

PANAUTI HERITAGE PASSPORT



WELCOME TO PANAUTI

It brings me immense pleasure to present you this Panauti heritage passport dedicated primarily to tourist and visitors in Panauti. This is an old town, with roots going back several centuries. This town is home to some unique cultures found nowhere else in Nepal and a few festivals have their roots in this medieval town. In the past Panauti was a thriving town with trading ties to Kathmandu valley and in its heyday, it was indeed an influential place. The culture and heritage of yore that still stands today testifies to its prosperous past.

Today, Panauti is a municipality with twelve wards. Most of it is open space, forests, hills and rice paddles. Tourism, in modern sense is growing at a rapid pace. Homestays, hotels and resorts have sprung up to facilitate the stay of tourists and visitors who came to experience this place of unique culture and tradition.

Once again, welcome to this wonderful town and enjoy the several aspects of adventure, nature and culture.

Ram Sharan Bhandari

Mayor

PANAUTI MUNICIPALITY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Panauti Our city, is renowned for its captivating tourist attractions, fascinating ancient cultures, exquisite handicrafts and exceptional culinary delights. It offers a captivating journey that seamlessly blends cultural traditions, natural beauty and a rich heritage.

As you explore the Panauti, you will be captivated by the historic Panauti city proposed for the listing of UNESCO World heritage site. While immersed in the remarkable places, do not miss the opportunity to tantalize your taste buds with the city's gastronomic delights. Food of Newari origins such as Samay-baji, Chhoila, Bara, Chatamari and Yomari are a few local delights that will leave you craving for more. Panauti's rich culture and mouth watering cuisine are joined to create an experience that appeal to both the sense and the soul. It invites you to explore the architectural marvels, immerse yourself in history, and savor the diverse flavors that make Panauti an unforgettable destination.

Purushottam Karmacharya

President

PANAUTI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CENTER

HERITAGE PLEDGE

This heritage passport has been launched by the Panauti Tourism Development Center to enable young minds to explore the built, natural and cultural heritage of the Panauti as a way to understand Nepal. Welcome to Panauti and enjoy your tour. Let us all pledge make sure we do not damage this globally unique Panauti city for your future generation.

I

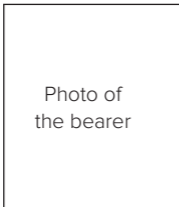
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Hereby pledge to do my best to conserve and protect Nepal's globally unique natural, cultural and built heritage so that me and all future generations can enjoy, learn from and take pride in them.

Signed.....

Date.....

DESCRIPTION OF THE BEARER



Name:

Address:

Nationality:

Birthdate:

Place of Birth:

Passport Number:

A TOWN OF CULTURE AND TRADITION

Situated about 32km south-east of Kathmandu, at the junction of the sacred confluence of the Roshi and Punyawoti rivers and believed to be located on one single rock, this historical Newar town is one of the oldest in the Kathmandu valley. Dotted with pagodas and other religious shrines, most of the monuments, temples and community shelters (satals) are made of terracotta. The temples with their glided roofs, carved wooden columns, elaborate carvings, and wide courtyard impart an eastern mysticism, and the remains of the Durbar Square can still be seen in the town centre. Once described as a town having more temples than houses and more deities than inhabitants, this medieval town can proudly claim to be the 4th most important site in Nepal after the three ancient cities of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. Panauti is one of six municipalities in the Kavrepalanchok district in the central region of Nepal, the other five being Banepa, Dhulikhel, Namobuddha, Mandandeupur and Panchakhal.

A PRIME CULTURAL DESTINATION

Six villages: Panauti, Malpi, Taukhal, Subbagaun, Sunthan and khopasi were merged in 1997 AD from Panauti municipality. Occupying an area of 33.78 Sq Km with a population of around 56,400 speaking three different dialects. The majority are from the Newar community and unsurprisingly, the town is rich in Newari culture and festivals, many of them similar to those practiced in the Kathmandu valley, and some that are unique to the town itself. Panauti thus may be considered to be one of the best destinations for cultural tourism in Nepal. In addition, Panauti offers a spectacular panorama of the Himalayas when viewed from Gorakhnath Hill, 15 min. walk uphill to the north east of the town. From here one also gets a wonderful overall view of the small fish-shaped town which from east to west, is less than a kilometer in length, and about half that from north to south at the widest part. The town is surrounded by the two rivers, Roshi and Punyawoti, running from west to east and converging at the eastern end of the town where the famous Triveni ghat (cemetery) is situated. Other villages surrounding Panauti are dominated by different ethnic groups.

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

According to legend, Panauti was founded in 1082 AD. A golden scripture dated 1385 AD located within the Indreshwor Temple, is said to state that King Hari Singh Dev (of the eastwhile Mithila kingdom) founded the town after fleeing from Simrangadh in the Tarai. During the Malla period Panauti was a protectorate of King Anand Malla (1274-1307 AD). Later, King Bhupatindra Malla, The king of Bhaktapur, is said to have given Panauti as a dowry to his sister in 1763 AD, Panauti was annexed to greater Nepal as a result of king Prithivi Narayan Shah's unification drive in 1820 B.S.

NEWARI SCRIPT

All around the Kathmandu valley you can see inscriptions of the Ranjana or Lantsa script. This script was used in inscriptions on temples and holy scriptures by Newar people who were original inhabitants of the Kathmandu Valley. The Newari mother tongue is a Sino-Tibetan language also known as Nepal Bhasa. This script was used widely throughtout Nepal and the Tibet can be seen in monasteries in India, China, Mongolia and Japan as well.

रञ्जना लिपि
 RANJANA ALPHABET
 व्यञ्जन वर्ण
 CONSONANT

क Ka	ख Kha	ग Ga	घ Gha	ङ ᅇa
च Ca	छ Cha	ज Ja	झ Jha	ञ ᅇa
ट ᅇa	ठ ᅇa	ड ᅇa	ढ ᅇa	ण ᅇa
त Ta	थ Tha	द Da	ध Dha	न Na
प Pa	फ Pha	ब Ba	भ Bha	म Ma
य Ya	र Ra	ल La	व Va	
श Sha	ष ᅇa	स Sa	ह Ha	
क्ष Kᅇa	त्र Tra	ज्ञ Jᅇa		

Interesting facts about Panauti

- A traditional Newari confection called 'Yo mari' made from a mixture of treacle and sesame seed wrapped in the shape of a stupa with rice dough originated here.
- The town is believed to be located on a single rock which has been taken as the reason for the town not being affected severely by earthquakes in the past.
- It is the birth place of king Amshu Barma, a great king of the Lichhavi period and one of the greatest patrons of art and culture in Nepal's history.
- All of old Panauti city have been proposed to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site since 1996.

A RICH CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Panauti is one of the valley's most important medieval sites because of its ancient history and the presence of a large number of Buddhist and Hindu shrines. Besides the usual major festivals of the Kathmandu valley as well as the national ones, Panauti also has its own unique events.

MAJOR FESTIVALS

- **Jya Punhi: (MAY-JUNE)**

The Panauti jatra (Jya Punhi in Newari) is a chariot festival, held at the end of the monsoon season each year. The chariot of the Indreswor Mahadev, Bhadrakali, Unmatta Bhairav and Brahmayani gods from the temples are taken around the city in temple carts, it is held by the old durbar Square. Folk of people surrounding village participate the festival.

- **Makar Mela:**

Beside the Roshi and Punyawoti River in Panauti, it is believed that there is also a third river, the Lilawoti, visible only to a chosen few and said to flow into the others from the Gorakhnath Shrine. The confluence of the three rivers is a sacred pilgrimage site where a month long fair known as Makar Mela is held once every 12 years. During this celebration thousands of devotees visit Panauti to cleanse themselves in the sacred river.

- **Harisiddhi Naach:**

The first of these events, which is linked to Jaladyah, the god of Harisiddhi village, is performed every twelve years at least theoretically by jyapus (agriculturist) dancer from Harisiddhi (Lalitpur district) in Panauti.

- **Yomari Punhi and Dhanya Purnima: (NOV/DEC)**
Across Nepal, people are now harvesting their rice crops (Dhaan). The Full moon that falls in December will see a celebration to mark the completion of their hard work. We shall all be thankful (Dhanya). The word for “thank you” in Nepali - dhanyabaad, probably comes from Dhaan - rice and being grateful. The rice harvest and its celebration fall on Dhanya Purnima - our very own Nepali version of thanks-giving. Legend has it that Kuber the bearer of wealth visits homes during this day.
- **Sankata Jatra: (MARCH-APRIL)**
The auspicious day of Fagu Purnima celebration in Panauti. The festival of Sankata Devi (Ashtamatrika goddesses).
- **Navadurga Festival: (MID APRIL)**
Mask dances are celebrated for three days every year performed by the Navadurga Gana people from Bhaktapur.
- **Sithinakha: (MAY/JUNE)**
This day is specially meant for the cleanliness of all the water resources and worship of god Kumar.

- **Akchhyaya Tritiya: (MAY)**
This festival is celebrated by Newari girls between 7-13 years old for two days at the Triveni Ghat area. Hundreds of Newar girls take part in this festival. This occasion is also known as marriage with a wood apple fruit 'Bel Bibaha'.
- **Ghantakarna: (JULY/AUG)**
It is also called 'Gathe mangal' [an evil deity]. This is regarded as an opening ceremony for many Newari festivals ahead. People put iron rings on their fingers and hammer iron nails into door lintels to drive away evil spirits.
- **Gai Jatra: (AUG)**
Regarded as the festival of the cow, this is an eight-day long celebration to commemorate people dead relatives. People who have had a death in the family within the past year bring a cow (either real or someone in a costume) to participate in festival.
- **Saki Mana Punhi: (SEPT)**
A festival dedicated to Lord Ganesh to request his blessings for prosperity in business and for good luck.

- **Ghode Jatra: (SEPT)**

Kwondyo Puja is celebrated during Ghode jatra festival in Panauti city. Pahan means “guest” and pasa mean “friend” in Nepal Bhasa. Charhe means “fourteenth day of the lunar fortnight” when the festival commences. It starts on the 14th day of the dark fortnight of Chillā , the fifth month in the lunar Nepal Era calendar. Inviting friends and relatives to one’s home and honoring them with a feast is one of the highlights of the festival. Pahan Charhe is held according to the lunar calendar, so the dates are changeable.

- **Namobuddha Festival: (SEPT)**

It is celebrated as Namobuddha festival (Namobuddha place is where Prince Mahasatva offered his body to a starving tiger with her five cubs) is marked by musical events. Various Aju dyah (Dipankara) and Ajima (Tara) Buddhist Statues are carried and worshipped within the city. It is the only Buddhist festival in Panauti. It is performed during Panchadan (The five gift), in the rainy season.

- **Devi Nach (Mask Dance): (OCT/NOV)**

The dances called Devi pyakhan, originally created to protect the city from Cholera have gone missing for a long time. They were revived

in 1998. The Mask dance, which originated from Panauti is performed on the Dasain festival. They are linked with the cult of Astamatrika and includes eight masked characters, Bhairav, Mahakali, Varahi, Kumari, Ganesh, Maheswori, Bramhayani and Indrayani. The gods and goddesses are accompanied by skeleton (Kavan), facetious supernatural creatures (Khyah) which are often hairy, and ghost (Vetah).

- **Madhav Narayan Festival : (JAN/FEB)**

This festival is celebrated to worship Madhab Narayan (the lord of preservation) from Sankhu coming every year in Panauti fo taking a holy bath. Many people take a fast for a month in this ritual. There is also temple or Madhav Narayan in Bhaktapur, near the Nyatapola. One of the most important religious monuments of this town Some devotees from this locality also move to Panauti.

- **Kumari Festival:**

The cult of the little goddess Kumari, is an ancient Hindu tantric ritual, Kumari puja. It has a flourished and magnified in Newari culture. These little girls. identified with goddess Taleju, are symbol of divine feminine energy. They are worshipped by the whole population, especially during the Dasain Festival in autumn.

NATIONAL FESTIVALS

Dasain, Tihar, Shivaratri, Buddha Jayanti are also celebrated by the local people of Panauti.

Major Ethnic Groups in Panauti

Newar: Being the oldest ethnic group of Nepal having their own language and script. Hinduism and Buddhism are their main religions. While trade and farming are their main occupations, they are specially renowned for their artistic and architectural abilities.

Brahmin and Chhetri: Brahmins and Chhetris are Hindus with sharp Indo-Aryan feature and olive complexions. They are mainly farmers, priest and politician. Brahmins may act as family priests and officiate at shrines and temples and at rituals.

Tamang: The Tamang people are of Tibetic descent and mainly live in the region around the Kathmandu Valley. Their social practices and customs are based on Tibetan Buddhism. They have their own language and work mainly as farmers, laborers and porters. They are also skilled in the art of Thangka painting (Traditional Tibetan painting with religious motifs).



General map of Panauti, main monuments
(Panauti, une ville au Népal, 1981)

PLACE TO VISIT IN PANAUTI

Triveni Ghat

Triveni ghat is one of the holiest sites for Hindus where a month long Makar Mela is held once in every 12 years. There are more than two dozen temples at the site.

Indreshwor Temple Square

It has many ancient temples. The 13th century Indreshwor Mahadev temple is an excellent example of Newari craftsmanship. Unmanta Bhairab, Tola Narayan and many stone sculptures are located as well. On the northeastern side, across the Punyawoti river, is the 17th century temple of Brahmayani which was restored in 1982-83 (with CNRS, France and Department of Archaeology) while the Krishna Temple is near the confluence of the river. Other temples are scattered around the square making the whole place into an open museum.

Bramhayani Temple

Among the eight ashtamatrikas goddesses of Panauti city, the Bramhayani is the main three tiered temple in Panauti. It was built by Queen Vishwalaxmi the wife of King Bhupatindra Malla in 17th Century.

Vansha Gopal Krishna Temple

The three tiered temple of the Hindu God Krishna was built in 17th century.

Unmatta Bhairava

Unmatta Bhairav temple, the ithyphallic Bhairava associated with the eight Matrika goddesses. This traditional style building structure built in the 16th century is called *dyeochhen* which translates to home of god.

Tula Narayan

This temple/idol was built in 1400 AD after Varo Jaysingh Ram Vardhan offered a Tuladana, a donation equal to the one's body weight in gold.

Kathan Kumari Ganesh Temple

Kathan Kumari Ganesh is a hindu temple in Panauti. During The Yomari Punhi, a full moon day of November month festival for Kathan Kumari Ganesh is performed in Panauti.

Stone Arts

Panauti preserves some precious specimen of Nepalese Stone Arts Dated back to 9-10th centuries.

Pati and Sattal

Pati and Sattals are traditional rest houses that were built in Newar towns. In the town there are some popular Patis and Sattals such as Pati and Sattal are Lampati, Sorhakhutte pati (Mani Manda) and Triveni Ghat Sattal that the locals hang out in.

Stupa and Bihars

Stupas and Bihars are important Buddhist monuments to the local community. A Bihar or monastery typically has a family that looks after it and acts as a community hub for Newars. There are Nine stupas in the town among which the Dharmadhatu Chaitya (Ta: Chiba dyo) is regarded as the oldest and largest one.

Gorkhanath Hill (15 MIN WALK)

Gorakhanath hill is just a 15 minute walk uphill to the north east of Panauti from where one can get a panoramic view of the town, the himalayan peaks and the mountains of the Mahabharat range.

Devasthan Hill (45 MINS WALK)

Devasthan hill is 45 minute hike uphill to the north east of Panauti from where one can get a wonderful view of Himalayan peaks and Panauti city.

Namobuddha (1HR WALK)

Approximately 10km east of Panauti, it is an important destination for Buddhist pilgrims. According to the legends, Prince Mahasatwo came across a tiger close to death from starvation and unable to move and feed her cubs. The sorrowful Mahasatwo allowed the starving tiger to consume him. It is believed that Mahasatwo was an earlier re-incarnation of Buddha.

Panauti Museum

Panauti museum is situated inside the beautiful and peaceful Indreswor Mahadev temple courtyard. It was established in 2011 AD by local members of the community with coordination of Panauti Municipality. The museum is developing as a historical and cultural museum. The collection holds different types of stone arts, wooden arts, masks and various artifacts collected from the local people and renovation projects.

OTHER INTERESTING SPOTS

Sorakhute Pati (Mani Manda): The unique sorakhute pati is in the center of the town that has sixteen wooden pillars and walls.

Gochen Chowk: It is believe to be as a starting settlement process of Panauti city in Medieval period.

Ta Chiba dyo: The chaitya of Panauti city was believe to be as built with using the water collected from dewdrops collections.

Siran Chaur/Stadium (10 MIN WALK):

This large open field is the center for sporting activities and mountains view.

Bhimsenthan (10 MIN WALK): A highly regarded holy site for the worship of the god of strength, power and business.

Bhagaban Dada (10 MIN WALK): Bhagaban Dada was declared a conservation area after some ancient period coins were discovered.

Jyalapati (10 MIN WALK): It is known as ancient Panauti, even digging a few feet can appear the foundation of old houses.

Fadkeswori Hill (30 MIN WALK): The site of a Shiva Lingum that is covered with water droplet all the time.

Chaukot (45 MIN WALK): Located on a hill, it is said to have been inhabited since 14th century.

Balthali /Ladkeswor Mahadev (2 HR WALK):

A beautiful Chhetri-Brahmin village has the stunning view of the mountains and a famous place for Hindu pilgrims to see the huge Trishul (108 ft Shiva's main weapon-Trident).

Phulchoki (7 HR HIKE): Situated at a height of 2,762m (9061 ft) to the north of Panauti it is an excellent view point of both the Himalayan ranges as well as the Kathmandu valley.

Khopasi Bajar (10 MIN DRIVE): An ancient Newari village which has a beautiful water pond. One also can visit the silk farm project on the way back to Panauti. A second largest hydro power house station of Nepal and Lichhavi period settlement. The place of Draupada temple in Nepal which is known as a only temple in Nepal.

Gurdum Hills (30 MIN DRIVE): A very popular place for Paragliding, High Hill Mountain biking, Jungle Hiking and Rock climbing.

Chamkhar hill (60 MINS WALK): A place where you enjoy the magnificent view of Mountains range and Panauti city.

Nangidada hike (60 MIN WALK): A beautiful place to see the Banepa valley, Dhulikhel and wide range of mountains.

Paanch Kumari Jharana (30 MIN DRIVE): Paanch Kumari water fountain is the best place to see the water fountain nearby from Panauti city.

Dhunkharka/Bethanchoke hill (9901FT/3018M) (1HRS. DRIVE): One gets to beautiful sunrise and sunsets view from this Tamang village. Two hour bus ride will bring you to the base of the mountain.

Sunthan (30 MIN WALK):

Half an hour of walk from Panauti to Namobuddha in between there's a beautiful village named Sunthan with full of orange garden generally in the season of orange.

Sharada Devi (1 HR WALK):

At the top of the Sharada Devi hill, there is a temple of goddess Sharada. In the side of the goddess Sharada there is a view tower, which gives an eagle eye to Panauti, Banepa and Dhulikhel. You can also wonder about panorama views of the Himalayas in the north and the long range of the green mountains of Mahabharata.

Bhaleswor Mahadev/Kalati Bhumi dada

(1 HR WALK):

Walking along the Rishi river for an hour from Panauti you will reach the Tamang community village Kalati Bhumi dada. You will be amazed with the beauty of green community forest and natural sources of water. Along the way you can reach Bhaleswor Mahadev, where you will be blessed with your desired wish.

Kushadevi (1 hr walk):

Beneath the Phulchoki mountain there is a beautiful typical Nepali village Kushadevi which offers village life and farm products. Other attractive places around Kushadevi are Gurdhum hill, a popular place for sky diving, Kushadevi temple and Bihabar river.

Dhaneshwor Mahadev (15min walk):

It is one of the holy religious Shiva temple. We can reach there by bus along Panauti -Banepa highway. Numerous devotees visit the temple during Teej and Shiva Ratri.

Kapalkot (15min walk):

Kapalkot is a small hill located in the west of Panauti city. It is also known as the floral park of Panauti.

HOME STAY FOR TRADITIONAL NEPALESE CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Although hotels and guest houses are available in Panauti, visitors are also encouraged to take advantage of the home stay program, live in local people's homes and eat with local family during their stay. The home stay program offered by Panauti Tourism Development Committee (PTDC) to enrich the culture experience. In addition programs help to rise much needed revenue for low-income households of this areas to support their families but also to keep age-old handicraft business running. Many local households have been given suitable training to improve the quality standards required to host guests. Visitors wishing to avail of these home stay programs are requested to contact at Panauti Tourism Development Center.

ACCESSIBILITY

Just 32 Km south east of Kathmandu leaving Araniko highway from Banepa and heading 6 km towards the south. Visitors can get local buses from Kathmandu valley (Ratna park) to Panauti city everyday from 7:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

EXPERIENCE IN PANAUTI:

1. Bamboo utensils making

There are plenty of local peoples where you can go for short session or course ranging from a week to month.

2. Straw arts

Straw art workshop in Panauti allow you to see the skilled craftsmanship process and experience weaving some pieces of straw yourself.

3. Cooking

Learning to cook local Nepali food lets you learn about the Newari food, culture and experience cooking with local ingredients and techniques.

4. Prayer sessions

Many majors temples have prayer sessions where the Priest or Monk read the holy scriptures during the morning. The Indreswor Mahadev temple is the good spot to visit during the morning and evening prayer session.

5. Traditional Shoes/Bags making

6. Woollen sweater knitting

7. Painting/Arts workshop, exhibition and sale

8. Yoga/Meditation

Nepal has a strong ties to the old Hindu and Buddhist traditions and there are many meditation center throughout the city. One popular meditation technique is Patanjali yoga/Meditation retreats for a few days.

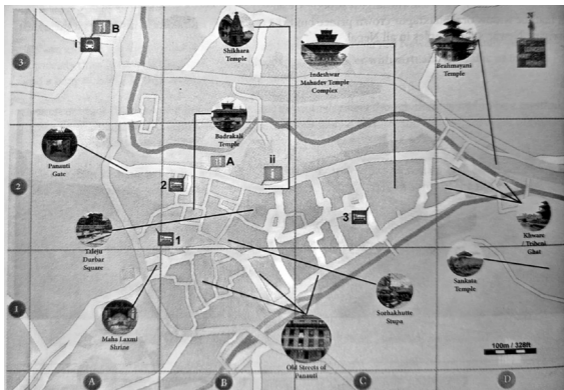
9. Shopping list

Panauti city also known as good Potato producing place where you can enjoy the local taste of organic farming of various vegetables and local fruits like orange. It is also the popular for its Rainbow Trout fish.

10. Heritage walk

Panauti city is the best place to study and to learn about Heritage from the Medieval period to the modern era.

PANAUTI HERITAGE MAP



Helpful apps and websites

www.panautimun.gov.np

www.panautitourism.org.np

www.panauticommunityhomestay.com

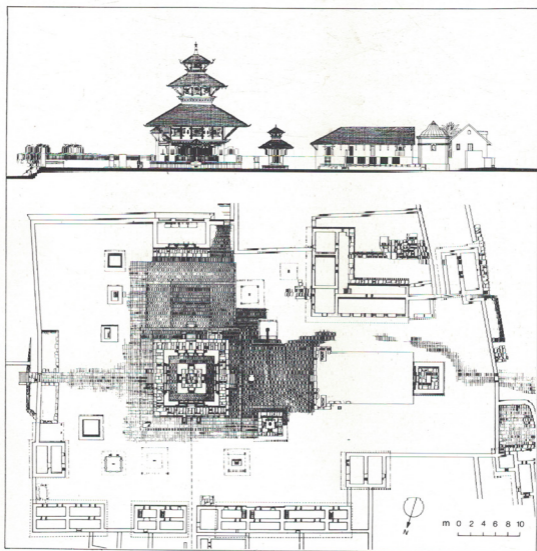
www.panautimuseum.org.np



WRITE THE THINGS YOU WOULD LIKE
TO IMPROVE IN THE PANAUTI CITY

NOTE:

NOTE:



The Religious Temple of Indreshvar Mahadev
(Panauti, une ville au Népal, 1981)



Panauti Tourism Development Center

Panauti Tourism Development Center
Layaku Road, Panauti-7, Kavrepalanchok
www.panautitourism.org.np

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