**RANIKHET: DESTINATION FOR YOUR TRAVEL TO TRANQUILITY**

Ranikhet is a beautiful hill station located in the Northern Himalayan state of India, Uttarakhand. The state, famous for its scenic hill stations, boasts another tiny town full of all-embracing nature. With the beauty of lush green orchards, distinct species of birds and animals, sky-high view of the great snowy Himalayas. One would be awestruck with the beauty of this place, leaving no place unseen. Be it the temple bells of Jhula Devi or the tasty fruits that grow on the orchards of Chaubatia Gardens. It offers a spectacular experience of the nature, culture and spirituality served on a panoramic platter. Lying at an elevation of 1,896 meters shows the peaks reaching the sky in a sizzling style.

It lies in the district of Almora, which also has other splendid places like Binsar, Kausani and Manila.

**History of Ranikhet:**

Ranikhet was under Nepalese rule a long time ago. With constant struggle, it was taken away by the Kumaon people with sheer guidance from Kashinath Adhikari. Later it was re-discovered by the British in 1869 and they made it the headquarters of the Kumaon regiment. Its beauty so enthralled the British that they wished to make it the summer capital of India.

**Culture:**

The culture of Ranikhet is unique and a pleasure to experience. The local language is Kumaoni, and the official languages are Sanskrit, Hindi and Kumaoni. Since Hinduism is followed in the majority of the places, major Hindu festivals like Shivaratri, Ram Navmi, Janmashtami and Deepawali are celebrated grandly. There are also some local seasonal festivals like the Nanda Devi fair, Shayaldeh mela and Dwarahat fair. Vegetables like Potato, Radish, Pumpkin, Spinach and Colocasia leaves are grown locally here and are used extensively in Kumaoni cuisine. Their food is highly nutritious and natural.

**Demographics**:

**Population:** 1,00,124

**Males:** 49,720

**Females:** 50,404

**Literate people**:

75,252, out of which 41,223 are male and 34,029 are female.

**Major occupation:**

Agriculture

**How to reach Ranikhet:**

Ranikhet is a small town in Kumaon and does not have an airport of its own.

The nearest airport is Pantnagar in Udhamsingh Nagar. Flights travel from here to Delhi airport only on certain days of the week. They are operated by All India Regional and Alliance air.

It would help to travel to Delhi first as Indira Gandhi International Airport is the closest airport to Ranikhet.

**Distances from Pantnagar airport to Ranikhet:**

Pant Nagar airport lies 119 km from Ranikhet. You can easily get taxis and cabs from the airport. Indira Gandhi International Airport is 370 km from Ranikhet. It takes almost eight hours from Delhi airport to reach Ranikhet.

Delhi also experiences a pleasant climate. All through the year, the climate in Ranikhet is pleasant. So, there will not be hassles in traveling. So, flight connectivity is easier and convenient.

**Places to visit in Ranikhet**:

**Chaubatia gardens:**

Chaubatia Gardens is situated 10 km south of Ranikhet. Chaubatia in the local language means a junction of 4 ways.

**Location:** 10 km from south Ranikhet.

**Distance:** 6.9 km from Ranikhet, takes about 20 minutes by car.

**Exploration time**: 2 hours

**Famous for**:

Vast garden of gorgeous green fields

**Description:**

Located at an altitude of 1,800 meters above sea level, Chaubatia Gardens spreads over 600 acres. It is a treat to nature lovers. With almost 200 varieties of Horticulture products, it is one of the oldest Botanical gardens of India. It is a vast place with spectacular fauna in the cantonment area. The view of the lofty mountains as you drive along gives a memorable experience. The products are grown naturally and are exported to several other places. Large Apple, pine and pear trees can be found until the reach of your eyesight, giving a spectacular sight of the gracious green cover.

**Jhula Devi temple:**

The Jhula Devi temple is an ancient Hindu temple of the Goddess Durga who is locally known as Jhula Devi. It is located 7 km from Ranikhet. There used to be a number of wild animals that wandered in the dense forests of Ranikhet and attacked villagers.

**The story behind the establishment of the temple:**

AS the area was covered by very thick forests, many wild animals and giant creatures used to attack the villagers and they happened t pray to Goddess Durga to protect them. Then Devi maa appeared in their dreams and advised them to establish her idol and offer prayers.

**The uniqueness of the temple:**

Many bells adorn Jhula Devi temple in the temple premises. For this, locals have an interesting story to reveal. The Goddess after asking for establishment of her idol started granting wishes of the villagers. Once a wish is granted, the villagers would come and donate a bell at the temple. Now tourists can see many such bells and the tintinnabulation of the bells in the serene shrine.

**Location:**

Ranikhet in Amora district, near Chaubatia Gardens

**Distance:**

7 km from Ranikhet

**How to reach**:

There are many state-owned and private buses are operated from ISBT Anand Vihar, Delhi. You can hire a cab from Almora to reach Ranikhet.

**Nearest Railway station:**

Kathgodam railway station, 75 km from Ranikhet. From Kathgodam, buses and taxis are available to reach Ranikhet.

**Nearest Airport:**

Pant Nagar Airport, 110 km away from Ranikhet. Taxis and buses are available to reach Ranikhet.

Majkhali:

**Location:**

6km from Golf ground, Near Ranikhet

**Distance:**

12 km from Ranikhet, takes about 30 minutes

**Exploration time:**

2 hours

**Famous for**: Golf course, picnic spots in and around

Majkali is a famous spot in Ranikhet which gives a magnificent view of the snow-capped mountains and the hilltops around. This is the place where you can find a variety of plants and animals. Goddess Kali temple is also another famous temple where devotees visit in numerous numbers.

**How to reach**:

It is located 12 km from Ranikhet, Almora road. Taxis and Jeeps are easily available to reach here.

Upat Golf course road:

Upat Golf course is one of the highest Golf courses in Asia, located 6 km from Ranikhet.

**Location:**

Near Ghingari kal, Ranikhet

**Distance:**

6 km from Ranikhet

**Exploration time:**

One hour

**About Golf course:**

The Upat Golf course is the highest Golf course in Asia which has a nine-hole Golf course and boasts very well maintained green grass. If you are an avid Golfer, then you can take a membership plan in the club. While traveling to the place, you can find the mesmerizing Himalayas.

**How to reach:**

Upat Golf course is located 6 km from Ranikhet and 1 km away from Upat Kalika temple. The nearest city to this place is Almora and can be accessed easily by taxis or buses. From ISBT Anand Vihar, Delhi you can reach Amora and from there you can hire a taxi.

Bhalu dam:

4 km from Chaubatia Garden,

**Distance:**

9 km from Ranikhet

**Exploration time:**

1 hour

Famous for:

picnic spot, hiking

This is a great picnic spot and offers space for hiking also. The surroundings are great to view, with the great Himalayas covered with snow and the hills offering great wildlife. This is the best place for picnicking and camping as it is a small, isolated place that offers serenity.

**How to reach:**

From Chaubatia gardens, you need to take 3 km stretch trek. The nearest Railway station is Kathgodam, 79 km from Chaubatia.

The closest airport is Pantnagar, 110 km from Ranikhet.

The roads here are in poor condition and are a lonely place. So it is better not to take any private vehicle

**Dwarahat:**

This peaceful town is located in the breathtaking Kumaon hills of Kumaon and is at an elevation of 1,510 meters above sea level in the pleasant Almora district.

Dwarahat means “way to heaven,” which aptly suits the location. The Katyuri kings build ancient temples. The architecture is marvelous to watch and takes you back to the kingly atmosphere.

**Location:**

Panchayat near Almora, 37 km from Ranikhet

**Exploration time**:

3 hours

**Famous fo**r:

Temples, picnic

How to reach:

112 km from Pant Nagar, from there you can get taxis or cabs easily. Uttarakhand government buses are also available to reach the place.

**Railway station:**

Kathgodam is the nearest railway station at 88 km distance.

**About Dwarahat:**

There is beautiful village tourism in Dwarahat, with almost 52 distinctly designed temples as old as the 11th century. One can explore hillocks, their tales, culture and tradition. The food is also worth mention here with all village-style spices and delicious drinks.

A nature walk into Dwarahat takes you to a different world with scenic beauties that leave you spellbound. It is no surprise that it is hard to leave the place once you experience its tranquility.

Other important places worth visiting are Haidakhan temple, Ram mandir, and Dwarahat, which offer splendid scenic views.

Overall, Ranikhet is heaven on its own that would leave a lifelong pleasing memory for travel biz in you. Grab a ticket for this nature’s very own home, this time for a serene recreation.

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