

## Pepperpot Cave

This is a small natural cave, to the East of Mussoorie, on the North-facing slope of the ridge at 2373 m. The southern approach to Pepperpot Cave is shorter and begins at the southern point of the horseshoe curve near the 48K roadside kilometer marker. It climbs steeply out of the road cut and passes by ruins of an old forest rest house. A trail from a nearby water pump also leads to the ruins. The trail continues up the spur ridge and meets the western trail in just a few hundred meters. After another 200 meters the combined trails reach a gap in the ridge, with a beautiful Deodar (Himalayan Cedar) grove on the Southern slope. Here the trail divides; the main trail switches to the north side of the ridge, dropping steeply from the gap. Only 10-20 meters down this trail, a small side trail leads 10 meters over to Pepperpot Cave. From the gap, a small trail continues along the south edge of the ridge top for another 700 meters to Deo Ki Tibba via the West Summit. There are several flat tops to sit on, trees to climb, Peacock Orchids and other wild flowers to enjoy, and wonderful views of the snows to the North, Pepperpot and its' ridge to the East, and the Landour hillside to the West.

Pepperpot Cave can be reached by another route as well. The western approach begins about 0.8 K east of Bataghat at the 49K roadside kilometer marker. The narrow forest trail begins just west of the marker. The trail climbs steeply out of the road cut, through Oak and Rhododendron forest, and up Panther Hill, skirting a farm (with a dog) at the top. The trail continues along the ridge, just to the south side of the ridge top, through forest and past another small farm. One can also travel along the ridge top itself, but this requires a certain amount of bushwhacking without much view for a reward. The ridge rises slowly as one proceeds eastward, and the views from the ridge top steadily improve.

