

Kolti

Kolti is a small farming village northeast of Mussoorie. It is situated on a promontory with a good view of the valley to the north. Kolti can be reached by any of a number of routes starting at various points along paved road.

Distance: 4-5 kilometers (Cemetery on the chukka to Kolti) Total Ascent: 0 feet Total Descent: 2090 feet
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Description:

This is the shortest and steepest route to Kolti. On the way, one can visit the Mussoorie waterworks on Khafla Khala, a beautiful, clear, spring-fed stream that is a wonderful spot for a rest or a picnic lunch.

The trail begins along the chukka that circles the top of Landour Hill. Along the northern loop of the chukka, find the Protestant cemetery, an interesting destination in itself. Many British soldiers and wives lie buried here since Mussoorie was once used as a recovery station from the tropical diseases of the plains.

A broad trail leads down to an adjoining old Roman Catholic cemetery with a tall cross-topped monument. Stay to the east of this cemetery and descend steeply through the forest. As you get lower, the forest turns from oak to long-needle pine, and the air gets warmer. About half way down the mountainside, there is a well-tended Hindu shrine on a prominence. Further down are pump stations for the Mussoorie waterworks. The lowest station is right on Khafla Khala, where you can examine the way the stream is diverted into the pump system. There is a sturdy bridge over Khafla Khala allowing crossing in all seasons. Beyond the stream, the trail is relatively level all the way to Kolti.

Distance: 5-6 kilometers (Jabarkhet to Kolti) Total Ascent: 10 feet Total Descent: 1750 feet
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Description:

The trail leaves Tehri Road about 100 meters from the eastern edge of Jabarkhet. The trail descends gradually through oak and rhododendron. At about 0.5 kilometers there is a small spring where a trail joins that connects up to the origin of the Flag Hill trail. The Kolti trail then follows the lower edge of an abandoned farm.

The trail follows the west side of first Flag Hill and then Bear Hill descending from the oak forest into long-needled pine. Occasional sections of the trail are more steeply down. At the final ridge of Bear Hill the upper portion of Kolti is reached. Here there is a small temple and a farm. A trail branches off to the right (east) to various destinations and alternate (longer) routes back. The main trail follows the northern slope of the Kolti ridge and descends steeply into the village.

