Uttarakhand

The land of nature's bounty and spiritual attractions, Uttarakhand is one of the northern states in India. Being bestowed with unmatched natural beauty as well as numerous ancient pilgrimage places, the state can be called an ideal tourist destination for one and all. Come here to have the time of your life in the lap of Mother Nature and feel yourself closer to the Almighty.

Uttarakhand was declared the 27th state of India on November 9th in the year 2000. Situated in the northern edges of the country the place is adorned with alluring landscapes all across. Based on cultural difference the state has been divided into two major parts viz. Garhwal and Kumaon. The snowy terrain of the region and gushing rivers give way to numerous adventurous activities like Paragliding, Skiing, Ice skating, River rafting, Trekking and many more.

Apart from the adrenaline pumping experiences, the state also has numerous Hindu temples which makes it a popular religious destination. Haridwar, which is an important temple city for the Hindus is located in Uttarakhand. Rishikesh and the 'Char Dham' are also a part of this state.

What To SEE

1. Sitabani Temple

Sitabani Temple is located 20 km from Ramnagar. The temple is beautiful and a perfect place to attain peace. A fair is organised every year on the auspicious day of Ramnavami and thousands of visitors attend the fair. The structure of the temple makes it an attractive monument. Make a visit to this temple for a unique experience. Sitabani Temple should be in your itinerary once you make a trip to Corbett. Don't forget to click some awesome pictures as this temple has a great view.

2. Haridwar

The holy town of Haridwar marks the arrival of the River Ganga into the Northern plains, the first time since its origin at Gaumukh, Gangotri. Visitors hail from all across the country, and globe, for a dip in the holy waters of the river, which is believed to wash away one's sins and help attain salvation. The Ganges flows in rapids here, and people throng the Har ki Pauri to take a holy dip in the fast flowing waters. Har ki
Pauri has an interesting legend which says that when Garuda, the holy bird, was carrying the pitcher of Amrita (nectar of the Gods), four drops fell, one of which made a pool in Haridwar, now known as Hari ki Pauri. Don’t go too deep or you run the risk of drowning. Evenings are a magical time here, when thousands of earthen lamps are immersed in the river after the aarti. Along the banks of the Ganges, the Chandi Devi Temple, built by the King of Kashmir, rests atop the Neel Parvat. Another important temple in the vicinity is the Maya Devi Temple, where, it is believed that Sati’s heart and navel fell. A cable car ride will take you to the Mansa Devi Temple. The holy town is one of the most sacred Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. The city is also famous for 12-yearly Kumbh Mela, when devotees throng here in large numbers. For a truly fervent, spiritual experience, attend the magnificent and elaborate evening aarti and prayer offerings at Har ki Pauri. Blessed with nature’s bounty, Haridwar is home to beautiful flora and fauna. Rajaji National Park offers organised tours and safaris for a closer look at the wildlife. Padartha Farms, located within the premise of the Patanjali Yogpeeth, is the biggest food park in the country. It comes as a respite for city dwellers, with acres of lush farmland and meditation centres. The charming town has been immortalised in many a fiction tales, especially Ruskin Bond’s most loved stories. Remember Bara Bazaar from A Room On The Roof? A popular market, go shopping in the Bara Bazaar, located on the Railway Road. The local delicacies are strictly vegetarian and drinking is not allowed in the city.

3 Ranikhet

Ranikhet is one of those rare hill stations that gives nature precedence over man. So don’t be surprised when you come face to face with a sign that cautions, “Leopards have the right of way”. They do. So do monkeys that swing through its trees, the deer and bears that hide in the thick of its groves or the birds that soar in its sky. Ironically, this thickly forested paradise was brought into existence by the British, who in the late 1860s came looking to house army and administration in a hilly “station” that could provide both strategic and economic advantages to the colonial masters. The natural beauty of the Ranikhet highlands was a hands-down winner.

The tranquil meadows surrounded by soaring pine and leafy oak forests with a 180 degree panoramic view of the Himalaya provided ideal environs to house an army regiment. What’s more, its surrounding environs provided the most important natural economic resources of the time, such as timber and resin, both of which were used in the construction of one of the largest railroad systems in the world. This place is a must visit!

4 Lansdowne

Away from the usual tourist traffic and crowded markets, this quaint and offbeat little hill-station in the Pauri Garhwal region is a legacy of the British, particularly the viceroy Lord Lansdowne, after whom it takes its name. With lush green surroundings, dense pine and oak forests and refreshingly clean air, Lansdowne is best suited for those looking for peace and tranquility. The area comes under Indian Army’s Garhwal Rifles, due to which its infrastructure is well-maintained and make Lansdowne’s roads highly accessible. Commercial activity is restricted, which helps to keep its unspoiled, untouched charm intact. The popular Snow-View Point offers a stunning view of some of the Himalayan peaks like Chaukhamba. Take slow, quiet walks around town or go for a more rigorous trek in the steep tracks around Lansdowne to completely soak in its spectacular beauty.

Also known to be one of the quietest hill stations in India. It exists in, around and because of the cantonment — the command office of the Garhwal Rifles Battalion of the Indian Army is located here. The Cantonment Board is in charge of the administration, saving Lansdowne from unchecked development. Back in the Raj, it was a popular hill station. Formerly Kalundanda, it was named after Sir Henry Petty-Fitzmaurice, Marquis of Lansdowne and Viceroy of India from 1888-1894. Winding roads are still lined with colonial bungalows. The town gets many migratory birds due to its proximity to the Sonanadi Division of Corbett NP.

5 Kausani
Kausani, near Almora in Uttarakhand, is popularly associated with the Anashakti Ashram, which played host to Mahatma Gandhi and based on which he wrote the "Anashakti Yog". The hill-town offers a breathtaking, 300kms-wide view of the Himalayan range, including the majestic peaks of Nanda Devi, Panchchuli and Trishul, particularly scenic when the mountains change their hues at dusk and dawn. For this, Mahatma Gandhi famously dubbed this beautiful hillstation as the "Switzerland of India". The lush green trees, thick pine forests and softly fragrant, blossoming flowers offer a chance to experience nature in all its bounty, perfect for a calm, quiet walk around town.

Where To Eat

1. Foodies

Beside Asthan Mall, Lakhanpur, Ramnagar, Jim Corbett National Park, Corbett, Uttarakhand 244715, India
+91-594-7253022

Foodies is a great place to hang out with loved ones. The ambience of this restaurant attracts every food lover out there. A must visit place if you are looking for great food. Experience yourself going into a different zone when you taste the food served here. A paradise for food lovers. One can taste different types of food that are made by the brilliant chefs. Do visit the restaurant, Foodies to have a great time in Corbett along with loved ones.

2. Dosa Plaza

Nirmala Sarey, Opposite Railway Station, Haridwar, Uttarakhand 249401, India
+91-22-27830707

If you are an ardent lover of South Indian food, and thought that you might not even hear of an option for the same in a town like Haridwar, Dosa Plaza is here to surprise you. Right opposite to the railway station, Dosa Plaza doles out the crunchiest, tastiest of dosas in the town, along with mini idlis and uttapams as their specialities. Chach, another delicacy, is something that’s not to be missed here. Relatively new in the region, it's carve a niche with the upmarket ambiance and efficient service.

3. Big Ben Restaurant

Railway Road, Haridwar Main Road, Devpura, Haridwar, Uttarakhand 249401, India
+91-1334-220938

Enjoy the soothing ambience of Big Ben Restaurant with one of the best veg thalis in town. The music here adds charm to the place which is rare to the religious town of Haridwar. Located at a walking distance from both the railway station and the bus stand, the restaurant is not only convenient to reach but is also perfect for a meal for the entire family. The service can be a bit staff here can sometimes make you work on your vocal chords more than it is required but the food makes up for it big time. Try the paranthas here along with raitas of different kinds.

4. Freedom Ganga Cafe

Near Lakshman Jhula, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand 249302, India

Want to enjoy a cup of nice coffee along with the best pasta in town? If yes, then Freedom Ganga Cafe is just the place to be at. Walk in here to hang out with friends after a long day of sightseeing and enjoy the possibly best continental dishes in Haridwar. And for the ones in love with the traditional north Indian fare, there’s the crispiest of ‘paranthas’ that comes with a variety of stuffing options, including cheese and more.

5. Four Seasons
Kulri, The Mall Near Picture Palace, Mussoorie, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, 248179, India

Tired after a long day of sightseeing or shopping and looking for a place where you can relax and unwind? Here is when Four Seasons comes into picture! Step in and raise a toast to the gala time you are going to have in here. The lavish spread has everything you want in the name of Chinese cuisine; ranging from steaming momos, tasty noodles to delicious soups and rice, you will love every offering on the menu. If you also want to try the delectable Indian spread, don't forget to order Paneer Pasanda, Paneer Tikka, Malai Kofta, Dal Makhni and more. Rest be assured that you are in for a delectable eating out experience at Four Seasons. The attentive staff makes sure you are comfortable and enjoying your dining to the fullest.