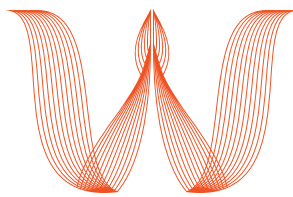


SERVICE DIRECTORY

ABOUT KATRA, JAMMU & KASHMIR



WELCOMHOTEL

BY ITC HOTELS

KATRA

ABOUT KATRA, JAMMU & KASHMIR

LOCATION

The picturesque city of Katra is located in the foothills of Trikuta hills in the Reasi district of Jammu & Kashmir. It is approximately 45 kilometres from the Jammu airport. Katra is well known for the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi.

LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

Katra has much to offer to travelers. Known for its scenic beauty, the city has multiple points of interest, besides the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi, such as the local market that is famous for exquisite Kashmiri handicrafts and premium dry fruits. The main market of Katra is nearby from Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels Katra. It is located in a nearby vicinity of the helipad for visiting the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi.

The Holy Shrine Mata Vaishno Devi

The cave of the of the holy shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi is located at an altitude of 5200 feet. Devotees have to undertake a journey of 12 kilometres from the base camp at Katra. Three natural rock formations, known as pindies, are visible. And, inside the cave, there is no idol or statue. A pilgrimage to Mata Vaishno Devi is considered one of the holiest pilgrimages for Hindus.

Bhairo Baba Temple

The well-known Bhairo Baba Temple is just 3 kilometres from Mata Vaishno Devi and sits on the highest point of the surrounding plateau at an elevation of 6,619 feet. It also includes a steep climb that can be completed on foot, horses or palanquins, making it particularly convenient for the elderly. According to mythology, Bhairav Nath begged forgiveness for his many evil deeds. Even as he took his last breath, Maa Vaishnavi exonerated him and granted him the blessing of becoming the pilgrimage's final connection. As a result, it is assumed that a visit to Mata Vaishno Devi is incomplete without a visit to the Bhairon Temple.

Shiv Khori

Lord Shiva's holy cave abode is about 70 kilometres from Katra. The cave is a sight to behold, measuring about half a kilometre in length and featuring a 4-foot high naturally shaped Shiv-lingam at the centre of the Sanctum Sanctorum. The cave is shaped like Lord Shiva's damroo, with big ends and a very congested base. The depth of the cave is so narrow in some places that a human can scarcely crawl through, while in others parts it is over a hundred feet deep and quite high. The natural milky water flowing from the roof to the Shiv-Ling is a sight to behold; it symbolizes the eternity of the holy river Ganga. On Shivratri, Shiv Khori hosts a large fair.

Baba Dhansar

This Shiva Temple is approximately 15 kilometres from Katra on the way to Salal Dam. A massive spring rises from the cliffs in this densely forested area, forming a series of small cascading waterfalls before flowing into the holy rivulet, which merges with the Chenab River. There is a naturally shaped Shivaling on which water droplets fall at a steady rate throughout the year.

Nau Devi

The Nau Devi Temple is a popular tourist attraction due to its pristine location and the high regard it is held in. The tiny holy cave is reached through a flight of around a hundred stairs. The "pind" of the nine devi's (goddesses) who are incarnations of Goddess Durga that can be found here are namely Shailaputri Devi, Bharmachirini, Chandraghanta, Kushmanda, Skanda Mata, Katyayani, Maha Kali, Maha Gauri and Siddhidatri.

Shopping

Katra Market is home to a range of attractions and shopping centres. The main shopping area here is the Katra Main Bazaar, where you can find many of Jammu's specialties, such as walnuts, almonds, grapes and dried apples. The Bhawan Market sells traditional items popularly used as offerings at Mata Vaishno Devi.

Patnitop

This well-known hill resort is situated on a magnificent plateau at an elevation of 2024 metres, over which the Jammu-Srinagar Highway runs. Patnitop, surrounded by densely forested trees, provides stunning picnic areas, peaceful hikes, and spectacular views of the Chenab basin's mountains. During the winter, the resort is usually coated with a dense layer of snow, allowing for a variety of snow activities such as skiing. Jammu's most established tourist destination, Panitop is unparalleled in terms of natural beauty, atmosphere, pine trees and lush green covers.

Sanasar

The majesty of the Sanasar valley can be experienced by gliding over its landscapes, meadows and lake. A low-flying travel here usually involves a longer portion of the flight path over a lake, followed by landing in the lush meadows. The meadow, once a peaceful retreat, is now being developed as a spacious golf course. Sanasar also offers paragliding opportunities to those seeking adventure.