

Pari Tibba

Distance: 2.0 kilometers

Total Ascent: 540 feet

Total Descent: 350 feet

Description:

Pari Tibba (Hill of the Fairies), also known as Witches Hill, is the high point of a prominent 10-kilometer long ridge stretching southeastward from the Mussoorie ridge until it ends above Sahastradhara. From the Mussoorie Bypass Road above, Pari Tibba looks like the easy climb that it is. This belies the fact that the top of Pari Tibba is a nearly 3000-foot climb from Sahastradhara.

The trail begins at Woodstock's Ridgewood Crossing, where the path from the Woodstock student residences crosses the Mussoorie Bypass Road on its way up to the main school buildings. Follow the narrow cemented road to Dhobi Ghat (0.8 K), descending 350 feet and passing Woodstock's Ridgewood Field, Ridgewood Student Residence, Ridgewood Gate, and Hanson Field. The road descends steeply through forest and crosses a seasonal stream. At the fork in the road, take the left branch into Dhobi Ghat.

Dhobi Ghat is a prosperous village of clothes washers who serve Woodstock and the Landour community. On a sunny day, the washing is hung out to dry everywhere.

From Dhobi Ghat, follow the broad trail that steadily rises along the northeast slope of the ridge. At 1.05 K, note the abandoned phosphate mine just above the trail. At 1.6 K, the main trail reaches its highest point and begins to descend to the villages beyond. Take the smaller trail that branches off to the right and walk another 50 meters up to the saddle between Pari Tibba and its lower neighbor to the north. In the saddle is another junction of trails. The main trail continues through the saddle and descends toward the villages on the southwestern side of the ridge. Take the middle trail that climbs up from the saddle toward the summit.

The trail up is easy to follow through oak jungle. The broad summit (2.0 K) has tall grasses and few trees so views can be quite good. It is said that lightning strikes Pari Tibba with unusual frequency. Perhaps fires account for the abundant grasses and few trees. There is the foundation of an abandoned building to explore. Just to the west of the summit are two Hindu shrines.

For an alternative return, continue southeast over the summit and down a rough trail into the next saddle. From here, a trail is found that leads east and north back to the main trail.

