

Tourist Place in Nahan (Sirmaur)

The district of **Sirmaur** in the southeast corner of the State is divided by river **Giri** into two parts, the **cis-Giri** and the **trans Giri**. **Cis - Giri** in which falls, **Nahan**, the **Headquarters of Sirmaur District** shows slightly higher development indicators than the other area. The tourists, however, would find places of pilgrimage and interesting legends associated with these in both sides of the river. The princely state of **Sirmaur** had its capital in **Sirmauri Tal**, not far from **Paonta Sahib**. When it was destroyed in a flood, the Capital was shifted to **Rajvan** and then to **Kalsi** and during the rule of **Raja Karm Prakash** (1615-1630), **Nahan** was spotted as the place fit to be the capital.

At 932m, **Nahan** is a pleasant looking town on a ridge of the **Shivalik Hills**. Its climate is salubrious and the town is dotted with gardens, temples and three popular walking circuits, commonly known as the Villa the Military and the Hospital Rounds. The '**Chaugan**', a green open space, in the midst of the town is the centre for many cultural events and sports activities.

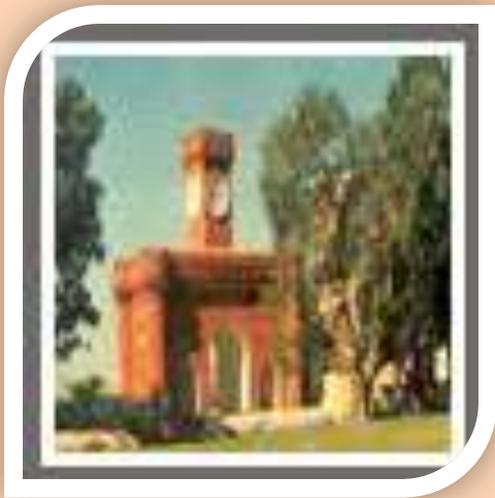
Himachal Pradesh is not only the **land of snow and high mountains** but also has lower hills known as **Shivalik**, where too the tourists can spend their vacations, see the wonders of nature like the big lakes, wild life parks or sanctuaries and the fossil parks etc. One such area is district Sirmaur, where a triangle of 3 important tourist places namely Nahan, Renuka and Paonta Sahib, have attracted many tourists all round the year. There are many

attractions available in this triangle. The district headquarter of Sirmour is Nahan. There is no town existing by the name of Sirmour. One can visit these places either in the order we have explained or first visit Renuka then Nahan and lastly Paonta Sahib from Shimla side or the vice versa. **Nahan** (The District Headquarter of Sirmaur) has a pleasant climate throughout the year. The **Sirmaur district has the Shivalik hills** in the south and the northern parts are made up of the forests and ravines of the first and second belt of the **Himalayan ranges**. The places here have manmade lakes as well as natural ones, temples, tea gardens and ruins of ancient and not so ancient forts.



This district connects the hills of Uttar Pradesh to the hills of Himachal. **Trilokpur** is a place nearby that holds a fair, twice in a year, dedicated to the Goddess '**Bala Sundari**'. The highest peak of the area is the '**Churdhan peak**', which one can visit by passing through the villages of **Dadahu, Sangrah, Bhawai, Gandhuri and Nahura**. The **Renuka Lake** is a place of interest for the pilgrims as well as the general tourists and is the most beautiful lake of Himachal. Its shape is said to be that of a sleeping woman. **In November, the Renuka Fair is held** in honor of the **mother of Parshu Ram i.e. Renuka Devi**.

Various popular places to visit in Sirmaur catch the eyes of the tourists. Some of them are listed below:



Nahan

The ruler associated with the foundation of the city was Raja Karna Prakash. The place is filled with vast forests and one can go for leisure walks that

showcase some amazing spots such as Military Round, Villa Round and Hospital Round.



Shivalik Fossil Park, Saketi

This park is famous as it led to the discovery of various ancient and prehistoric fossils. Here, the skeletons and fossils associated to the prehistoric time were excavated. The park consists of a museum where various primitive fossils as well as amazing animal and plants paintings can be spotted.



Trilokpur Temple

This temple has Mahamaya Bala Sundari as the worshiped deity. The goddess is quite popular among the people and the image of the goddesses is similar to the stone linga of Lord Shiva. The existence of this temple has added sacred importance to the entire place.



Dhaulta Kuan

Dhaulta Kuan can be spotted at a distance of 20 km from Nahan. It is a rich orchard wherein lies mangoes as well as citrus plants. Not far from this place, you have the Kastasan Temple. In addition to this, one also finds a juice factory as well as a research station in Dhaulta Kuan.



Jagannath Temple

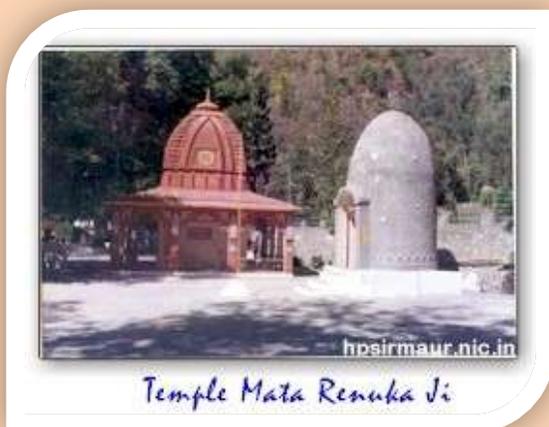
Raja Budh Prakash laid the foundation of this temple. The celebrations of the popular festival named as Sawan Dwadashi is done with great cheer at this temple and devotees ceremonially dip the idols in a pool.

The above-mentioned information about Sirmaur is more than enough to make your mind to plan a holiday trip to Sirmaur. Truly, these places to visit in Sirmaur add to its overall charm.

Jaitak Fort

The Jaitak hills is a historical place in the annals of Sirmour. It was here that the most important battle was fought between the British forces and the Gurkhas. Jaitak is the name applied to a peak, or rather two peaks. About 19 km to the north of Nahan, Jamta falls on the Nahan-Dadahu motorable road. An ascent of about 3 km has to be negotiated form Jamta to gain Jaitak. A hill fortress one crowned the Jaitak hill which is a steep ridge of slate and which rises above the Kayarda Dun, 30-36' north and 77-24' east, in the Nahan tehsil. The elevation above the sea level is about 1479 m. The fortress was constructed by Ranjor Singh Thapa, the Gurkha leader, when he attacked and sacked Nahan in about 1810. A small hamlet is the only remnant of old Jaitak. It commands a fine view of the Sain, Nahan and Dharthi hills. The famous Jaitak Khel of Kanets derives its name from this village.

Renuka Lake

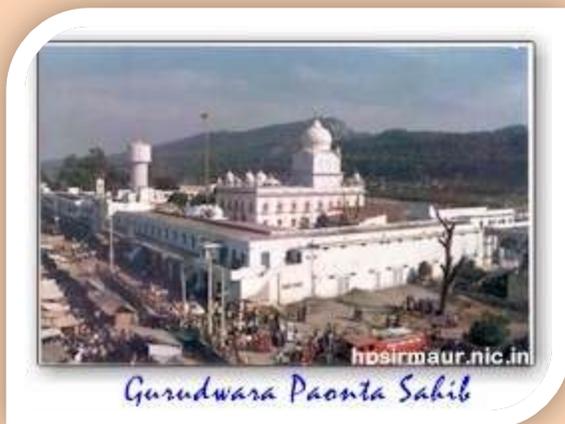


Renuka is the most important place of religious and tourist interest in Sirmour District. It is nearly 40 km. away from Nahan and is well linked with motorable metalled road. This place has a famous lake. Boating in Renuka lake is main attraction for the tourists visiting Renuka. This sacred oval shaped lake has a circumference of 2.4 km.. Close-by lies the Parshu Ram Lake which vaguely resemble a human figure. It is believed that Parshu Rama's mother consecrated into water out of which this lake was formed. Towards the end of the lake are towering palm trees which offer ideal picnic spots during daytime. Thousands of pilgrims visit this famous lake every year on Kartika Ekadashi. The 1.6 Km patch between the Giri and humming camp where villagers hailing from far off places stay for a couple of days. Various groups hold nightlong festivities including Kirtans

The place remains full capacity during the days of the fair and offers a spectacular variety of activities. As one approaches the fair ground he is greeted by a notice board put up by the Wild Life Wing of the Forest Department warning, "Hold Your Gun--Game [Sanctuary](#) Starts". To this fair the brass idol of Parasu Rama is brought from village Jamu, his permanent abode, in a silver *palki* accompanied by musical instruments with great pomp and show. The deity remains in the temple for three days i.e. sudi, dashmi to dwadashi (from 10th to 12th of the bright half). The hill people pry to pujari with questions during the night when he goes into a trance and turns an oracle. He answers every question. These answers foretell things and, quite often, enjoin upon the questioner some offering or sacrifice to

the deity of some other act as a condition precedent to the fulfillment of the favorable prophecy such as deliverance from some misery or recovery of health from some disease. On dwadashi, generally, the people offer alms after the holy dip in the Renuka lake.

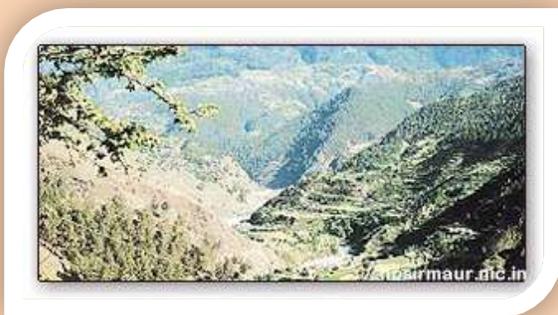
Paonta Sahib



Paonta Sahib is one of the Sub-Divisional Headquarters of District Sirmour and is about 45 km. Form Nahan on Shimla-Nahan-Dehra Dun road at an elevation of 397.7 Meters from the sea level. This place is of great religious sanctity for the Sikhs and Hindu alike. The Yamuna flows close by on its east, turning partly to its south. So situated on the right bank of the river Yamuna, it commands a superb view of the Dun valley. Paonta main advantage is its situation. Within the town is a famous Gurudwara overlooking the Yamuna. Guru Govind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs stayed here for about 4 years from 1742 to 1745. Origin of the name of

Paonta Sahib is also attributed to the guru and more than one legend are still fresh in the memory of the local inhabitants. It is said that with the setting of his foot on the soil of this place and his subsequent stay here the place was named as Paon-tika (foot-rested) subsequently corrupted to Paonta. Another version which finds mention in the Revenue Report of Majra of 1889, and perhaps more reliable and official is that while bathing in the Yamuna the illustrious guru's foot ornament called "Paonta", slipped and was lost for ever in the river. Hence, the place was christened as Paonta after this incident. He fought various battles against the combined forces of Rajas of Garhwal and Bilaspur. Gurudwara of Paonta Sahib is located at the victory point. This place attracts pilgrims from all over India. From tourist point of view this place has its own significance having all facilities like Tourist Bungalow, PWD Rest House, Kisan Bhawan etc.

RAJGARH



RAJGARH is located in the heart of Sirmour district in a lush green valley. It is the biggest subdivision of Sirmour with a population of 76,509.

Rajgarh has two subdivisions, one is Rajgarh itself and the other is Sarahan, another beautiful valley of Sirmour. The total geographical area of Rajgarh is 810 sq km and 30 per cent of the total area is under forest. The total income from various sources, which includes sale of peaches, other stone fruits, and vegetables, is about Rs 32 crore. This also includes income from wood sold through the HP State Forest Corporation in Rajgarh valley, which is Rs 2 crore.

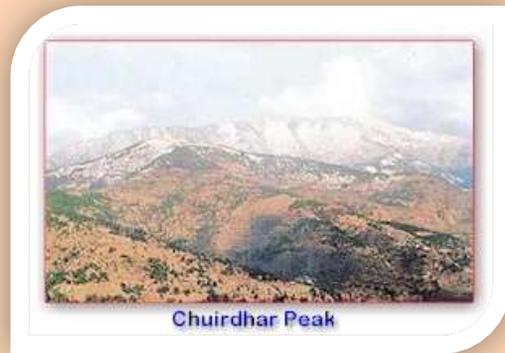
The people of this area belong to Khash Rajput clan. It is said that the local people in the Pachhota Valley called Miyans were originally Rajputs from Rajasthan. During the freedom movement, the village figured in the popular Pachhota movement. It played a significant role in the liberation of states. The people of this valley are dynamic and hardworking. They are tough, stout, good-looking, and simple people with sharp features. They are religious and God-fearing and worshippers of Lord Shiva and Goddess Durga. The local Shaya temple of Lord Shirgul, the descendant of Lord Shiva, has a mammoth following. According to a legend, Lord Shirgul had first come to Shaya village and later settled in Chur Chandani Chur-Dhar Mountains at height of 12,000 feet.

Sarahan



Sarahan, the headquarters of the tehsil and the development block. It is 1,668 m above the sea level. Located on a hill top, the place commands a panoramic view of the plains on one side and an attractive view of Choor Dhar on the other. Sarahan is about 42 km from Nahan, with which it is connected by a fine motorable road. Dagshai is about 34 km distant and Solan falls at about 52 km. The place has a Public Works Department rest-house, a dispensary, a post office, a high school, a veterinary hospital, an information center, a public call office, a police station and a poultry unit. The total are of this village is 82 hectares with a population of 778 souls.

Churdhar Mountain



The enchanting Churdhar mountain in Sirmour is one of the Shivalik ranges at a height of 11965 feet (it is the highest peak in southern Himachal Pradesh), Churdhar, commonly known as *Churichandni* (Bangle of Snow), is blessed with some of the most spectacular and beautiful landscapes in this region. The view from the summit embraces a vast panorama of lowland tracts towards the south and snow-capped ranges, including the peaks of Badrinath and Kedarnath in the Garhwal region, towards the north.

It is believed that this is the very place where Hanuman discovered the life-restoring *Sanjivini booti*, which revived Lakshmana, Lord Rama's younger brother. Ruins of an ancient town have been discovered at the nearby Dundi Devi.

A wealth of herbs and beautiful alpine flora cover these Himalayan slopes. Walking through the wildlife sanctuary, one spots the spectacular monal, Himachal's state bird, along with *koklass* and *kaleej* pheasants. The canine-toothed musk deer and the endangered Himalayan black bear inhabit the higher forests. Below the summit is the deodar-roofed, single-

storeyed, square temple of Srigul with a lingam, dedicated to Shiva (Chooreshwar Mahadev). Pilgrims sing and dance at night during the *Navratras* fair in this ancient temple

Trekkers tread over small glaciers on their way to the wind-blown Churdhar summit, which has moderate to heavy snowfall (average of 33 feet snow). Often the Srigul temple gets buried under it. On a clear sunny day, you can be rewarded with a view of the Badrinath and Kedarnath shrines, Gangetic plains, the Sutlej river and hills of Shimla and Chakrata. Atop the Churdhar summit lie the *lingams* of Shiva and Kali, where once goat and sheep were sacrificed. Devotees hoist flags and make offerings here.



Haripur Dhar Mountain

Haripur is the name applied to a mountain called Haripur Dhar. Perched on a peak of this hill like a silent sentinel, a fort was built on this range of

mountain by the rulers of erstwhile Sirmour State. It was primarily meant to guard the state frontiers with the neighboring Jubbal State as there were constant boundary disputes between the two states and there was unusual encroachment into each others territory. It has fallen into disuse and the part which is still habitable is used by the Forest Department as forester's headquarters. The fort reminds the visitor of the historical period when to hold or capture such forts used to be the chief aim of the contending hill states. Its main attraction is the wild game in its vicinity. Lying at a distance of about 106 km from Nahan it can be approached first by a regular bus service covering 40 km up to Dadahu wherefrom up to Andheri one can go by a jeep for about 44 km. The remaining portion of about 22 km, which is under construction for a jeepable road, can be covered on foot or on ponies. The next and easier way to approach this place is from Solan via Rajgarh. Kharotiyon, a place from where the site of the fort remains about 2 km on the high hilltop.



Habban Valley

The Habban Valley is surrounded by forests of deodar and is located in the hills of Sirmaur, a lush green village that is 6770 ft in elevation and is 70 km from Solan. Direct buses are available from Shimla, Solan, and Rajgarh but personal vehicles are also driven within the area

The weather is usually pleasant around the year. The wildlife in the area consists of: peacocks, deer, tigers, bears, kakkar, kastura and ghol. There are also various trails within Habban Valley which include a 7-km trek to Banalidhar or take a longer trek (15 km) to Churdhar. Habban is located next 10km away from neighboring Shaya village which contains the shrine of the widely revered Shirgul Devta

Habban Valley place is known for its various temples and a culture that is entirely different from the modern city lifestyle. Most of the temples built

here were constructed under the reign of the various Rajput Kings who ruled the region. The famous ones are Shirgul Devta, Palu Devta and Tokro Tibba Kali Maa and are frequented by several visitors.

Sirmaur's chief source of economy is its agricultural produce and the tourism industry. The place is frequented by tourists who are attracted by the various adventure sport facilities and the important temples that the town houses. The town is famous for its peaches, which are the finest in India. The above-mentioned attractions are a must visit and should not be missed on your trip to Sirmaur.