Mandi; an eye-catching place in Himanchal Pradesh

Mandi is situated on the banks of river Beas in Himachal Pradesh which is known for the pristine beauty of its temples. Situated at an altitude of 760 meters above sea level, this city is one of the fastest-growing cities of Himachal Pradesh. Mandi is a historical and beautiful city of Himachal Pradesh. Mandi is known as "Kashi of Hills" or "Varanasi of Hills" due to many ancient religious sites. The city is filled with natural beauty; it provides mesmerizing views of the mountain ranges. For nature lovers, this city is no less than a paradise. Situated amidst beautiful hills and lakes, Mandi attracts tourists from all over the country. There are many places to visit here.

The image of Banaras is also seen in Mandi because Mandi of Himachal Pradesh is famous for its beauty and stone temple. There are more than 300 Hindu temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and Maa Kali. The ancient temples here include Panchavakrata Temple, Ardhanarishvara Temple, and Triloknath Temple.

Mandi is also famous for its various treks. The trek to Prashar Lake is the easiest and most popular trek in the region. Jajeli Mandi is another popular place here which is a major attraction for trekkers and campers.

## History:

The name earlier knew the city of Mandi of a great monk, Mandav. In terms of population in Himachal Pradesh, Mandi comes second after Shimla. The princely state of Mandi was established in 1000 AD by Bahusen, the younger brother of King Sahusen of the state of Suket. There were no good relations between Bahusen and Sahusen, due to which leaving the princely state of Suket from Bahusen, he laid the foundation of Mandi princely state in Mangalore (Kullu). Bahusen established his capital at Haat (Kullu).

Mandi emerged as a separate state in the early sixteenth century. Ban's son Ajbar Sen, who was the 19th descendant of Bahu Sen, founded the city of Mandi in 1527 AD. Ajbar Sen was the first great ruler of Mandi. He was the first ruler to assume the position of king. He took away the princely states inherited from his neighbors and merged them with his princely state. He built a palace here and adorned it with four minarets. He also built the Bhootnath temple, and his queen built the Trilokinath temple. One of his descendants was Raja Siddha Sen, who succeeded Raja Gursen in 1678 AD. Mandi was never so powerful before his reign and never after that. He captured great areas from the surrounding areas.

On 21 February 1846, the kings of Mandi and Suket went to Sri Erskine, the superintendent of the hill states, to show their allegiance to the British government and gain their patronage. On 9 March 1846, after a treaty between the Sikh court and the British government, the entire area of ​​the Doab between the Beas and the Sutlej was handed over to the British government, including the states of Suket and Mandi. On 1 November 1921, the state of Mandi and Suket was transferred from the political control of the Punjab government to the Government of India until 15 August 1947, India's Independence Day.

## Best time to visit Mandi-

Mandi is a city in North India where it is hot in summer and very cold in winter. It has been recommended to wear warm grips here for centuries. If you want to visit Mandi, then let us know that the best time to visit here is from April to October because this time is the perfect time for holidaymakers.

## How to reach?

### By Air-

If you want to go to Mandi by air, the best way to do it is Bhuntar airport. Bhuntar airport is about 60 km from Mandi, and Bhuntar is the nearest airport to Mandi. Bhuntar airport is connected with major cities of India like Bangalore, Mumbai, Delhi, etc., through Air India flights. From here onwards you will easily get a cab to cover the distance to Mandi, and through which you can easily reach the market.

### By Rail-

Mandi can also be reached by train route. Joginder Nagar Railway Station is the nearest railway station to Mandi town. The distance of Mandi from Joginder Nagar Railway Station is about 60 to 65 km.

### By road-

There is a network of roads in Mandi town. Traveling via road will also be good for you. The road route can be a good option for enjoying the sight and enjoyment of the enchanting view. If you have to come to Mandi from Chandigarh, it will take about 195 km via NH3. If you want to come to Mandi from Delhi, you will have to cover the distance via road around 500 km.

## Visiting Places:

### Bhima Kali Temple:

Maa Kaal is worshiped in the Bhima Kali temple built on the Beas River. According to mythology, Lord Krishna fought a demon named Banasura in that temple. Tourists visiting Mandi come here once. There is a museum inside the temple where the idols of all the incarnations of other deities are kept. The temple's carvings are also worth seeing as all the work is done in stone and wood.

### Rewalsar Lake:

The main lake of Mandi is Rewalsar Lake. This lake is also known as Tso Pema Lotus Lake. The lake is situated at a moderate height on a hill spur to the south of Mandi at about 23 km. This square-shaped lake is situated at an altitude of 350 meters above sea level. For your information, let us tell you that this lake is protected by different types of flora and plants, due to its natural beauty and calm environment, this place is the favorite of tourists. There is a Gurudwara and a Buddhist monastery near the Riwalsar lake. Because of which this place is important for the followers of Sikhism, Buddhism, and Hinduism.

### Prashar Lake Trek:

Prashar Lake Trek is one of the most offbeat places in Himachal Pradesh, a crystal clear water body located about 50 km from Mandi. There is a three-story pagoda dedicated to the sage Prashar; with its deep blue waters, this lake is situated at an altitude of 2730 meters above sea level. Surrounded by the mighty Dhauladhar ranges in the Kullu valley, this region is full of mystical charm, and from here, one can see the charm of the Beas flowing down. The snow-clad peaks, lush green valleys, rivers, and lakes make it a great trekking experience.

### Baraut:

Baraut is a beautiful village situated in the serene valleys of Mandi district in Himachal Pradesh. It is a new found tourist destination and is located about 67 kms from Mandi. If you are looking for a place to visit for a day or two then this place is very good for you. The panoramic views and unexpected air here attracts travelers from all over the world for sightseeing here. This place is like a heaven for trekkers. As this place passes through the village for its many trekking trails and hence it is also a favorite trekking destination.

### Bhootnath Temple:

Bhootnath Temple is a major religious site located in Mandi whose spirituality dates back to the 1520s. This temple is as old as the city itself. Bhootnath Temple is located in the center of Mandi town and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. Tourists and pilgrims visiting here will see Nandi, the bull of Lord Shiva, located outside the complex. In March, the festival of Shiva Ratri is celebrated with great pomp here, and this is the main festival of this town and temple.

### Sundar Nagar:

Sundernagar was a princely state located east of Himachal Pradesh, which was earlier also known as Suket. The main attraction of the city of Sunder Nagar is the man-made lake created by the waters of the Beas Satluj Project. The project is touted as the biggest hydel project in India. The natural beauty of tall trees at this place attracts tourists. The city of Sunder nagar may be a small town, but if you come here, your mind will become very peaceful.

### Trilokinath Temple:

Triloki Nath Temple is a temple built in the Nagara style with a tiled roof. You can see beautiful views around this temple. Lord Shiva Shankar is described in this temple as the Lord of the three worlds. The idol of Lord Shiva is Panchanan in this temple, which shows the 5 forms of Shiva.

### Kamru Nag Lake:

Kamrunag Lake is situated at an altitude of 3,334 meters. Apart from the Kamrunag Lake, it is known for the lake and the temple. The view of the Dhauladhar range and Balah valley adds to the place's scenic beauty, where thick deodar forests surround the lake of Dev Kamrunag and the Pent Chhat temple. According to tradition, Kamrunag is the king Yaksha of the Mahabharata and was worshiped by the Pandavas. There is a tradition of devotees offering gold, silver, and coins to the lake upon the fulfillment of their wishes by Dev Kamrunag. It is not possible to estimate the quantity of gold, silver, and coins of other metals lying at the bottom of the lake. For nature lovers, a trip to Kamrunag is a trip to heaven. It takes 3 to 4 hours to complete the trek from Rohanda to Kamrunag on a 6 km steep mountain path.

### Chindi:

This is a small village away from the hustle and bustle of the city, sitting quietly in the lap of nature. The village is known for its scenic beauty and many small temples located here. Situated 107 km from Mandi, this place is easily accessible via Tattapani.

### Devigarh:

This place is full of natural beauty and has thick and dense deodar forests. This place is situated at an altitude of 7800 feet, and it is the last village of Jauni Valley. The temple of Mata Mundsan is situated here. Devidarh trek is on the route Janjehli – Shikari Devi – Devidarh – Kamrunag. Tourists can stay in the forest rest house at Devidarh.

### Bhima Kali Temple:

Situated on the banks of the river Beas, this temple is the main temple of Mandi, which is dedicated to Lord Bhimakali. This god was the presiding deity of the Bushar ruler. This temple is very beautiful, where the idols of many Gods have been displayed. According to the scholars, Lord Krishna killed Banasura and buried it at this place. This temple was built during the rule of Yadavas. Every year Kali Puja is performed here on a large scale in which lakhs of people participate.

### Kamalah Fort:

This fort is built in Kamlah village of Mandi, situated at an altitude of 4772 feet above sea level. It is situated near Hamirpur district, which comes under Sikandar Dharrange. This fort was built by Raja Suraj Sen in 1625 AD. Later in 1840, it was destroyed by Ventura, who was the general of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In 1846, this fort was rebuilt by the Raja of Mandi. The fort was named after the local saint Kamalah Baba.

### Shikari Devi Temple:

Shikari Devi Temple is about 18 km from Janjehli, and the forest area is connected by road. It is situated at an altitude of 3359 meters. The dense forests on the way to Shikari Shikhar are amazing. Being the highest peak of Mandi district, it is also known as Crown of Mandi. Vast green pastures, captivating sunrise, and sunset, panoramic views of snow ranges make this place a favorite for nature lovers. There is a lot of snow in this place during winters. One can approach Karsog by walking path, which is just 21 km away from Shikari Devi. On Shikari Shikhar, there is a roofless temple of Shikari Devi, the goddess of hunters, and the Pandavas established this temple. It is said that Rishi Markande also meditated at this place for many years. It is observed that even though the temple has no roof, no snow is observed in the temple premises during winters when the entire area around this temple is covered with snow for several feet. Visitors can travel from Shikri to Chindi, Karsog, Janjehli through various trek routes.