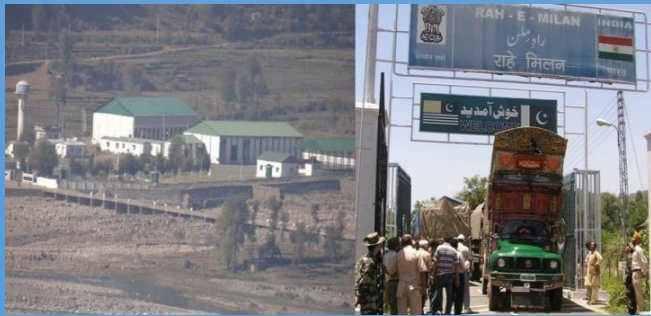


PLACES TO VISIT

LOC Trade Centre-Chakkanda-Bagh-Poonch

It is located on 46 kms long cross LOC Poonch-Rawlakote road at a distance of about 8kms in south of Poonch Town. The loaded trucks from POK arrive on Monday to Friday every week and unloaded for onward transportation. Similarly, the loaded trucks of Jammu and Poonch are also reporting at the Trade Centre and then cross the LOC for unloading on the other side of the LOC. Apart from this passengers of divided families who cross the LOC from the either side are also halted at this place for security checkup.



Pir ki Gali

Pir ki Gali is an attractive natural place located at 1140fts. Above the sea level exactly on the boundary of Poonch and Shopian. Pir marg (meadow) surrounded with snow clad peaks, cool breeze and tribal life satyle starts from pir gali which is known as the crown of 240km log Pir panchal range the 84km long Mughal road passes through the heart of Pir Panchal via Pir gali which is 43km away from Buffliaz Poonchand 41km from Shopian with the opening of Mughal road great hustle bustle starts at Pir gali and simultaneously the surrounding natural resort and beautiful valley of seven lakes, Panj tarnimeadow, Girjan Doke, Tata kutti, peak, Chatta pani, Glacier come into lime light which are ideal for scenic and adventure Tourism

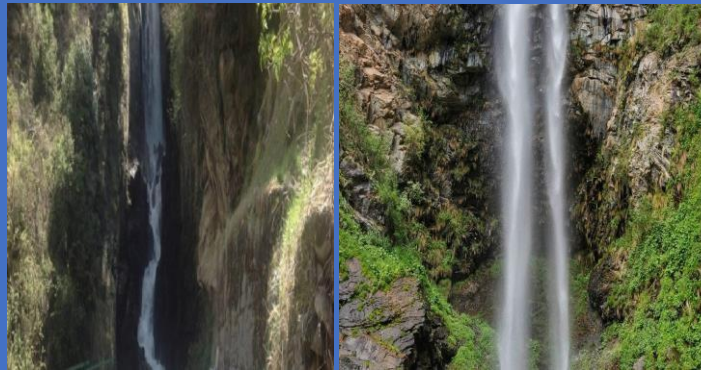


Noori Chmmb

Noori Chammb associated with the name of Mughal Queen Noor Jahan is famous for its scenic beauty & water fall. It is situated near Behram Galla in Surankote Tehsil about 45 kms. from Poonch town. The fall of the stream gives rise to dense clouds of water vapours which engulfs the area & spread all over. The Emperor Jahangir had developed so much fancy & liking for this fall that he named it Noori Chammb after the name of his beloved queen Noor Jahan. Mughal queen used to stay here for relaxation. She had got fixed a mirror besides the fall on the mountain wall where she used to have her make-up after the bath.

Nandishool

Nandishool is a beautiful water fall about 12 km. from Loran and 6Km. from Sultan Pathri. Water comes from Pir Panchal and falls on a glacier. It is about 150 feet high fall. One tourist hut is constructed by Rural Development Department near Nandishool.



Mandi

It is a small village in a narrow valley enclosed by steep and grassy hills of no great elevation, situated near the confluence of two streams namely Gagri and Pulsta. Mandir Swami Budha Amar Nath Ji is situated in this village. Mandi is about 20 kms. from Poonch town. Due to cool climate and proximity to the Poonch town, Mandi has become a favourable place for tourists to visit, in summer. Most of the people of Mandi area speak Kashmiri language.



Than Pir

It is situated in Tehsil Mandi at a distance of 43 kms in the north-east of Poonch town, on the tributary of Doda Range of Mountains. From this commanding place, the overlooking view of Suran Valley, Mandi, Poonch right up to Toli Pir in POK is marvelous. There is a beautiful green pasture around the shrine. Apart from religious importance, this is one of the most beautiful scenic spot of Poonch District which can be developed for tourism purpose. A grand annual Urs is celebrated in the month of November by the civil society Poonch in collaboration with Army.

Loran

Loran is a small village 35 kms. away from Poonch town and is situated at the foot of high mountains of Pir Panjal range and is another attraction for the tourists. Loran Nallah which flows through this beautiful village makes the place more enchanting to the eyes. Loran was once the capital of Poonch state under Hindu rulers upto 1542 A.D. It was then known as Loran-Kote. There are ruins of the Lohar Kote fort which was once called the Gateway of Kashmir.



Lohar Devta Temple

It is about 31 kms from Poonch Town and located in the western side of Tehsil Mendhar on an elevated slope of Ghani hill top in Krishna Ghati range of mountains. The shrine is surrounded by snow clad lofty peaks of Pir-Panchal. The Green valley of Mendhar is visible upto Bhaimber Gali Top (5400ft). A grand annual festival is celebrated in the month of June where thousands of pilgrims gather for spiritual satisfaction.

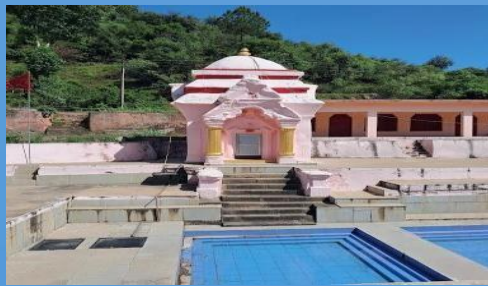


Ram Kund Temple

It is about 68 Kms from Poonch and 11 Km from Mendhar. According to legend, Shri Ram who halted with his family at Ram Kund during their exile while en-route to Kashmir personally got this temple and three natural water springs constructed i.e Ram Kund, Laxman Kund & Sita Kund for bathing. The king Lalitaditya of Kashmir got it renovated in the 7th century AD. A grand Fair is held in the month of April (Chaitra) Chaitra- choudhi where thousands of devotees offer prayers after bath in these Kunds

Gurudwara Nangali Sahib

Gurudwara Nangali Sahib is situated in the lap of a picturesque hill and on the banks of Drungali Nallah about six kms from Poonch Town. It is one of the oldest Shrine of the Sikhs in Northern India. Presently the Gurudwara complex consists of about 70 rooms, Langar Hall and gurudwara building. Large number of devotees belonging to all faiths visits this shrine from all over the Country every year. This Gurudwara has remained as focus of the Sikhism in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. Round the clock Langar (community kitchen), rest house facility is provided to the pilgrims without considering their religion, caste and creed etc. Although people visit this shrine daily but on Sundays a large congregation is held. Moreover the Gurudwara has the pleasant scenery and cool atmosphere which gives the pilgrims the physical pleasure in addition to the peace and solace of mind.



Shri Dashnami Akhara Mandir-Poonch

Shri Dashnami Akhara Mandir, located in the town of Poonch, is one of the most popular temples located in the district. During 1760, a well-known religious guru, Swami Jawahar Giri Ji, came here. Rustam Khan, who was the emperor of Poonch that time, visited here to pay his tribute to Swami Ji. In his honour, the king added more land at this spot. Swami Ji lived here until he took samadhi, which is a spiritual state of consciousness in 1787. Devotees can see his samadhi, which is in the premises of the temple. Later on, several other gurus came here, including Swami Shamaya Nand Ji, a great scholar of Sanskrit, who also began a Sanskrit school in the compound of the temple. Swami Shankarya Nand Giri Ji, Swami Parma Nand Ji and Swami Satya Nand Saraswati are the other spiritual gurus who stayed here. At the moment, the seat of Shri Dashnami Akhara Mandir is occupied by Swami Satya Dev Ji. The festival of Chhari Mubarak or Holy Mace is celebrated every year with great zeal and enthusiasm on the day of Raksha Bandhan, a Hindu festival.



Ziarat Chhote Shah Sahib

Three day annual Urs is celebrated at Sakhi Maidan about 5 kms from Mendhar in the memory of Muslims Saint Sakhi Peer Chhota Shah whose Ziarat is located there and is held in high esteem by Hindus & Muslims alike in the area. Barely few hundred yards from Ziarat lies the ruins of ancient architecture popularly believed to be of the Pandvas.

Ziarat Sain Miran Sahib

This Ziarat is located in village Guntrian near the line of actual control with Pakistan occupied Kashmir. The place is frequently visited by devotees of different religious faiths who have firm belief that whatever is wished before the holy seat does never go unfulfilled. A road to link to this Ziarat has been constructed facilitating the pilgrims to visit this place. Before its construction arduous climbing was required to reach the Ziarat.



Poonch Fort

It is a symbol of the heritage of Poonch District which is about 255 years old. It remained the main attraction to the tourists in the district. This fort spreads across an area of 7535 sqm and is located on a hill top which adds glory to the historical testament of Poonch city. The foundation of this splendid Fort was laid down by Raja Abdul Razak Khan in 1701 AD and was later on built by Raja Rustam Khan in 1779 A.D after whose name Poonch was also known as “Rustam Nagar”. This Fort has witnessed the golden period rule of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Raja Moti Singh and Raja Baldev Singh

Sheesh Mahal

It was most modern building of Poonch principality constructed by Raja Jagat Dev Singh (1927 to 1940) during Dogra period in between 1932 to 1936 AD. This building was a symbol of pride for the Raja's of Poonch because it was the first Palace constructed with modern architecture. This palace was constructed for Rani Attlia, the wife of Raja Sukhdev Singh (1918-1926) who had died at the age of 26 in 1926. After 1947 this marvelous building had remained under the occupation of Army. In 1976 the building was handed over to civil administration. Presently Girls Higher Secondary School is located in this palace. It has become unsafe due to damage caused by earthquake occurred in 2005

