just 12 km from Guptkashi with an enchanting view of Majestic Himalayas covered in snow. Ukhimath mainly houses the Rawal's, the head priest of Kedarnath.

* **Sonprayag**

Sonprayag situated at an elevation of 1829 m is famous a site where Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati were married. Flanked by nature's bounty and glorious snowcapped peaks, it is also a place where River Mandakini meets River Basuki. It is a belief that devotees can achieve Baikunt Dham with the touch of water.

* **Gaurikund**

Gaurikund is a very sacred place located 34 km from Guptkashi. In fact, it is also a point from where the 14km trek begins for Kedarnath. As per the legends, it is believed that in Gaurikund, Lord Shiva agreed to marry Goddess Parvati and hence the place is named after here.

### **Kalimath**

Kalimath is a small village in the Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand that is surrounded by Kedarnath mountains and sits at an elevation of 1800 metres and is located on the Saraswati River. Also, home to the Kalimath Temple, which is dedicated to Goddess Kali and is also one of the 108 Shakti Peethas. Besides Goddess Kali, Goddess Laxmi and Goddess Saraswati are also worshipped here and the Indian festival of Navratri is a significant event here.

### **Tungnath**

It is located at a distance 70.6 Kms from city centre. Lying at a height of around 11,385 ft ft. above sea level, Tunngnath is among the highest Shiva temples around the globe. The place is not only renowned for being a holy Hindu site, but also for offering the best trekking experience to adventurous souls. Besides this, the temple lies around 2 km below the Chandrashila Peak which offers a majestic view of the Himalayan range consisting of snow peaks like Panch Chuli, Nanda Devi, Kedarnath, Neelkanth, Banderpoonch, and Chaukhamba on one side and Garhwal valley on the opposite side.

The major exportable items from the district Rudraprayag are Herbs and meditational plants, wood and wood products, woolen products.

The major crops are rice, wheat, maize, jhangora, mandua, potato, pulses, millets and seasonal vegetables etc.

**11. Tehri Garhwal**

Tehri Garhwal became a district when new Uttarakhand State was formed on **9th November 2000**. Tehri district is divided into two regions: New Tehri and Old Tehri, both filled with picturesque surroundings and ancient temples. Its administrative headquarters is at New Tehri. Tehri Garhwal is a part of the Himalayas. The major river that flows through Tehri Garhwal district is the Bhagirathi River.

Tehri Garhwal or Garhwal Kingdom, was a princely state, ruled by the Parmar (Shah) dynasty. Later, it became a part of the Punjab Hill States Agency of British India, which consists of the present-day Tehri Garhwal District and most of the Uttarkashi district. In August 1949, Tehri Riyasat was merged into Uttar Pradesh and was given the status of a new district, the Tehri Garhwal district. The name Tehri has been derived from Trihari, signifying a place that washes away the three types of sins – sins born out of Mansa, Vacha and Karmana or thought, word and deed, respectively. Garh in Hindi means fort.

The district is bounded by –

North – Uttarkashi district,

East – Rudraprayag district,

West – Dehradun district,

South – Pauri Garhwal district.

New Tehri is considered to be Asia's most comprehensive and successful rehabilitation programme. The gleaming township has developed into a lovely hill resort. Other important places to visit near Tehri are Badrinath, Devprayag, Gautam Rishi's Temple and Sem Mukhem Temple. Tehri Dam built on the Bhagirathi and Bhilangana River is Asia's largest rock filled dam.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Khatling Glacier**

The trek begins from Ghuttu which is 62 km away from New Tehri. Khatling Glacier is a hidden gem nestled between a group of mesmerizing snowcapped mountain peaks in the Tehri District. Khatling Glacier is at an elevation of 15,000 feet and is considered sacred by a lot of people. The glacier is surrounded with variegated moraines which looks as if the place is circumscribed with walls of gravel and mud.

#### **Buda kedar**

If you traverse 59 km from New Tehri, you will find this old temple settled at the conflux of Dharam Ganga rivers and Bal Ganga rivers. Buda Kedar is believed to be the spot where Duryodhan from Mahabharata offered Tarpana. Besides, one can also sight birds soaring high in vivid colours from Buda Kedar.

### **Gautam Rishi temple**

The site is worth visiting and is located 8 kilometres from Tehri on the Dehradun-Saharanpur Road. Gautam Rishi temple is claimed to be a haunted location where one of the Saptarishi, Gautam Rishi, a Shiva devotee, once dwelt. The lake near the temple is considered sacred to the point where a plunge in it is considered equivalent to a dip in the Ganga.

## Narendranagar

It is located in the proximity of Tehri Garhwal, Narendranagar is a tourist attraction where one can enjoy the beautiful sights of River Ganga and Doon valley. Located 16 kms from Rishikesh on Gangotri and Yamunotri route, the place is fun to visit.

* **Chamba**

Chamba is beautiful place which is 18 km away from Tehri Garhwal, Chamba may be a standout amongst those real visitor attractions Around travellers. Separated from putting forth the surrounding perspectives for Himalayas, it additionally gives a stunning perspective of the blessed waterway Bhagirathi. Roosted In those stature for approx 1676m over the ocean level, Chamba may be a spot to unwind same time limited Eventually Tom's perusing pines Furthermore deodars know around.

* **Dhanaulti**

Dhanaulti an Icy Heaven. The tinsel town of Dhanaulti is emerging as a popular winter destinatination. Situated on the Mussoorie - Chamba course right around 44 km from Tehri Garhwal, Dhanaulti is a place that is known for concealed fortunes. With not very many voyagers mindful of the level of magnificence, the crude trails are practically untouched.

The district is major specializes in production of woolen handlooms, cotton handlooms, silk products, products of other natural fibers.

The major crops are Wheat, sawan, mandua, rice, barley, maize and urad dal.

**12. Udham Singh Nagar**

Udham Singh Nagar district was formed on **29th September 1995,** by carving out from Nainital district. The district is also called as the 'Gateway to Kumaon hills'.  Rudrapur is the district headquarters. The major river that flows through Udham Singh Nagar district is the Ramganga River.

Rudrapur town was established in the 16th century by King Rudra Chand of Almora. It was the residence of the Adhikari (Governor) of Tarai, till the town of Kashipur was Established in 1718. Udham Singh Nagar was named after Saheed Udham Singh, a great freedom fighter, who killed General Dyer and took revenge for the Jalianwala Bagh massacre. It is also known as the 'food bowl of Uttarakhand' and 'chawal ki nagari'.

The district is bounded by –

North – Nainital district,

Northeast - Champawat district,

East - Nepal,

West & South - Bareilly, Rampur, Pilibhit and Bijnor District of Uttar Pradesh state.

Udham Singh Nagar district is also noted for communal harmony and brotherhood. The district is a melting pot of different cultures, religions and life styles. Rudrapur is an incredibly lively place and is popularly known for its topmost things to do like Gularbhoj, Atariya Temple, and Chaiti Devi, Moteshwar Mahadev Temple.

**Other places to Visit:**

### **Nanakmatta Gurudwara**

Nanakmatta is a small village in Uttarakhand’s Udham Singh Nagar district known for its namesake and beloved Sikh shrine. Guru Nanak Devji, the first Sikh Guru, is said to have stopped in Nanakmatta on his journey to Kailash Parvat in 1515 AD, according to Gurdwara Sri Nanak Matta Sahib. The town, which is roughly 56 kilometers from Rudrapur, the district capital, attracts thousands of devotees and is also known for a dam built on the river Saryu that led to the development of Nanak, Sagar, which adds to Nanakmatta’s beauty.

### **Chaiti Devi, Moteshwar Mahadev Temple**

This temple is 2.5 kilometres from the Kashipur bus station and is located on the Kashipur-Bajpur route. Mata Bal Sundari Devi is another name for this temple. Mata Bal Sundari Devi is one of Mata Sati’s 51 Shakti Peethas. Thousands of pilgrims and devotees go from all across India to attend the fair. A wide range of people come to pray at the existing temple. This is frequently a Bal Sundari Mata temple.

Udham Singh Nagar is a major industrial district in Uttarakhand, with various industries including manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing.

The major crops are Rice, wheat, sugarcane and pulses.

1. **Uttarkashi**

Uttarkashi district was formed on **24th February 1960,** by carving out from Tehri Garhwal district. This district is considered to have similar religious importance as Kashi. The major river that flows through Uttarkashi district is the Bhagirathi River.

History of Uttarkashi District goes back to antiquated times, to the times of Mahabharata. This locale was possessed by slope tribes since old times. The historical name of Uttar Kashi is Saumyakashi. Uttarkashi was a piece of Panwar rajas' region. The originator of the Pal or Panwar administration was Kanak Pal, who came to Uttarakhand in the ninth century AD, perhaps from Maharashtra. Uttarkashi, meaning Kashi of the north.

The district is bounded by –

North – Kinnaur and Shimla districts of Himachal Pradesh,

East – Chamoli district,

West – Dehradun district,

South – Tehri Garhwal district.

**Other places to Visit:**

* **Viswanath Temple**

Viswanath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is one of the most ancient temples of India and one of the most frequented tourist places to visit in Uttarkashi. Nestled on the bank of Bhagirathi River and surrounded by snow-capped mountains, this temple houses a spectacular Shiva linga and attracts millions of devotees, especially during Gangotri and Yamunotri pilgrimage and Char Dham yatra.

### **Kedar Tal: Spellbinding Sight**

It is situated 18 km from Gangotri, and you can reach here through a different mountain trail. The lake is located 15000 feet above sea level. The water of the lake is known for being crystal clear and the sight of the lake with Thalayasagar peak in the backdrop is absolutely spellbinding. This place is the base camp for trekking to Jogin, Thalayasagar, and Bhrigupanth.

### **Nehru Institute of Mountaineering**

This is one of the best mountaineering institutes of India and a very prestigious one in Asia, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering was established in Uttarkashi on 14th Nov 1965. NIM conducts various mountains and adventure programs for people. The institute was set up in honor of India’s first Prime Minister, Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, who was a passionate mountain lover. The institute is set amidst the mountains and features lush green lawn.

* **Gangotri**

Gangotri is a popular Hindu pilgrim town and a Nagar Panchayat in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand. It is located on the Greater Himalayan Range at a height of 3,100 meters above the sea level. Resting on the banks of River Bhagirathi, it is the origin point of River Ganges. Maa Ganga Temple, Gangotri Temple, and Surya Kund Gangotri are some of the most popular places to visit. You cannot afford to miss the experience of Gangotri.

### **Nachiketa Lake**

Nachiketa Lake is a scenic wonder of the region. Mythological tales reveal that the lake was formed by Uddalok, who named the place after his son; Nachiketa. The lake offers awe-inspiring beauty and the surrounding thick pine and oak forests provide a soothing treat to mind and soul. There is a famous Nag Devta temple, located on the bank of the Nachiketa Lake.

* **Harsil**

Harsil is another amazing place in Uttarkashi which is fast becoming one of the top places to explore around the Himalayas. Nestled at an altitude of 2620 meters Harsil is now a nature lovers’ spot. If you are planning to go to Gangotri then you must explore Harsil and opt for a trekking trip.

Uttarkashi has also emerged as an important center for adventure sports. Main cottage industries of the district are Carpets, blankets, basket-making, mat weaving and wood craft. Tourism industry is another important sector of the economy of Uttarkashi District.

The major crops are paddy, millets, potato, wheat and barley.