



TRAVEL NEWSLETTER

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Guldanda in Jammu and Kashmir: Visit the snowy paradise that is turning Bholderwah into India's mini Switzerland

Snowy charm of Guldanda: The meadow that is putting Bholderwah on the tourist map; tourists say destination lives up to the hype. Following the restoration of the Bholderwah-Basholi-Pathankot National Highway, a large number of tourists have thronged to the Doda's Bholderwah region of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the Guldanda meadow, after it received heavy snowfall. Guldanda, which is located at almost 10,000 feet altitude, has become a popular destination for visitors from across the country. In the past year, over 5 lakh tourists visited various parts of Bholderwah, according to the Publicity Officer of the Bholderwah Development Authority (BDA), Aamir Rafique. Tourists have been arriving in significant numbers to experience the snow at Guldanda. The meadow has gained attention for its winter landscape, and many visitors have expressed their enjoyment of the snow-covered area. Rafique further noted that the increase in tourist visits to Bholderwah is a positive development for the region's tourism sector and highlighted that the Guldanda meadow has become a key attraction, contributing to the area's growth as a year-round tourist destination. The snowfall in Guldanda,



Travel to new heights with India's stunning Anji Rail Bridge - Himalayan Foothills

Anji Khad Bridge is the country's "first cable-stayed bridge" of Indian Railways connecting Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Railways, which is on the path of development, is now moving towards showcasing one more classic example of an engineering marvel with the newly built Anji Rail Bridge. The country's first cable-stayed rail bridge is constructed in the Reasi district of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir under the most challenging Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla-Rail Link (USBRL) Project of Indian Railways. The bridge is about 80 km by road from Jammu. Anji Khad Bridge is the country's "first cable-stayed bridge" of Indian Railways connecting Katra and Reasi in Jammu and Kashmir. The bridge is a part of the national project of the Udampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project.



Gulmarg, Auli and Solang Valley: Top locations for skiing in India

From pristine slopes of Gulmarg to rugged terrains of Auli, here are top three ski destination picks: As the fresh snowfall blankets the mountains in India, it's time to ski! The peak season, which typically runs from January to March, is considered perfect for this winter sport. From pristine slopes of Gulmarg to rugged terrains of Auli, here are top three ski destination picks: Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir. This frozen fairyland is often hailed as the Ski Capital of India. It boasts of an impressive Gulmarg Gondola, stretching nearly 2.7km and ascending 1,280m to an altitude of 3,980m near Mt Apharwat. The location also features five international ski lifts from Poma, a French company renowned for its high-quality, cable-driven systems, providing one of the safest skiing experiences available. The best way to reach Gulmarg is to take a flight to Srinagar and then travel 60km further by road. Auli, Uttarakhand. All eyes are on Auli as it is set to host the National Winter Games, starting January end. The ski slopes here begin at an altitude of 3,000m and extend for 3km, featuring a vertical drop of 500m.



Heavy snowfall hits Sikkim—What it means for your travel plans

Snowfall shuts down Nathula and Tsomgo Lake in Sikkim: Is it time to rethink your trip? The upper reaches of Sikkim experienced heavy snowfall, an official said on Wednesday. The snowfall on Tuesday evening also led to a sharp dip in temperatures in the Himalayan state. According to the official black ice has formed at Thulo Khola, making the road to Nathula and Tsomgo Lake dangerous for vehicles. Efforts are underway to clear the snow but it will take a day or two to ensure safe passage, the official said. Permits for visiting Nathula and Tsomgo Lake will not be issued by the Tourism department until further notice. Travellers are advised to stay updated on the situation and exercise caution. The administration is monitoring the weather and road conditions closely, the official added.

HEADLINES

China travel alert: Mt Everest scenic area shut down after 6.8-magnitude earthquake hits Tibet

Steve Jobs' widow Laurene Powell to observe Kalpvas at Maha Kumbh Mela 2025; will stay in Prayagraj for two weeks

179 dead in South Korea's worst plane crash in decades

Singapore bound Air India flight returns due to mid air technical snag



Vietnam breaks records in international tourism Is it time to book your trip?

Vietnam the new Southeast Asian tourism titan? Bold plans revealed aims to draw as many as 23 million international tourists this year, a goal that would surpass pre-pandemic levels, according to a statement on the government website. BMI Research expects the country's tourism industry to fully recover in 2025, it said in a report. Vietnam is targeting a 31% jump in foreign travellers this year from 2024, and about 5 million more than the 18 million arrivals in 2019. Visitors from India reached 501,000 in 2024. In the last two years, Indian tourists to Vietnam rose 2.6 times, making it "one of the most impressive growth markets" for Vietnam, according to the government statement. The number of international visitors to Vietnam reached 17.5 million last year, up 39.5% from 2023, according to the statement. Visitors from within Asia accounted for about 80% of international travelers. The government said in June that it aims to make tourism one of the key industries to boost the country's economic growth. Before the pandemic, tourism accounted for about 12% of the nation's gross domestic product, according to a separate June statement, which cited a VinaCapital Group Ltd. report. International tourism represented 8% of the GDP.

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Planit Holidays - # +91 8287945614 | Email id : Sales@Planitholidays.co

