



MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTIONS IN PANCHGANI

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Abstract:

It is said that nature has its own healing touch and can rejuvenate you. Make your vacation special with this list of enticing list of places to visit in Panchgani, Maharashtra and get a chance to explore the mesmerizing beauty of this region. Whether you are planning a weekend getaway or adventure Panchgani is the perfect destination for you. This amazing hill station Panchgani is 20 kilometers away from Mahabaleshwar and derived its name from the five hills which surrounds it. This hill station is approximately 4000 ft tall. Once you are there you will be enlighten to explore the old Parsi homes nearing distinct colonial bungalow with the strawberry farms. You can also trekking in the vast green lands and some fun filled activity like paragliding. One can also hike across some of the best places in this region like the Rajpuri Caves or you can visit the Pratapgad Fort which is famous for the historic stories about Chhatrapati Shivaji and Bijapur General Afzal Khan. Soothe your eyes with the stunning beauty of the valleys, mountains and scattered hamlets.

Key Words: weekend, adventure, trekking, historic stories, destination

Introduction:

Panchgani also called Panchgani is a famous hill station and municipal council in Satara district in Maharashtra, India. It is renowned for the many premier residential educational institutions. Scenic Panchgani was discovered by the British during the British Raj as a summer resort, and a superintendent named John Chesson was placed in charge of the hill station in the 1860s. He is credited with planting many plant species from the western world in Panchgani, including silver oak and poinsettia, which have flourished since then in Panchgani. Mahabaleshwar was the summer resort of choice for the British, but it was uninhabitable during the monsoons. Panchgani was developed as a retirement place for the British because it remained pleasant throughout the year. John Chesson was deputed to find a suitable place. He surveyed the hills in this region in the company of Mr Rustomji Dubash, and finally decided on this nameless area in the vicinity of the five villages: Dhandeghar, Godavli, Amral, Khingar, and Taighat. The place was aptly named Panchgani, and Chesson was made Superintendent.

To develop the infrastructure, Chesson encouraged various professionals - tailors, dhobis, butchers, vegetable vendors, building contractors etc. to also settle in Panchgani. The area below the bazaar was allotted to them, and is known as the gaathan. Chesson is buried in the graveyard of St. Peter's Church. In 1971 or '72, his death centenary was observed in a big way when for the first time, the town folk and

the schools participated together in a ceremony to remember the founder of Panchgani.

Climate:

Panchgani is nestled at middle of five hills in the Sahyadri mountain ranges, also there are five villages around the Panchgani are Dandeghar, Khingar, Godwali, Amral & Taighat. The Krishna River flows nearby which made the lake of Dhom Dam on the Krishna 9 km from Wai.

Objective:

The following objectives are highlighting the tourist places in world famous hill station Panchgani

1. To understand the importance of weekend by visiting Panchgani

2. To know the tourist attractions in Panchgani
 Data Collection and Methodology

The present article is informative. The required information collected from various sources of information i.e. books, District Census, Socio-economic abstract of district and internet.

Farm Stay Experience in Panchgani:

Enjoy a fun-filled farm stay in the warm locales of Panchgani. Revel in the beauty of the Krishna River and dense thickets. Participate in farm tours, boating, bullock cart and tractor rides. Spend a delightful evening beside a lively campfire. Enjoy a fun-filled farm stay in the warm locales of Panchgani. Revel in the beauty of the Krishna River and dense thickets. Participate in farm tours, boating, bullock cart and tractor rides. Spend a delightful evening beside a lively campfire.

Camping in Panchgani:

Welcome the adventure and excitement with Panchgani camping! Located amongst the vast reliefs of land, it is best suited for those who want to experience nature at its best. The prosperous plant and wildlife of the region make it even more beautiful in the monsoon season when they are in full bloom and zenith. Camping in Panchgani shows you the exquisite and various adventure pursuits, all of which are guaranteed to excite you! As you arrive at the campsite by noon, check-in and have a great spread of lunch served to you. Thereafter, you are free to indulge in any of the activities that capture your imagination like Ziplining, Commando Crossing, 12-item Obstacle Course, Learner's Rock Climb, Rifle Shooting, Tent Pitching and many more. You can also try your hand at rappelling, rock climbing or the more exciting, waterfall rappelling. You can also explore the surrounding hilly area on foot by trekking or use the cycles at the campsite.

There are some of the best places to visit in Panchgani

Table Land:

Have you ever wondered enjoying the sights of a barren land? Table land is the one of the best places to visit in Panchgani which will surely be the best experience for you. For the adventure seekers this is double treat where you can indulge in some paragliding while enjoying the amazing view of the region. This is the second largest mountain plateau in Asia at an elevation of 1387 metre sea level and is surrounded by hills. This place also offers the best view of the magnificent Krishna valley and the small town of Panchgani. The best thing about this place is that you can get a breathtaking aerial view of the entire town. You can also get a clear picture of the Devil's kitchen and Rajpuri caves.

Sydney Point:

Pack your bags and explore these places to visit in Panchgani which will surely rejuvenate you. Enjoy the sight of the orange hue Sydney point which is located at a 3kms from Panchgani. This place offers you the magnificent view of the Krishna valley, Kamalgad fort, Dhom dam and the city of Wai. This hillock was named over Sir Sidney Beckwarth, who was the member of the council and temporarily succeeded Sir John Malcolm as the Governor of Bombay in 1830. One can also get the amazing views of the hill ranges of Pandavgad and Mandhardeo.

Parsi Point:

Mark it on your bucket list yet other places to visit in Panchgani which is truly captivating for its scenic beauty. For the nature lovers this is the best place where you can enjoy the view of the lush green Krishna valleys and the Dom Dam backwaters. Parsi point is the best picnic spot where you can enjoy some delicious lunch with a view of the serene nature. Breathe in the cool mountain air and feel refreshed as you stroll in this place while enjoying the scenery. This famous place lies on the Mahabaleshwar road in Panchgani.

Kate's Point:

Explore these best places to visit in Panchgani and witness the stunning beauty of this region. The famous Kate's point is named after the British governor Sir John Malcolm's daughter. This point is at a height of 1,290 metres and stands at a distance of 6.8 kilometres from the main market. One can get the best view of Dhom Dam, Kamalgadh, Pandavgadh and Mandardeo. The place is has three different places which you can visit Echo Point and Needle Hole Point. Marvel at the sight of the amazing Echo point where you can shout at the top of your voice and it will return back.

Dhom Dam:

If you are in Mahabaleshwar then make it a point to explore these best places to visit in Panchgani and enjoy the calmness and serenity. Dhom Dam is an exotic boating place which is located at distance of 21 kilometres from Panchgani. You can indulge in some exciting activities like scooter boats and speed boats while witnessing the scenery. This gravity dam is located on the Krishna River near Wai. This dam was constructed in the year 1982 and serves in the industrial and residential areas. The main lands which are using the water of the dam are Wai, Koregaon, Satara and Javli talukas. The dam generates about 4 MG of hydroelectricity.

Kamalgad Fort:

If you are intrigued by history then this place is a must visit for you. This fort is filled with the murmurs of grief and mystery which is engulfed with enigma and perplexity. This fort was basically known for detain and execute prisoners during the wars. Once you reach this place, you can see the fort covers a flat area of nearly 3-4 areas and you can find steep rocks around the vicinity. If you observe it closely you will find a hole at the top of the hole which was right through the rock and still holds water. History says that's the criminals had to keep within recess and had to choose from

drowning or starvation, their own mode of death. This fort is located 10 miles west of Wai and 32 km from Satara.

Lingmala Falls:

Lingmala Falls is another best place to visit in Panchgani which will surely make your weekend special. This amazing Lingmala falls lies on the road of Mahabaleshwar-Pune and provides the best picturesque with the Dhobi waterfalls and Chinaman's waterfall.

Whether you are with your friends or family this place is an ideal place for all. If you are into photography then click some memorable pictures. The best time to visit these places is during the rainy season when these waterfalls are flooded with waters and descents from 500 feet from the cliff. You can enjoy some refreshing bath once you reach the waterfalls.

Panchganga Mandir:

If you are looking for some spiritual visit then this place is the best option for you. Panchganga Mandir is one of the best places which are renowned in the Panchgani area and draws a lot of devotees all-round the year. This famous temple was constructed in the 13th century by the Yadavas and Raja Sighandeo. This place is 18 kilometres away from the city and is situated in old Mahabaleshwar.

When you enter the temple you can see a carved Gaumukhi and five rivers flow out from it. This temple is mainly dedicated to Lord Krishna. On you are at this temple you can buy colorful souvenirs from the shops around the temple. If you are into photography then you can click some of the best pictures with its enduring scenic background. Rajpuri Caves is amongst the most ancient attractions of the Panchgani region. The best thing about this

cave is that it is surrounded by lakes from all sides. The cave is mainly famous for the temple of Lord Karthikeya and the temple is said to be made by the sands of the caves. Many believe that the cave was the shelter for the Pandavas during their period of exile. The holy water in the lake is said to have magical powers which can cure you of all pains and miseries. Worshippers from far places visit this place to take a dip in the holy waters. While you enter the cave you can see images of the Nandi which will surely clear your minds. There are even other caves which are connected underground.

Devari: Art Village:

There is yet another place in Panchgani which cannot be left unexplored. If you want to celebrate creativity and nature this is a must visit site for you. The place is a non-profit initiative where you can find the people produce quality artifacts by Adivasi craftsman. This artist from Gadchiroli region in Maharashtra produces mass products and help in sustaining the traditional art and culture. You can also opt for a training session in Panchgani. This is one of the most visited places in Panchgani. Make your vacation special with some artifacts skills and explore the amazing beauty of the region as well.

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