WALK IN TO THE STUNNING SACRED WATERS OF NAINITAL

The northern Himalayan state of India, Uttarakhand, has many breathtaking places to visit. With the adoring Himalayas covering most of its places, the climate is very pleasant most of the year, making for a comfortable stay for tourists, except in winters. Nainital is a Himalayan hill station which is situated in the Kumaon division. It lays at an elevation of around 2,000m and boasts many scenic beauties and beautiful landscapes. One can watch the snow view observation point at 2,270m, Nanda devi, Uttarakhand’s highest peak with a height of 7,816m, and other important best sights by traveling by a cable car. It lies 285 km away from the state capital Dehradun.

## Demographics of Nainital as per the year 2011:

* Division: Kumaon
* District: Nainital
* Area: 11.73 km square
* Elevation: 2,084 m
* Population: 41,377
* Literacy rate: 83.9 percent
* Density: 3,500 km square

**The name:**

**The city is**set in two parts, namely Tallital and Mallital, the southern and northern parts of the Nainital Lake. The lake acts as a separation point for both sides. The city is named after the Goddess Naina devi, the supreme Hindu goddess of the area. It is located around the lake Naini and hence the name Nainital. The Naini lake is in the eye form of eye or kidney-shaped.

# Places to visit in Nainital:

## Nainital Lake:

It is one of the most important destinations for recreation for families and couples. The lake is surrounded by seven hills, with the hilltops offering a magnificent view of the green heights. The shrubs and small plants on these hills are of great medical value used in Ayurvedic medicines. They also give couples a romantic setting with serene water and a pleasant climate. Hence, it is one of the most visited lakes in India. For spiritual aspirants, there is also a story that makes this lake so special. It is said that once upon a time, two sages visited this place and blessed it with godly powers and a dip in this holy water one can attain salvation.

**Dimensions of the lake:**

* **Surface area:** 120.5 acres
* **Maximum depth**: 30.3 m
* **Surface elevation**: 1,938m
* **Location**: main city, Nainital
* **Distance:** 1.5 kms from Roadways bus stand, Tallital, Nainital

**Entry type:** paid entry

INR 120 per hour for pedaling and rowing

Rowing and pedaling in decorative boats INR 150 for a round trip

**Exploration time:** 2 hours

**Timings:** 6 am to 6 pm

Natural beauties give an imaginative treat to many writers. Many famous poets have included this lake and the serene water here in their picturesque description. Every year, tourists visit thousands to indulge themselves in the beauty of the wondrous water.

It is said that it was founded accidentally by the British businessman prof. Barron happened to visit the lake while on a hunting expedition. Spellbound by its magical beauty, he built a European colony around it.

**How to reach Naini Lake:**

You can reach Naini Lake by taxi or lake from Kathgodam lake, which is about 35 km. The nearest railway station is Kathgodam railway station, and the nearest airport is Pant Nagar airport which is about 55 km or Delhi IGI airport.

**Famous for:**

* Naini lake offers many recreation activities like Boating, kayaking, Yachting, romantic trips, etc.
* There are also small eateries around which serve decent enough snacks to munch in between your shires.

## Aerial ropeway:

This ropeway which offers a majestic view of the whole city of Nainital and the Naini lake, is a major attraction for tourists. It gives a bird's eye view of the snow-capped mountains, thick green meadows, hilly vegetation, and the beautiful Naini Lake. Moreover, it connects the snow viewpoint with Mallital in a swift ride which takes 3 minutes.

* **Location: main city** Nainital, starts at Mallital till snow viewpoint
* **Distance: 1.8 kms** from Roadways bus stand, Tallital, Nainital. Takes about 10 minutes for the same
* **Time needed: 2 hours**
* **Entry type:** paid

**Prices:**

* **for** adults INR 150
* For children from 3 years to 12 years INR 100

Nainital's aerial ropeway is considered one of the safest and fastest ropeways in India. It gives you the panoramic view of the entire Nainital city, its picturesque landscapes, freshwater bodies, and wonderful hills and snowy mountains. The technology behind its construction is very advanced, which covers very deep ascends and descends. The maximum limit of people is 11, and the maximum weight is 825 kgs.

**Famous for:** bird's eye view of the top part of the city Nainital and its viewpoints. Speed while covering the distance.

**How to reach Aerial ropeway:**

The starting point for ropeway is Mallital which is the northern part of Nainital. You can take the bus from the Nainital bus stand. In addition, you can hire a taxi or a cab which are easily available on the main road.

## Naina devi temple:

According to Hindu religious texts, Naina Devi is one of the 18 Sakthi Peethams where Goddess Sati or Parvathi's eyes fell while being carried by her husband Lord Shiva after she jumped into the holy fire(Yagna) performed by her father, Daksha. There is a big peepal tree and an idol of Lord Hanuman on the campus of the temple. The temple's main area has three deities with two eyes in the center, which represent Naina devi, Kali mata, and to the right Lord Ganesha. Outside the sanctum, you can find two lions guarding the mata.

**Beauty of the temple:**

Maa Naina presiding over the lake is eternally grateful. The city which overlooks from here is also vivid. It is very near to Naina Lake and the magnificent hillocks. It provides tranquility and peace with its divine surroundings.

**Famous festivals performed in Naina temple:**

Nanda Ashtami, a festival that runs for eight days with the immersion of Nanda Devi, the sister of Naina Devi, is celebrated grandly. Other Hindu festivals like Navratri, Chaitra fairs are also observed grandly. It is considered auspicious to seek Goddess’s blessings during this time, but since its is a busy period in the temple, it is usually very crowded. So plan you're itinerary accordingly.

* Location: edge of Nainital lake, Mallital, Near Flatts
* Distance: 2.5 kms from Nainital bus stop
* Exploration time: 30 minutes
* **Entry type**: free
* **Famous for:** Nanda Ashtami, Navratri festivals and aarti

## The mall road:

The mall road is very busy in Nainital with tourists fluttering around all through the year. Aside from the Nainital lake connects two famous ends of the Nainital city, Mallital and Tallital.

It has been renamed as Govind Ballabh Pant Marg but is still called by its old name. The beauty of Naini Lake can be enjoyed from this place.

* Location: Beside Naini lake, main city Nainital
* Distance: 1.6 kms from Roadways bus stand, Tallital, Nainital. Takes around 5 minutes
* **Entry type:** free
* **Time required: 2 hours**
* **Working timings:** 9 am to 10 pm

It is a very busy shopping area with many shops, restaurants, banks, hotels, and small stalls. You can freely enter with your vehicle, but vehicles are not allowed into the street during the peak season like May and June, where tourists are flooded to the city.

**Famous for:** Candles made in different shapes, sizes, and colors, handicraft items, artifacts items, handlooms, blankets, and shawls.

**How to reach Mall Road:**

Since it is located in the city's heart, you can easily reach there by taking a cab or a taxi. There are many hotels around the area. If you are staying in any one of them, you can eve there by walk.

## Snow viewpoint:

To experience the mystic view of the great Himalayas, a ride into nature's pathway is essential. Snow's viewpoint is nothing but heaven in front of eyes for such an avid nature lover. Be it the snow-capped mountains or the divine waters of the Naina lake, the Snow viewpoint is the best in Nainital. Thanks to the beautiful Mother Nature, the beautiful Nandakot, Nanda Devi, and Trishul appear even more appealing from this place.

* **Location:** main city, Nainital, Hilltop of Mallital
* **Distance:** 3.7 kms from Roadways Bus stand, Tallital, Nainital takes about 15 minutes
* **Entry type:** free
* **Exploration time:** 2 hours

Some of the important sights here are small temples consisting of the idols of Lord Rama, Ma Sita, Lakshman, Hanuman, Shiva, and Durga. The facility of large binoculars, which enables a view of the minute magnificent areas surrounding the area, is available. In addition, there is a peaceful abode; a Tibetan Monastery called Gadhan Kunkyop Ling Gompa is also worth visit.

Famous for: Great viewpoints, recreation spots

## Nainital Zoo:

The only Zoo of the Uttarakhand state, the Nainital Zoo or officially, Govind Ballabh Pant High Altitude Zoo, is a great place for wildlife lovers. This place is very well maintained and covers an area of 4.693 hectares. You can also see many endangered species, wild animals, and rare birds. As the name indicates, it is situated at the height of 2100 meters. Many animals and birds have made it their home locally, being called Sher ka Danda.

* **Location:** Near to Tallital bus stand
* **Distance:** 1.8 kms from Roadways bus stand, Nainital
* **Type of entry** paid

**Entry fee:**

* Adults: 13- 60 years INR 50
* Children (5-12 years): INR 20
* Camera fee: INR 25
* **Timings:** 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

**Weekly holiday:** Monday

Holiday on Diwali and Holi

**Some specialties of the Zoo:**

* Tibetan wolf
* Himalayan Black bear
* Himalayan Civet
* Silver pheasant
* Silver golden pheasant
* White pea fowl, Red Jungle fowl
* Royal Bengal tiger, Leopard
* Blossom headed parakeet, Rose ringed parakeet

**How to reach Nainital Zoo:**

It is just 2 km from Tallital bus stand. There is no entry for private vehicles. However, share trips by Jeep are available. You can also opt to trek to the Zoo, which is also a good choice to enjoy the surroundings leisurely.

**Famous for**: Wildlife tourism and endangered species

**Other important places:**

* Tiffin top situated at Ayarpatta region famous as a picnic spot
* Eco cave gardens, newly developed tourist spot
* Kilbury, a famous birding route and a picnic spot
* Gurney House, which was long back home of Jim Corbett and now a colonial cottage
* The Flatts, a well-known recreation spot for tourists offering a great view of the mountain valleys

**Best hotels in Nainital:**

## Sterling Nainital:

Sterling is located 7 km from Nainital Lake and 9 km from the Mountaintop snow viewpoint. From Kathgodam railway station it is 35 km.

**Facilities available are:**

* Free wifi
* Free breakfast
* Free parking
* Air conditions rooms
* Laundry service

The services are good, and the hotel is well maintained. There are limited options on the food menu, but the offerings are good. They serve North Indian meals in a pleasant environment.

Online booking comes from 3,500 onwards per head.

## Manu maharani hotel:

Manu maharani hotel is situated 2 km away from Nainital Lake and Ropeway. It features rooms with tea and coffee makers, small fridges, flat TVs, furnished terraces offering a good dining experience. Bar, Gym, Sauna, and steam room are available with reasonable charges. It is a luxury resort, and the rates come close to 10,000 per head.

## Vikram vintage Inn:

Located in the hills of Mallital, Vikram Vintage Inn is one of the best places in Nainital. It is situated 4 km away from Naini hills. They have all the facilities like Wi-Fi, well-ventilated rooms, tea and coffee making facilities, free parking, a wood-paneled restaurant which offers authentic food, a fitness room, Table tennis, indoor badminton, a small bar, and beautiful surroundings.

Prices start from 2,700 for a premium room.

They also provide complimentary toiletries, reading lamps, cable, satellite TVs, and other facilities on request.

**Other hotels that you can look for are:**

* **Aamari hotel:** INR 5,000 starting
* **Country Inn hotel:** INR 2,500
* **Himlaica hotel**: INR 7,000

These are budget-friendly hotels, but tourists are requested to check the rates before checking in.

With its scenic beauty, delicious food, great Himalayan valleys, simple local culture, and friendly locals, Nainital invites tourists from all over the world for a great travelling experience. So get your shoes on for this marvelous place this time for life long, memorable experience.