



nepal 



dharan
YOUR NEXT DESTINATION



DHARAN SUB-METROPOLITAN CITY
DHARAN TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE



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message from the acting mayor

Dharan is multi-lingual and multi-cultural city of East Nepal. Ancient temples and historic heritages have made Dharan a proud and prosperous city of Nepal. The serene surrounding and its beautiful places have also made Dharan a perfect place for travel and tourism. Because of availabilities of infrastructures for Eco-tourism, agro-tourism, adventure tourism, sports tourism, Dharan is being developed as touristic hub.

Dharan Sub-metropolitan city is committed to develop Dharan as the touristic town. We are motivating denizens of Dharan to invest on tourism and its infrastructures.

In an aim to lead the tourism sector of the entire province, Dharan is carrying out various touristic activities. For this, we are continuing East Tourism Mart started since last year. We are optimistic on supports of all denizens of Dharan and tourism professionals of the entire province number 1. In this context, I would like to congratulate and express best wishes for soon-to-be-published tourism booklet focusing Dharan and its surrounding tourism products.

Ms. Manju Bhandari (Subedi)

Acting Mayor

Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City, Dharan



message from the deputy cordinator

Nepal has a popular saying that says 'guests are like gods'. This saying shows that we Nepalese have culture and tradition to be hospitable to all guests.

Dharan, beautiful city situated in the eastern part of Nepal, is rich for its cultural, religious, geographical and natural diversities. Various virgin touristic potential places of Dharan are waiting publicity and protection. Dharan is also significant from historic and archeological perspectives. This tiny information booklet is made to inform about touristic places and areas of Dharan to all visitors, domestic and international.

I am indebted to Basudev Baral for his inspiration to bring out this booklet and tourism journalism Birat Anupam for his translation assistance in English. Likewise, I am equally grateful to Alina Magar, Khagendraprashad Khatiwada for their kind cooperation to publish this book. I am also thankful to Rajesh Shakya (Tony) for providing beautiful pictures for this booklet.

I also thank all the members of Dharan Tourism Development Committee, tourism journalists of Dharan and around, organizers of East Tourism Mart, Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City Office and all individuals associated from planning to publication of this important touristic booklet.

Kishore Kumar Thulung

Deputy Coordinator

Dharan Tourism Development Committee

Dharan Sub-Metropolitan City, Sunsari, Nepal



messages the chairman (ETM-2019)

Dharan, the Gateway of Eastern Nepal and the adjoining region has always been one of the best tourism destinations of this state due to its rich cultural and religious heritage, adventure activities and educational and medical hub legacy. It's my sincere and humble request that through active promotional activities in the International market as well as the domestic market we must attract maximum tourist to Dharan and adjoining regions. East Tourism Mart is one such event being organized since last year to attract and increase the inflow of tourist which is also going to be held this year in order to promote "Tourism Year 2020" with much bigger attractions and incentives. I sincerely believe that such mega events to promote tourism will increase the flow of Nepali domestic tourists as well as tourist from the international destinations especially from the adjoining States of our neighboring country, India. I wish that the East Tourism Mart becomes a calendar event every year. My heartiest appreciation to all the organizing committee and stakeholders for the efforts that have been put to make this event historical. Let's all join together to make this Mart a grand success.

Bhabish Kumar Shrestha

Chairman

East Tourism Mart



Dharan

As described in ancient Hindu scripture of Purana, Dharan is epicenter of Rudrakshya. Dharan is the place where tear of lord Shiva produced Rudrakshya. This is the secret land of Pandavas and Kuvera as described in Mahabharata. This is an ancient capital of Kirat kingdom as described in Mahabharat. Dharan has been developed as a modern city since 120 years. This is self-made city by its citizens with 150 kilometers of his blacktopped road half financed by its denizens. Dharan is also a gateway to both hills and plains of East Nepal's Koshi Zone.



Vijayapur Hillock

Vijayapur hillock of Dharan is an ancient place where Pandavas carried out Yagya in pursuit of winning war with Kaurabha. Puran says this Yagya was performed with assistance from Yagraj Kuvera residing in Himalayas. Because of its formation by nine kinds of muds, there are nine kinds of muds and nine natural water taps in this place.



Shree Pindeshwor Temple

Lord Shiva is said to have come here after winning 10-thousands-year-long war with demon called Tripurashur. After the arrival of lord Shiva over here, two drops of tears were dropped from his emotional eyes turning tears into Rudrakshya. This is believed to be the epicenter of Rudrakshya in the earth as said by Skanda Purana of Hinduism. In the month of Shrawan, holy water of Koshi River is offered in this temple bringing in from some 20 kilometers.



Dantakali Temple

This is the sacred venue where the tooth of Satidevi, daughter of Dakshyaprajapati and spouse of lord Shiva was dropped. According to religious scriptures, Satidevi jumped to burning fire after hearing unwanted scolding of her beloved lord Shiva. After her demise, Shiva carried her dead body and circled this globe. Various organs of Satidevi dropped in various places including her tooth in this place. A tooth-like statue found here is believed to be the tooth of Satidevi and is worshipped here.





Budha Subba Temple

This is an ancient place important from various perspectives. Based on a story of Mahabharata, this is where Ekalabhya, a brave warrior of Mahabharata, breathed his last after being frustrated with worrying war. Likewise, this is also called as a place where a great Kirati sage is also said to have cremated here. Budha Subba is also a place where a great warrior of Kirat kingdom named Buddhikarna Raya was cremated. This is the temple where alcohol, cigarettes and tobaccos are also offered. Pigs and chicken are culturally sacrificed here. This is a romantic temple for love birds. Visiting love birds put double threads on rare topless bamboos wishing their long-lasting love and affection.



ISKCON Temple

This is the very beautiful temple of Lord Krishna and Balaram made by International Society of Krishna Consciousness Dharan.



Gita Bhawan

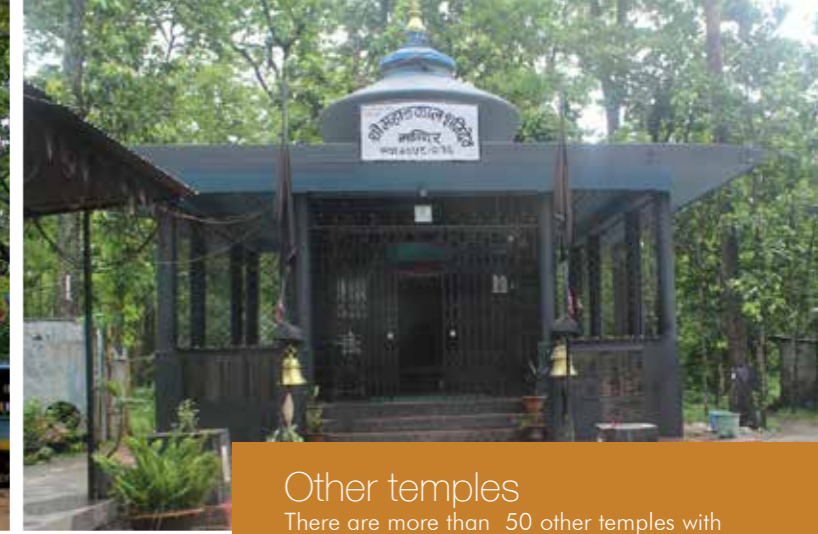
This was established by Mahamadaleshwor Ishwarananda Saraswati some 50 years ago. 700 Slokas of 18 chapters of Srimad Bhagwata Gita are scripted on the beautiful walls of this temple. There is the statue of Arjuna being preached by Lord Krishna in this temple.



Buddhist Monasteries

Buddhism is originated in this country thus there are many ethnic group practice Buddhism like Sherpa, Gurung, Tamand, Magar, Newars, and other ethnic communities too. There are more than half dozen monasteries of various ethnic Buddhist groups. Thousand big Buddha is a dream project of Dharan which is place near to Bhedetar

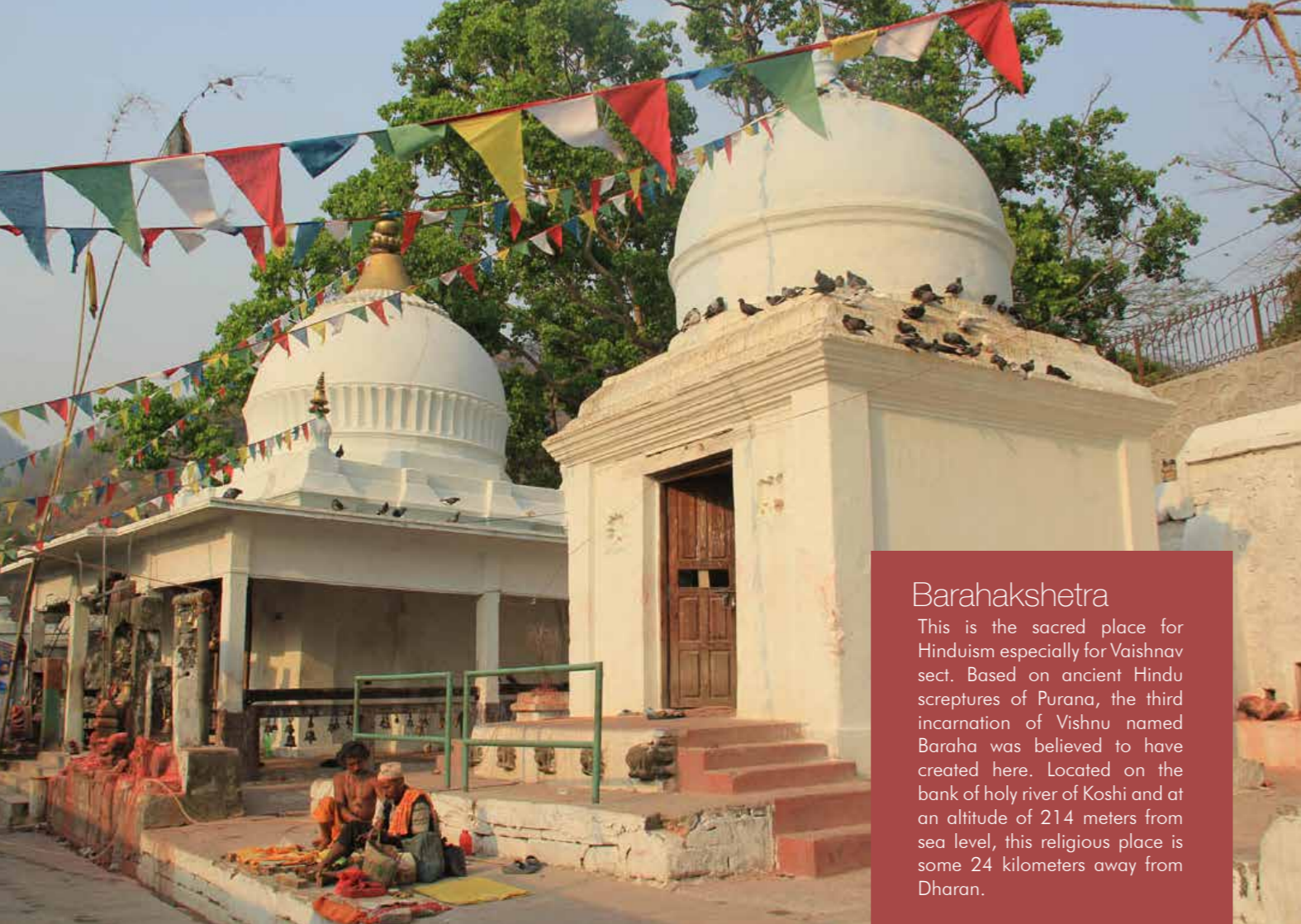
and is being erected in Chhoti Morang of Dharan. Religious Gurukul (Schools) and Gumbas offer Tibetan herbal medicines. We also accommodated Kirati puja thans (Sakela Than) and mosque more than 60 years old, which makes Dharan a place of cultural harmony.



Other temples

There are more than 50 other temples with religious, Puranic and historic significance in Dharan.





Barahakshetra

This is the sacred place for Hinduism especially for Vaishnav sect. Based on ancient Hindu scriptures of Purana, the third incarnation of Vishnu named Baraha was believed to have created here. Located on the bank of holy river of Koshi and at an altitude of 214 meters from sea level, this religious place is some 24 kilometers away from Dharan.

Bishnupaduka

This is the first sacred venue where lord Vishnu performed Shradha for his forefathers. 7 kilometer away from Dharan bazaar, this is located in west-north side of Dharan. Situated on the bank of Kokaha River, this place has footprint of lord Vishnu. Hindu and Buddhist both from Nepal and India through this temple for performing Shradha and other religious rituals.





Ramdhuni

As said in Balmiki Ramayana, it was the place where Ram and Lakshmana learnt about philosophy and weaponry with their Guru named Vishwamitra. The sacred bonfire initiated while being preached on the banks of Kausiki (Koshi) river is still being burnt in this place. This ancient holy place is located some 30 kilometer south-west of Dharan.

Dharan Clock Tower

Dharan clock tower stands at the heart of Dharan city. Jointly built by denizens of Dharan residing in Hongkong, people of Dharan and the then Dharan Municipality (now Sub-Metropolitan City), this has been a must-visit point of Dharan for both locals and tourists.





Golf Course

Prepared for the prince of Britain and Lady Diana, this 18-hole golf course was made by British some 50 years ago and this is still functional for Nepalese and others. Once, this place was very famous recruiting place for British Gorkhas for entire East Nepal.



Bhedetar

This is the beautiful hill station located at an altitude starting from 1420 meters. 17 Kilometer away from Dharan, It is reached via beautiful serpentine roadways from Dharan. Bhedetar is all-weather travel points. It was place visited by British Crown Prince Charles in 2038 BS and there is a view tower named after him as 'Charles Point'.

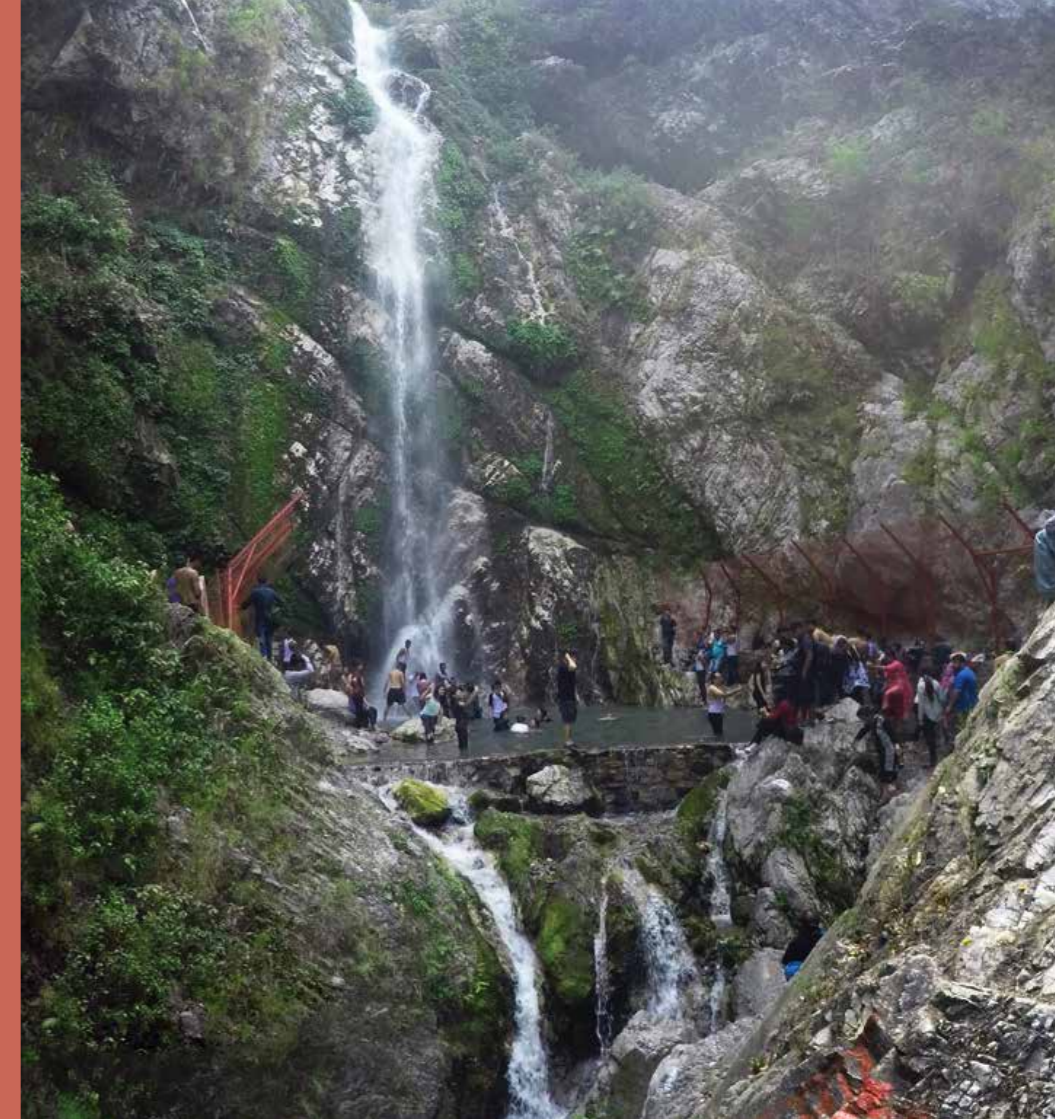


Namje

Located at an altitude of 1770 meters above sea level, Namje is a beautiful place nearby Bhedetar. Mostly populated by indigenous Magar communities, Namje village was listed as '12 most beautiful places to visit in the world' by US broadcaster CNN in 2011. Namje is a perfect place to glance plain Terai and beautiful Himalayan peaks of Makalu, Kanchenjunga, Kumbhakarna and Everest. Popular homestay destination of Koshi Zone of Nepal, Namje has a collective graveyard called 'spirit of soul' constructed by 21 architect engineers of Catholic University of US using 213 stones extracted from graves there.

Namaste Fall's

This is the nearest falls from Bhedetar. This is some 9 kilometers away from Bhedetar and is located nearby Koshi Highway. It can be reached within 15 minutes of walk from the highway. 60-meter-tall falls has been an attractive destination for domestic and international tourists from neighboring Indian state of Bihar and West Bengal.





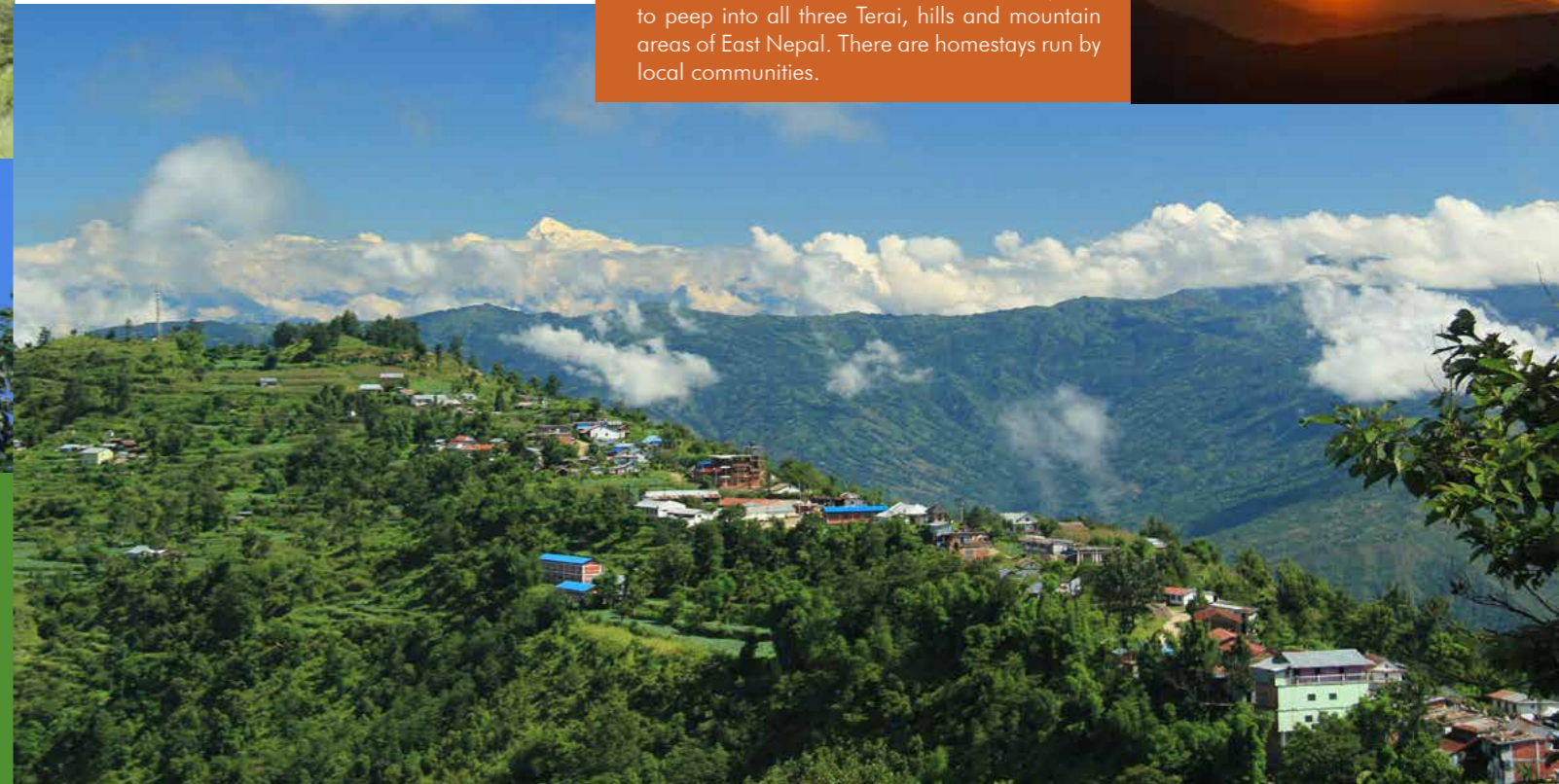
Encounter with wild buffaloes (Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve)

After driving 30 kilometers from Dharan, we can reach the beautiful jungle on the south-west Forest of Koshi River. Koshi is the meeting place of Arun, the river flowing from Tibet and six other Nepalese rivers. And, on the shores of Koshi river is Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve. Established in 1976 and spanned in an area of 175 square kilometer, this reserve is home to 489 species of birds and 400 above wild buffaloes. We can see birds coming from Siberia.

The shores of Koshi give a kind of oceanic sensation. After 3 hours of local boat ride, we can reach in a village surrounded by Koshi called Srilanka Tapu. The surprise encounters of wild buffaloes and wild elephants are rare and exciting experience of our lives.

Danda Bazaar

This is beautiful hill point (1750 meter) of Dhankuta and situated some 28 kilometers away from Dharan via Bhedetar. Best for sunrise views at dawn and sundown at dusk, this is the place to peep into all three Terai, hills and mountain areas of East Nepal. There are homestays run by local communities.





Fort (Monuments)

Not only now, Dharan was an incredible strategic place in past. During Kirat Kingdom, hills around Dharan were fortified. Stone-made forts of Dharan include Sanghuri Gadhi in the north as well as Vijayapur Gadhi and Gadhiithan in the Eastern side of Dharan.



Parks and recreational facilities

Dharan is also a city of beautiful parks. Saptarangi Park, BP Park and Flower Garden, Hariyali Park, Langhali Park, Vijayapur Park, among others are noted parks in Dharan. Likewise, for recreational activities, Panchakanya jungle and swimming pools are some recreational facilities of Dharan.



Adventure in Dharan

Rafting

Nepal is a land of numerous world class rivers which provide fun and exciting river rafting adventures. You can have a day of rafting or choose an extended trip that lets you camp of the bank of river and enjoy the culture and beauty of the river stay. Rafting in Nepal is one of the most popular adventures and it is considered as a paradise land for river runners. There are various grade of whitewater rafting trips possibly vary with interest and choice.

Cycling/Mountain biking

Having perfect topographical variation with plains, hills and Himalayas, East Nepal has perfect mountain biking environment. Dozens of mountain biking routes are created in East Nepal paddling. Biking in Nepal doesn't mean the equivalent of climbing Everest as tours are available from the casual cyclist to the masochistic adventure without compromising on the beauty of the trails and terrains.

Canyoning

Canyoning is being popular in Nepalese adventure tourism. Dharan also have service of canyoning. Canyoning is an adventurous sport that involves traveling down creeks or streams within a canyon by a variety of means including hiking, scrambling, wading, boulder hopping, rock climbing, abseiling and rappelling using safety techniques.

Hiking

East Nepal has amazing world-class trekking routes. Like Everest base camp, Makalu base camp and Kanchenjunga base camp and newly exploring Mundhum trek. Dharan also offers short route hiking like; Fushre to Sanguri Gadhi, Bijayapur to Danabari, Bijayapur-Danabari to Namje, Dharan to Chinde Danda etc. More new and interesting hiking routes are being explored.

Paragliding

It has become a popular sport among people who loves adventure. Dharan has commercial paragliding service. There are two paragliding take off and landing stations in Dharan.



Accommodation

Dharan offers perfect accommodation facilities to all guests. From high-end tourists to budget travellers, Dharan has both star-level and tourist-class hotel facilities. There are around 100 plus hotels in Dharan. Around 50 hotels of Bhedetar and Namje are offering standard touristic facilities of hotel and hospitality.



Shopping in Dharan

Dharan city is being grow as shopper's paradise making your shopping experiences exciting, unique and fun. There are numerous local product shops from where you can buy pure and varieties of pieces of Gold jewelry, Hand loom Dhaka cloths, Brass, Copper & Metal dish handicrafts items, typical Nepali foods like Sukuti (dry meat), Kineema, homemade pickles etc.



Food and beverage

Dharan is rich in its indigenous culture and tradition. So are its food and beverages. Dharane Kalo Bangur (black pig of Dharan) is popular meat items not only in Dharan but also in federal capital Kathmandu. Sekuwa (fried meat) of bull buffaloes, pigs, chicken and other are popular in Dharan, mostly in Bagarkot. Wine made by nettles and other home-grown fruits are also available in Dharan. As Dharan is inhabited by ethnic nationalities like Limbu, Rai, Newa and other ethnic communities since long, their cultural food and beverages are also easily available in Dharan.





BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences (BPKIHS):

This is Nepal's biggest and most popular medical teaching hospital. Students from India, SAARC and other countries frequent this hospital for studies, internships and researches.

How to Reach to Dharan

Kathmandu to Biratnagar 35 minutes flight and Biratnagar to Dharan 40 kms road distance.

Kathmandu via Sindhuli to Dharan 400 kms road distance.

Siliguri (West Bengal) to Panitanki 25 kms., Panitanki via Kakarvitta to Dharan 110 Kms. west.

Bihar Arariya district's Jogbani via Biratnagar to Dharan 50kms.

