

Cobra Temple

By Titus Presler (*Ophryisia*)

Rating: Easy

Best time to go: Year round

Length: 6 hour round trip

Distance: 20 km

Description:

On the south side of the Mussoorie ridge is a rather out-of-the-way spot, which is ideal for a short hike. This is the Cobra Temple, not far above the confluence of Dhobi Ghat stream and Nali stream which forms the Song River.

A little after Masrana there is an obvious path which cuts back along the ridge along the barren slopes. This is often called the "Potato Road" because of the amount of goods transported over this route. A short cut can be taken down to this path by going right down the side of the mountain from "the Gap" (3 km from Woodstock School) before Suakholi. The "Potato Road" goes around to run through the fields and blue forests down the top of the ridge. Further below the path divides; the right-hand branch which twists down the right side of the ridge should be taken until it reaches a small village. From here the left-hand path should be followed which goes across to the next small ridge, upon which there is a knoll of pine trees which shelter two small temple structures of stone. The larger is the Cobra Temple.

The Cobra Temple is a charming spot to visit for the temple itself and for its location. The temple is small, but there are a variety of religious paraphernalia, such as lamps in the shape of cobras. There is an area suitable for camping just below the temple. The neighbouring village is interesting and there is a pleasant stream in the ravine. The location is nestled within the protective folds of the surrounding mountains. The Cobra Temple hike could be completed in a day, but it makes for a good overnight stay. From here, many go to the Song River, and then to Sulphur Springs. One should follow the right branch of the main path as it descends to the valley to meet a road that follows the Dhobi Ghat stream 4.5 km to the Song.