Jim Corbett, the world renowned hunter and nature lover came to shoot a tiger here and fell in love with its natural beauty.

The sleeping hamlet atop a high ridge soaring 2,286 mtrs into the sky, is a place of unrivaled beauty.

Set amidst the conifer forests and orchards, Mukteshwar offers the most enchanting view of the Himalayas and its snow-bound peaks.

Away from the popular hill station environs, Mukteshwar is pure magic. Abundant with apple, plum, peach and apricot trees, this place is a hidden beauty, mostly unexplored.

Among the major peaks visible from here are Nanda Devi (7816 mtrs), Nanda Kot (6861 mtrs), Nandaghati (6900 mtrs), Trishul and Panchchuli.

The most enchanting thing about this place is its serenity and tranquility. The vastness of nature in the background of a boundless sky and mighty Himalayas provides an air that’s oozing out the elixir of life.

The place surrounded by fruit orchards and thick coniferous forest was developed by the Britishers as research and education institute (IVRI) in 1893. It is the celebrated scenic spot overlooking long ranges of Himalayas.

The town of Mukteshwar is associated with a legend of Shiva who gifted immortality or Mukti to a demon that he slew. Mukteshwar was a quiet mountain hamlet till the turn of the last century. Today Mukteshwar is an ideal hill station if you want to admire the panoramic beauty of the Himalayas and leisurely walks through the winding paths of the hills. Mukteshwar Temple is at an altitude of 2,312 mtrs and can be approached by stone stairs. The temple is dedicated to Shiva and has a lingam made of white marble. The idols of Brahma, Vishnu, Parvati, Ganesh, Nandi and Hanuman surround the lingam. Next to the temple is the Chauki Ki Jali. It is a natural latticework on the rock. It is a belief that barren women are blessed with kids if they touch this jali.

How to Reach:

Air: The nearest airport is Pantnagar (152 kms).

Rail: The nearest railhead is Kathgodam (65 kms).

Road: The nearest major city is Nainital, at a distance of 52 kms. An uphill drive from Nainital via Bhewali and Dhanachuli is endowed with breathtaking views around

Where to stay (STD code 05942):

• KMVN Tourist Rest House : Ph.: 286263
• PWD Guest House (Jim Corbett stayed here).

Many private hotels are also offering accommodations in and around Mukteshwar.

What to See:

Mukteshwar is a quiet paradise. Spend days and nights immersed completely in nature to detoxify your body and mind completely. On the sunshine days you can easily see the surrounding peaks with your naked eyes, stretching up to the far borders of Nepal.

You can trek to your heart’s content, visit the local temples or do absolutely nothing, just enjoy the bliss around.

Mukteshwar Temple: This place got its name from the ancient Shiva temple atop a hill. There is an ashram on the hill, with a hermit living there.

Chauki ki Jali: A fascinating rocky cliff behind the Mukteshwar temple. Leaning on the edge of the cliff you can have a view of your lifetime of the surroundings and the far off peaks. But be careful.

This particular place is worth a visit. According to local belief, if you make wishes here, they are fulfilled.

The Market Place: A treasure trove for souvenirs and knick knacks. The locals sell trinkets made out of pine cones. You can buy fresh apples or delicious apple jams, or perhaps the never tasted Rhododendron squash.