

GUIDEBOOK



घुम्नै पर्ने Panauti M U N I C I P A L I T Y

Panauti is a historical city situated 32 km southeast from Kathmandu. It is one of the old cities of temples located in Kavrepalanchok district. The place carries cultural, historical & natural diversities. The small alleys with magnificent pieces of wooden, stone carvings, the road of precisely

laid-out bricks, the enchanting views of lively fields and mountains welcome visitors. This city has a good potential for tourism, with tremendous natural beauty, cultural heritage, important sites, and beautiful hills. Panauti has always been a unique identity of our country!

"हाम्रो सम्पदा, हाम्रो संस्कृति, हाम्रो गौरव, हाम्रो पनौती"



पनौती पर्यटन विकास केन्द्र PANAUTI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CENTER

पनौती, काभ्रेपलाञ्चोक | Panauti, Kavrepalanchok

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Welcome

TO PANAUTI



It brings me immense pleasure to present you this guidebook dedicated primarily to tourists and visitors to Panauti. This is an old town, with roots going back several centuries. While some cultures have been established here that's found nowhere else in Nepal, a couple of 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 still testify to its prosperous past.

Today, Panauti is a municipality with twelve wards. Most of it is open space, forests, hills, and rice paddies. 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 come 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

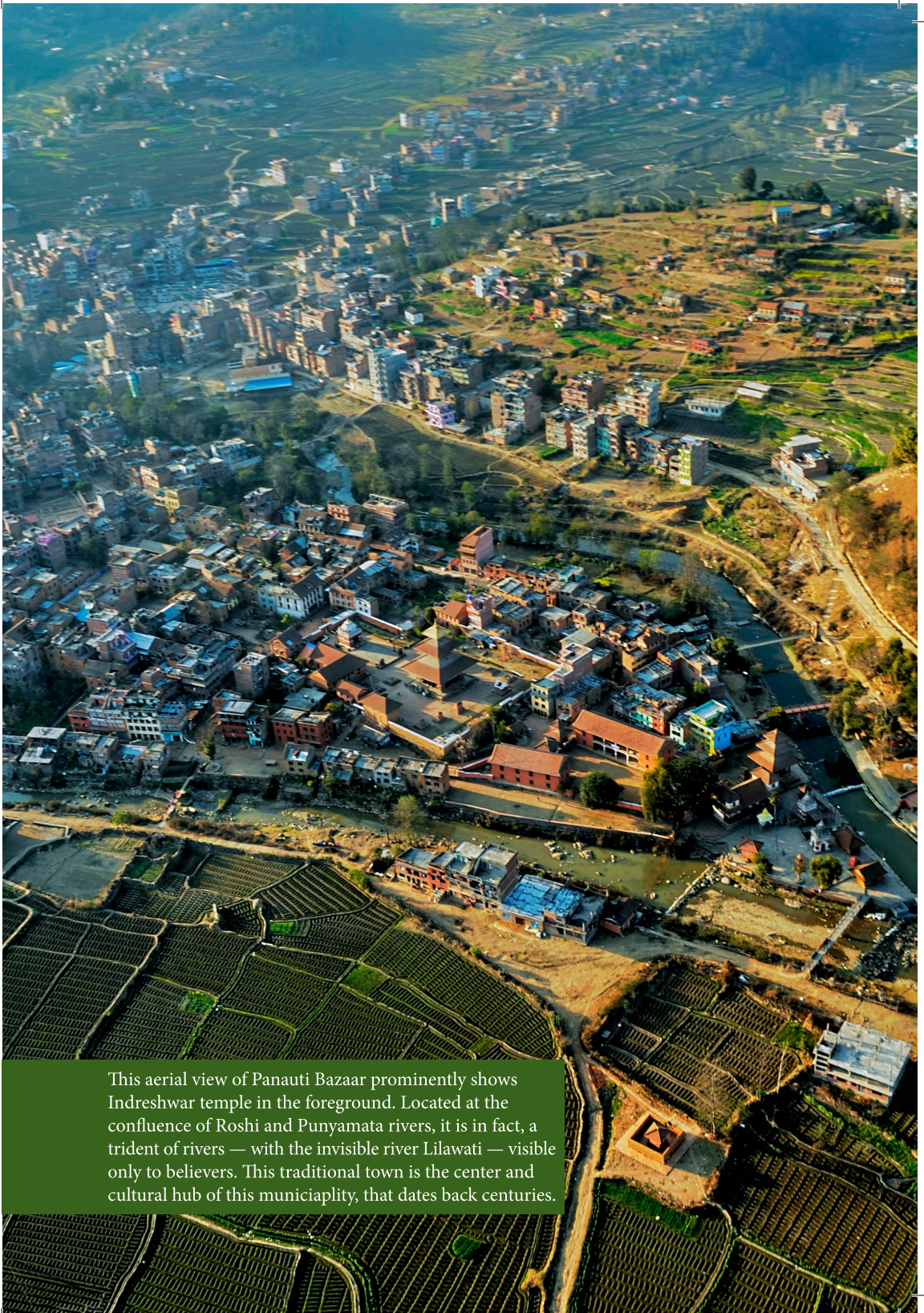


Panauti, our city, is renowned for its captivating tourist attractions, fascinating ancient cultures, exquisite handicrafts, and exceptional culinary delights. It offers a captivating journey that seamlessly blends cultural traditions, natural beauty, and a rich heritage.

As you explore the attraction of Panauti, you will be captivated by the historic Panauti city proposed for the listing of UN 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

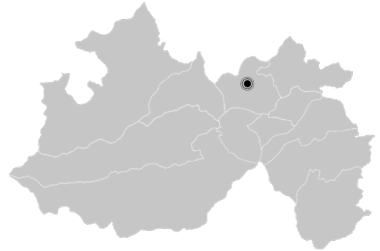
origins such as *samay-baji*, *chhoila*, *bara*, *chatāmari*, and *yōmari* are a few local delights that will leave you craving for more. Panauti's rich cultural and mouth-watering cuisine are joined to create an experience that appeals to both the senses and the soul. It invites you to explore the architectural marvels, immerse yourself in history, and savor the diverse flavors that make Panauti an unforgettable destination.

- Purushottam Karmacharya
President,
Panauti Tourism Development Center



This aerial view of Panauti Bazaar prominently shows Indreshwar temple in the foreground. Located at the confluence of Roshi and Punyamata rivers, it is in fact, a trident of rivers — with the invisible river Lilawati — visible only to believers. This traditional town is the center and cultural hub of this municipality, that dates back centuries.

ABOUT PANAUTI



Learn about this ancient town that still preserves the cultural and historical treasures of yore – and immerse in the traditional experience of Nepal.

Panauti is one of the oldest towns in Nepal, consisting of many temples that are still present till this day dating back to the 15th Century or earlier. It has been debated that Panauti was founded by Ananda Malla (1274-1310AD), others believe that there is a golden scripture dated 1385, which is located within the Indreshwar temple stating that King Harisingh Dev founded the town.

Indreshwar is one of the largest and tallest pagoda style temples in Nepal. It was originally built over a 'linga' in 1294, making it the oldest surviving temple of Nepal. The roof struts embellishing the two lower stories of the temple are distinct Nepalese wood-carving and architecture. The upper section of the temple is hung with pots and pans, offerings from young married couples hoping for a happy and prosperous family life.

It is from this temple that the mystical third river of Panauti starts from leading to the Brahmayani temple across from the Tri Beni Ghats. The Indreshwar temple is kept in a very well

maintained, walled in, compound which is managed by the Panauti Museum. Other than this temple, there is also the king's palace in Panauti's Durbar Square, which has yet to be excavated to a larger extent in order to reveal more about Panauti. Nevertheless, there are many artifacts and remnants such as stone taps, bricks, water wells and coins found among some of the excavated sections of the palace.

Although Panauti was founded independently, as time went on the influence of Bhaktapur (an ancient Newar town in the east corner from Kathmandu) increased and later became part of Bhaktapur up until the 18th Century. In 1763, King Prithvi Narayan Shah annexed Panauti to the larger and greater Nepal.

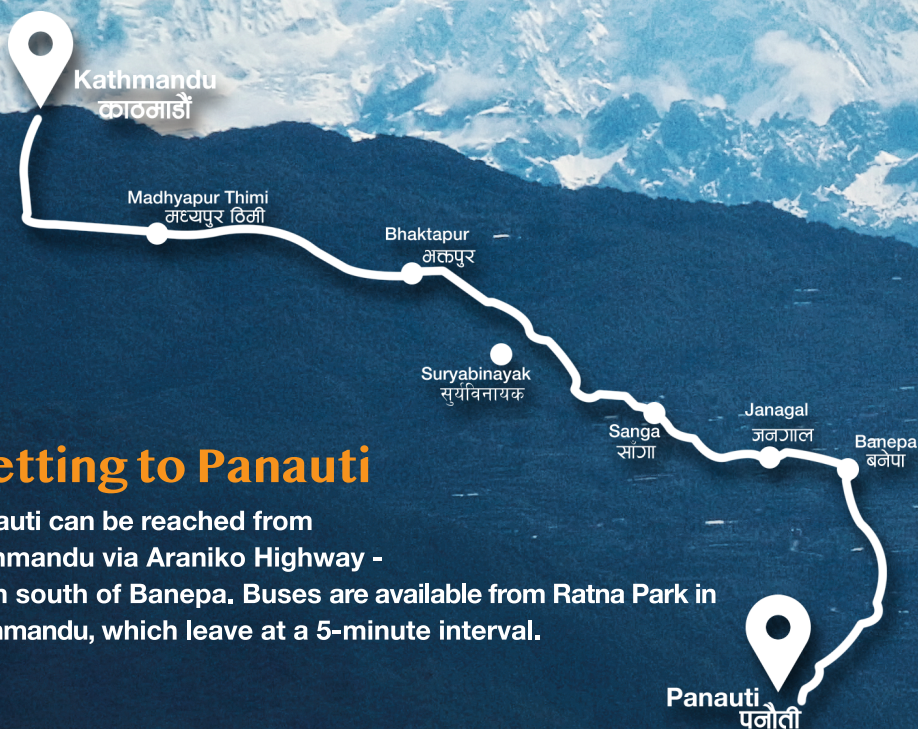
Panauti, consists of a variety of Buddhist and Hindu religious monuments, and is considered to be the area's most important medieval sites. For its unique ceremonies and celebration, Panauti holds a number of festivals reflecting the ancient tradition and ancient mythology. One of the most important is the three-day-long Panauti Jatra.

Panauti is one of the oldest cities of Nepal founded by Ananda Dev Malla during the medieval period of Nepal (1274-1310 CE). The typical town with beautiful temples is located 32 km southeast of the capital Kathmandu.

Potato, paddy, orange, and milk are the main agricultural products. Besides these people have taken small-scale industries, business, animal husbandry as the source of income. It occupies an area of 118 square kilometers. The Kshetri, Newars, Bramhin, Tamang, Mijar are the major ethnicity; the Newars predominate the city.

Getting to Panauti

Panauti can be reached from Kathmandu via Araniko Highway - 6 km south of Banepa. Buses are available from Ratna Park in Kathmandu, which leave at a 5-minute interval.



Community & Homestay

IN PANAUTI

This historical town is full of friendly vibes, and is always open to visitors. The homestay service of Panauti is a good way to experience the everyday lifestyle of a local family. And during your stay, you can also take part in cooking several traditional Nepali meals, in a traditional Nepali style.



Apart from a historic setting of the town, great families are waiting to welcome you to their humble abodes as part of homestay program. If you are looking to know Nepal and Nepalis more intimately, this homestay program is just the thing for you to experience.

There can be no better way to get a deeper insight into the Nepali psyche and gain a better understanding of the local customs. But, keep in mind that you certainly will not get the kind of modern facilities you might be used to back home, or the amenities

that star hotels provide. You can most definitely look forward to being welcomed with genuine warmth and hospitality. All the homestays are run by the women for the women. Panauti Community Homestay is their initiative to empower the local women.



Panauti holds a number of festivals reflecting ancient tradition and mythology. One of the most important is the three-day-long Panauti Jatra, also known as **Chariot Festival**, which takes place every year in Panauti, at the end of the monsoon season. The festival usually begins on the tenth day of the bright fortnight during the month of Jestha (May–June). Celebrated for three days, this event is one of the major cultural attractions of the Panauti. During this festival, images of the gods (from the town's temples) are placed in a chariot and displayed around the city.

The following day of festival is called Mu-jatra, which means the main festival. On this day, many of the residents of Panauti will sacrifice male goats or ducks to the Gods, and many other will simply make an offering of food. The sixth day is the full moon day, which is also known as Panauti Punhi.

culture & tradition

This day is the most favorable day for visiting the river and cleaning your body. Panauti is situated at the confluence of two main rivers, Rosi and Punyamata and people go dip in the confluence of the same. It is a popular belief that there is also a third river, Lilawati, that is visible only to seers. Due to the convergence of these three rivers, on festive occasions, large numbers of people come to this holy place to pay their respects, take a dip in the holy river and as well as visiting Indreswor Temple complex.

PANAUTI

MUNICIPALITY



ECO-TOURISM



CULTURAL TOURISM



ADVENTURE TOURISM

Panauti has a great possibility of adventure tourism such as paragliding and rock-climbing. Agricultural and eco-tourism are other strong potentialities of this area. Bird-watching, views of the great Himalayan range, view of natural resources including forests and rivers are the main attractions of this municipality. On top of it all, cultural tourism is the norm.





THE FESTIVALS OF PANAUTI

The confluence of three rivers is an important holy site where every 12 years, a month-long fair is held known as Makar Mela, that is thronged by thousands.

Panauti celebrates several festivals (around 28) - some on a monthly basis, while some only once in 12 years. Panauti Jatra is a chariot festival or Jya Punhi, as they call it. It's a three-day festivity that ends with deafening cheers from the devotees at the bank of Punyamata Triveni Ghat and Makar Mela is where we come back to the holy confluence

of the two real and one mythological river - Roshi, Punyamata and Lilawati. This place has more than a dozen or so religious sites, dedicated to different gods and goddesses - one of the few places which always remain crowded with believers and worshippers. Once in every 12 years, the holy site of pilgrimage hosts the grand Makar Mela.



Experience Panauti



Panauti - Namobuddha Hike



Balthali Ecotrek (Lowland Trek)



Sanga to Panauti Hike (Community Hike)



Gurdum Mahabharat Trek



Mountain Biking (around Phulchoki)



Bird-Watching



Yoga Retreat



Community & Private Homestay



Ethnic Tamang Cultural Trail



Guided Festival Tour



VISIT THE
12 WARDS
OF PANAUTI MUNICIPALITY

One of the oldest towns in Nepal, Panauti offers a plethora of heritage. Starting from the crowded bus stand, you quickly slip down a brick-street into the ancient dwellings — the remains of an ordered and prosperous medieval city that would have been a wonder to behold in its heyday. Located at the sacred confluence of the Roshi and Punyamata rivers, it is lined with ancient temples and with another festival just around the corner. For a heritage site with so many temples, stupas & statues, this quaint town has the added charm of being full of lots and lots of green paddy fields.

WARD 1

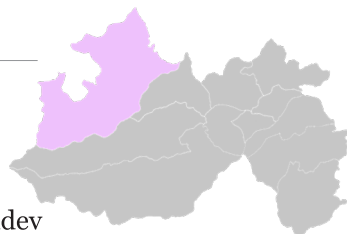
RAYĀLE



Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 6,771 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Phulchoki Mandir | Rānikot Gadhi
Bāgbhairab Mandir | Shahid Park | Sansari Dāndā
Tallo Phulchoki | Māne Dobhān | Murali Khola
Dhārāpani Chaitanya Gumbā | Muraleshwar Mahādev
Proposed Life Science Pratisthān | Trout-Production at Khānikholā



Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏠 Homestay 🏡 Resort

Lying on the western edge of the municipality, Ward 1 is a special treat for those who want to experience the rural aspect of Nepal. Dotted by paddies and extensive farmlands, this ward has in store a number of other attractions that you should visit.

WARD 2

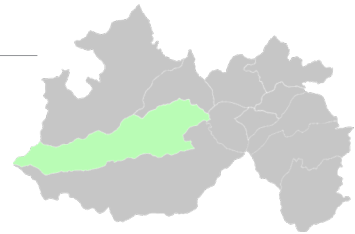
KUSHĀDEVI



Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 4,482 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Phulchoki Mandir | Nāgi Dāndā
Kushādevi Mandir Krishna Mandir
Gurdum-Mahabhārat Trail | Phulchoki Hike
Agro-Tourism Homestay | Adventure Activities



Accommodation: 📍 Hotel 🏠 Homestay 🏡 Resort

One of the most popular destinations of this ward is Nāgi Dāndā – where you can visit for panoramic views of the surrounding hills and valleys below. This airy hill, along to with the Gurdum-Mahābhārat Trail & a hike to the nearby Phulchoki makes for a perfect destination in Panauti. Experience the natural side of things in this greener than green location.

WARD 3

KUSHĀDEVI

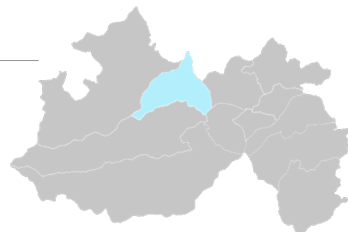


Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 4,855 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Pashupati Mandir | Aryaghāt
Bause Ko Ban | Kāle Sāhu ko Pāti

Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏠 Homestay



Ward 3 lies in the traditional trade route with Kathmandu and beyond. Today it commands majestic views — some of which are the best in the region. Do not bring just one or two cameras but bring in your entire kit - you do not know which scenery you will encounter on the next turn. You can spend time in one of the hills overlooking the mountains, take a walk in the forest, or just wander around town as you see fit. Try one of the local tea-shops where you'll get to mingle with the locals and learn a thing or two about the place.

WARD 4



TAUKHĀL/THĀDOBĀTO

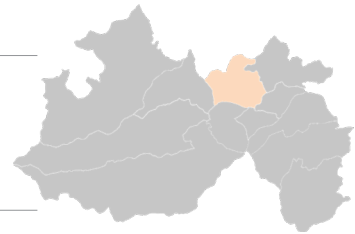


Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 5,448 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

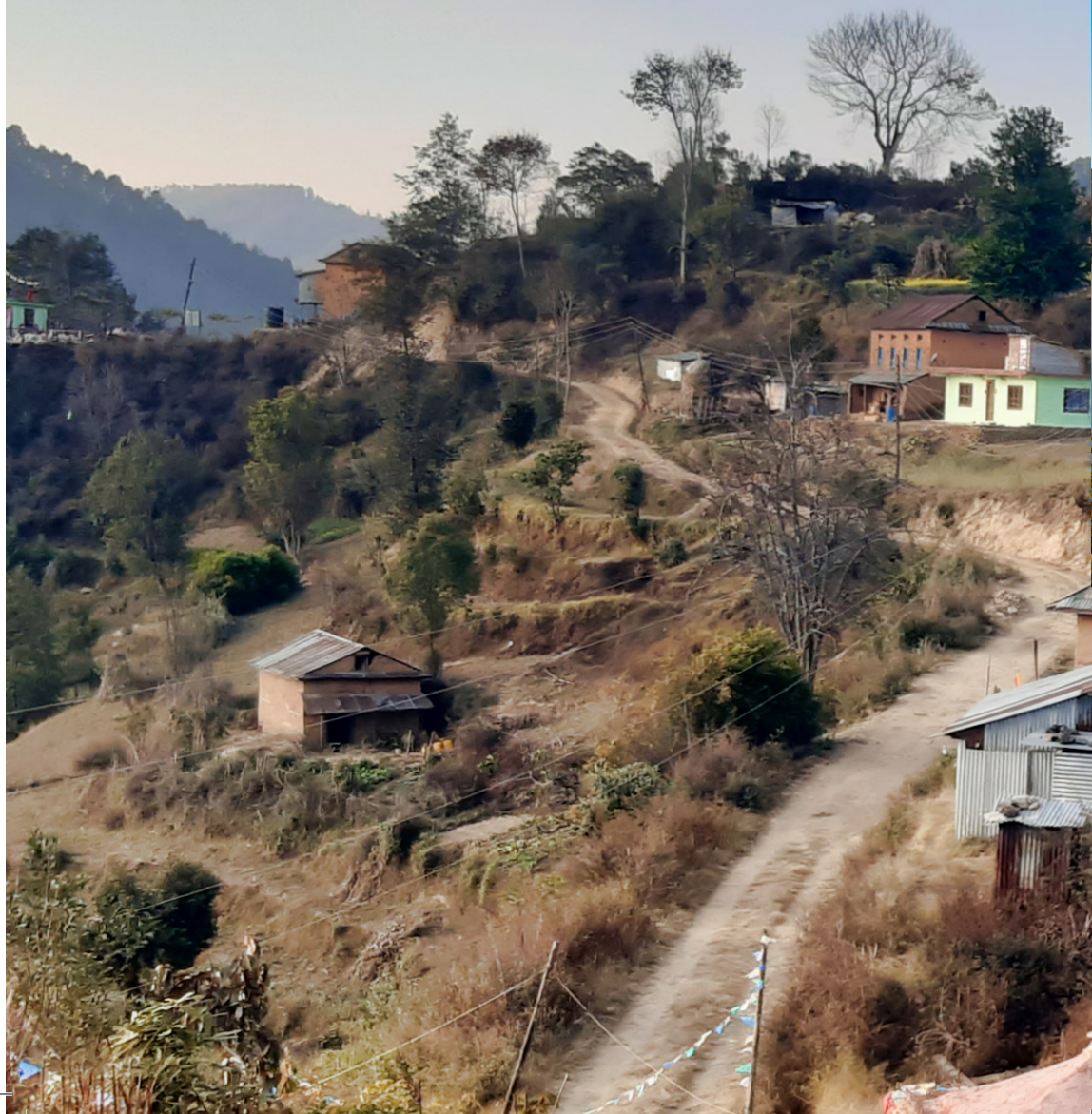
Jyālāpāti | 9-tale Pāti | Ganesh Mandir
Sansari Ban | Chamkar Dāndā | Goth Devi Mandir
Nāgi Dāndā | Scenic Hiking & Trekking Trails

Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏡 Homestay



This ward is the official headquarters of Panauti Municipality. The sparse population means there is a lot of open space, green fields and a real opportunity to hike the countryside. There are in fact, several scenic routes and trails that can be used for trekking and cycling, although cycling through these terrains is a new and welcome concept. Pack your GPS device, unpack your two-wheeler, get on the trail, and get ready for a memorable adventure.

Going through Taukhal/Thadobato, this image is taken from the side of the road. The immediate front is dominated by the trail that cuts through a village, while the backdrop greets visitors with a picturesque hill. Nearby is yet another hill that cascades back out into the horizon.



WARD 5

SUBBĀGAUN

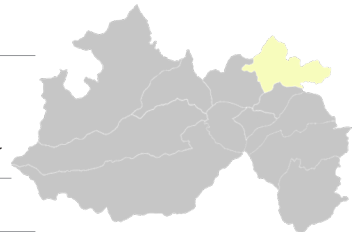


Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 4,968 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Munda Gadhi | Batāse Dāndā | Ganesh Mandir
Kāvṛākot | Mahākāli Mandir | Dhaneshwar Mahādev

Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏠 Homestay



Subbagaun, as it is named for Ward 5, is a popular destination among pilgrims and devotees. The popular Dhaneshwar Mahadev is located on this ward at the northern side of this municipality, where people come here around the year for paying tribute to Lord Shiva. A little further is an extreme windy hill - aptly called Batase Danda - where batas means wind or air. Bring in your binoculars for astounding views of the Mahabharat Range, and also to grab a chance at bird-watching.

WARD 6



DALINCHOK

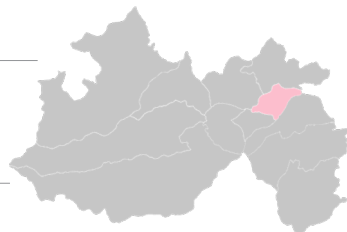


Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 3,258 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Shāradā Devi Mandir | Brahmāyāni Mandir
Prithivi Gadhi | Gorakhnāth | Scenic Hiking spots

Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏠 Homestay



Dalinchok – Ward 6 – of Panauti Municipality is the the smallest ward in terms of population, however, it is this sparse settlement, that you will see so many fields, forests and valleys that are pristine and unspoilt. It is home to Gorakhnath, and also the temple of Brahmayani. Through this ward, several trekking routes of the region pass through, and you might even meet some fellow trekkers who are relaxing along the way. If you're into photography, be ready to max out your camera's memory card.

WARD 7



PANAUTI BAZĀR



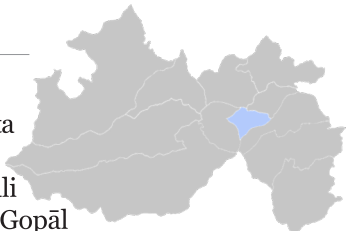
Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 5,082 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Indreshwar | Brahmāyani | Unmatta Bhairav | Sankata Tula Narayan | Mahalaxmi | Kāth Ganesh | Krishna Mandir | Tribeni Ghāt | Yomari Stambha | Bhadrakālī Māneshwar | Sattal with Fresco | Kapālkot | Bansha Gopāl Mandir | Panauti Museum | Saraswati Pokhari | Narsingh Math | Panauti Durbār Square | Bhimsen Temple | Dharmadhatu Stupa | Panauti Tourism Souvenir shop

Accommodation: 📍 Hotel 🏠 Homestay 🌳 Resort

This is the main bazaar area with several temples, and the confluence of rivers, and cultural overload. It is here that the popular month-long Makar Mela happens every twelve year.



WARD 8

KHARIBOT

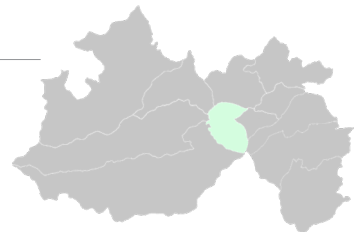


Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 3,837 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Setidevi Picnic Spot | Lāmādol | Shahid Park
Radhā-Krishna Mandir

Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏠 Homestay



Ward 8, called Kharibot, is home to Shahid Park — a park established to commemorate martyrs of Nepal. Some of the early and most notable martyrs of Nepal are enshrined here. Located atop a hill, you can also enjoy the open scenery of the place when you're done seeing the martyrs. Additionally, you can bask in the greens of the forests and hills of this ward. Homestay is an excellent opportunity not to be missed here, as you will live in the house of the locals, tell them your story and listen to theirs, and even take part in cooking their food.

Hay is stacked in small chunks, left for drying. Immediately after the harvest, these plants are dried in the sun before piling it up later. Panauti is full of rice paddies, intermittent woods and forests, that give in to the beauty of this place. The smell of such freshly cut rice fills the air during harvest season.



WARD 9

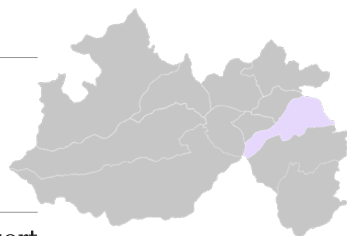
SUNTHĀN



Population: 👤👤👤👤 4,554 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Saradādevi Mandir | Bhimsen Mandir
Sankatā Mandir | Scenic trails | Natural vantage points | Close-up views of Mahabhārat Range



Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏡 Homestay 🏡 Resort

If you like photography, you'll be tempted not to miss the surreal views of the place. Get up early, ready your kit, and immerse in a photo-walk like nowhere else. Cascading hills with pockets of morning mist gleaming like silver lakes on the sky - sounds like too much beauty into one tiny place! But it's real, and while you're here, do not miss this chance of photography or timelapse video at Ward 9, Sunthan in this beautiful Panauti Municipality.

WARD 10

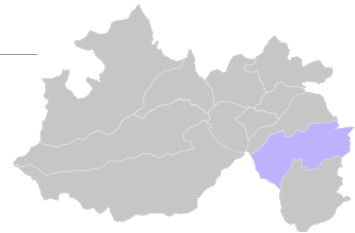
KHOPĀSI



Population: 👤👤👤👤 4,526 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Draupadadevi Mandir | Godha Ragnāth Mandir
Doleshwar Mahādev | Fadkeshwar Mandir
Narsingha Math | Kamalādevi Mandir | Satyāl
Dāndā | Dangghateshwar Mahādev
Kalikā Dāndā Phulchoki Dāndā | Salmitār



Accommodation: 🏨 Hotel 🏠 Homestay 🏡 Resort

This Ward has the longest suspension bridge of this municipality, crossing which, will bring you a feeling of walking on the sky with deep gorges and green forests below. Most notable attractions here are the temples and shrines that are visited all the year round by pilgrims.

WARD 11



BALTHALI

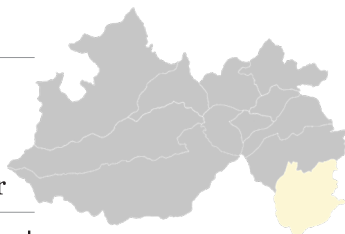


Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 3,872 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Balthali Eco-Trek | Eco-resorts
Ladkeshwar Mahadev Cave | Panauti Hydropower
Kamalādevi Mandir | Krishna Mandir | Yagyachaur

Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏡 Homestay 🌳 Resort



Over the years, Balthali has come to be a synonym of homestay. Not just in Panauti but as far south as Kathmandu Valley and beyond, Balthali is known far and wide as the de facto place to stay when you're in Panauti. And you'll see why once you're here. The picturesque villages perched and scattered in misty hills, is one reason among many when it comes to Balthali. You'll take a walk in green fields, eat in a local diner, and enjoy the hospitality here.

WARD 12



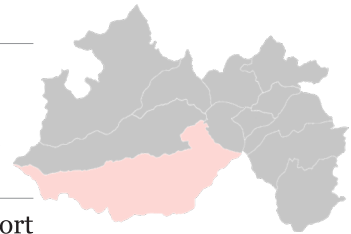
ROSHI/BHUMIDĀNDĀ



Population: 🧑🧑🧑🧑 4,876 (c. 2018)

Popular Attractions:

Bhāleshwar Mahādev | Tribeni Gandarva Ghāt
Indrādevi Mandir | Amilchaur | Shāyakampal Cave
Chinu Dāndā | Dumsi Dāndā



Accommodation: 🏠 Hotel 🏡 Homestay 🏡 Resort

Ward 12, called Roshi/Bhumidanda, is the largest ward by area in Panauti. Out of the twelve wards, this one is by far the most popular one for pilgrims far and wide – even as far as India – who come to pay their respect to Bhaleshwar Mahadev. The scenic routes and beautiful villages are marks of this place. And if you're planning to stay overnight, you can choose from a hotel, a community homestay, or a resort - during your trip to Panauti.



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