Nainital
The Lake Country

Uttarakhand... Simply Heaven!
Surrounded by towering peaks of the Himalayas, fruit orchards and thick coniferous forest, Nainital is a highly celebrated scenic spot in Uttarakhand.

Commonly known as the "Lake District of India", Nainital is one of the most beautiful hill stations in north India. Surrounded by mountains on three sides Nainital is located around the beautiful lake 'Naina Tal'. It is a lake resort situated at a height of 1,938 metres. There are many legends associated with the place. According to one, Nainital has derived its name from the Goddess Naina while the other legend says that when the Goddess Sati lost her eyes, she was being carried by Lord Shiva and a lake was formed. 'Naina' means eyes and 'Tal' means lake.

It is a beautiful small town in Uttarakhand surrounded by seven hills, popularly known as "Sapta-Shring" - Ayarpata, Deopata, Handi-Bandi, Naina, Alma, Lariya-Kanta and Sher-Ka-Danda. The majestic mountains and the sparkling waters of the lake adds gems to the beauty of the town.
The city is a beautiful mixture of all the hues of nature. The lake is Nainital's pride and its yachting competition, organised during the season, is on a national level. The gaily coloured yachts on the sparkling lake have become synonymous with this beautiful resort.

Nainital used to be the summer capital of United Province (Uttar Pradesh) during the British era and remained so for many years even after Independence. The British were the first to ‘discover’ Nainital as a holiday resort in 1841. Today, it has developed into a popular tourist destination of unparallel beauty. The emerald water of this mountain lake continues to retain their charm and beckon tourists from far and wide.

Once this area had many lakes and it was called the city of 60 lakes or 'Chakta'. Most of the lakes in the region have gradually disappeared and whatever remains is just a glimpse of what they might have been in the past. Today the life of Nainital revolves around the lake Naina. But apart from Naini lake the others like Bhimtal, Naukuchiatal, Sattal etc. though shrinking fast, have managed to survive giving the area a majestic look.
Nainital has an advantage of being situated in close proximity of several other lesser known hill stations that are connected through all season motorable roads.

Vantage points around Nainital offer a panoramic view of Himalayan peaks on one side and the plains rolling down on the other. Narrow wooded lanes through forests of oak, pine and deodar are excellent for short refreshing walks. The older parts of Nainital also retain colonial vestiges, including sprawling bungalows, public schools, church and the British cemetery.

On reaching the head of the town where the highway from the plains meets the main Mall at Tallital, you get a dramatic view of the beautiful Naini Lake nestling in its cocoon of hills. Brightly coloured sails of yachts dot the calm waters of the lake while crowds of holiday makers throng the Mall at its edge. Boating in the lake is just one of the favourite activities of the tourists who come to Nainital. Others come here for trekking in the still forested mountains that surround the town.
Nainital is referred in the 'Manas Khand' of the 'Skanda Purana' as the Tri-Rishi-Sarovar, the lake of the three sages, Atri, Pulastya and Pulaha who were reputed to have arrived here on penitential pilgrimage and finding no water to quench their thirst dug a hole and siphoned water into it from Mansarovar the sacred lake in Tibet.

The second important mythological reference to Nainital is as one of 64 'Shakti Peeths'. Legend says that Sati, the consort of Shiva consigned herself to the sacrificial fire when her father Daksha slighted her lord. In grief, Shiva danced the tandava with the lifeless body of Sati, until Vishnu cut it into bits scattering it all over the land. It is said that the left eye (Nain) of Sati fell here and this gave rise to patron deity of town Nainital. It is said that the lake is formed in the emerald eye shape. Naina Devi temple is located at the northern end of the lake.

According to recent historical records, Nainital was discovered by a British sugar merchant
P. Barron in 1839. He was so deeply enthralled by the lake settlement and its forested surrounding that he came back with a sailing boat and built a house named 'Pilgrim's Cottage'. Thus started the process of settling, this once secluded mountain resort, with colonial villas and promenades coming up very rapidly. Soon, it became an important administrative town as well, with the summer capital of the United Provinces being set up here.

A major landslide in 1880 led to the formation of the flats, the level ground by the lake. Torrential rains resulted in a devastating landslide that destroyed several buildings including the Victoria Hotel at the north end of the lake near Mallital. The area was later levelled out and became a popular meeting ground and sports arena. Known as The Flats it is now also used for parking vehicles in the peak tourist season.

Prior to 1839, the valley was covered by thick forests and inhabited by hill tribesmen. Nainital's attractions range from quiet walks in meadows the forests of pine and deciduous, the adventure sports as well as popular entertainment. This unique hill resort can be visited at any time of the year.
BEST TIME TO VISIT

Nainital in the Kumaon hills maintains pleasant weather throughout the year except the winter months. The temperature is mild at any time but in winters it becomes very cold. The climate of Nainital is regulated by the lake here which showers rain almost every afternoon. The best time to visit the place is between April to June and then again in September and October. The months of January to March are marked by the snowfall.
Nainital Highlights

- Area: 11.73 Sq. km.
- Season: Accessible round the year specially in summers.
- Language: Hindi, English & Kumaoni.
- Local Transport: Rickshaws, Ropeway, Ponies, Taxis.
- STD Code: 05942.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Height</th>
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| Climate     | Summers: Max. 26.7°C Min. 10.6°C.  
              Winters: Max. 15.5°C Min. 2.8°C. |
| Clothing    | Winter: Heavy Woollens, Summer: Cottons and Light Woollens. |
| Season      | Round the Year. |
| Language    | Kumaoni, Hindi. |
WHAT TO SEE

NAINA LAKE
This picturesque lake is said to be one of the emerald green eyes of Shiva's beloved consort, Sati (nain is a Sanskrit word for eye). When Sati's father failed to invite Shiva to a family sacrifice, she burnt herself to death in protest. Shiva gathered the charred remains in his arms and proceeded to engage in a cosmic dance, which threatened to destroy the world. To terminate the dance, Vishnu chopped up the body into pieces, and the remains were scattered across Indian subcontinent. The Naina Devi Temple at the northern end of the lake is built over the precise spot where the eye is believed to have fallen.

SNOW VIEW
At the top, a close up view of Nanda Devi (7816m), which was, 'the highest mountain in the British empire'. Nanda Devi was India's highest peak until Sikkim (and thus Kanchenjunga) was absorbed into the country.
There's a small temple dedicated to Dev Mundi, housing images of Goddess Durga, Lord Shiva, Goddess Sita, Lord Rama, Sri Lakshmana and Sri Hanuman. From Snow View you can walk west to another point and then continue on to the main road to Kilbury. From here you can also continue up to Cheena Peak or head down the road to Sukhatal, passing great views of the lake enroute. A walk up to Snow View can take in the tiny Gadhan Kunkyp Ling Gompa of the Gelukpa order (of which the Dalai Lama is the spiritual head).

**Naina Peak**

Naina Peak is known as the Cheena peak. This is the highest point in Nainital. From here Nainital appears as a vast bowl. From here you can have the exciting views of Nainital. You can walk or take ponies to the peak. Naina peak also gives a good view of the Camelback peak. There are no hotel or restaurant on the top so carry food and water along with you.
NAINA DEVI TEMPLE
The attractive lake of Nainital is said to be the eyes of Sati, consort of Lord Shiva. Sati emulated herself into the sacrificial fire after being severely insulted. Lord Shiva, to mourn the death of his beloved wife carried the body across the universe. The remains of her body fell at various places which today are sacred worship places for the Hindus.

HANUMAN GARHI
The place is of much religious importance. Situated at a height of 1951 meters this place was established by Baba Neem Kirol. A very beautiful Hanuman mandir is at the top. From Hanuman Garhi watching the Sunset is very soothing. You can walk down from Nainital to Hanuman Garhi.

OBSERVATORY
The clearly visible skies over Nainital encouraged the government to setup an observatory here. The observatory has one of the most advance telescopes in India. This telescope measures the movement of stars, planets and other heavenly bodies to great precision. The entry in the observatory is by permission only and timings are fixed.
ZOO GARDENS
Nainital has a small but a very beautiful Zoological garden. There are several animals kept here which include Deers, Bears, Tigers and many more. The hygiene and cleanliness of the zoo is a point which attracts the mind even if one ignores it. Not surprising this zoo is one of the most clean zoos in the country. The zoo can be reached on foot or taxi can be hired.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
This church was built in 1847. A brass memorial is kept in memory of the persons who were buried in the infamous landslide in the 19th century. The few bodies which could be dug out were buried in the church premises.
BEYOND NAINITAL

BHOWALI
1706 meters above the sea level and 11 kms. away from Nainital, this road junction serves all the nearby hill stations from Nainital. Bhowali is famous for its scenic grandeur and as a hill fruit mart. Its also known for its T.B. sanatorium established in 1912.

GHIRAKHAL
Famous for the temple of Lord Golu (God of Law & Justice) worshipped by hill people and sainik school this place is at a distance of 3 kms. from Bhowali.

SAT TAL
At a distance of about 23 kms. from Nainital at an altitude of 1370 mts. Sattal is a unique, unforgettable spot having cluster of lakes placed amidst the oak forest. It is comparable with Westmoreland of England. As one approach toward Sattal first lake is old Nal-Damyanti Lake. On moving ahead there is the ashram of Stanley Johns an American Missionary. Next lake is Panna or Garude lake. As we move down there is a cluster of three lakes, these lakes are Ram, Laxman and Sita lake.
BHIMTAL
22 kms. from Nainital and 11 kms. from Bhowali at an altitude of 1370 mts. The pride of Bhimtal is a beautiful lake, which offers magnificent vistas for tourists.

NAUKUCHIATAL
A deep crystal clear lake with its nine corner is a captivating site. Length of lake is 983 mts., breadth is 693 mts. & depth 40.3 mts. It is within an enchanting valley offering an opportunity of angling and bird watching. There is ample scope for rowing, paddling or yachting.

KILBURY
Kilbury is slightly away from Nainital. 12 kms. from the main town. Located amidst green forests this tranquil place provides a break from the city. Kilbury gives a breathtaking view of the Himalayas. The forest department has got its guest house here. Kilbury takes you into the laps of nature from Hustle Bustle of the cities.
UPAT KALIKA
6 kms. from the town on Almora Road the place has one of the best mountain golf links (9 Holes) in the country surrounded by dense forests just one km. from Upat is Kalika with its famous temple.

KAINCHI DHAM
On the Nainital - Almora Road, 9 kms. from Bhowali and 17 kms. from Nainital is a modern pilgrim centre. This place has achieved recognition owing to the ashram of the famous Neem Karoli Maharaj. Kainchi is a term used for two sharp hairpin bends of the motor road in local dialect hence the name.

RANIKHET
A hill station, idyllic in its charm, Ranikhet with its majestic pine trees, is 60 kms. from Nainital. According to popular belief this spot had won the heart of Rani Padmini, queen of Raja Sudhardev. She chose this scenic place to her abode & since then, it has come to be known as Rani-Khet, literally "Queen's Field".
MUKTESHWAR
This exciting place is 2286 mts. in altitude and 51 kms. from Nainital. Surrounded by fruit orchards and thick coniferous forest it was developed by the Britishers as Research and Education Institute (IVRI) in 1893. It is the celebrated scenic spot overlooking long ranges of Himalaya. An old temple of Lord Shiva exist on the top of a rock.

KAUSANI
Nestling among thick dense pine forests, atop a narrow ridge and separated from the towering mountains of the Nanda Devi range by low, medium mountains; at Kausani the grandeur of the Himalayan scenery comes alive.

BAIJNATH
Situated at an elevation of 1125 mts. it is 19 kms. from Kausani towards Bageshwar. Lying on the banks of Gomti River in a flat valley, the temple complex of Bajjnath was constructed by the Katyuri kings.
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61. Prashant 05942-235347
62. Prience 05942-235817
63. Paryatak 05942-235815
64. Punjab 05942-235545
65. Payal 05942-235248
66. Royal 05942-236007
67. Rose Villa 05942-231224
68. Radha Continental 05942-236466
69. Prem Rose 05942-237521
70. Silverton 05942-235249
71. Standard 05942-235602
72. Sherwani Hill Top Inn 05942-236128
73. Savoy 05942-235721
74. Samrat 05942-235678
75. Surya 05942-235054
76. Shivraj 05942-235698
77. Sheela 05942-235194
78. Swiss 05942-236013
79. Sarover 05942-235267
80. Sita Kiran 05942-235327
81. Shalimar 05942-235432
82. Sunrise 05942-235749
83. Tourist Hotel 05942-235580
84. Vikram Vintage 05942-236179
85. Vinayak 05942-236906
86. Welcome Park 05942-235552

**Mukteshwar**
1. Shree Hari Resort
2. Mountain Trail 05942-286040
3. Krishna Orchard 05942-286541

**Bhimtal**
1. Forest Fern, Rt Ltd, Hospitality 05942-247121
2. Pine Crest (A unit of Himansu Resort) Pvt. Ltd 05942-247430
3. Monolith Resort 05942-247415
4. Nilesh Inn 05942-247117

**Ramgarh**
1. Hill Crest Riviera 05942-281128
2. Heem Ka Rana
3. Writer Sunglow 05942-281156
4. Loop Kumaon 05942-281200

**IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

1. District Tourism Development Office 235337
2. KMVN 236356, 231435, 235700
3. Railway Reservation (Nainital) 231010
4. Roadways 235518
5. District Magistrate 235684
6. Divisional Forest Officer 236469
7. PWD 235165
8. Head Post Office 236199
9. Aries 235583

**Police Station**
1. Mallital 235424
2. Tallital 236470

**Hospital**
1. B.D. Pande Hospital, Mallital (Male) 235012, 235022
2. B.D. Pande Hospital, Mallital (Female) 235686
3. G.B. Pant Hospital, Tallital 235388
4. CMO 236213
5. Sitapur
Chemists
1. Indra Pharmacy, Tallital, Nainital 05942-235139
2. Indra Pharmacy, Mallital, Nainital 05942-235629
3. Himani Medicos, Mallital, Nainital 05942-236922, 237254
4. Mohinder & Co. 05942-235290

Banks
1. State Bank of India (Mallital) 235645, 265087
2. State Bank of India (Tallital) 235579, 235579
3. Bank of Baroda 235377, 236285, 235312
4. Punjab National Bank 235604
5. Punjab National Bank (Bara Bazaar, Nainital) 235714
6. Punjab & Sind Bank 235190
7. Nainital Bank Ltd. (Head Office) 236195
8. Nainital Bank Ltd. (Tallital) 235414
9. Kurmanchal Bank Ltd. (Head Office) 235827, 236973, 236574
10. Kurmanchal Bank Ltd. (Tallital) 235440, 236037
11. Kurmanchal Bank Ltd. (Bara Bazaar, Mallital) 235427
12. Central Bank of India 235495
13. Allahabad Bank 236029, 236049, 237729, 236050, 236574
14. Kurmanchal Bank Ltd. (Tallital) 235440, 236037
15. Kurmanchal Bank Ltd. (Bara Bazaar, Mallital) 235427
16. Central Bank of India 235495
17. Bank of India 239399
18. Union Bank of India 232781
19. HDFC 233797, 233798

**SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please make it sure that you have kept following documents with you before proceeding on hill journey:-

- a) Registration Certificate of vehicle
- b) Vehicle permit if it is being used for commercial purpose
- c) Insurance Certificate of the vehicle
- d) Legal driving license certificate of the driver
- e) Tax payment certificate of the vehicle
- f) Conductor’s license (if applicable)

The collection of above documents on a paper is called Green Card which is essential to be with driver during journey.

Vehicle owners are advised to send competent and experienced drivers.

No vehicles will be allowed to proceed on hill before 5.00 A.M. and after 7 P.M. in case of a vehicle going on pilgrimage and before 4.00 AM and after 8 PM in case of local service. However the vehicles from Haridwar will be allowed proceed on hill journey at or after 4.00 AM.

The pilgrims are advised to travel in the buses specified for pilgrimage and not in the local service buses. Both type of buses will be having name plates on front side of the bus, clearly indicating yatra or local service.

The facilities of registration and additional insurance of the pilgrims has been provided by the Municipal Board at Haridwar and Rishikesh.

The bus owner will have to finish a list of pilgrims with their addresses and other particulars and to keep it secured.

There would be speed limits for vehicles i.e. 25 to 30 km/hour while running on hill roads.

The driver should not perform duty more than 8 hours a day in order to avoid accidents.

**Other general information regarding transport during journey:-**

1. Drivers should not be under the influence of alcohol while driving.
2. Use horn on road bends.
3. Do not play tape recorders, radio inside the running vehicles.
4. Drivers should not wear chappals while driving.
5. Vehicles should not be overloaded.
6. The descending vehicle on the slope should give way to ascending vehicle.
7. There should be a First Aid Box inside the vehicle.
8. Do not overtake without taking pass from the vehicle in front. Never overtake an overtaking vehicle.
9. If any driver is found driving in a drunk condition, it should be reported to the nearest Police Station or Transport Authority.
10. Do not allow any unauthorized or minor person to drive the vehicle.
11. Give way to vehicles going uphill.
12. Do not drive fast.

**IMPORTANT SHOPPING CENTRES**

Sardar Sons The Mall Mallital Tel: 05942-237476
Arun Gift Stores The Mall Mallital Tel: (05942) 36517, 35987
Shivam Gift Stores The Mall Mallital Tel: (05942) -36503, 39303
Princes: The Mall, Mallital, Tel: (05942)-235204
Darshan Brothers: Tallital, Nainital, Tel: (05942) - 235475
Banarsi Pan Bhandar: The Mall, Mallital, Nainital, Tel: (05942)-237476, 237545
Bara Bazaar
Bhotia Market
Gupta Gift Emporium: Mallital, Tel: (05942)-235431
Jack 'N' Jill: The Mall, Tel: (05942)-236568, 236601

TIPS FOR TOURISTS
Traffic Rules on the Mall Road: Entry of heavy traffic is prohibited during the months of May, June and October from 8 AM to 10:30 AM and 2:30 PM to 10:30 PM light vehicles from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM and cycle rickshaw from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
Toll Tax: Toll tax is charged by municipality from the vehicles entering the Nainital town. It is charged at Tallital from the vehicles entering from Haldwani/Bhowali, while at Sukhatal from the vehicles coming from Kaladhungi side.
Toll tax rates: 16th March to 15th Nov
1600 Hrs to 2100 Hrs.-Heavy Vehicles-Rs.100/-, Light Vehicles-Rs. 50/-
2100 Hrs to 1600 Hrs.-Heavy Vehicles-Rs. 50/-, Light Vehicles-Rs. 25/-
16th Nov. to 15th March
1500 Hrs to 2000 Hrs.-Heavy Vehicles-Rs.100/-, Light Vehicles-Rs. 50/-
2000 Hrs to 1500 Hrs.-Heavy Vehicles-Rs. 50/-, Light Vehicles-Rs. 25/-
Parking
Parking of Vehicles is restricted on Mall in the summer & autumn months. One can park vehicle in 'The Flat' (Mallital), taxi stand, Tallital & KMVN Parking at Sukhatal. Beside this some hotels provide parking facility to their customers.
Conducted Tours: Kumoun Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd. (KMVN) Nainital offers a variety of tours during the whole year. For details and booking one can contact the Parvat Tour (Phone No. 235656). Apart from above corporation, a number of local approved excursion agents also conduct tours to different places.
Weather: The winter starts at Nainital in late October which extends upto late March, of which December & January are extreme cold during which snow fall may also occur. April to Mid June & the month of October is the most pleasant time at Nainital. It rains very heavily from late June to September.
What to purchase: Decorative Wax Candles, Wooden Sticks, Items made of pine seeds etc.

PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING
Do's
Limit deforestation, make no open fires and discourage others from doing so. Choose accommodation that uses kerosene or fuel efficient wood stoves. Use of fire wood should be minimized.
Carry away all non-degradable litter and burn or bury paper before leaving any spot. Extinguish any burning cigarette butts and dispose off glass bottles properly, they should not be left lying in the open but should be covered or buried.
Avoid using polythene, if you do, do not throw it away, but collect it separate. Take permission before taking photographs and respect privacy. Observe the rules and regulations while visiting holy sites. Propagate and pursue conservation in co-operation with fellow tourist, guides and porters.

Dont's
Avoid using pollutants such as detergents, in streams or springs. Abstain from graffiti and contribute in keeping environment clean. Allow the flora to flourish in its natural environment. Taking plant cuttings, seeds and roots is illegal in many parts of the Himalayas.
For further details contact: Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board
3/3 Industrial Area, Patel Nagar, Dehradun 248001 (Uttarakhand), India. Tel.: 91-135-2624147, 2722323; Fax: 91-135-2627405
E-mail: ddtourism@ua.nic.in, Website: www.ua.nic.in/uttaranchaltourism

Garhwali Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited
74/1 Rajpur Road, Dehradun 248001 (Uttarakhand), India. Tel.: 91-135-2740896, 2746817, 2749308, 2748478; Fax: 91-135-2746847
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Uttarakhand Tourism, New Delhi
Room No. 1, Ground Floor, Hotel Janpath, New Delhi-110001, India. Tel.: 91-11-23364177, 23746431; Fax: 91-11-23746433

Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam Limited
Oak Park House, Nainital 263001 (Uttarakhand), India. Tel.: 91-5942-236356, 236374, 236209, 235700; Fax: 91-5942-236897, 236374
E-mail: kmvn@yahoo.com, Website: www.kmvn.org

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Kausani: 05962-258067
Dehradun: 0135-2653217, 9412998506
Rishikesh: 0135-2430209
Rudraprayag: 01364-233995
Joshimath: 01389-222181
Adventure Tourism Information, Almora: 05962-237760
Adventure Tourism Information, Uttarkashi: 01374-274761, 9412998511
Tourist Information Centre Railway Station, Haridwar: 01334-265305
Almora: 05962-230180-81, 9412998512
Bageshwar: 05963-221562, 9412998517
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Mussoorie: 0135-2632863
Uttarkashi: 01374-274667, 9412998518
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Pithoragarh: 05964-225527, 9412998515
Champawat: 05965-230866, 9412998517
Kotdwar: 01382-224162
Haridwar: 01334-265304/5, 9412998507
Pauri Garhwal: 01368-222241
Srinagar (Garhwal): 01346-250065
Udham Singh Nagar: 05944-239219

UTTARAKHAND TOURISM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

For further information, online reservations, travel packages & hotel bookings, please contact your travel agent or contact:
Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board: 3/3, Industrial Area, Patel Nagar, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun - 248001 (Uttarakhand), India.
Tel.: 91-135-2624147, 2722323; Fax: 91-135-2627405, E-mail: ddtourism@ua.nic.in Other Offices: Ahmedabad Ph.: 079-26564245/26421214,
Bangalore Ph.: 080-22356489/22249378, Chandigarh Ph.: 0172-2707649, Chennai Ph.: 044-25363524/25362300, Delhi Ph.: 011-23364177, 23326620,
23712246, Jaipur Ph.: 0141-5124036/2378892, Kolkata Ph.: 033-22315554/22827295, Lucknow Ph.: 0522-2615866/2207844,
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Online reservations also available on: www.kmvn.org/www.gmvnl.com