

Complete Overview Sights & Activities

BANDIPUR

Bandipur Bazaar

The heart of Bandipur is the medieval-looking Bandipur Bazaar that sweeps in a gentle curve along the top of the hill in an east-west axis. The stone-paved main street is lined with compact town houses with ornate windows and doorways and roofs of tin or slate. All along the street, a covered veranda extends in front of the rows of houses providing shade in summer sun and mansion rain.

Tundikhel

Tundikhel, a field to the northern end of Bandipur's main bazaar, is an excellent vantage point for viewing the Marsyangdi Valley (below 500 m) and the magnificent Himalayan Range (above 8000 m) in a single frame. It includes the spectacular peaks of Dhaulagiri, Machhapuchhre, Langtang, Manaslu and Ganesh Himal, among others. The legendary Gorkha Palace and the famous Manakamana Peak are clearly visible from here. Other sights include Bimalnagar and Dumre Bazaar.

Thani Mai (Purano Kot)

Purano Kot, originally a fort, lies at a distance of about 500 m to the west of the main bazaar. It takes about twenty minutes of easy and gentle climbing to reach the top. There is a small temple nearby containing a number of old statues. Next to it stands a newly built temple of Thanithan Mai. The local people believe that praying to the god Mahadev at this spot during a drought will bring rain. Since this spot lies on a hilltop above the bazaar, it provides stunning views of the mountains and the bazaar especially at sunrise and sunset.

Exploring the Siddha Cave

Bandipur's hillsides are dotted with caves, often carrying religious significance for the locals. The must-see destination here is the Sidhha Cave discovered only in 1987. Rich in stalactites and stalagmites, it is said to be the largest cave in the Himalayan region. Siddha Cave is situated just above the cliff of Bimalnagar, from where it is a 30-minute climb.

Nature walk In Raniban

This mixed Sal forest is located to the east of the main bazaar. It is a tranquil haven for nature enthusiasts with abundant local flora and fauna, including langurs, orchids, butterflies etc.

CONTACT

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Orchid Trail

Bandipur hosts more than 24 species of orchid. The month of June is the best season to enjoy the different varieties of orchid in full bloom. Although you can see orchids in most parts of Bandipur, the best route to enjoy these beautiful flowers is on the way to the silk farm west of Bandipur Bazaar.

Teendhara

This picnic spot lies to the east of the main bazaar and can be reached in fifteen minutes. The name of this place derives from the original three waterspouts, which is still the main source of water for the villagers. The shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva lies nearby with rest houses and shady spots scattered around making this a favourite place for picnickers.

Hike to Ramkot Village

Ramkot is a two-hour easy hike to the west of Bandipur. It passes through Muchuk Village from where you can also visit Mukundeswari. Ramkot is a typical Magar village with traditional round houses, untouched by modern development offering an opportunity to experience authentic lifestyle of rural Nepal. From here, one can go on to chabdi Barahi, a pilgrimage spot, which can be reached after two hours of easy hiking.

Temples & Festivals

Khadga Devi

This highly revered temple of Khadga Devi could be mistaken for a residential house as it is not for the finial. The shrine does not contain any idols, but a Khadga, a sacred sword - a gift from Lord Shiva to Mukunda Sen. Wrapped in layers of cloth; legend has it that anyone looking at the bare sword invites instant death. The Khadga is worshipped as a symbol of the female power. This temple is opened to devotees only once a year on the day of Phulpati the seventh day of the Hindu festival of Dasain usually in October.

Bindhebasini Temple

This pagoda-style temple is located in the main bazaar. Enshrined here is an image of the goddess Bindhebasini. It also contains idols of other goddesses. During the New Year celebrations in April, the image of Bindhebasini is put on a chariot and pulled through the town amidst other revelry.

Mahalaxmi Temple

This pagoda-style temple from the medieval period is located to the southeast of the main bazaar. Its struts and tympanum are adorned with figures of Bhimsen and various mythical creatures.

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Festivals

As with Newar towns elsewhere, Bandipur also boasts year-round festivals and a plethora of other cultural shows. The unique festivals of Bandipur include the Khadga Jatra (October) and Bisket Jatra (April). The Magars mark the full moon day of Baisakh Purnima (April), in which unmarried women perform the Ghatu dance with married women singing the folk songs. The Sorathi and Chutka are other popular dance of Bandipur.

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