CHAPTER-III

TOURISM IN HILLY REGION OF UTTAR PRADESH

Uttar Pradesh, being one of the largest states of India with an area of 2,94,411 sq.kms. and a population of 13.88 crore, is endowed by nature with an immense potential for development of tourism industry. The northern part of the state with its majestic snow-clad peaks, glaciers, legendary life - giving sacred rivers, lush green valleys, streams and waterfalls, fauna and flora have always attracted tourists from all over the world. The plains which can be well defined as "cradle of civilization", has a rich heritage which is reflected in its colossal monuments, historic forts which bear a stamp of excellence in architecture ad sculpture. They speak and breathe history. Ancient temples, Viharas, archeological remains of great significance are voluntary attraction for tourists.

Uttar Pradesh as we say, can be divided into two parts. One is Eastern U.P. and the other is Western U.P. There are nine hill districts/ which comes under the following two regions:

1. Garhwal Region
2. Kumaon Region
Garhwal Region:

Garhwal region is comprises of five districts i.e. Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Pauri, Tehri & Chamoli. The beauty of Garhwal region is picture perfect, a fusion of high mountain valley and lakes, of many streams and among India's greatest rivers. Garhwal the abode of the Gods, nestles in the midst of the Himalayas. The faith of an old people has kept alive a lifestyle that dates back by several centuries. The playgrounds of the gods, where legends have sanctity of history, and where people are warm and hospitable in a manner unknown to modern metropolises.

Location:

The Garhwal himalayas are sandwiched between the Tibetan plateau and the Indian plain. The Garhwal himalayas stretch just over 290 kms and are separated from the Punjab himalayas by the river Sutlej. Garhwal is flanked by Tibet in the north, Kumaon in the east, Bijnor in the south and Tehri and Dehradun in the west. Further Garhwal is bound by the Yamuna in the west and the Ganga in the east.

Topography:

The western perimeter of the region runs along the Tons-Sutlej watershed in Uttarkashi district. This is the most definite physical feature in the sub-continent and divides the Indus waters flowing west into the
Arabian sea from those of the Ganga flowing east into the Bay of Bengal. The area constitute of Rupin, Boraso, Lamkhaga and Kinnaur pass. The eastern parameter of Garhwal runs along the outer rim of the Nanda Devi sanctuary down to the Alaknanda - Pindar influence in Chamoli district, on the route to Ranikhet in Kumaon, and over the Ramgaanga.

Some of the country's most enduring rivers and many of the most spectacular valleys are situated here. Right in the heart of this terrain, west of the sources of the Alaknanda, and across the Kalindi Khal escapement, flows the Chaturangi glacier which then merges with the Gangotri glacier at Nandanban leading at its snout Gaumukh, the origin of the mighty Bhagirathi. Lower down at Devprayag, the meeting point of the Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda marks the birth of the holy Ganga as it flows on to the plains at Haridwar.

A number of passes link the valleys of these rivers with those of the Mandakini and Bhilangara, presenting unforgettable views. The Gangotri glacier is not only a trekker's nodal point but also the base for number of challenging peaks.

**Access:**

The Garhwal himalayas are about six hours by bus from Delhi. The main entry points are Rishikesh and
Dehradun and can easily be reached by bus. Taxis are also available. Additionally, the overnight Mussorrie Express links Delhi with Dehradun and Rishikesh by train while Vayodoot flies regularly to Jollygrant airfield. The distance is 20 kms. from Dehradun.

A 40 minutes drive links Dehradun with Rishikesh. For the visits to western Garhwal, in the Tons-Yamuna region, the starting point is Dehradun or Mussorrie whereas for the Alaknanda-Bhairavi Khatling-Mandakini region, Rishikesh is the point of departure. Rishikesh can also be reached by train or/road from Haridwar, 29 kms. away. From Dehradun and Rishikesh there are trunk motor routes to Purola in the Tons Valley (for Har-ki-doong), Barkot and Hanuman Chatti (for Yamunotri and the Yamuna valley), Tehri, Uttarkashi and Gangotri and the Badrinath, Joshimath and Malawi. The Alaknanda, Manadakini and Dhauli valleys lead to Kedarnath, Auli the Kuari Pass, the Valley of Flowers, Hemkund, the Nanda Devi Sanctuary and the approach to Kamet, Abi Gamin and the Niti pass.

Dehradun District:

The Doon valley situated between the two most important rivers of India, i.e. Ganga & Yamuna, is most picturesque having moderate climate, nestling a number of places of tourist interest.
The renowned religious town of Rishikesh, the queen of hills Mussorrie, the renowned sulphur springs at Sahastradhara and a part of Rajaji National Park, the quiet Chakrata hills all lie in this district.

PLACES OF TOURISM INTEREST:

Dehradun: This is the headquarter of the district situated at an altitude of 2200 feet above sea-level. It is one of the most developed cities of India having moderate climate connected by train with Calcutta, Mumbai, Delhi, Allahabad, Ujjain and Amritsar and is only 254 km from Delhi. It is also connected by air and there are regular Vayudoot flights from Delhi.

The places to be visited nearby are Sahastradhara (14 kms), Robbers Cave (8 kms), Forest Research Institute (5 kms), Tapkeshwar Temple (5.5 kms), Laxman Sidh (12 kms), Malsi Deer Park (9 kms).

There are a number of good hotels, besides a tourist bangalow (Hotel Drona), PWD, Irrigation and Forest rest houses and dharmshalas.
Accommodation:

Hotel
Presidency Hotel
Hotel Ekta
Hotel Indra Lok
Hotel Shehensha
Hotel Ajanta Continental
Hotel Madhuban
Hotel Relax
Hotel Prince
Hotel Medows Grand
Hotel Deepshikha
Hotel Quality
Hotel Draun
New Moti Mahal Hotel
Shipra Hotel
Hotel Nivesh
White House
Mandakini Hotel

Address
6, Aasley Hall, Rajpur Road
113/1-2 Rajpur Road
Rajpur Road
Rajpur Road
Rajpur Road
97, Rajpur Road
7 Court Road
1, Haridwar Road
28, Rajpur Road
28, Rajpur Road
19, Rajpur Road
Gandhi Road
Gandhi Road
74C, Rajpur Road
Chakrata Road
Littan Road
Haridwar Road

Dharmshalas:
Aggarwal Dharmshala
Jain Dharmshala
Shivaji Dharmshala

Address
Gandhi Road
Gandhi Road
Gandhi Road

Others:

Address
YVCA Guest House
Railway Rest House

Railway Station
Railway Station
Mussoorie: Famous as queen of hills this charming hill station is situated at an altitude of 3000 metres above sea-level and is 36 kms. from Dehradun, connected by a good motorable road.

The places to be visited nearby are Municipal Garden (4 kms), Kempty Fall (14 kms), Gunhill (through cable car), Depot Hills (5 kms). The Jheel (6 kms).

There are a number of good hotels besides a tourist bungalow, PWD inspection house and a couple of dharmashalas.

**Accommodation**

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<td>Hotel Solitaír Plaza</td>
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<td>Hotel Hovard International</td>
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Hotel Classic Heights
Canaught Castle
Shining Star
Hotel Shiva continental
Mili Giri
Dansvik Court
Carltons Places Hotel
Vikas Hotel
Naaz Hotel
Regal Hotel
Moti Palace
Rony Hotel
Kashmir Hotel
Prince Hotel
Adarsh Hotel
Anupama Hotel
Himalaya Hotel
Hotel Honeymoon
Rama Hotel
Apsara Hotel
Holiday moon Hotel

Government Accommodations:

Tourist Complex
Y.W.C.A.
Holiday Home

Library Chowk
The Mall
The Mall
The Mall
Camels Back Marg
Baroda estates
Happy Valley Road
Dharmshalas:
Jain Dharmsala
Musafir Khana
Sanatan Dharm Mandir
Paying Guest facility is also available in Mussoorie.

Excursions: Dhanolti (26 k.ms), Surkhanda Devi (35 k.ms), Chamba (57 k.ms), New Tehri (70 k.ms), Nagtiba (48 k.ms).

Rishikesh: A celebrated spiritual centre, Rishikesh enjoys a calm environment, impressive water front and dense forest hills. Virtually a town of saints, sages and scholars, Rishikesh is a large religious centre situated at the right bank of river Ganga.

There are a number of Ashrams where religious discourses are held for the benefit of the visitors. The place is also a renowned centre for Yoga teachings.

The places to be seen nearby are Triveni Chat, Bharat temple, Venkateshwar temple, Muni-ki-Reti, Laxmanjholua, Swargashram, Geeta Bhawan, Parmarth Niketan, Divine Life-Society.

River rafting is another attraction for Rishikesh. A number of organisations have established their camps 15 kms. upstream.
**Accommodation:**

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Good hotels are available in addition to a tourist bungalow and many dharmshalas.
**Dak Pathar:** Under the Yamuna Hydel Scheme, Dak Pathar has emerged as a tourist spot which boasts of lush green lawns and blooming gardens. It is 45 kms. situated on Dehradun-Chakrata road and is connected by regular bus-service.

**Accommodation:**

A tourist bungalow and few hotels are available.

**Kalsi:** It is about 5 kms. from Dak Pathar on way to Chakrata, where there is an Ashoka edict inscribed on the sizeable rock. It is preserved by National Archaeological Department.

**Chakrata:** Situated at a distance of 92 kms. from Dehradun, at the elevation of about 7000 feet. Chakrata is known for its serene environ and sylvan charm. The place is devoid of all artificiality and one can move in perfect calm and in pollution free atmosphere.

The northern part of Chakrata sub-division, provides most fascinating area for trekkers and nature lovers. Covered by dense virgin forest, dotted with attractive villages of colourful Jaunsari tribe, the area is dominated by 10,000 feet high peak of Kharamba. On its northern slopes is situated Mundali (9,000), where skiing
is possible during the period from November to April. Deoband (9,000), Kanasar (8,500), Kathiyan (7,000) (all connected by road), Molta (7,000), Tiger Fall near Chakrata are some other spots worth visiting. The famous temple of Mahasu Deota at Hanoli is annually visited by thousands of pilgrims from Garhwal and Himachal Pradesh.

**Accommodation:**

One can find accommodation in the forest rest house. There are few ordinary hotels also.

**Laxman Sidh:** This picturesque place about 12 kms. from Dehradun on Haridwar road is frequented by a large number of people specially on Sundays. Legend has it that a saint underwent penance at this place. The place is connected by local-bus service.

**Lakhamandal:** About 80 kms. from Mussoorie on Mussoorie-Yamnotri road Lakamandal is believed to be the place where Duryodhana of Mahabharat episode conspired to burn alive the Pandavas in the Lakshyagriha a house specially constructed with shellac.

There is a temple believed to be constructed in the eighth century with a number of carved figures on stone which are of archaeological significance.
UTTAR KASHI

Uttarkashi was originally a part of Tehri Garhwal. But soon after independence, when Tehri Garhwal kingdom merged with India, it was made a district of the Kumaon division.

In 1960, it was made a border district with the district headquarter at Uttarkashi. The district is more important because of the two very significant pilgrimage-centres viz., Gangotri and Yamunotri the sources of the two rivers, Ganga (Bhagirathi) and Yamuna.

Irrigation a large part of northern India these rivers finally unite at Allahabad also known as Prayag Raj. Topographically, the district is mountainous but a net-work of roads has made all parts easily accessible. Dodital, Dayara, Harsil, Gaumukh, Nandan-Van, Tapovan, Harkidoon, Kushkalyan are some of the places of tourist interest.

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:

Uttarkashi. Situated at a distance of 155 kms. from Rishikesh, the last railhead, at an elevation of 1150 metres above sea-level on the bank of river Bhagirathi, this picturesque town is also the district headquarters. From the religious points of view as well, it is considered important because the temple of Lord
Vishwanath, is located here where a massive iron trident is erected. Description about this temple is given in 'Kedar Khand' (Skand-Purana). The other important temples situated here are Ekadash Rudra, Bhairav and Gyaneshwar. The temple of goddess Kuteti Devi is situated at the top of hill about 1.5 kms. away.

The Nehru Institute of Mountaineering is also situated here, which provides training in mountaineering to enthusiasts from all over the country. It is about 5 kms. from Uttarkashi and beautiful surroundings.

Close by at Ujelti there are number of Ashrams and temples. On the occasion of 'Magh Mela' (January, 14) every year people from far and near visit Uttarkashi to take a holy dip in Bhagirathi along with the idol of their village deity.

**Accommodation:** Hotels, dharmsalas and tourist bungalow are available besides numerous ashrams for lodging.

**Nachiketa Tal:** A drive through the terraced fields takes one to Chaurangi-Khal, a place 29 kms. from Uttarkashi. From there a 3 kms, trek through lush green forests takes one to Nachiketa Tal, a tranquil spot. There is greenery all around and a small temple at the bank of the lake gives a serene look to an otherwise beautiful surroundings.
**Accommodation:** There is a accommodation facility for visitors to stay at the PWD Inspection House at Chaurangi-Khal.

**Maneri:** On way to Gangotri at a distance of about 13 kms. from Uttarkashi, Maneri has lately emerged as a place of tourist interest as a result of the construction of a dam across the Bhagirathi river, from where the water is fed to the turbines through an 8 kms. long tunnel at Tiloth in Uttarkashi. The resultant lake at Maneri has added to the charm of the place.

**Gangnani:** Further up on way to Gangotri about 37 kms. from Maneri, is the hot water spring at Gangnani where one can have a refreshing bath.

**Dodital:** The road from Uttarkashi to Gangotri, bifurcates at 4 kms. from Uttarkashi and vehicles can go up to Kalyani, 7 kms. further up, from where, Agoda is 5 kms away at an altitude of 2288 metres. The trek from there ascends gradually through thick forests and beautiful mountainous scenery. Dodital is 16 kms. further situated at an elevation of 3307 metres. The lake is sparkling and crystal clear, surrounded by forests. The famous Himalayan trouts are found in abundance in the lake.
Permit for fishing can be had from the divisional forest officer, Uttarkashi.

There is a Forest Rest House and a Log Cabin by the side of the lake. From there one can trek down to Hanuman Chatti (27 kms) and then to Yamunotri.

**Dayara Bugyal**: Bugyal in the local language means "high altitude meadow". The road to Dayara Bugyal branches off near Bhatwari a place on Uttarkashi-Gangotri road about 32 kms. from Uttarkashi. Vehicles can go up to the village of Barsu from where one has to trek a distance of about 8 kms. to reach Dayara. Situated at an elevation of about 10,000 feet above sea-level this vast meadow is second to none in natural beauty. During winter it provides excellent ski slopes over an area of 28 sq.kms. The panoramic view of the himalayas from here is breath taking. There is a small lake also in the area, and to camp by its side would be a memorable event.

From this Spot one can trek down to Dodi-Tal which is about 30 kms away, through dense forests.

**Harsil**: The Bhagirathi valley is most enchanting and preserves many colourful spots in its lap. Situated at a distance of 72 kms. from Uttarkashi on the main highway to Gangotri at an elevation of 2623 metres, this sylvan
hamlet is famous for its natural beauty and delicious apples.

**Accommodation:** Tourist bungalow, PWD and Forest Rest Houses exist here for the travellers.

**Sat-Tal:** Sat-Tal meaning seven lakes, is situated just above Dharali, 2 kms. beyond Harsil. The trek of about 7 kms. is rewarding as this group of lakes is situated amid beautiful natural surroundings. It also provides lovely camp sites.

**Bhairon Ghati:** On way to Gangotri, Bhaironghati is a place where one can stay and enjoy the mountainous landscape. A temple of Bhairon here is visited by scores of pilgrims. The awe-inspiring lofty peaks, deep gorge of Jahnavi and Bhagirathi rivers and the towering deodar trees provide a rare natural bonanza.

**Accommodation:** A Tourist bungalow, Forest Rest House and PWD inspection house is located here.

**Gangotri:** The shrine of Gangotri situated at an elevation of 3200 metres above sea-level amidst captivating surroundings is 100 kms. from Uttarkashi. The temple, constructed by the Gorkha General Amar Singh Thapa in the
18th century, is situated on the right bank of Bhagirathi. It is visited by lakhs of pilgrims every year. A number of Ashrams are located on the other side, some of which provide accommodation facilities to the visitors.

**Accommodation:** Tourist bungalows, PWD Inspection House, Forest Rest House and dharmsalas provide lodgings.

The places to be visited nearby are Gaurikund, Kedar-Kund and Patangna.

**Kedartal:** This spectacular and enchanting lake is situated at a distance of about 18 kms. from Gangotri, negotiable through a rough and tough mountain trail. The trek is very tiring and there are testing moments even for a hardy trekker.

The lake is crystal clear with the mighty Thalaysagar (sphatikling) peak forming a splendid backdrop. The place is about 15,000 feet above sea level and is the base camp for trekking to the Thalaysagar, Jogin, Bhrigupanth and other peaks.

**Gaumukh:** The Gaumukh glacier is the source of Bhagirathi (Ganga) and is held in the high esteem by the devouts who do not miss the opportunity to have a holy dip in the bone chilling icy water. It is 18 kms. from Gangotri. The
trek is easy and at times people come back to Gangotri the same day.

**Accommodation:** There is a Tourist bungalow at Bhojbasa, 14 kms. from Gangotri where lodging and other facilities are available.

**Nandan-Van Tapovan:** These two spots are situated opposite the Gangotri glacier further up from Gaumukh, a distance of 6 kms. from where visitors can have a superb view of the majestic Shiving peak. There are ideal spots for camping and also provides base camps for Bhagirathi, Shivling, Meru, Kedardom, Kharchakund, Satopanth, Kalindi-Khal and many other snow peaks.

**Yamunotri:** The shrine of Yamunotri, source of river Yamuna is situated in the direction opposite to Gangotri and the road bifurcates and goes to Yamunotri from Dharasu, a place between Rishikesh-Uttar Kashi, Yamunotri can also be visited via Mussoorie and Barkot.

Situated at an elevation of 3235 metres above sea-level, the shrine of Yamunotri is one of the 'four-dhams' of Uttarakhand. The source of Yamuna lies about 1 km. ahead at an altitude of about 4421 metres. The approach is extremely difficult and pilgrims therefore offers pooja at the temple itself.
There are hot springs close to the temple, a bath in them is very refreshing after a tedious 13 kms. trek from Hanumanchatti or 5 kms. from Janki Chatti.

**Accommodation:** Pilgrims can find accommodation in the houses belonging to 'pandas' or dharmshala.

On the way one can stay at Janki Chatti 8 kms. from Hanuman Chatti. There are Tourist Bungalow, PWD and Forest Rest Houses and dharmshalas.

**Harkidoon:** Harkidoon is famous for its natural beauty and is a popular destination for trekkers. The convenient route is from Mussoorie via Yamuna bridge-Naugaon-Purola-Saur-Sankri Taluka and Osla.

The trek is a satisfying experience, moving through dense forests and mountainous landscape.

**Accommodation:** Accommodation facilities are available at the above in the form of Forest Rest Houses and Tourist Bungalows. At Harki-Doon too there is small Rest House at an altitude of 3506 metres.

**Kush Kalyan, Belak Khal Range:** About 16 kms. from Malla which is 28 kms from Uttarkashi on Gangotri road, the meadow of Kush-Kalyan is situated at an elevation of
11000 feet, the trek is steep through dense forests and the meadow extends towards east for about 20 kms. up to Shahastratal (15300 feet) and 30 kms. towards west to Belak Khal (9000 feet) and Adala Bugyal (11000 feet).

Further west it extends up to Chaurangi-Khal. Trekking along this range is an enjoyable experience. During winter all these places provide vast expanse of ski-slopes.

**PAURI GARHWAL - DISTRICT:**

The district of Pauri Garhwal has diverse topography, varying from the foot hills of Tarai areas of Kotdwara to the meadows of Dudhatoli spread over three thousand metres above sea level which remain snow covered during winter months. the district varies in climate from place to place. The district is surrounded by the districts of Chamoli, Almora, Nainital, Bijnor, Haridwar, Dehradun and Tehri Garhwal. It abounds in a number of places of tourist. From some of the places like Pauri, widest panorama of the snow covered peaks is available.

**PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:**

**Pauri:** Situated at an elevation of 1814 metres above sea-level on the northern slopes of Kandoliya hills. Pauri is the headquarter of the district of Pauri-Garhwal and the Garhwal Division.
Pauri provides a panoramic view of the snow-clad Himalayan peaks of Bandar-Punch, Jonli, Gangotri Group, Jogan group. Thalaiya Sagar, Barte Kanta, Kedarnath, Kharcha Kund, Sumeru, Satopanth, Chaukhamba, Nilkanth, Gauri-Parbat, Haathiparbat, Dronagiri, Nandadevi, Trisul.

Places of interest around Pauri are Kandoliya (2 kms) Kyunkaleshwar Shiva Temple (3 kms), Rani stadium (? kms), Nagdevta (3 kms). A walk along 4 kms long road from Kandolia to Buwakhal through Oak and pine forests is really refreshing.

**Accommodation:** There are some reasonably, comfortable hotels and tourist bungalows.

**Kotdwar:** It is one of the rail terminus for Garhwal and is the gateway to the hills. The nearby places of interest are ancient Karnav-Ashram (14 kms), Sidhbali Temple (3 kms), Charaik Hills (20 kms).

**Lansdowne:** Like most of the Indian hill stations, Lansdowne is also a creation of the Britishers. They established a cantonment here attracted by its salubrious climate and natural beauty.

Surrounded by thick Oak forest, it's a very charming place for a quiet holiday as it is devoid of the
usual hustle and bustle of the known hill stations. It is 45 kms. from Kotdwar.

**Accommodation:** It has a Tourist Rest House besides few Government bungalows.

**Jwalpadevi:** It is one of the known religious places of the entire division and a large number of devotees come here the year round for devotion. It is 33 kms. from Pauri on the main Pauri-Kotdwar road.

**Accommodation:** There is a Tourist Rest House here to stay.

**Khirsu:** Situated at 19 kms. away from Pauri at an altitude of 1700 metres. Khirsu is really a peaceful spot, free from pollution. Tranquility of the adjoining thick Oak and Deodar forests and apple orchards, is only broken by chirping birds. Khirsu provides a much closer view of the entire range of snow peaks seen from Pauri.

**Binsar Mahadev:** Situated at 118 kms. away from Pauri at an elevation of 2480 metres above sea level amidst the dense of Oak, Deodar and Rhododendrone. It is a very charming spot in the district. Buses are available from Pauri to Thalisain 96 kms. from here, one has to trek to Peersain (11 kms) and Binsar (11 kms).
There is an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Shiva (Bimeswar Mahadev) which is of great archaeological significance. Annual fair, held in the month of June, is attended by hill people of Garhwal and Kumaon in large number.

Dudhatoli: 11 kms. away from Binsar, situated at an altitude of 3500 metres Dudhatoli is one of the most picturesque places and commands a panoramic view of the Himalayan ranges and the surrounding area. The area is covered with dense mixed forest.

Adwani: Connected by a well maintained 14 kms. long road from Pauri, Adwani is ideal for picnics as it is surrounded by thick forest and is devoid of the hustle and bustle of the towns.

Accommodation: There is a Forest Rest House where one can stay on permit, obtainable from the Divisional Forest Officer, Pauri.

Srinagar: Situated one the bank of the river Alaknanda. Srinagar was once the capital of Garhwal Kings before the arrival of Britishers. Even today it is one of the biggest townships of the district and is the seat of the Garhwal University. It is the junction of roads from Kotdwar, Rishikesh, Tehri-Garhwal and Badrinath.
The places to be seen here are Amleshwar Temple, Kalyaneshwar, Shankar Math, Jain Mandir, Kilkileshwar and Raj Rajeshwari Temples (across the river).

**Accommodation:** Tourist Pungalow, Hotels and Dharmshalas are available.

**Dewal-Garh:** It is 17 kms. from Srinagar towards Rudraprayag slightly away from the main road. Established in the 14th century. It was the capital of Garhwal Kingdom before it was shifted to Srinagar. The temples of Goddess Raj Rajeshwari and ruins of old palace provide unique examples of architecture of Garhwal.

**Dharidevi:** Situated on Srinagar-Badrinath highway right on the bank of Alaknanda, 14 kms. from Srinagar, it is an important place of worship and is supposed to be a "Kali-Siddh Peeth". Large number of devotees visit the place round the year.

**Chilla:** Situated just opposite Haridwar, Chilla is part of the Rajaji National Park where one can see the wild life. Elephants are available for sight-seeing. It is only 9 kms. from Haridwar.
Accommodation: There is a Tourist bungalow in addition to a Forest Rest House are available.

Kalagarh: A large dam has been constructed here in the river Ram Ganga resulting in the formation of a big lake, 17 kms. in length. Surrounded by dense forests of Corbett National Park, it provides a very picturesque sight from the hill top above Kalagarh. It is 84 kms. from Kotdwar.

Laxman Jhula: Situated on the bank of river Ganga, near Rishikesh, Laxmanjhula (suspension bridge over Ganga) Swargashram, Geeta Bhawan and Parmarth Niketan are the places visited by lakhs of pilgrims every year.

Accommodation: Hotels and ashrams provide accommodation facilities.

Neelkanth: It is 11 kms. on foot from Swargashram. Situated at the top of Manikoot Hills, behind Swargashram, it is a place of pilgrimage. Large number of devotees visit the place during the month of "Shravan" August to pay homage to Lord Shiva.

Accommodation: There is a Dharmshala to stay.
TEHRI GARHWAL:

The district of Tehri Garhwal stretches from Himalayan Peaks of Thalaiya Sagar, Jaonli, Gangotri group to the foot hills near Rishikesh. The district is bifurcated by Bhagirathi river and its major tributary Bhilangana, Alaknanda, Ganga and Yamuna rivers form its east and west borders. Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Pauri-Garhwal and Dehradun are its neighbouring districts.

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:

Muni-Ki-Reti: It is the gateway to the district situated on the bank of river Ganga close to the famous religious centre Rishikesh. As the name denotes, it is the seat of saints and sages.

There are a number of Ashrams where studies on religion and Yoga are a regular feature. People from far and near and from foreign countries come for studies.

Accommodation: Tourist bungalow and Hotels are available.

Narendra Nagar: Situated at a distance of 16 kms. from Muni-Ki-Reti at an elevation of about 1429 metres.

It is on the main Rishikesh Gangotri Yamunotri route. A bird's eye view of the Ganga and Doon valley can be had from here. The sun-set view is yet another attraction.
**Accommodation:** Hotels and P.W.D. Inspection Houses are available.

**Kunjapuri Temple:** On way to Gangotri at about 8 kms. from Narendra Nagar the road bifurcates for the famous shrine of Kunjapuri temple, situated at an altitude of 1,677 metres above sea level commanding a superb view of the Himalayan range on the North, Rishikesh, Haridwar and Doon Valley on the South. It is one of the very important religious centres and people from far and near visit the shrine round the year, specially during "Navratris" (April and October) in large numbers.

Kunjapuri festival is organised in the month of October during Dushera festival every year.

**Chamba:** This is an up coming township in the district being 48 kms. from Narendra Nagar and 57 kms. from Mussoorie, on way to Gangotri, situated at a height of about 1676 metres. One can have a panoramic view of the Himalayas and the Bhagirathi valley from here. The Chamba-Mussoorie fruit belt is known for delicious apples and grand panorama of Himalayas.

**Accommodation:** It is the junction of roads coming from Mussoorie, Rishikesh, Tehri and New Tehri. Tourist bungalow and a couple of Hotels exist.
New Tehri: The newly developed district headquarters of the district of Tehri Garhwal is a recent creation. It is about 12 kms. from Chamba. It would become an important centre of attraction on the completion of the dam at Tehri below it when a huge lake would come up.

Accommodation: Facilities are being created here. P.W.D. Inspection House is available.

Surkanda Devi: The temple of Surkanda Devi is situated at the top of the mountain thickly covered by dense forest at an altitude of about 2,903 metres above sea-level and is a place of great religious significance. People from far off places visit the shrine in large number. A fair is held every year on "Ganga Dusshera" (May-June) in which thousands of people take part.

The place commands a magnificent view of the snow clad Himalayan ranges and also of the neighbouring areas. It is situated on Chamba-Mussoorie road 25 kms. away from Chamba.

For reaching the temple, one has to trek about 2 kms. from the motor road.

Accommodation: A P.W.D. Inspection House is situated below the motor road.
Dhanolti: This picturesque spot is situated on Chamba-Mussoorie road about 38 kms. from Chamba amidst the thick forests of Deodar, Rhododendrone and Oak in an atmosphere of perfect peace and tranquility at an altitude of about 2286 metres above sea level.

Accommodation: There is a Tourist bungalow, a big Hotel and a Forest Rest House. People visit from Mussoorie in large numbers.

Nagtibba: For those who are interested in trekking and adventure, Nagtibba offers them all the opportunities. The area is full of dense forests and natural beauty. One can have a panoramic view of the Himalayas.

Thatyur is the base camp for visiting the place, it is away from Chamba-Mussoorie road for which the road branches off from Suwakholi a place about 16 kms. from Dhanolti. From here Thatyur is 23 kms. situated in the valley at the bank of river Aglar.

The trek starts from here, via Dewalsari, a place 7 kms. where one can stay in the Forest Rest House. From Dewalsari Nagtibba is 14 kms. situated at an altitude of 3048 Metres above sea level. There is no place to stay and one has to carry tents or come back to Dewalsari or go down to Pantwari, a village on the other side about 10 kms. from where buses are available for Mussoorie.
Khatling Glacier: The trek for Khatling glacier starts from Ghuttu, a place about 65 kms. from Tehri. There is a Forest Rest House at Ghuttu and a Tourist Bungalow has been constructed recently. The other important places enroute are Reeh, Gangi, Kharsoli & Tambakund. At Reeh & Gangi Tourist Bungalows are available. Gangi is the last village, beyond which no facilities of any kind are available and one has to make his own arrangements. The site of the Khatling and other glaciers is most spectacular and alluring. From here Masartal is 7 kms. The route further up goes to Basukital and from there to Kedarnath.

Panwali Kantha-Matya Bugyal: 3,548 metres about 16 kms. from Ghuttu, Panwali Kantha-Matya, Bugyal are two sprawling high altitude meadows with colourful flowers during the months of July and August presenting a Kaleidoscopic view of the area. These are superb for trekking and skiing. The track bifurcates from Ghuttu. There is an old Dharmshala only.

Budha-Kedar-Masartal: Budha-Kedar used to be an important halting place during the days when the pilgrimage used to be done on foot and pilgrims returning from Gangotri enroute to Kedarnath used to stay here. There is a very old temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Buses are available
from Tehri the distance being 62 kms.

The famous Masartal 3,225 metres is 11 kms. from here, the trek is enjoyable but one has to make arrangements for camping. There is a temple of Nag Dev at Masartal.

**Accommodation:** There is a P.W.D. Inspection House and a Dharmshala to stay.

**Kushkalyan:** 3,870 metres. It is yet another gift of the Nature, with undulating meadows and spectacular views all around. It can easily be said as a trekkers paradise and most suitable for skiing. It is about 20 kms. from Budha Kedar and 15 kms. from Malla (Uttarkashi District) on foot. All arrangements are to be made in advance since the place is devoid of facilities. About 10 kms. towards east, Sahastra Tal 4,935 metres is another spot for trekkers interest.

**Chandrabadani:** The shrine of Chandrabadani is most significant from religious point of view and is visited by a large number of devotees. A fair is held every year in the month of April. It is 47 kms. from Tehri and 36 kms. from Deopryag situated at an altitude of about 2,258 metres above sea-level. One can have a panoramic view of the Himalayas and a bird's eye view of the neighbouring area.
**Accommodation:** A Tourist Bungalow exists at Naikhari at the foot of the temple.

**Sem-Mukhem:** 2,903 metres situated in the interior of the district the temple of Nag Raja at Sem Mukhem is held in high esteem by the people of the area. Transport facilities are available upto Lambgaon, a distance of 45 kms. from Tehri. One has to trek about 10 kms. from the road to reach Sem-Mukhem. The temple is situated at the top of all hill about 1.5 kms. from the village.

**Accommodation:** Accommodation is provided by the 'Pandas' of the village.

**Chamoli:**

Chamoli, as it exists now, was a part of Pauri Garhwal district till it was declared a separate border district in 1960. It has its district headquarters at Gopeshwar, a scenic township which has salubrious climate.

It is surrounded by Tehri-Garhwal, Uttarkashi Pithoragarh, Almora and Pauri-Garhwal districts and on its north is Tibet. Amid the mountainous landscape, several significant religious shrines are located. The famous shrines of Badrinath, Kedarnath, Hemkunt, Saheb, Panch Kedar, Panch Badri are spread over the hilly region of Chamoli. For the nature, lovers, the renowned valley of
Flowers and the ski resort at Auli are ever attractive.

Rishikesh and Kotdwara are the two railheads which are 243 and 214 kms. respectively, from Gopeshwar. Regular buses are available from these two places to take pilgrims and tourists to different destinations.

**PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:**

**Badrinath:** Badrinath is one of the 'four dhams' of the country and is situated at an elevation of 3,133 metres above sea level, guarded on either side by the two mountain ranges known as NAR & NARAYAN with the towering Neelkanth Peak providing a splendid back-drop. This reversed spot was once carpeted with wild berries which gave it the name "Badri Van", meaning "forest of berries".

Facing the temple at the bank of Alaknanda river there is a hot water spring known as "TAPT KUND". A bath in this spring is very refreshing to all travellers. And for women, a separate tank is available. The temple opens every year in the month of May and closes for winters in the third week of November.

The places to be visited around it are Charan paduka (2 kms.), Mana village (4 kms), Vasudhara Falls (8 kms), Mata Moorty (3 kms), Vyas Gufa, Shesh Netra Tal and Ganesh Gufa, Bhimpul (4 kms). There is one-way traffic on the road between Badrinath and Joshimath.
Accommodation: There are several Ashrams, Dharmshalas and Tourist Bungalows where one can stay with comfort.

Kedarnath: The shrine of Kedarnath, like Badrinath is held with equally high esteem and is visited by a large number of pilgrims every year.

It is one of the twelve "Jyotirlingas" of Lord Shiva. The temple of Sri Kedarnath is situated at an altitude of 3,581 metres above sea-level, against the backdrop of the majestic Kedarnath range. At the entrance, there is a statue of the "Nandi" the divine bull. The walls inside the temple are exquisitely carved with image.

Places which can be visited from here are - Bhairav temple, Samadhi of Adi Shankaracharya, Gandhi Sarovar or Chorabari Tal.

Vasuki Tal is 8 away on the ridge on the right side of the valley, at an altitude of 14,200 ft. It can be reached after an arduous climb and there is no facility. One should take a local guide for the trek. The crystal clear lake located in beautiful surroundings, makes one forget all the discomforts of the climb.

One has to trek for 15 kms, to reach Kedarnath from Gaurikund, the bus terminus from where ponies and dandies are available.
Accommodation: Accommodation is easily and abundantly available at Kedarnath in the form of guest houses, dharmshalas and travellers' lodges.

Joshimath: Temples of Narsingh and Nav Durga are located here. Of special scenic interest are orchards of apples, apricots, peaches, lemons and maltas spread all over.

Accommodation: Tourist Bungalows, Hotels, and Dharmshalas are available.

Tapovan: Away from the hustle and bustle of towns, Tapovan is a quiet spot known for its hot water springs which are said to possess medicinal values. It is only 15 kms. from Joshimath on Malari Road.

Accommodation: A P.W.D. Inspection House is located here.

Auli: Auli is an upcoming Ski resort and has become popular among the Skiers. Besides it also provides a magnificent view of snow capped peaks of Nanda Devi, Dunagiri, Neelkanth, Hathi Parvat, Gauri Parvat, Bethartoli etc. It is only 14 kms. from Joshimath, situated at an elevation of 9,500 feet above sea-level. A ropeway of 3.8 kms. long has also been constructed.
**Accommodation:** Accommodation is available in Tourist Cottage.

**Gorson:** This high altitude undulating meadow is just 4 kms. on the foot from Auli and is a paradise for trekkers. Trekkers have to carry tents and make their own arrangements for meals.

**Valley of Flowers:** Discovered per chance by Frank S. Smythe in 1931 while on an expedition to Mount Kamet, it is one of the most picturesque valleys in the world. The river Pushpawati flows nearby and the massive Rataban peak forms a splendid back drop. A large variety of flowers bloom in this valley from July to August which is the appropriate time to visit it. Smythe, captivated by the charm of the valley, collected a large number of plants and wrote a voluminous book about the valley.

Gobindghat, situated between Joshimath and Badrinath at a distance of 18 kms. from Joshimath, is the terminus for buses from where one has to trek 16 kms. to reach the Valley. The distance form Gobindghat to Ghangria is 12.5 kms. and from there the Valley is 3.5 kms. ahead.

**Accommodation:** Facilities for lodging are available at Gobindghat and Ghangria. Ponies can also be hired at Gobindghat.
Lok-Pal Hemkund: The Laxman temple and Hemkunt Saheb Gurdwara are 5.5 kms. from Ghangria situated at an altitude of 4,320 metres above sea level on the bank of the lake Hemkund (Lok-Pal). The climb is steep and tiring. The spot affords excellent scenic beauty and the crystal clear lake is surrounded by four peaks. Large number of Sikh and Hindu pilgrims visit the shrine during June to September.

Gopeshwar: Gopeshwar is the headquarter of Chamoli district, situated at a elevation of 5,500 feet above sea-level. It is a picturesque place with salubrious climate. The trek from Gopeshwar to Rudranath (23 kms) though tiring, is invigorating, Rudranath is situated at an altitude of 11,500 feet above sea-level and is known as one of the Panch Kedars, the other being Kedarnath, Madmaheswar, Kalpeshwar and Tungnath.

Accommodation: There is a Tourist Bungalow close to the bus station in addition to a P.W.D. Inspection House and some Hotels.

Chopta: Situated on Gopeshwar-Ukhimath road about 40 kms. from Gopeshwar at an altitude of about 9,500 feet above sea level. Chopta is one of the most picturesque spot in the entire Garhwal region. It provides a breathtaking view
of the Himlayan ranges and the surroundings area.

Tungnath: It is only 3 kms. at an elevation of about 3,680 metres above sea-level. The temple here is dedicated to Lord Shiva. On the way, exotic varieties of rhododendrons with white flowers and shrub like trees are found because of climatic variations.

Accommodation: Tourist bungalow exists at Chopta.

Dogalbhita: Down towards Ukhimath 8 kms. from Chopta, Dogalbhita is yet another quiet spot. Located amid picturesque surrounding, it is serene air and peaceful aura.

Accommodation: A well maintained P.W.D. Inspection House is the only place to stay.

Deoriyatal: Situated on the Chopta-Ukhimath road about 4 kms. from road head at Sari Village, this lake has captivating surroundings with forests all around. The reflection of the mighty Chaukhamba peak in the lake produces a beautiful effect.

The road is motorable upto Sari 10 kms. from Ukhimath and from there one has to trek about 4 kms. All arrangements have to be made for a night at the spot.
The road is motorable upto Sari 10 kms. from Ukhimath and from there one has to trek about 4 kms. All arrangements have be made for a night halt at the spot.

**Ukhimath:** This is the winter seat of Lord Kedarnath, and worship is done here during the winters when the temple of Kedarnath remains closed. The temples of Usha and Anirudh, Shiva and Parvati are worth visiting.

**Accommodation:** There is a tourist bungalow and a P.W.D. Inspection house.

**Kalimath:** Situated close to Ukhimath, and Guptakashi, Kalimath is one of the 'Sidh Peeths' of the region and is held in high religious esteem. The temple of goddess Kali located here is visited by a large number of devotees round the year and specially during the 'Navratris'.

**Accommodation:** There is a dharmshala and a P.W.D. Inspection House.

**Panch Kedar:** The following places of Chamoli district are renowned as Panch Kedar, which are dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Roopkund: Situated in the interior of the district this mysterious lake was very much in the news in the early sixties because of the existence of human and animal skeletons. Teams of anthropologists visited this site to establish facts about the remains. However, it is one of the most popular treks in the Garhwal division as it abounds in spectacular mountain scenery. The panoramic view of the Himalayas and the undulating meadows of Bedni leave an everlasting impression.

In addition to the above the most significant feature of the place is that after every twelve years a great pilgrimage known as 'Nanda Raj Jat' is organised in devotion to goddess Nanda Devi. The event is most colourful and starts from Nauti a place near Karanaprayag and ends at Hemkund beyond Roopkund, which is said to be the spot where Lord Shiva married Nanda.

Kumaon an Introduction:

Kumaon comprises the four north-eastern Himalayan districts of Uttar Pradesh, i.e. Almora, Nainital, Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar. It extends over an area of 21000 sq. kilometres and is bounded by the districts of Chamoli, Pauri and Bijnor in the west and south-west, while to the south lie the districts of Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly and Pilibhit. To the east and the north the region touches the international boundary.
of Nepal and Tibet, Broadly speaking the region has two major surface features i.e. the Himalayas in the north and the foothill belt of Tarai and Bhabar to the south, the heights ranging from over 180 metres to 5,000 metres above the seal level. Geologically the Himalayas can be divided roughly into three zones, i.e. the Great Himalayas, the Lesser Himalayas and the Sub-Himalayas. The Great Himalayas consisting of a single range is the highest zone. It has numerous perpetually snow covered peaks with altitudes of 6,000 metres and above. The Lesser Himalayas border the main range to the south and exhibit a remarkable uniformity in height which generally ranges between 1,800 and 3,000 metres. The Sub-Himalayas is the outermost zone adjoining which is the broad belt of Bhabar and Tarai along the northern margin of the Gangetic plain.

Nainital: Naini, a word that almost brings the cool air with it is a secret hide out of the tourists each year. Situated at an altitude of 1,939 metres, this dreamland town with its beauteous splendour is nothing less than the Alps of Switzerland. Like other districts, Nainital has varying topography climatically hilly areas experience snowfall during winters while in the plains temperature shoots upto 45 °C during summer. Thus showing
a vast difference in geographical conditions. The lake city Nanital is surrounded by seven hills known as "Sapta Shring". The lake around which town is located is also named as Nayna Tal. There is a number of places of tourist interest situated close by.

PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST IN NAINITAL:

Naina Peak: It is the most popular picnic spot in Nainital. The soft cool air, the shade of the tall trees, the songs of the birds, the quaint summer house welcomes you. Naina is the highest peak of the town, 2,611 metres, and at a distance of 5.64 kms. from the town. It commands an entire view of Nainital and the sparkling snow laden Himalayas can be seen in all their towering glory from this beautiful spot. An indicator built in front of the summer house, enables you to see the peaks of Nanda Devi, Kamet, Badrinath, Trisul, Panchchuli etc. With a pair of binoculars a good birds eye view of the tract surrounding Nainital is obtained. You see the Kosi river, Almora and Ranikhet. Turning south you can catch the glorious glimpses of the endless stretches of the green and brown plains appearing abruptly from the foot of the mountains and facing mysteriously into the blue horizon.

Laria Kanta: Nestling snugly at an altitude of 2,481 metres, it is the second highest peak in Nainital. It is
about 5 kms. from the town and one can go on horse back or foot it. A solitary road leads to the lofty lovely peak of Laria Kanta. Three ridges greet you and offer hospitality. They daringly overlook a deep ravine on one side and enable you to see the pretty towns of Bhowali and Bhim Tal.

**Snow View**: To the east of Laria Kanta is the popular picnic spot of Snow View. It is the most easily accessible hill top, height 2,270 metres and at a distance of 2.42 kms. from the town. It affords as the name suggests, an indescribably beautiful and breath taking picture of the glittering snows.

**Dorothy Seat**: It is also known as Tiffin Top. 4 kms. from the town, this peak 2,292 metres above the sea level. It is memorial to Mrs. Dorothy Kellet built by her husband. The road to this picnic ground crawls along the rugged hill side swaying this way and that, and then all in one breadth in hushed silence suddenly unfolds a canvas on which nature has painted this beautiful spot. Dorothy Seat commands an excellent view of the Himalayas as well as the neighbouring country side.

**Land Ends**: It's altitude is 2,118 metres and it is located at about 4 kms. from the town. The best feature
of this spot is that one does not have to climb much and as the name suggests, one feels on reaching the area that the end of the land has really come. Needless to say the view of the neighbouring hills and valley and the Khurpa Tal lake is exquisite from this point.

**Kilberry:** 2,194 metres in altitude, is 10 kms. from the town. The tract is motorable and one can spend the night there in the Forest Rest House. It's sylvan surroundings are an ideal spot for a quiet and peaceful holiday.

**Hanuman Garhi:** 1951 metres in height above the sea level and 3.22 kms. from the town. It is a religious centre and very popular for its sun sets view.

**Khurpa Tal:** (1,633 metres) 10 kms. by bus from Nainital. One can also trek, and it is about 5 kms. by the bridal path. It is a small hamlet endowed with a beautiful lake and its crystal clear waters are a paradise of perfection for the anglers and the swimmers.

But the nucleus of Nainital's exquisite beauty is her willow fringed glittering emerald lake which looks more beautiful after the rains. In the day, mirrored in its waters stand seven proud hills, dotted with pretty cottages and villas. This reflection alone holds one spell bound. More beautiful than this however is the lake
at night when the myriads of bulbs from the hill sides and quite a large number hanging near the lake's edge stab their magiclight into its waters.

Besides being the adorning gem of the place, the lake affords the holiday maker ample opportunity for amusement, boating, yachting, swimming and angling.

EXCURSIONS:

*Bhowali:* (1,706 metres above the sea level), 11.27 kms. from Nainital. A beautiful health resort, famous for its scenic grandeur and as a hill fruit mart.

*Ghorakhal:* 15 kms. from Naini Tal is famous for the temple of Lord Golla and a Sainik School.

*Bhimtal:* (1,371 metres), 22.53 kms. from Nainital. The pride of Bhim Tal is its emerald lake which offers magnificent vistas for the tourists. The sightseer drinks long at the lakes enchanting beauty, the poet finds avenues of inspiration and the painter thrills at the tempting prospects of his canvas.

*Kainchi:* 17 kms. from Nainital, has achieved recognition owing to the ashram of the famous Neem Karauli Baba.

*Naukuchia Tal:* (1,219 metres), 26.27 kms. from Nainital. a pretty lake with its nine corners is a captivating site. It is a paradise for anglers and a haven for
migratory birds. The water is cool and inviting and swimming is a rare pleasure in this beautiful lake.

**Sat Tal:** (1,371 metres), 20.92 kms. Unique, unforgettable one is apt to run short of superlatives to describe this unsurpassed spectacle of lakes. It has to be seen to be believed. These picturesque lakes are a paradise for the anglers and the swimmers and it is a joy to bask on the shores strewn with pebbles.

**Ram Garh:** (1,789 metres), 25.75 kms. A picturesque hamlet in the heart of apple orchards. It has ideal spot for picnics where people can daze eating sandwiches and drinking tea, while they sit enraptured by the immeasurable beauty around.

**Mukteshwar:** (2,286 metres), 51.49 kms, it is the seat of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute. Famous for its apples and magical scenery, Mukteshwar is a paradise of perfection for the sighseer.

**Kaladhungi:** Jim Corbett spent most of his life here. Today the building where he stayed has been converted into a museum and his belongings housed there remind us of that great hunter. Kaladhungi is 65 kms. from Nainital via Haldwani. There is shorter route also via Khurpa Tal and the distance through that route is 54 kms.
Corbett National Park: The pride of Crobett Park is the distinction of being the first National Park in India. The park sprawls over an area of 525.8 sq. kms. It was established in the year 1935 under the U.P. National Parks Act and was named as the Hailey National Park, after Sir William Malcolm Hailey, an enthusiastic conservationist who was at that time the Governor of U.P. In 1957, the Park was rechristened as the Corbett National Park in the memory of late Jim Corbett, legendary sportsman great naturalist, eminent conservationist and a prolific writer, who spent some of the best and happiest years of his life in the Kumaon Himalayas. It is 118 kms. from Naini Tal via Kaladhungi and Ramnagar.

Aptly called the land of roar, trumpet and songs, Corbett Park is a legend come alive. The park embraces the picturesque pathidun a broad flat valley consisting of vast savannahs and surrounded by hills. The Ramaganga river, meandering its way through the Park, swaying this way and that with some deep pools and foaming rapids forms the main water source. The valley is 400 metres above the sea level, while the surrounding hills range between 700 and 1500 metres above the sea level. The park is rich in wild life such as elephant, tiger, panther, bear, deer, antelope, pig, porcupine, jungle cat, hyena and jackal. Amongst the birds are the pea fowl, the
jungle fowl, kaleege pheasant, grey and black partridge, green and rock pigeon, quail, babbler, bee-eater, bulbul, crow, dove, drongo, fly catcher, hornbull, king fisher, kite, lark, parakeet and wood-pecker. The Ramganga is full of mahaseer fishes. Amongst the reptiles are python, crocodile and many species of lizard and snakes in their natural habitat. The park remains closed from June 1st to October 31st owing to the rainy season.

**Approach:** The park is well connected by rail and road. Ramnagar, the nearest rail head, is on the Moradabad-Ramnagar branch line of the North Eastern Railway (Metre Gauge). Moradabad lies on the Delhi-Calcutta main line of the Northern Railway (Broad Gauge). Ramnagar can also be approached from Lalkua, Bareilly-Kathgodam, Agra-Kathgodam branch of the North Eastern Railway. Ramnagar is connected by road either from Haldwani through forest road or from Delhi via Moradabad and Kashipur.

**Accommodation Facilities in Corbett Park:**

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<td>Swiss Cottage (tents) Dhikala</td>
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<td>New Forest Rest House Gairal</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Forest Rest House Bijrani</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Chief Conservator of Forest U.P., 17, Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow.

Chief Wild Life Warden and


Gram: Wild Life Warden, (Park), P.O. Ramnagar, Dist. Nainital

Divisional Forest Officer Ramnagar Forest Division, P.O Ramnagar, Distt. Nainital.

**Kashipur:** 127 kms. from Nainital via Haldwani. It is a historical place. The Pandavas, it is said sojourned here during their period of banishment. The Chinese traveller, Huien Tsang has referred to it as Govisana.
The Giri near Kashipur is worth seeing.

Access to Nainital:

**Rail:** Kathgodam (NER), 35 kms. from Nainital, which has direct connections with Agra, Lucknow and Bareilly, is the nearest rail head.

**Road:** Regular services of U.P.S.R.T.C. links Nainital to Delhi, Moradabad, Bareilly, Haridwar and Dehradun in the plains. Nainital is also connected with Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Dwarahat, Ranikhet, Almora and Corbett Park besides several other spots in the Kumaon Himalyas.

**Accommodation**

Hotels:

1. Alka Hotel, The Mall
2. Alps Hotel, The Mall
3. Ambassador Hotel, The Mall
4. Aroma Hotel, Malli Tal
5. Ajanta Hotel, Malli Tal
6. Ashok Hotel, Malli Tal
7. Belvedere Hotel, Malli Tal
8. Central Hotel, The Mall
9. Coronation Hotel, Malli Tal
10. Evelyan Hotel, The Mall
11. Elphinstone Hotel, The Mall
12. Everest Hotel, The Mall
13. Grand Hotel, The Mall
14. Gurdeep Hotel, The Mall
15. Himalaya Hote, Talli Tal
16. India Hotel, The Mall
17. Krishna Hotel, The Mall
18. Mansarovar Hotel, Talli Tal
19. Meghdoot Hotel, Talli Tal
20. Metropole Hotel, Malli Tal
21. Natraj Hotel, The Mall
22. National Hote, Talli Tal
23. New Pavilion Hotel, Malli Tal
24. Popular Hotel, Malli Tal
25. Prashant Hotel, Talli Tal
26. Prem Sarovar Hotel, Talli Tal
27. Punjab Hotel, Talli Tal
28. Republic Hotel, The Mall
29. Royal Hotel, Malli Tal
30. Savoy Hotel, Talli Tal
31. Silverton Hotel, The Mall
32. Swiss Hotel, Malli Tal
33. Tourist Hotel, Malli Tal
34. Y.M.C.A., Malli Tal

Other Accommodation:
1. Govt. Estate Accommodation - Reservation authority Manager, Nainital Club, Nainital.


6. Tourist Home - Reservation: Tourist Officer, Nainital.


8. Youth Hostel - Reservation: Warden, Youth Hostel, Nainital.


Almora: Perched on a hillock at an elevation of 1,646 metres, Almora appears like a large horse shoe, Sitoli forming the front arm and the bazar, the other. Sitoli formerly a tea estate and later an army camp was also the centre of the world famed Uday Shanker Cultural Institute.
until 1953. Almora boasts not only its antiquity but also of a rapturous view of the snow covered peaks, sylvan surroundings and a climate which enables the people to lead a healthy outdoor life almost all through the year. An interesting feature about Almora is its long stone paved bazar lined with stone roofed, quaintly carved wooden houses and rows of shops on either side.

**PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:**

**Simtola:** It is a beautiful picnic spot, situated at a distance of 3 kms. from Almora.

**Kalimath:** 5 kms. from Almora is famous for its scenic grandeur and the view of Almora town.

**Kasar Devi:** 0.8 kms. beyond Kalimath on a bridle path, it commands an excellent view of the neighbouring area.

**Chitai:** 6 kms. from Almora is noted for its temple of Lord Golla, a demi God for the hill people. He is supposed to have been one of the bravest Generals of the Chand Kings during the medieval ages. Lord Golla followed the martial traditions of the hill men and died like a true warrior in action. To commemorate his intrepidity and to remind the hill men of their martial traditions, Lord Golla is worshipped as a demi God to this day in the hills.
Bright End Corner: 2 kms. away from the bus station, it is one of the most beautiful spots in Almora and is extremely famous for its sunset and sunrise views. It also commands a beautiful view of the Himalayan peaks.

EXCURSIONS FROM ALMORA:

Katarmal: The sun temple at Katarmal is over 800 years old. Little over 1 km. beyond Katarmal, i.e. 17 kms. away from Almora is Bikut forest where from a magnificent view of Almora can be obtained.

Binsar: is a centre par-excellence for a holiday in uninterrupted solitude. Nestling at an altitude of 2,412 metres above sea level this beautiful resort is 30 kms. from Almora.

Kausani: Popularly known as the Switzerland of India, Kausani is another entrancing point in the Almora region. 53 kms. off Almora this beauty spot is situated at an altitude of 1,890 metres above the sea level. Kausani presents an unobstructed view of the long snow ranges. Several snow capped peaks stand stride in a stately row over 300 kms. in length. Gandhiji eulogising the incomparable beauty of Kausani exhorted his countrymen to patronize such places. He spent twelve days in 1929 at Kausani and wrote his memorable commentary on the Gita-
Anashakti Yoga inspired by the scenic grandeur of this richly gifted spot. The guest house where the Mahatma stayed is now known as Anashakti Ashram.

**Accommodation facilities in Kausani:**

1. Pine View Hotel.
3. Forest Rest House—Reservation by Conservator of Forests, Kumaon Circle, Nainital and Divisional Forest Officer, Almora (East).
4. Zila Parishad Dak Bungalow—Reservation by Secretary Zila Parishad Almora.
5. Tent Colony—Reservation by Divisional Manager (Tourism), Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, Nainital.
6. Anashakti Yoga Ashram—Reservation by Manager, Anashakti Yoga Ashram, Almora.

**Baijnath:** Travelling 19 kms. from Kausani, one comes to Baijnath on the bank of the river Gomati. Baijnath is famous for its ancient temple. It is a splendid example of the grandeur of the Katyuri architecture. Amongst the statues enshrined at Baijnath, the four and a half feet high image of the Goddess Parvati is unparalleled and speaks highly of the impeccable, flawless sculptures of this region.
**Bageshwar:** 20 kms. onward from Raijnarhis Bageshwar, yet another entrancing spot in the valley. It is a pilgrim centre at the confluence of the sacred rivers of Saryu and Gomati and like Varanasi is associated with Lord Siva.

**Panuwanaula:** 35 kms. from Almora, Panuwanaula is extremely famous for the Uttar Vrindavan temple and the Ashram.

**Jageshwar:** 34 kms. from Almora, it is a marvel of the Chand architecture. There is a cluster of one hundred and fifth temples, big and small in Jageshwar and they display at least, three phases of architectural activities.

All these shrines rise to an elevation of about fifty feet each. The basement moulding is decorated with lotus petals. The art of these shrines is superb even in the minutest detail. The doorway jambs are profusely carved with floral designs. Though the temples lack any specific culticon, the lingams in the temples may be taken as representing this character. Moreover, the names of different shrines, Mrityunjaya, Jageshwar and Dandesvar signify various aspects of Lord Siva.

**Vridh Jageshwar:** It is 8 kms. from Jageshwar. The old temple of Lord Siva which was later manifested in different forms in Jageshwar was supposed to be located there.
Gananath: Nestling snugly at an elevation of 2,116 metres above sea level, Gananath is 47 kms. from Almora. It's famous for its natural landscape, caves and the Shiva Temple.

Pindari Glacier: It is one of the most easily accessible of all the Himalayan glaciers. Measuring nearly 3 kms. long and a quarter kilometre broad Pindari's rugged beauty is a breath taking sight. Some 69 kms. are to be trekked from Kapkote (Bharari) the bus terminus. The glacier owes its existence to the vast quanties of snow precipitated from Nanda Devi and other lofty mountains above. To reach Pindari, the trekkers' delight, one has to reach Kathgodam by the N.E.R., motor up to Kapkote via Almora and then trek up from Kapkote to the glacier. As one treks along the route surrounded by the majestic Himalayas, every inch promises a fresh song of nature and at every curve, the eyes embrace a new landscape more beautiful than the other.

May-June and September-October are the ideal months for the trek.
### Pindari Glacier Route Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Distance in kms.</th>
<th>Height in metres</th>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Reservation authority</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kapkote (bus terminus)</td>
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<td>1082</td>
<td>P.W.D.Dak Bungalow</td>
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**General Information About Almora:** There is a net work of good road routes connecting Almora. The nearest railway station is Kathgodam, 90 kms. from Almora via Khairena. Kathgodam to Almora via Ranikhet is 133 kms. Almora to Delhi is 378 kms. and Almora to Bareilly is 196 kms., directly by bus route.

**Accommodation:**

**Hotel:**

1. Alka Hotel
2. Ambassador Hotel
3. Ashok Hotel
4. Grand Hotel
5. Mansarovar Hotel
6. New Himalaya Hotel
7. Neel Kanth Hotel
8. Rain Basera Hotel
9. Ranjana Hotel
10. Prashaant Hotel
11. Tourist Cottage
12. Holiday Home

Others:
3. Forest Rest House - Divisional Forest Officer West Almora.
4. Zila Parishad Dak Bungalow - Secretary, Zila Parishad, Almora.
5. Hari Prasad Tamta Dharmshala

Information Centre:

Local Handicrafts:
1. Almora Tweed-manufactured by the Himalaya Woollens, Fair View Cottage.
2. Almora Shawls—manufactured by Kumaon Bhadwan Mall Road.

3. Woolen blankets etc—available at the Khadi Gram Udyog, Mall Road.

4. Copper wares.

**Ranikhet**: Quietly ensconced in pine trees with a charming background of the snow clad Himalayas Ranikhet has a breath taking scenic beauty. Blessed with a healthy climate its magnetic charm attracts tourists all the year round.

According to a legend, a queen was captivated so much by the scenic grandeur of the place that she settled down here and gave the site its present name, Ranikhet, the Queen's Field. The chronicled history says that Ranikhet came into existence in 1869. Lord Mayo, the Viceroy of India was so enchanted by the tranquility and beauty of this place that he once thought of shifting the Army Headquarters from Simla to Ranikhet. However, today it is the Regimental Centre of the Kumaonis. There is a network of good routes connecting Ranikhet. The nearest railway station, Kathgodam is 34 kms. Ranikhet to Nainital is 59 kms. and Ranikhet to Delhi by direct bus is 361 kms.
Chaubatia: 10 kms. from Ranikhet, Chaubatia is acclaimed for its apple orchard and the fascinating view of the Himalayas. Choicest varieties of apples are available for sale during the fruit season. Pears, peaches and cherries are other fruits of which Chaubatia can boast of. The chief attractions of the place are the Government Gardens and the Fruit Research Centre.

Bhaludam: This small artificial lake is little less than 3 kms. from Chaubatia by a bridle path.

Upat and Kalika: 6 kms. from the Ranikhet bus station along the main route to Almora, Upat has one of the best mountain golf links (9 holes) in the country while in the neighbouring Kalika, the temple of Goddess Kali and the forest nursery are worth visiting.

Majkhali: A picturesque site at a distance of 13 kms. from Ranikhet on the motor road to Almora; Majkhali offers the tourist a singular experience amidst the magnificent vistas of ice clad peaks.

Co-operative Drug Factory: The factory is engaged in the research and production of Ayurvedic drugs from herbal plants. It is at a distance of 3 kms. from the Ranikhet bus stand towards Ramnagar.

Berning (96 kms) Chaukori (109 kms): Here in the mystique of the mountain mists, the flutter of birds in the swirling clouds that shroud their emerald valleys, you
**Tarikhet:** It is situated at a distance of 8 kms. from Ranikhet on the motor road to Ramnagar. Mahatma Gandhi stayed in Tarikhet for some time and to this day a hut commemorates his sojournment there.

**Dwarahat:** 38 kms. from Ranikhet on the Karnaprayag road, Dwarahat has a cluster of age old temples. They are fifty five in number. On the basis of stylistic consideration, it is certain that the temples, at Dwarahat, which are a splendid example of the grandeur of Katyuri architecture, range from the eleventh to the thirteenth century. They are of the vaulated roof style. The Gujar Deval at Dwarahat which has a polygonal plan bears a close affinity with the polygonal temples of Central India and Gujrat both in ornamentation as well as plan and elevation.

The essential elements of the plan in the bulk of the temples are the sanctum and a pillared porch. In a few examples a restibule or a covered rectangular hall is between the sanctum and the pillared hall. Like the plan, the elevation of the temples also has a distinctive feature with four principal parts viz. base, wall proper, spire and ribbed disc.

**Dunagiri:** 52 kms. from Ranikhet, Dunagiri is a place of religious importance. The mysticism of this spot is evoked by the grandeur of its natural beauty and its
proximity with the mountain ranges. Standing majestically
on a hill top the temple of Goddess Durga in Dunagiri, attracts a large number of pilgrims every year.

**Sitlakhet:** At a distance of 26 kms. by motor road from Ranikhet, Sitlakhet is serenly beautiful and weaves an instant spell on the visitors.

**Manila:** It is 66 kms. from Ranikhet. Amongst the sylvan surroundings, the most elevating sight in Manila is the magnificent background of the snow clad mountains.

**Chaukutiya:** 85 kms. from Ranikhet, it is one of the most beautiful valleys in Kumaon.

**Accommodation:**

**Hotels:**
1. West View Hotel
2. Nortons Hotel
3. Moon Hotel
4. Meghdoot Hotel
5. Alka Hotel
6. Natraj Hotel
7. Himalaya Hotel
8. Prashant Hotel
9. Tourist Hotel

**Dharmshalas:**
1. Shiv Mandir Dharmshala, Zaroori Bazar
2. Ralmiki Ashram Dharmsala, Zarooori Bazar

Others:
1. Forest Rest House, Reservation authority: Conservator of Forest, Kumaon Circle, Nainital.
2. P.W.D. Inspection House, Reservation authority: Executive Engineer, Provincial Division Ranikhet, Almora.
3. Ranikhet Club, Reservation authority: Secretary, Ranikhet Club.
5. Jal Nigam Rest House, Reservation authority, Executive Engineer, Jal Nigam, Ranikhet.

Udham Singh Nagar:
Rudrapur was founded by the Chand ruler Rudra Chand, a contemporary of Akbar the Great. Many industries have come up around this town as also the G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, the Tarai Development Corporation, Century Pulp and Paper and various industrial units. Some places of tourist and pilgrim interest in this region are Nankmatta Guru Dwara and nearby Nanak Sagar for Water Sports, Purna Giri and Byan Dhura temples. The Tarai Region is populated by the Tharu and Roksa tribes, migrants from Punjab and Bengal.
who came here at the time of partition and also people who have come down from the hills of Kumaon. The other towns of Udham Singh Nagar are Kashipur, Bajpur, Khatima and Tanakpur. The Tarai region is the gateway of Kumaon.

**Puranagiri:** It is a famous shrine of great sanctity on the lower hills overlooking the river Sarda and Nepal. Thousands of pilgrims from different parts of the country visit this holy place every year. It is said that Lord Siva while carrying the dead body of Sati towards the Himalayas dropped her naval here.

The elevation of the shrine is almost 900 metres above the sea. Nothing can surpass the beauty and variety of the scenery in and about Purnagiri.

Each boulder of the rocky pinnacle is consecrated by its temple, the eastern most being the most sacred and of very difficult access over cliffs and razor edged ridges. Animals are sacrificed below on the west on a small flat. The priest appropriates the head of each beast and a considerable number of coconuts, the offering of which seems a sign connecting the mountain Goddess and her rites with the ocean loving Kali of Bengal.

Puranagiri can be approached through Tanakpur. From there one has to charter a bus and also trek a certain distance. The last stretch of the journey before reaching
the shrine ends at Tuniyas. One has to spend the night there and the next morning he can walk up to the shrine and return to Tuniyas the same evening. This is one of the most difficult climbs but the urge to reach the shrine is so great that one forgets the rugged terrain and the strain he has to undergo.

Tuniyas is a small plateau crossed by the path to the shrine above. Here 'Dharmshalas' have been erected for the accommodation of pilgrims.

**PITHORAGARH:**

Located in the midst of an extensive valley, Pithoragarh is serenly beautiful. Its altitude is 4615 metres and is linked directly by bus route with Nainital, Almora and other important places. For tourists coming from Delhi, there is a direct, Delhi-Pithoragarh bus. The nearest rail head for Pithoragarh is Tanakpur (NER) which has connections with Agra, Lucknow, Bareilly.

**PLACES OF TOURIST INTEREST:**

**Abott Mount:** (56 kms) standing majestically at an altitude of 2,001 metres, this beauteous spot is noted for its scenic grandeur.

**Berning (96 kms) Chaukori (109 kms):** Here in the mystique of the mountain mists, the flutter of birds in the swirling clouds that shroud their emerald valleys, you
get a chance to glimpse the magic of the snow clad Himalayas in their towering glory. Both the places are famous for their tea gardens and for tourists who are interested in viewing the snow clad mountains, they can have direct access by bus from either Nainital, Almora or Pithoragarh.

Champawat (76 kms): In the warmth, hospitality and gentleness of the hills, Champawat offers tourists a captivating view of the delightful wooded country and attracts also by its rich historic wealth. At one time it was the capital of the Chand Rajas of Kumaon. Under the crackling wheels of time, the shrines of Champawat have lost their main sanctum, but the remaining structure, the temples and the ruins around testify to this day the boundless creative energy of the hill artists.

Didihat: 54 kms. from Pithoragarh, it commands the best view of the Panch Chuli Peak.

Jauljibi: (76 kms) Situated at the confluence of the rivers Gori and Kali, Jauljibi borders Nepal and is an important trading centre.

Lohaghat: (62 kms) Standing 1,706 metres above sea level, Lohaghat is a centre of historical and mythological importance.
Mayavati: The cherished dream of Swami Vivekanand is only 5 kms. from Lohaghat by jeep. The monastery has got extensive land, at one time it even had a small tea plantation. At present, along with the main building there is a well equipped library and a hospital. Amidst the silvan surroundings, a solitary path has been named as "Bose's Walk" after the famous J.C. Bose, just as the path immediately, below the Ashram has been named as - "Monk's Walk" after Swami Vivekanand.

Mayawati is easily accessible by bus from Tanakpur. Any bus going from Tanakpur to Pithoragarh passes through Champawat and Lohaghat. One can also reach Mayavati by bus from either Nainital or Almora. To spend a night in Mayavati one can write to the authorities of the Ashram in advance.

While visiting the Mayavati Ashram, one can sojourn at the Shymla Talashram also. Shymla Tal or Sufi Dhang as it is known is 22 kms. from Tanakpur on the Tanakpur Champawat road.

Milam Glacier: (198 kms) Over 4000 metres high, Milam is the biggest glacier in the U.P. Himalayan region. It is about 27 kms. in length Milam village which is near the glacier is one of the highest villages in the Himalayan Range. The staple food there is potato. The route to Milam Glacier from Nainital is as follows:
Nainital to Bageshwar 156 kms
Bageshwar to Thal 72 kms
Thal to Munisyari 77 kms
Munisyari to Lilam 10 kms
Lilam to Bogudyar 3 kms
Bogudyar to Martoli 18 kms
Martoli to Milam village 11 kms
Milam village to glacier 5 kms

The glacier is brownish owing to the debris and surrounded by snow peaks it is indeed a sight to imagine. It is the climax of scenic grandeur and has to be seen to be believed. The river Gauri originates from the base of this glacier and the spectacle is unique and unforgettable.

**Narainswamy Ashram:** Situated at an altitude of 2700 metres, the Ashram is 130 kms. from Pithoragarh. It is also known as Chotta Kailash, and is the first encampment for tourists enroute to Kailash. It commands an excellent view of the Kala Pani top and the Kali river gorge.

* For the list of Accommodation see appendix 10.