

Patnitop

Patnitop or Patni Top is a hill top tourist spot located in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir. Situated on a secluded plateau in the Shiwalik belt of the Himalayas, Patnitop is a popular destination offering opportunities for adventure sports, walks and picnics.

Situated amidst picturesque surroundings, Patnitop lies at an altitude of 2,024 m above sea level in the Lower Himalayan Ranges. It is situated on National Highway 1A, between Udhampur and Srinagar, at a distance of 35 km from Udhampur and 112 km from Jammu.

There are no substantial records of the earlier history of Patnitop when compared to its nearby towns of Kudh, Batote and Udhampur. The presence of the 600 year old `Nag Temple`, a temple to honour the Serpent deity, is the only evidence to prove earlier inhabitation at this place.

As per the local lore, the name Patnitop originated from the phrase `Patan da Talab`, meaning `pond of the Princess`. It is believed that there was a pond on the grassy slopes of this place where a princess used to bathe.

Patnitop was a part of the princely state of Jammu & Kashmir. The tourism industry flourished at Patnitop after militancy began to disturb the tourism industry of Kashmir. Patnitop witnessed a huge influx of visitors from the neighbouring states of Jammu, Punjab and Delhi.

Located on the lower reaches of the Pir Panjal mountain range, the hill station of Patnitop is built on an irregular, more or less flattened plateau, with River Chenab flowing close by. Low rolling hills covered with shrubs and pines surround this plateau.

Patnitop is full of deodar, which is one among the world's four varieties of `true cedars`. Patnitop's long natural walking trails, dense woods of pine and deodars, views of the Chenab Basin and thick snow sheets in winter attract tourists in large numbers.

An all season destination, Patnitop has a lot to offer to its visitors which ranges from camping, trekking and nature walks to paragliding, abseiling, rock climbing and skiing. From Patnitop, excursions can be taken to Buddha Amarnath Temple, Bahu Fort and temple and the holy caves of Vaishno Devi.

Sightseeing in Patnitop includes Shigarh, which is a popular trekking route in Patnitop. Located at an altitude of 3500 m, Shivagarh is about 11 km from Patnitop and it takes a day's time to reach by trek to the place. At a trek of 5 km from Patnitop is Madhatop, a snow covered region throughout the winters. Skiing is a very popular adventure sport and several tournaments are organized here during the winters. With an altitude of 2024 m, Madhatop is easily accessible by road.

Kud is a very important committee town located in the district of Udhampur in the Indian state of Kashmir. Kud is located on Udhampur Srinagar Highway, 110 km from Jammu city and is about 32 km from Udhampur. With an altitude of 1855 m, it is a very important part of the lower Himalayan range. The region of Kud is popular for Patisa, which is sweet dish prepared in the sweet shops.

Close by to Patnitop is Shudh Mhadev Ka Pahad, which has its association with epic Mahabharata.



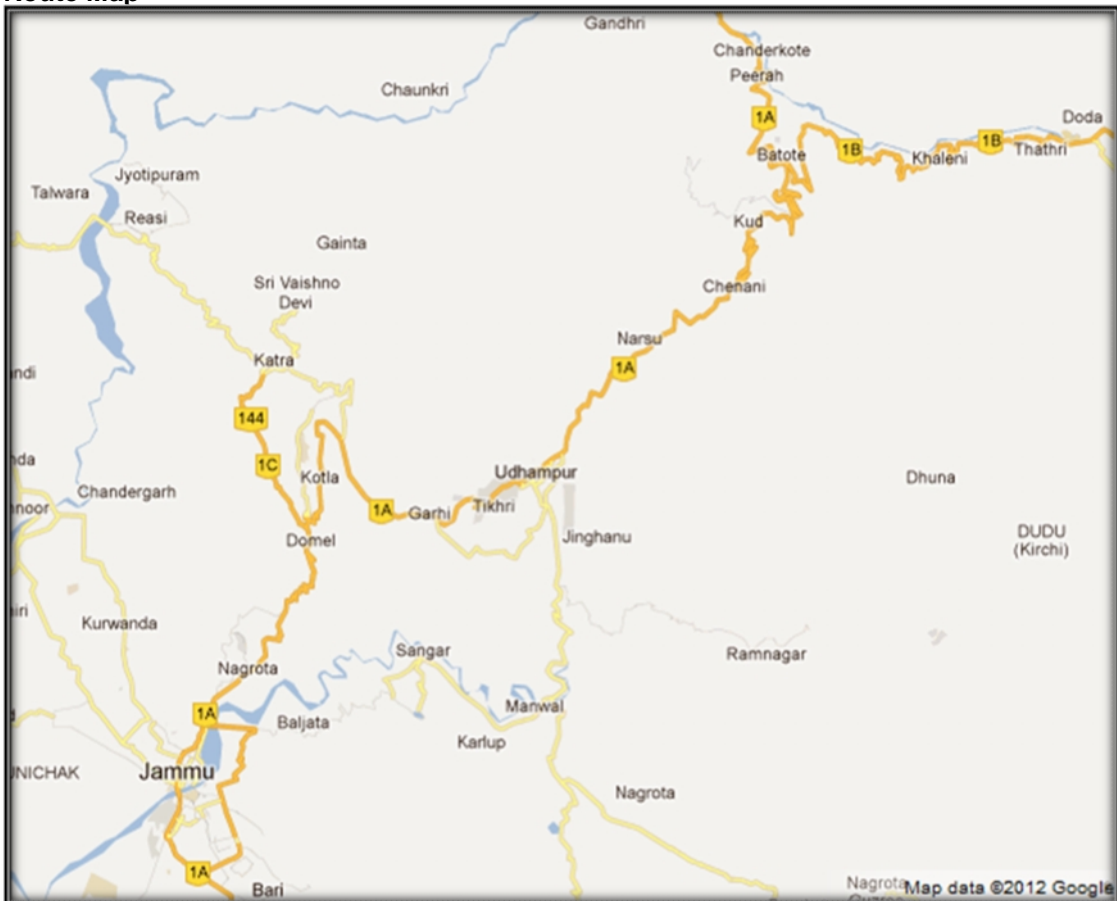
From: Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir)
Distance: 101.0 km (approx 1 hr, 30 mins)

1.	Head north	0.1 km
2.	Turn left	0.1 km
3.	Turn right	2.5 km
4.	Turn left	0.1 km
5.	Slight left	0.7 km
6.	Turn left	0.2 km
7.	At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit	1.8 km
8.	Turn left at NH 1A Go through 1 roundabout	95.6 km



To: Patnitop (Jammu and Kashmir)

Route Map



Sightseeing in Patnitop

Patnitop The hill resort at Patnitop offers numerous attractions to its tourists. Opportunities for long peaceful walks, lovely picnics, snow games, golf, etc all lure visitors to this charming place.

Kud

Barely 106 km out of Jammu, at an altitude of 5,500 ft in the lower Himalayan, Kud is a perfect holiday destination. The 3-hour drive to Kud takes you through a breathtaking landscape that is intersected by the River Chenab. The region is a veritable trekker's paradise. The thickly wooded slopes with its winding roads are perfect trekking territory. Your only companions here will be the chirping birds that follow your progress down the trail and the crisp mountain air. You can rejuvenate yourself at one of the three ice-cold freshwater springs in the area, which are said to have medicinal properties. From here you can branch out to other tourist spots like Patnitop, Sudh-Mahadev, Mantalai, Sanasar and other sites of religious significance. Patnitop is a popular starting point for short or longer treks into the nearby mountains.

Madhatop

A 5 Km trek from Patnitop along the Sanasar Road will bring you to Madhatop. Its salubrious climes and snow capped mountains makes it a haven for honeymooners and adventure tourists. In winters, thick layers of snow cover the slopes and attract thousands of skiers. The mighty mist clad mountains form the backdrop to the Chenab basin and is a fabulous place to holiday at. Try your hand at skiing. In the winter months, skiing camps are thrown open for beginners. Three ice-cold fresh water springs around here are popular for their curative properties. Situated at an altitude of 2,024 m, Madhatop is very accessible by road and is just 112 kms from Jammu city. Surrounded by pristine natural beauty, Madhatop is a great getaway destination for trekkers, honeymooners, winter sport aficionados and pretty much everyone else in between!

Sanasar

A haven for adventure sports, Sanasar is surrounded in rolling green meadows, pastures and gentle slopes so apt for parasailing and paragliding. The scenic views and vast open space against the blue sky is tempting that even the unadventurous would want to take a flight to view the valley below.

Shiva Garh

The beautiful hill resort of Patnitop is the base point for several trekking routes. One of the most interesting trekking routes is the one to Shiva Garh. Shiva Garh lies at an altitude of almost 3,500 metres and is an 11 km trek from Patnitop. It makes for an exciting one-day trek. You can hire your trekking equipment at the tourism department shops at Jammu and Kud.

Sudh Mahadev temple

The Sudh Mahadeva Temple was built 80 years ago on the spot where the Siva devotee was accidentally killed by lord Shiva's trishul, while he was trying to protect his consort, Parvati. Lord Shiva realized his mistake and wanted to bring the devotee, Sudheet back to life but he preferred dying at the feet of the Lord. To commemorate the place, a broken trident or trishul can be seen at the temple. Hundreds of Lord Shiva devotees come to the temple to seek the divine blessings of Lord Shiva. The festivities on Shivaratri are worth attending.

The Naag (cobra) temple

The ancient Naag Temple said to have been built 600 years ago and still commands a huge interest in both devotees and tourists. On Naga Panchmi festival, devotees from far and wide come here to seek the blessings of the Snake God. The isolated scenic beauty is breathtakingly panoramic as the whole valley can be seen below while rolling green hills surround the temple.