

Places of Interest

Agroha

Agroha is an ancient town in Haryana believed to be the birthplace of the Agrawal and Agrahari communities. Ancient structures, pot-shards, coins and seals have been found in archaeological excavations. Agroha was the capital of legendary Emperor Agrasen.

It is close to Hisar and Hansi on NH 10. During the last 20 years Agroha Vikas Trust has done a lot of development of this Holy town. Now a very fine facility with modern lodging and boarding is available.

A number of temples have been constructed in the Complex. A Medical and Engineering College is also present at Agroha.

Badkhal Lake

Badkhal Lake was a natural lake situated in Faridabad, Haryana, about 16 kilometers from Delhi.

It was a natural lake surrounded by hilly areas of the Aravali Range in Haryana.

As of May 2009, the lake is almost a completely dried up grassy terrain and the unusually low rainfall in the area has been cited. Certain mines surrounding the lake are also responsible for blockage of flow of water to the lake's reservoir. Also some mineral water companies are responsible as well, for taking water from the lake for their purposes.

On 30th November 2009, it was announced that the lake and the nearby Surajkund, would be filled up with water, by the time 2010 Commonwealth Games arrive.

Kalka

Kalka is a town in Panchkula district of Haryana, India. It is on the NH 22 on way from Chandigarh to Shimla, and is the terminus of the Kalka-Shimla Railway. The town is situated on the foothills of Himalayas and is an entry point to Himachal Pradesh - The land of Gods.

The name of the town is derived from the Goddess Kali and an ancient temple of the Goddess is located here. The temple has thousands of pilgrims turning up each year with a particularly heavy footfall during the Hindu festival of Navratri. In the mid 1980's an ancient temple of Balaji (childhood incarnation of Hindu god Hanuman) was excavated in one of the hills overlooking the city. It is slowly developing into a major pilgrim attraction.

This town is on the foothills of Himalayas and is next to Chandimandir where the Western Command of Indian army is located. Railway Station at Kalka is a junction of broad gauge and narrow gauge which is connected with Chandigarh and New Delhi. There are direct trains for New Delhi, such as Kalka Jan Shatabdi and Kalka Chandigarh Shatabdi Express. However, the town lacks direct rail connectivity with Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Pune, Ahmedabad, Indore, Bhopal, Lucknow and other major Indian cities. You can embark upon a trip from Kalka to Shimla in a narrow gauge train traversing eye catching terrains of Himalayan valley. TTR (timber trail resorts) is 15 minute drive away from Kalka. It is situated on the foothills of Himalayas. The famous Yadavindra Gardens (Pinjore Garden) is at 5 minute drive from Kalka.

Kalka was an important stop over town for the British that went over to Shimla.

Kalka is becoming more modern with time, however many of the businesses that were functioning over 30 years ago are still being used by not only the locals, but many of those who are abroad. Due to many people having full trust in the tailors, for example, even those who live abroad would come back just to use their services.

The Kalka-Shimla rail route, which has completed 100 years, offers the charm of old-world travel amidst lofty pines and lush green, misty mountains. This is one of the four narrow gauge rail routes on hill terrain in the country, the other three being the Darjeeling, Ooty and Pathankot - Jogindernagar routes. In fact, the Darjeeling route was used as a model for the Kalka-Shimla route, which was proposed in 1891.

Started during the reign of Lord Curzon in November 1903, this rail route features in the Guinness Book of World Records for offering the steepest rise in altitude in the space of 96 kilometers. More than two-thirds of the track is curved, sometimes at angles as sharp as 48 degrees.

Laid out on a 96 km long narrow gauge track that passes through 103 tunnels and across more than 800 bridges and viaducts, it is one of the most beautiful hill railways in India. It was considered the "crown jewel" of the Indian National Railways during British times.

Flanked by hills on both sides, the rail line, like twin threads of silver, clings to the steep cliffs and ventures boldly over bridges, built over tiny streams that show off their radiance in the sunlight. The cool breeze sweeps across your face as the train makes an arduous climb of almost 4800 feet from Kalka to Shimla in almost five hours.

Major Attraction of Indian Railways in region: Train Gauge - Narrow (762mm)
Track Length - Over 96 Km Project Launched in - 1901 Project Completed in - 1903
Train Service Commenced - November 9, 1903 Bridges - Over 800 Longest Bridge - Near Dharampur (70 m) Tunnels - 103 (1 not in service) Longest Tunnel - Barog (1.1 Km) Maximum Height - above 2000 m above sea level Curves - 900 (70% track is in curves) Train - After 1965, hauled by Diesel Engine Maximum Number of Coaches -

Seven Services - seven coach train and rail car Heritage Sites - Four on last count Now in UNESCO world Heritage List Total change of altitude : From Kalka, 655 meters (2,150 ft) to Shimla of 2,076 meters (6,811 ft).

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Please keep it clean. This reflects our culture somewhere and it is our duty to keep it and preserve it.

Karna Lake

Karna Lake is a major tourist attraction in the Karnal district of Haryana It is located at a distance of 125 km from both Chandigarh and Delhi, thus serving as a midway halt while traveling between the two cities on the famous Grand Trunk Road. Folklore has it that Karna, a famous character from Indian history, who played a major role in the war of Mahabharat, used to bathe in this lake. It was at this spot that he gave away his protective armor to Indra, the Godfather of Arjuna, Karna's arch-enemy. It is surmised that the city of Karnal derives its name from *Karna-Taal*, which translates to Karna Lake. That may also be the reason for Karnal to be called the *City of Karna* in local parlance.

Kurukshetra

Kurukshetra is a district in Haryana state of India. It is a holy place and is also known as '**Dharamkshetra**' (' **Holy City** '). According to the Puranas Kurukshetra is named after King Kuru, the ancestor of Kauravas and Pandavas, as depicted in epic Mahabharata. The importance of the place is attributed to the fact that the Kurukshetra war of the Mahabharata was fought on this land and the Bhagavad Gita was preached on this land during the war when Lord Krishna found Arjuna in a terrible dilemma .

Rashtrakavi Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar' has written an epic poem by the title of *Kurukshetra*. It is a narrative poem based on the *Santi Parva* of the Mahabharata. It was written at a time when the memories of the Second World War were fresh on the mind of the poet.

Thanesar or Sthaneswar, a historical town is located adjacent to what is now newly created Kurukshetra city. Thanesar derives its name from the word "Sthaneshwar" which means "Deity of the Place". The Sthaneshwar Mahadev Temple, whose presiding deity is Lord Shiva, is believed to be the oldest temple in the vicinity. Local hearsay identifies the legendary "Kurukshetra" with a nearby obscure hamlet, and with the active abetment of the state government, it is presently experiencing a tourist boom. A few

kilometers from Kurukshetra is the village known as "Amin", where there are remnants of a fort which is said to be Abhimanyu's fort.

In some ancient Hindu texts, the boundaries of Kurukshetra correspond roughly to the state of Haryana. Thus according to the Taittiriya Aranyaka 5.1.1., the Kurukshetra region is south of Turghna (Srughna/Sugh in Sirhind, Punjab), north of Khandava (Delhi and Mewat region), east of Maru (=desert) and west of Parin.

It is written in Puranas that Kurukshetra is named after the King Kuru of Bharata Dynasty, ancestor of Pandavas and Kauravas.

The Vamana Purana tells how King Kuru came to settle on this land. He chose this land at the banks of Sarasvati River for embedding spirituality with 8 virtues— austerities (tapas), truth (satya), forgiveness (kshama), kindness (daya), purity (sucha), charity (dana), yajna and brahmacharya. Lord Vishnu was impressed with the act of King Kuru and blessed him. God gave him two boons, one that this land forever will be known as a Holy Land after his name as Kurukshetra (the land of Kuru) and the other that anyone dying on this land will be going to heaven. The land of Kurukshetra was separated between two rivers — the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati.

Bronze Chariot with Lord Krishna and Arjuna

This land has been known as Uttarvedi, Brahmavedi, Dharamkshetra and Kurukshetra at different periods. When King Kuru came on this land it was called Uttarvedi. Over the period this land has been ruled by many empires. Bharata Dynasty came and settled on this land.

Later Battle of Mahabharata was fought on this land during which Lord Krishna preached Bhagavad Gita to Arjuna.

It reached zenith of progress during the reign of King Harsha during the period of which Chinese scholar Hsien Tsang visited this land at Thanesar. By the archaeological grounds it has been proved that Ashoka the Great made Kurukshetra a centre of learning for people from all over the world. Mughals also ruled this land. Sufi saint Sheikh Chelhi's tomb on this land is an evidence of this fact.

Places of interest

- Brahma Sarovar: Every year lakhs of people come to take holy bath at Brahma Sarovar on the occasion of "Somavati Amavasya" (Sacred No-Moon Day that happens on a Monday).
- Sannihit Sarovar: This Sarovar is believed to be the meeting point of seven sacred Saraswatis. The sarovar, according to popular belief, contains sacred water. Bathing in the waters of the tank on the day of Amavasya (night of

complete darkness) or on the day of an eclipse bestows blessings equivalent to performing the ashvamedh yajna.

- **Bhishma Kund.**
- Jyotisar: The famous site where Bhagavad Gita was delivered to Arjuna
- Krishna Museum: Have some historical artifacts, paintings depicting Mahabharata war.
- Kurukshetra Panorama and Science centre: An excellent world class Panorama depicting the Mahabharata war with scientific explanations justifying every episode in the war. There are also several scientific exhibits which kindle in the visitor, a curiosity for science.
- Kalpana Chawla Planetarium
- Light and Sound Show: A newly built Tourist attraction which highlights some aspects of Geeta Saar in brilliant combination of lights and sound.
- Dharohar: A must visit to know the Tradition and Culture of Haryana located in Kurukshetra University.
- Bhishma Kund at Naraktari: The place where Arjuna shot an arrow towards earth to quench Bhisma Pitamah thirst
- Saraswati Forest Reserve: It is a large reserved forest area with rich flora and fauna in Kurukshetra district.
- Sheikh Chehli ka makbara (tomb): This monument is maintained by ASI. It was built during Mughalperiod in remembrance of Sufi Saint Sheikh Chehli, believed to be the spiritual teacher of Mughal Prince, Dara Shikoh.
- Sthaneshwar Mahadev
- Kamal Nabhi
- Valmiki Ashram
- Birla Mandir
- Gurdwara Raj Ghat Patshahi Dasvin
- Gurdwara Chhevin Patshahi
- Gurdwara Siddh Bati Patshahi Pahili
- Pehowa
- Ban Ganga in village Dayalpur
- Bhadrakali Mandir - a temple of goddess which is one of the 52 shakti peeths. As per the story in Hindu Mythology, Goddess sati killed herself by entering the Yagna of Raja Daksha as a protest against the insult of Lord Shiva. Remorseful Lord Shiva was wandering in the whole universe with the corpse of his beloved Sati on his shoulder. To bring him back to the original mood, it was necessary to destroy the corpse of Sati. Lord Vishnu hence cut the corpse in 52 pieces with his Sudarshan Chakra. The different parts fell at different places where the temples of the goddess was built by the devotees later on. Collectively, these are known as 52 shakti peethas. One of them is in Kurukshetra where the leg of the goddess fell.

Morni Hills

Morni is a tourist place in Morni Hills in Panchkula district of Haryana in India. Morni Hills are the offshoots of Shivalik range of the Himalayas, which run in two parallel ranges. The village of Morni (Bhoj Jabial) lies on the mountainside, at 1220 meters above mean sea level. Traditions assign the name of Morni to a Queen who is believed to have ruled this area. Among the spurs of hills, lie two lakes, the larger is about 550 meters long and 460 meters broad and the other about 365 meters either way. A hill divides the two lakes but there is some Hidden channel, as the level of two lakes remains the same. The people look upon the lakes as sacred. There is an old fort, which is now in ruins. The hills are covered by pine trees. The climate is salubrious and the area is suitable for trekking. The Haryana Government has developed this hill resort and provides facilities to tourists, a motorable road was constructed to connect the Morni hills with Haryana State Highway near Panchkula. A Forest Department rest house "Lal Munia" and a PWD rest house were also constructed to accommodate tourists and trackers. There are also small playgrounds for children. There is a roller skating rink and a swimming pool. It is an ideal place for tourists who want to avoid crowds and for those who love nature. There are a number of resorts that add to accommodation options and variability in and around Morni. It is a place that is frequented by nature starved people (whose tribe is ever growing in cities) on the weekends or holidays and it might be difficult to grab a decent meal at times in the high season. A decently stocked liquor vend and an attached snack shop that serves turmeric laden omelettes and toasted bread ,does for the meals to famished tourists. The best season to visit is September to March, because it might get hot or humid during the rest of the months and venturing might be overly-humid.

It has 2 small man-made lakes called Tikkar Taal, bada tikkar and chota tikkar. Tikkar Taal offers good attraction for tourist and campers to frequent Morni. Campers accommodation in dormantories is made available by Haryana Tourism at Tikkar Taal.

The road that descends from the zenith of the hillstation brings you to a seasonal waterfall that drops into a muddy lake but is aloof from crowds , so gives relaxation space and time .Further up the road takes you into Himachal pradesh.On the high point where the road forks for the steep descent for the twin lakes,at clear nights,especially after showers one can see the lights of chandigarh.The geometrically placed streetlights,neon or sodium vapour, & occasionally bright signboards, howsoever blurred tend to mesmerize you.

There are three roads that connect Morni to chandigarh or other nearby towns(courtesy Haryana government), so one wont get stuck up in case of a blockade on any road, likely landslides in the rains.The town has grown so has time required to absorb the milleu and soak the nature and experience that it provides.

Pinjore Garden

The Yadavindra Gardens at Pinjore have terraced gardens, which feature the Rajasthani Mughal style Shish Mahal, the Rang Mahal, the cubical Jal Mahal and a series of fountains and waterfalls. The gardens are open from 7am to 10pm and are illuminated at night. The entry ticket is Rs. 20/- per head. With an abundance of fruit trees, do make it a point to taste the fruit chaat, which is made straight from the fruits plucked from the garden. The restaurants and accommodation within the gardens make a lovely venue; rooms cost Rs.400/600 for non air-conditioned / air-conditioned rooms.

Sultanpur National Park

Sultanpur was the center of salt production for use in Delhi and the United Provinces till the late 19th century exporting annually 250000 quintals (680000 maunds) over the Rajputana-Malwa Railway. Salt was produced by extracting brine from about 40 wells using bullocks and drying in open plots.

Since salt was one of the major sources of Government revenue the office of the salt superintendent at Sultanpur supervised the levy of Rs 2 tax per maund. With the levy of the heavy salt tax and acquisition of the Sambhar salt works in Rajputana by the British Indian Government the Sultanpur salt became uneconomical and by 1903-4 the salt industry was struggling for survival with salt export having fallen to 65000 maunds leading to severe setback to the economy of the Sultanpur area. Finally, in 1923 the British shut down the office of the salt superintendent, had all the mounds of salt thrown back into the wells and shut down the salt industry leading to considerable economic misery to the people.

As a bird sanctuary it was the kind of Peter Jackson, famous ornithologist, and Honorary Secretary of the Delhi Birdwatching Society, who wrote to Prime Minister of India, Indira Gandhi, founder of the Society, in 1970 about the need to declare the Sultanpur jheel near Delhi, a bird sanctuary, and she asked him to take her there.

She had to cancel at the last minute, but later instructed the Chief Minister of Haryana to protect the jheel and in 1972, the Sultanpur Bird Reserve was established. On 07/13/1989 the reserve was upgraded to a National Park.

The area was declared a Bird sanctuary in 1972, and twenty years later in 1989, it was made a later a National Park . It has an area of 1.43 square kilometres It is a protected area where over 250 species of birds have been sighted.

Earlier before the construction of bandhs and drainage areas around Sultanpur remained waterlogged and attracted a large numbers of migratory birds and hunters, many from the Diplomatic Corps at Delhi. Now however the bird sanctuary is artificially revived using pumped water from the Jamuna river.

Surajkund

Surajkund is an ancient reservoir of the tenth century, 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) away to the south west from a more ancient dam of the 8th century called the Anagpur Dam; both are located in Haryana, India. Surajkund (literal meaning is 'Lake of the Sun') is an artificial Kund ('Kund' means "lake" or reservoir) built in the backdrop of the Aravalli hills with an amphitheatre shaped embankment constructed in semicircular form. It is said to have been built by the Tomar king Suraj Pal of Tomar dynasty in the tenth century. Tomar was a sun worshipper and he had therefore built a Sun temple on its western bank.

Another 'kund' by the same name as 'Suraj Kund' existed in Sunam city, a tahsil and sub division of the Sangrur District in Punjab. This was sacked by Mahmood Ghaznavi or Taimur Lane. The temple is now in ruins.

According to bardic tradition (a tradition steeped in the history and traditions of clan and country) the Tomarings who initially lived near the Aravalli hills shifted to the Surajkund area near Lal Kot, which was built by the Tomars. Lal Kot was renamed as Qila Rai Pithora, after Prithvi Raj Chauhan (the second last Hindu king of Delhi). Archeological excavations have revealed existence of a Sun temple here based on ruins that can be seen even now. Certain carved stones were recently recovered from the reservoir. Some stones have also been re-used in subsequent restoration works. Some historians also claim that it was named after King Surajpal himself who built it. It is also said that Suraj Pal built this lake for his daughter.

During the Tughlaq Dynasty rule of Feroz Shah Tughlaq (1351-88), the reservoir was refurbished by rebuilding the steps and terraces with stones in lime mortar. On the western bank of the reservoir, a *garhi* (cave like structure) was built close to the ancient site of the Sun temple.

Though historians have not specifically alluded to this tank, it is also said that it was built in 686 AD by Suraj Pal (after whom the tank is probably named) son of Anang Pal I. It is in the form of a segment (semi circular) with the chord on its west side. Another theory for the name 'Suraj' suffixed to the kund (lake) is that it was named after the Sun Temple that existed on the east side of the lake.

Even though the Tomar dynasty vanished in the 12th century, the Surajkund has not been affected. It attracted the attention of the Haryana Government to develop the area as a tourist spot by introducing an annual crafts 'Mela' or "fair" titled "Surajkund Crafts Mela" in the precincts of the lake, which over the years has attracted wide publicity and become an iconic event.

Surjakund mela

In the backdrop of the lake, during the spring season, every year from February 1-15, a colorful traditional craft festival of India is held in the precincts of Surajkund. This fair was first started in 1987. Traditional craftsman (artists, painters, weavers and sculptors) from all parts of the country participate in this annual celebration named as the "Surajkund Crafts Mela" or "Surajkund designer's Village". Designer items created by 50 best designers and craftsmen in wood, metal, bamboo, iron, glass, textiles and stone can be seen here. This Mela (fair) is visited by lovers of arts and crafts from all over the world. The fair is held with a different theme every year on Indian culture and crafts.

The theme, specific to a state of India, is depicted at the entrance to the Mela grounds and provides an ambience of that particular state with characteristic colors, materials, architecture, furniture and decorations. The crafts on display in the stalls (400) is of particular crafts of that state. The Mela also includes a food festival covering some of the popular cuisines from different parts of the country. Entertainment in the form of famous rhythms and dance of folk theatre are also held here during the festival.

During 2009, with Madhya Pradesh as the theme state, 50 crafts' persons from SAARC countries, Thailand and Egypt also participated in the Mela. The show was titled "Hemvati-Khajuraho" as a part of the 23rd annual Surajkund Crafts Fair event. Sanchi Stupa, (a world heritage site in Madhya Pradesh) formed the backdrop for the festival.

Tilyar Lake

Tilyar Lake is one of the major tourist attractions in the Indian state of Haryana. It is at a distance of 70 kilometers from New Delhi on the Delhi - Fazilka highway and is located close to the city of Rohtak in Haryana.^[1] The lake lies in a 132 acre area and forms an integral part of the tourist setup making it one of the greenest stretches in the adjoining area. The spacious lawns and the scenery on view make this resort a great place to relax and people visit from as far away as Mumbai. It is also an excellent spot for watching a variety of birds that flock on the little island located in the middle of the lake.

Anagpur Dam

The Anagpur Dam, located close to the Anagpur village (also called Arangpur) in Gurgaon district of Haryana, India, is 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) away from the more famous Surajkund. This unique Indian hydraulic engineering structure was built during the reign of King Anagpal of the Tomar dynasty in 8th Century AD. It is approachable by road from Delhi from the Delhi - Mathura road. The ruins of the fortifications found in Anagpur village establishes by an inference that it was built by Anagpal as part of the Lal Kot that was developed as the first city of Delhi in the 8th century.

History

Anagpal I, the Tomar Rajput, moved his fiefdom to the south of the Aravalli hills, south of the present day Delhi at the far end of the 10th century. They inhabited the areas, which were isolated with difficult access, as they wanted to be safe from the warring Rajput clans. Within the boundaries of the present day Haryana, on the border with Delhi, they built the Surjakund reservoir near Surjakund village and another dam in its close vicinity near the Arangpur village as the Anangpur dam. It is said that Anangpal who built Surjakund and Arangpal (also known as the builder of Lal Kot, called the first city of Delhi) who built Arangpur dam belonged to the same dynasty but belonged in different periods.