

INDRAHAR TREK

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE PLACE

Chamba District

Chamba is a district in the Northwest of Himachal and is famous for its beautiful temple architecture and well preserved traditional artifacts. Its headquarter is the town of Chamba which houses a beautiful wooden palace that has been converted to a museum. Among the notable places in Chamba are the little hamlet of Khajjiar that has received the moniker of being “Mini Switzerland” and the exquisite town of Dalhousie that is a popular summer and winter destination.

Bharmour

Bharmour is a small town (and erstwhile capital of Chamba district) that lies approximately 60 kms due south west of the town of Chamba. The road to the town goes along the Ravi river and keeps ascending as the sheer gorge keeps deepening to the left. The town is famous for its 84 ancient temples from the 7th to the 10th century AD. The temples have exquisite carving in stone and wood and lie in a bowl flanked by snow capped mountains on all sides. Enroute to Bharmour from Chamba, keep your eyes peeled for a sight of the majestic Manimahesh Kailash mountain that is regarded as one of the holy abodes of Lord Shiva.

Dalhousie

Dalhousie is a charming hill station that was favoured by the British as a retreat for its officials. It straddles 5 hills and has an elevation that varies from 6,000 to 9,000 feet. A number of lovely colonial bungalows and hotels lie along the entire stretch of the town that leads up to the Kalatop Sanctuary. The sanctuary is a thick wooded, beautiful pine and deodar forest that houses its most famous inhabitant – the black bear. The highest point of the town is the Dainkund peak which is believed to be the residence of many witches. You can get spectacular panoramic views of the Punjab plains and the Pir Panjal and Dhauladhar ranges. In winter, the town gets a lot of snow and is a very popular haunt for traveler from Punjab and other states due to its easy accessibility.

Khajjiar

Khajjiar is a small hamlet built around a beautiful lake surrounded by rolling meadows and dense pine forests with the Dhauladhar ranges forming a snowy backdrop in the distance. It is also called Mini Switzerland because of its strong topographical resemblance to Switzerland, with its rolling meadows turning into thick snow fields in the winter. In summer, the town is a hub of adventure sports, such as para sailing and zorbing while in winter, the benign snow slopes lend a magical fairy tale quality to the hamlet. Khajjiar can be visited from Dalhousie via a road that goes through the dense Kalatop Sanctuary and also from Chamba town.

Kangra District

The Kangra district is the most populous district in Himachal and lies just below Chamba District. Its capital is Dharamshala, and the town of McLeodganj is famous as the seat of the Dalai Lama in exile. Kangra district is also famous for the Kangra Fort and its ancient rock cut Masroor temples that are likely to be a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Church of St. John in the wilderness

This is a beautiful secluded church deep in the deodar forests on the outskirts of Dharamshala. It has been built in the neo Gothic style and has fantastic Belgian stained glass windows. Its solitude and beauty is just the recipe for a few quiet moments of introspection, which makes this worth a visit while in Dharamshala.

Norbulingka Institute

The Norbulingka Institute at Sidhpur near Dharamshala is named after the erstwhile summer residence of the Dalai Lama in Tibet. It is an aesthetically designed squat building complex based upon the proportions of Avalokiteshwara, the thousand armed God. Its primary objective is to create awareness of Tibetan values and education and to ensure the traditional arts and crafts flourish, along with providing training in creation and restoration. Free guided tours are available on all days except Sunday and the Institute also conducts workshops for those who wish to study Tibetan art and craft.

Kangra Fort

The Kangra Fort is the largest fort in the Himalayas and one of the oldest dated forts. It was built by the Katoch Kingdom that traces its roots back to the times of the Mahabharata. The fort is an impressive example of stone architecture battlements standing just outside the town of Kangra and also has the intricately carved Lakshmi Narayan temple near it.

Masroor Rock Cut Temple

The Masroor Rock Cut Temple (or Himalayan Pyramid) is a complex of beautiful monolithic rock cut temples from the 6th-8th century AD in a mix of traditional shikhara and Himachali style of architecture fronting the beautiful Masroor lake. The architecture style is strongly reminiscent of the temples at Angkor Vat and is likely to be part of the UNESCO World Heritage List shortly.

Kullu district

Kullu is the prime administrative district in Himachal Pradesh and is also the most populous. The largest valley in the district is the Kullu valley (also known as the Valley of the Gods) where we have the famous hot springs of Bashisht and the popular tourist town of Manali. The northern border of the Kullu district is bounded by the Rohtang pass that is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the state. The river Beas is the primary river that flows through the district and most of the big towns such as Manali and Mandi lie along its banks.

Kullu valley/Manali

It is a broad open valley famous for its sprawling apple orchards and the equally famous pashmina and angora shawls. The airport to access Manali town is located at Bhuntar near Kullu town, about an hour away (by car). The primary religion of people in the valley is Hinduism and there are many famous temples in the valley where people come from far and wide as a pilgrimage.

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