Incredible Uttarankhand Tour by Neeraj Chandra

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Uttaranchal became the twenty-seventh province of the Republic of India in November 2000. Uttaranchal, that if it were "cut" from the province of Uttar Pradesh, covering the mountain regions of Uttar Pradesh. The province borders Himachal Pradesh in the northwest, in Uttar Pradesh in the south and the country bordering with Nepal and China. Uttaranchal is a picturesque province; possession magnetite specific glaciers, majestic snow-capped mountains, stunning views of the Himalayas, dense forests, the 'valley of flowers' and some of the most sacred places for Hindu pilgrims. The thirteen districts of this province can be divided into three geographic regions: the highlands, the somewhat lower hills and the Terai region. This is the land where the Vedas and the shastras were composed and great Indian epic, the Mahabharatha, was written.

The province is very rich in natural resources, especially water and forests are concerned. We show some glaciers and mountains. The famous peaks of Uttaranchal are Nanda Devi, Kedarnath, the Trishul, the Bandar Punch and the Mt. Kamet. The main glaciers are the Gangotri, the Pindari, Milam and Khatiing. The Ganga, the Yamuna, the Ramganga and Sharda are the largest rivers.

Apart from tourism, the local population engaged in agriculture, the province also has many opportunities to further develop horticulture. As there is many medicinal plants grow it would also be a possibility for the development of a flourishing pharmaceutical industry. The industrial sector is yet of no importance, but since there are large water supplies are present, it is possible to generate many mega watts of power. There are seventeen power projects in operation and more ambitious hydropower projects, including the Tehri dam is under construction.

Places to visit:

Dehradun

Dehradun, nestled in the run up to the Himalayas, is the capital of the province. It is one of the most beautiful mountain stations in India. The city lies in the fertile Doon valley, with the flowing Ganga and Yamuna in the east to the west. Here are some of India's best schools including the Doon School and the Welhams.

The Indian Military Academy, Forest Research Institute, the ONGC (Oil & Natural Gas Commission) and other offices of the central and state government are present here. Close to Dehradun is the hill station Mussoorie.

Char Dhams-

1. Badrinath

The Badrinath temple is the abode of the god Vishnu. His picture on the spot is made of black granite. The temple is situated at an altitude of 3130 meters on the banks of the Alaknanda. Behind is the Neelkanth mountain peak, between the twin peaks Nar and Narayan. Near the temple is a hot water sulfur spring known as the Bled Kund.

Badrinath is closed in winter, and for several months in summer.

2. Kedarnath

The temple of Kedarnath is dedicated to Shiva. The temple, at an altitude of 3580 meters, is built of large, heavy and even carved pieces of stone, and is believed to be more than 1000 years old. The temple has a garbha Griha (birthplace), where the conical rock formation is located, and a mandapam where visitors can sit for viewing this phenomenon. Just outside the temple door a large statue of Nandi Buli. Also, Kedarnath is closed in winter, and for several months in the summer.

3. Gangotri

This shrine is very high, at an altitude of 3200 meters between the cedars and pines. It is believed that Raja Bhagirath worshiped Lord Shiva on a rock, the 'Bhagirath Shita', located at the temple. Sunk into the river is a natural "rock fragmentation 'where, according to mythology, Lord Shiva sat when he received the Goddess Ganga in his curly hair.

4. Yamunotri

Yamuna, the river goddess, is worshiped at the Yamunotri temple, which lies at an altitude of 3235 meters. Her image on the spot is made of black marble. Again this is a hot sulfur spring nearby.

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