

Complete Overview Sights & Activities

MAKAWANPUR

SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES

Simbhanjyang Pass is the highest point of Makawanpur district. It is a natural cold store and many people arrive here to play with snow in winter. So even in the sunny days of April and May one needs to wear warm clothes. When you look down from this high vantage point, it seems like the village is floating above the clouds. There is that feeling of heavenly bliss when the mist fleeting below rises up slowly to embrace you. The Maitri Garden and Human Rights Pillar are added attractions here.

Daman View Tower situated at the highest altitude of the Tribhuvan Highway, the only route linking Kathmandu with the Terai, at Simbhanjyang holds the distinction of being Nepal's first view tower. A resort is also in operation at the view tower. The tower offers unimpeded views of eight of the world's highest peaks, including Everest in the east, and Annapurna and Dhaulagiri in the west. Besides, you can see Palung, Daman, Bajrabarahi and the lush green vegetable farms of Chitlang from here.

Orchid / Rhododendron Foot Trail There are foot trails leading to Bhimphedi/Deurali from Simbhanjyang, and from Daman to Markhu, where one can go motor boating in the Indrasarobar Lake before heading for Chitlang, Chandragiri and Thankot. There are popular foot trails that begin at Phakhel and spiral up the Chandragiri mountain from where one can take in views of the Kathmandu Valley before descending to the capital. Trekking in this area is always romantic and pleasant. There is great excitement and pleasure in these treks that end only after witnessing the magnificent views seen from the high hills and the cultural and social lifestyles of the different communities.

Mountain Botanical Garden A temperate climate horticulture center has been established in the region for the study of forests and plants, mountain gardens, fruits and crops. Because of the awesome snowfall, rare plant species and rich biodiversity, the Government of Nepal, on the occasion of International Mountain Year in 2002, declared Simbhanjyang a mountain botanical garden.

Cave Tour Caves of different sizes and structures are found in Agra, Dandakharka, Khairang, Phakhel, Budichaur, Hatiya, Kagada and other VDCs.

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Rikheshwor Mahadev Temple In between Simbhanjyang and Daman lays the famous temple of Rikheshwor Mahadev. The temple, revered by both Hindus and Buddhists, is associated with the Buddhist spiritual leader Padmasambhav, hence its religious significance. This area is equally famous as a meditation center. It is said that King Tribhuvan had worshipped here to seek the blessing of a son, and Crown Prince Mahendra was born.

Indra Sarovar is the reservoir of the Kulekhani Hydropower Project, covers an area of 7 sq. km and is Asia's first man-made lake. It is an extraordinary model in power engineering and it was created by constructing a dam in a deep gorge between Kulekhani and Markhu VDCs to collect water from the local rivers and rivulets. The lake is also a popular spot for boating and fishery.

Chaitya Lhown (Stupa of Ashoka Era) The history of Chitlang VDC is believed to be related to this stupa, which itself holds the history of the visit by the great Indian Emperor Ashoka. The legend tells us that the name of the VDC 'Chitlang' has been derived from Newari 'Chaitya Lhown' meaning 'Chaitya' - made of stones.

Bheda Farm Chitlang has the largest grazing ground (Bheda Farm) in the country and has one sheep farm where sheep are bred and reared to produce meat and wool. Nowadays it is a goat farm and here we can get goat cheese. There are old stables where horses were kept in Rana's time. It is also famous for olive oil (Jaitun) and trout.

Chisapani Gadhi (Fort) & Kali Top In the then political context, Chisapani Gadhi held great strategic importance. The security check post and the passport check post were both located here. You can see the legendary Kali Top, or cannon, and the highly revered Batuk Bhairav Temple inside the fort. The magical tales surrounding the Kali Top recount how it could fire as far as Raxaul in India while its reverberations could be heard far and wide. Even today, shells and cannon balls can be seen strewn around the fort.

Hattisar Museum Bhimphedi was the key entrepot between Kathmandu and the Terai before the construction of the Tribhuvan Highway in 1956. The elephant stables that were built here to keep elephants for the journeys by the Rana prime ministers (1846-1950) have been turned into a museum. Hunting attires and different classes of elephant howdahs brought from England and various other countries are on display.

Manakamana Temple This temple lies on a hill near Hetauda to the north-east. Enchanting views of the sprawling city can be had from this hill. This temple, regarded as the younger sister of the Manakamana Temple of Gorkha, is sacred to Hindus. Devotees throng this temple every morning.

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Makawanpur Gadhi (Fort) Historical fort Makwanpur Gadhi lies 12 km to the north-east of Hetauda. Makwanpur Gadhi (fort), a legacy of the Sen dynasty, who reigned over the entire Gandaki region prior to the unification of modern Nepal, lies in Gadhi VDC, 12 km north-east of Hetauda. An example of traditional but advanced architecture, Makwanpur Gadhi reflects the strategic importance of the period and security farsightedness. The idol of Bamshigopal in chains made of marble is an attraction here. Home-stay facility is available in the area.

Hetauda City Area Hetauda city, which is inhabited by almost 100 thousand people, lies at an altitude of 390 m above the sea level. The place gets its name after the demon Hidamba, who was killed by Bhimsen. Hetauda is headquarter of Makawanpur district, is one of the important industrial area of Nepal. The place has excellent facilities of hotel, transportation which are preliminary for tourism. Martyrs' Memorial park, industrial district and different places of religious and tourist importance lie inside the municipality area.

Martyrs' Memorial Park The Park lies 7 KM west of Hetauda. The Martyrs' Memorial, a 25-ton rock with carved images of 12 martyrs who sacrificed their lives for nationalism, democracy and people's well being at different periods of history, is a unique monument built by the people. This memorial, which has a tourist information center, martyr's gallery, an attractive martyr's column and garden, view tower, model zoo, the Madan Garden, children's garden and a swimming pool, attracts domestic as well as Indian tourists.

Pushpal Park Established in memory of the founder of the Communist Party of Nepal, Pushpalal Shrestha, the park is an enchanting place to spend time amidst the enchanting gardens and ponds. You can also step into the Pushpalal Memorial Library, the largest in Hetauda municipality.

Bird watching & Fishery The Fishery Development Center, located near the Kanti Highway in the eastern part of the city, is one of Hetauda's attractions. The fishponds where fishes of different species are reared are worth a visit. Migratory birds arrive in Makwanpur in winter. Rare birds like the ibis bill can be sighted in the local Rapti River.

Bansakhandi, in ward No. 2 of Hetauda municipality, is a beautiful spot where picnics, public programs and other activities are held. Phulpati (seventh day) of Dashain is celebrated with much revelry in this park set at the centre of a lush green jungle in the lap of a mountain.

Jungle Safari Few parts of Makawanpur district have been covered by Parsa wild life reserve and Chitwan National Parks. Elephant riding and observing various wild animals like rhinos, tigers, monkeys are very interesting activities in the area.

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Garden of Sculptures is situated in the Tourist Park of Gumbadanda in Harnamadi VDC-7, some 15 km east of the district headquarters Hetauda. It has 23 sculptures carved by 23 sculptors, including five foreigners, during the first international sculpture workshop ever held outside Kathmandu in November-December 2012.

Bhutan Devi Temple, located in the central part of Hetauda city, is considered to be one of the famous Shakti peeths (places of worship consecrated to Goddess Sati).

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