

Destination **BIRENDRANAGAR**



Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet,
Karnali Province, Nepal

The Mayor's Message

As the Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality, I am very much glad to see the publication of a photo story "Gantavya Birendranagar" (Destination Birendranagar), aimed at illuminating the major tourist attractions across all 16 wards of Birendranagar Municipality. I strongly believe it will become an important source of knowledge for tourists and scholars alike. Prior to embarking on a journey, gathering comprehensive information about the destination ensures a smooth and delightful trip. A guidebook serves as a valuable resource for organizing tourist information and emphasizing health and safety measures. With its publication in English, it is poised to become an indispensable guidebook, especially for international visitors.

"Atithi Devo Bhav" (The guest is God): This is our culture and tradition. Tourists are our esteemed guests treated with utmost respect and hospitality. Our commitment lies in offering accurate and timely information about every facet of our destinations, ensuring a seamless experience for visitors. This publication is poised to greatly assist tourists by providing convenient access to the major tourist destinations here, whether they choose to stay here or make it a 'transit point' in the course of some special journeys. Our municipality is actively engaged in enhancing infrastructure and promoting tourism to safeguard the natural, cultural, historical, and archaeological treasures within its tourist destinations. Beyond tourism promotion, initiatives are swiftly advancing to build infrastructure for sports, aquatic activities, and educational tourism, supported by comprehensive policies. The indigenous tribal cultures and community-operated homestays in this capital city of Karnali Province have significantly contributed to the flourishing tourism landscape.

It is imperative to champion our cherished tourist destinations of profound religious, cultural, historical, and artistic significance, such as Kankrebihar, Bulbule, Deuti Bazzai, Ghantaghar, Shahid Park, Patalganga, Gadhi, Jarbuta, the serene Buddhist Monastery, and the array of temples, churches, and mosques. I firmly believe that the publication of this guidebook will serve as a catalyst for tourism promotion and robust infrastructure development, while also attracting private investment to support this noble endeavor. By attracting foreign tourists to explore these remarkable destinations, this book will undoubtedly bolster visitor numbers, thereby creating new economic opportunities here in Birendranagar. Finally, my heartfelt gratitude extends to all who have contributed to writing and publishing this invaluable guidebook.



Mohan Maya Dhakal (Bhandari)
Mayor
Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet

Introduction to Birendranagar Municipality

Birendranagar Municipality, the capital of Karnali Province, was established in 2033 BS (1976 AD) as Birendranagar Nagar Panchayat by merging the parts of Katkuwa, Gothikanda, and Jarbuta Gaun Panchayat within Surkhet Valley. As per the Government of Nepal's decision on 25th Baisakh 2071 (May 8, 2014), the neighbouring VDCs of Uttarganga and Latikoili were merged. Additionally, on 16th Mangsir 2071 (December 2, 2014), Jarbuta VDC was incorporated, and on 15th Ashad 2072 (June 29, 2015), one more ward was added, bringing the total number of wards to 25. However, as per the decision on 27th Falgun 2073 (March 11, 2017), the municipality was expanded to include the former Gadhi, Ratu, and Garpan VDCs, resulting in a local level with 16 wards covering an area of 245.85 square kilometers.

Located about 600 kilometers northwest of Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, at an elevation of approximately 665 meters above sea level, Birendranagar Municipality is situated in a beautiful valley in the shape of a bowl surrounded by the scenic hills of the Mahabharat range's Ranimatta and Ratanangla to the north, and the Chure range's Harre and Deurali to the south. This municipality is bordered by Lekbeshi Municipality to the east, Barahatal Rural Municipality to the west, Gurans Rural Municipality to the north, and Bheriganga Municipality and the Bheri River to the south. It features a mix of hilly and flat terrain. Wards 14, 15, 16, and parts of ward 13 are situated in the hilly areas, while the remaining wards lie in the plains. The climate is moderate, being neither too cold nor too hot, making it one of the most favorable destinations to stay in.

Named after the then king Birendra in 2029 BS (1972 AD) as it was called Chauhanchaur previously, Birendranagar witnessed its first settlements in 2023 BS (1966 AD). Before this, the district headquarters was located in Gadhi VDC due to malaria infection in the lowland valley area of the municipality, which was primarily inhabited by the Tharu and the Raji communities. Following the eradication of malaria, people from the hilly regions of Surkhet and Dailekh districts, and different parts of Karnali Zone started moving into the valley. Consequently, all the government offices were relocated to the valley, designating it as the new district headquarters. As a common place of diverse ethnic groups of people including Brahmins, Chhetris, Magars, Tharus, Dalits, Dashnami Sannyasin and many others, this municipality could be observed as a rich tapestry of castes, cultures, customs, languages, religions, and many more consisting 153,863 population as per the Population Census 2078 BS (2021 AD).

Connected by air travel with the establishment of an airport in 2022 BS (1965 AD), Birendranagar further enhanced its accessibility with the completion of Ratna Highway in 2038 BS (1981 AD). Since then, it has become a vital gateway to the districts of Karnali, facilitating the transport of goods and emerging as a major commercial, educational, and tourist hub in western Nepal. Flanked by the Bheri River to the east and the Karnali River to the west, Birendranagar has become a beloved tourist destination, drawing many visitors for its thrilling rafting opportunities and breathtaking natural beauty. The city is home to several significant sites including Deuti Bazzai, Kankrebihar, Bulbule, and Bayalkanda, which are rich in religious, historical, and cultural significance. These enchanting locations make Birendranagar an essential destination for tourism in Nepal.





Kankrebihar

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

An open university of archaeological significance, history and artifacts, a site for research on the history and religion of Khas Kings of Sinja Valley, historical and tourist site: Kankrebihar. The word 'Kankrebihar' is assumed to have originated from its geographical shape resembling a cucumber ('kankra' in Nepali) and the word 'bihar,' which means to wander or roam. It is believed that the name evolved from 'Kankra Bihar' to 'Kankrebihar.' Despite the absence of written records regarding the construction and destruction of Kankrebihar, historians assert that it was built by Ashok Challa, the then king of Sinja, in 1325 BS. The structure, which stood 60 feet tall, was designed in the Shikhar style.

The Department of Archaeology has reconstructed the steps around the temple in two phases using the remaining stones. Different carved stones depicting various events related to Buddha, including his birth, Mayadevi, Bodhgaya, Sarnath and many more are there in the temple. Statues of Shiva, Parvati, and Saraswati are also found there. At the entrance of Kankrebihar forest area, many Buddhists reside, alongside the followers of Hinduism. There are settlements of Newars and Gurungs, who are predominantly Buddhists. Buddhist prayer flags with teachings of Buddha could be observed over there.

This religious and tourist site in the heart of Surkhet Valley features numerous hand-carved statues and offers a chance to visit the temple. These statues not only replicate the religious faith and trust carved in them but also represent civilization, culture and exceptional craftsmanship of the ancestors of this region. Statues of Ganesh, Saraswati, and various animals like cows and serpents, and other wildlife can be seen, all intricately carved by hand in ancient times. The stones (bannos) used in Kankrebihar Temple are also hand-carved. Some people view these statues carved around the temple as the best form of fine arts while others take them as divine representations. This significant religious and tourist destination, popular all over the country, is spread over 175.50 square kilometers of area on the top of Kankrebihar hill which is surrounded by Kankrebihar forest area, the first forest protection area of Nepal. At present, the reconstruction work is going on particularly to restore the temple and statues to their original state, and there are also plans to develop part of the area into a zoo.

Located 4 kilometers south of Mangalgadhi Chowk on Latikoili Hill in Ward No. 9 of Birendranagar Municipality, Kankrebihar has become a popular destination for people of all the ages. It takes about 40 minutes on foot to reach this religious and tourist site from Surkhet Bus Park, while those with vehicles can arrive in around 13 minutes along the paved road. On the way to Latikoili from Mangalgadhi Chowk on Ratna Highway, visitors can also stop at the famous Shiva Temple and nearby monasteries. Situated on Latikoili Hill, it is believed that worshipping at the Shiva Temple fulfills one's wishes. It typically takes about an hour to tour and observe the site, which is open daily for visits. Activities such as touring, studying, observing, and researching can be undertaken here.





Bulbule Lake

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 10, Surkhet

"Surkhet Bulbule Taal maya mai saani hunale chhutyo maya jaal."

Named after bubbling water emerging from the ground, Bulbule Lake in Surkhet and its attraction has inspired dozens of songs. Before 2029 BS (1972 AD), it was famous for irrigating Tilpur, Kunti, Nayangaun, and Patalganga areas. Conservation efforts for Bulbule Lake began in 2029 BS (1972 AD), notably after King Birendra Shah's Surkhet visit, which led to its preservation and promotion.

Bulbule Lake is a major tourist destination in Surkhet District for visitors. Spread over an area of 31.5 bighas, Bulbule Lake is one of the main tourist attractions in Karnali Province. It is situated at an altitude of approximately 657 meters above sea level. The Bulbule Park, located in the central part of the provincial capital, includes picnic areas, boat rides, colorful gardens, a children's park, beautiful flowers, and religious sites. The main attraction of Bulbule is the collection of ten taps constructed to gather water bubbling up from the ground, and a water reservoir for offering pipal pani (sacred water). Managed by Surkhet Valley Urban Development Committee, the popularity of Bulbule Lake as a tourist attraction has grown significantly in the recent days since the beginning of motorboat services.

The surrounding area is adorned with flowers and trees, and the park is organized for picnics, attracting government employees, teachers, students, and others on weekends and holidays. Located about 1.6 kilometers from Mangalgadhi Chowk, it's a quick 3-minute drive on a paved road, with visitors typically spending about an hour for observation. It remains open every day.









Deuti Bazzai Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 10, Surkhet

Gangamala Deuti Bazzai Temple, located in Birendranagar 10, is one of the major tourist destinations in Surkhet District. Its history is linked with the Raji community, one of the oldest ethnic groups in Surkhet. It is believed that when some Raji people cast a net in the Bheri River, they found four sisters, took them to the riverbank and worshiped as goddesses. Some people from Dolpa came to take Gangamala back but she disappeared in anger. She reappeared only after Dolpalis returned back to Dolpa.

The temple is located about 1 kilometer south of Ratna Highway where Gangamala is worshipped. It is said that Rajis became both amazed and sacred when they found Gangamala in the river. The deity asked them not to be scared but to establish her in an appropriate place. Despite belonging to meat-eating community, they began to worship her seeking blessings. It is said that Deuti Bazzai has seven sisters established and worshipped in different places: Keshmala (Kalimati, Salyan), Ratanmala (Gochepokhara, Surkhet), Rudramala (Suvaghat, Surkhet), Chaturmala (Kalyan, Surkhet), Chamamala (Babaiguthi, Bardiya), Rammala (Chhinchu, Surkhet) and Gangamala (Nayagaun, Surkhet).

Many people could be observed sacrificing goats at the temple and worshipping vehicles such as cars and motorcycles. Every year, during Jesth Purnima and Manshir Purnima, there is a grand worship of Gangamala Deuti Bazzai with significant crowds of devotees similar to New Year and Vijayadashami. People believe that making a vow with sacred rice grains (akshata) and a flag (dhwaja) at Gangamala Deuti Bazzai fulfills their wishes. Worship involves offering bells, flags, incense, tridents, grains, fruits, coconuts, rice pudding, milk, puri, and curd along with sacrificing animal for her vehicle, Bajir. There is a supernatural belief that Deuti Bazzai causes blood vomiting to wrongdoers, and those whose promises made are not kept. Such people are believed to face misfortunes. Flying pigeons instead of sacrificing them was introduced after King Birendra's visit to Surkhet. Similarly, sacrificing goats or offering pigeons is prohibited on Ekadashi, Aushi, Sunday, and Sankranti.

Spread over 858 square feet with the height of 12 feet, this temple consists of the statues of Deuti Bazzai, Shiva, Ganesh, and Durga. The total area covers 12 katthas of land. The temple was registered at the District Administration Office in Surkhet in 2049 BS. It is 3.5 kilometers from Mangalgadhi, a distance that takes 10 minutes to travel by vehicle, while it takes 30 minutes for people to worship the goddess. In addition to the worship, people also hold marriage and bratabandha (sacred thread ceremony) ceremonies at this religious site.

Ghantaghar

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 8, Surkhet

Ghantaghar, the tallest building in Birendranagar at the time, offers a panoramic view of the entire Surkhet Valley from its top. Established in 2045 BS (1988 AD) with the assistance of the Chinese Government, large clocks imported from Japan were installed on all four sides of the tower. Powered by solar-energy, these clocks not only used to show the time but also played a very pleasant melody. Passersby used to enjoy the melody and keep track of the time.

Spread over 38 katthas of land under the responsibility of Birendranagar Municipality, Ghantaghar is accessible via paved roads from all the sides. It is just a 3-minutes drive from Mangalghadhi. It boasts a beautiful park, making it a popular tourist destination in the heart of the capital of Karnali Province. Visitors to Surkhet Valley frequently visit this park which is open to the public every day. They typically spend about an hour observing the beautiful scenery at this place. The municipality is actively working to preserve and promote it as a tourist attraction, adding new colorful walls and various constructions inside to enhance its appeal. The ongoing reconstruction is expected to further enhance the beauty of this park, making it a wonderful tourist destination in Surkhet.





Sahid Park

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 4, Surkhet

Sahid Park, located in Ward No. 4 of Birendranagar, Surkhet, covers three-hectare area of Bhairav Community Forest. It was constructed with the financial support of Karnali Province Government and the technical support of Birendranagar Municipality. It was built in memory of the martyrs of the Karnali Province Movement. During the movement demanding a separate province and before the constitution was issued, three people from Surkhet and one from Jumla lost their lives. Karnali Province remembers Tikaram Gautam, Gopal Singh Rajwar, Yam BC from Birendranagar, and Hari Bahadur Kunwar from Jumla as martyrs of the provincial movement. In their memory, the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests, and Environment, Karnali Province Government initiated the park construction plan.

Sahid Park features a pillar, garden, water fountain, and walls. A botanical garden is also under construction in this place while the completion of the park has increased the influx of domestic tourists. Local people state that many visitors come to see the park on holidays in comparison to other days. Since the park provides easy access to Gadhi trail, it has become a popular choice for many people. Situated approximately 2.5 kilometers from Mangalgadhi Chowk, it can be reached in about 10 minutes by vehicle via paved road. Visitors need to spend nearly an hour to fully appreciate the beauty of this park, which is open daily for observation, visits, and sightseeing.



Bayalkanda Gadhi Fort

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 14

Bayalkanda Gadhi is located at Gothikanda, Ward No. 14 of Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet District. It can be reached by traveling about 13 km north on the paved road taking around 30 minutes on vehicle towards Dailekh District from Mangalgadhi Chowk. From this location, the entire Surkhet Valley can be observed. Historically significant and naturally beautiful, this site has great possibility to attract national and international tourists. Its attraction also has been increased by paragliding landing in Surkhet Valley. This is the reason that some people often compare it with Sarangkot of Pokhara where paragliding is a regular adventure service.

Bayalkanda Gadhi Fort looks like a place where guards would keep watch. There are also remnants of early warning posts, places for safely firing shots during wartime, and other ruins. About 50 meters west of the fort, there is also a temple of Batuk Bhairav. There are no records of who built this Gadhi, and when it was built and destroyed. But local elders, historians, and intellectuals believe that it was constructed by the Gorkhali army during Bahadur Shah's reign for the protection of the area during Nepal's unification period. It is said that there was war between Nepal and Dailekh. Under the leadership of Bahadur Shah, Nepal won the war and Dailekh came under Nepal. The fort's elevated position made it strategically important for military purposes. Despite its great historical and archaeological significance, this fort has not yet been archaeologically studied.

Bayalkanda Gadhi has a cooler climate, primarily due to its elevation above Surkhet Valley. Residents of the valley frequently visit this place for picnics, sightseeing, and to appreciate the scenic beauty, making it a popular nearby destination. Its notable features include war-related facilities, a fort, an early warning station, and a Batuk Bhairav statue. Visitors typically spend around an hour exploring the site. It is a well-loved destination, with people visiting almost daily and thoroughly enjoying their time there.



Latikoili Shiva Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

Latikoili Shiva Temple, a site of history, wonder, scenic tranquility, and religious significance in the center of Surkhet Valley, is located on Latikoili Hill near Kankrebihar in Ward No. 9 of Birendranagar Municipality. This temple is situated at around 2 kilometers south of Mangalgadhi Chowk. The inscription near the door states that the temple was built in Saake Sambat 1504 and BS 1639 (1582 AD) by Yogi Aatmanath, the disciple of Lankarnath. Constructed in a dome style, the temple is about 20 feet tall and 10x10 square feet. The large stones used in the construction of the temple are of marvel, raising questions about how they were lifted. The temple also produces a melodious echo when sounds are made inside.

Spread across 8 katthas of land, this temple is crafted from a single stone, featuring an Ardhanarishwar statue also carved from a single stone. Connected by a paved road, this temple can be reached in 5-minutes by vehicle. The hilltop location of this temple offers a panoramic view of Surkhet Valley while the temple premises are filled with bel trees providing peace and tranquility. Thousands of devotees visit the temple during Shivaratri, and many come regularly on Mondays and other festivals. Daily worship of Lord Shiva is conducted in this temple.



Province Museum and Archives

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 8, Surkhet

The Province Museum in Surkhet displays items that reflect Karnali civilization, including the culture of the Raute, Chaudhary, Magar, and Bhote communities, as well as various ornaments, grain grinders like dhiki and janto, and other objects of these communities. The exhibits in the first section of the museum are related to the history and culture of Karnali, showcasing the lifestyle and attire of various ethnic groups while the second section houses archaeological artifacts. The museum also features statues, clothing, jewelry, utensils, and tools representing the identity of Tharu, Magar and Raute communities, thereby offering a comprehensive look into the various facets of this province. There are historical weapons, traditional measurement tools, ancient water clocks, and various cultural and historical objects collected with the purpose of preserving the cultures, traditions, and customs of Karnali. Remaining under Karnali Province Government, this museum remains open for public every day except Tuesday and public holidays. Students and visitors from within and outside the district visit the museum for the educational purposes to learn about Karnali's civilization. It is located approximately 1.5 kilometers from Mangalgadhi Chowk, a five-minutes drive along a paved road. Visitors typically spend about 30 minutes exploring the museum and its archives.





Mangalgadhi

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

Mangalgadhi is a historic site located south of Mangalgadhi Chowk. Along Ratna Highway, adjacent to the southern part, stands the Military Residential School. Mangalgadhi features grand forts and stone structures of historical significance. There is a temple within Mangalgadhi particularly known as Maiko Temple which is surrounded by a pond and a courtyard. This temple houses various sculptures, including a statue of a goddess without a pedestal. Although the land is currently under military ownership, it was once public. Historically, it was a tradition of Nepali army to celebrate the seventh day of Dashain by worshipping weapons and offering flowers at the fort located in Ward No. 14 of Surkhet. Mangalgadhi and Bayalkanda Fort played crucial roles during the time when Nepal was divided into 22 and 24 states, engaging in battles and securing their armies.



Siddhapaila

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 14, Surkhet

Siddhapaila, located in the northern part of Surkhet, borders Dailekh District. Primarily known for Gurans (*Rhododendron*), Kaafal (*Myrica esculenta*), and Timur (*Zanthoxylum armatum*), this is a very popular tourist spot in Surkhet District. As per the legend, the name 'Siddhapaila' came from a footprint of Kumar, the son of Lord Mahadev, during his circumambulation of Mount Sumeru. This area starts about 14 kilometers north of Mangalgadhi Chowk accessible via paved road in around 30 minutes.

The entire Surkhet Valley can be observed from Siddhapaila, a place that people visit to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and in search of enjoying the serene and the cool environment with natural diversity. Local people are attracted to this area particularly for enjoying picnics, visits, and natural beauty. Registered as a community area under Ward No. 14 of Birendranagar Municipality, Siddhapaila is beautiful, calm and cool area with statues and temples of gods.





Bethel Church

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 10, Surkhet

There is only one God, and the God is the Father of all. Everyone must accept God's will and show compassion and mercy towards all living beings. One should share in the suffering and sorrow of others. Wherever one lives, one should live with a sense of brotherhood with others. There should be no caste discrimination, and the belief that all people are equal is upheld in the worship of Jesus. Following this, Bethel Church is established in Khajura, located about 1.5 kilometers east of Mangalghadi Chowk. Periodically, awakening programmes are held at this Church, and Christians from all over the district gather to celebrate Christmas Day with special events although there are many Churches in Birendranagar.





Madarasa Masjid

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 10, Surkhet

There is only one Allah (God). He is omnipotent. Everyone must obey Allah's commands. Besides Allah, its followers believe that there are no other gods, and Muhammad is His prophet. It is the duty of Muslims not to worship idol; they should pray the god, give charity, welcome guests, and defend their religion. Following these teachings, the Madarasa Masjid (mosque) was informally established in 2026 BS by an old Muslim community in Surkhet. In this masjid, prayers (Namaz) are held every morning and evening, and Muslims from various parts of Surkhet come to pray the Jumma Namaz every Friday. As a significant religious site for the Muslim community in Surkhet, this masjid hosts special gatherings and prayers during Eid and Bakra Eid. Located around 2.5 kilometers from Mangalgadhi, it is a 10-minute drive away.



Buddha Gumba

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 13, Surkhet

Buddha Gumba (Monastery) is located in Ratanangla on Surkhet-Dailekh road section.

Named as Chille Chaakteling Buddhist Monastery, this is a major pilgrimage site primarily for Buddhists. Established in 2035 BS and registered at Surkhet District Administration Office in 2073 BS, this site consists of a monastery, a statue of Buddha, and five other statues.

On the way to this monastery, people also can visit Bayalkanda Fort and Siddhapaila. Additionally, one can enjoy the natural diversity of the surrounding forest areas.

It usually takes around 50 minutes by vehicle on a paved road to reach this monastery.



Ranighat

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 2, Surkhet

Ranighat is located on the banks of the Bheri River which is approximately 15 km west of Mangalgadhi Chowk in Surkhet. The journey to Ranighat takes about 25 minutes, with around 10 km of paved road and the remaining portion being gravel road.

It is said that this pilgrimage site is named Ranighat in memory of Rani Jagadamba Devi, the mother of martyr Dasharath Chand, as this is the place where she was cremated. There are legends such as many sages did penance at this place and even Gautam Buddha set stepped on this sacred land.

Ranighat is also known as the holy Aryaghat of this region where temples have been reconstructed with various idols of gods and goddesses.

Considered as an important site for tourism, this place features a very beautiful ghat, picturesque cliffs, rocks, trees, forests, and thousands of birds and animals coming here to drink water and bathe. Watching the large and small fish diving provides an immeasurable sense of joy. Nearby, it also serves as the landing site for rafting that starts from the Bheri Bridge in Surkhet. Since the Satya Yuga, events like Maghi festival, Shivaratri Fair, Yagya, Mahayagya, Saptaha are held at this site.

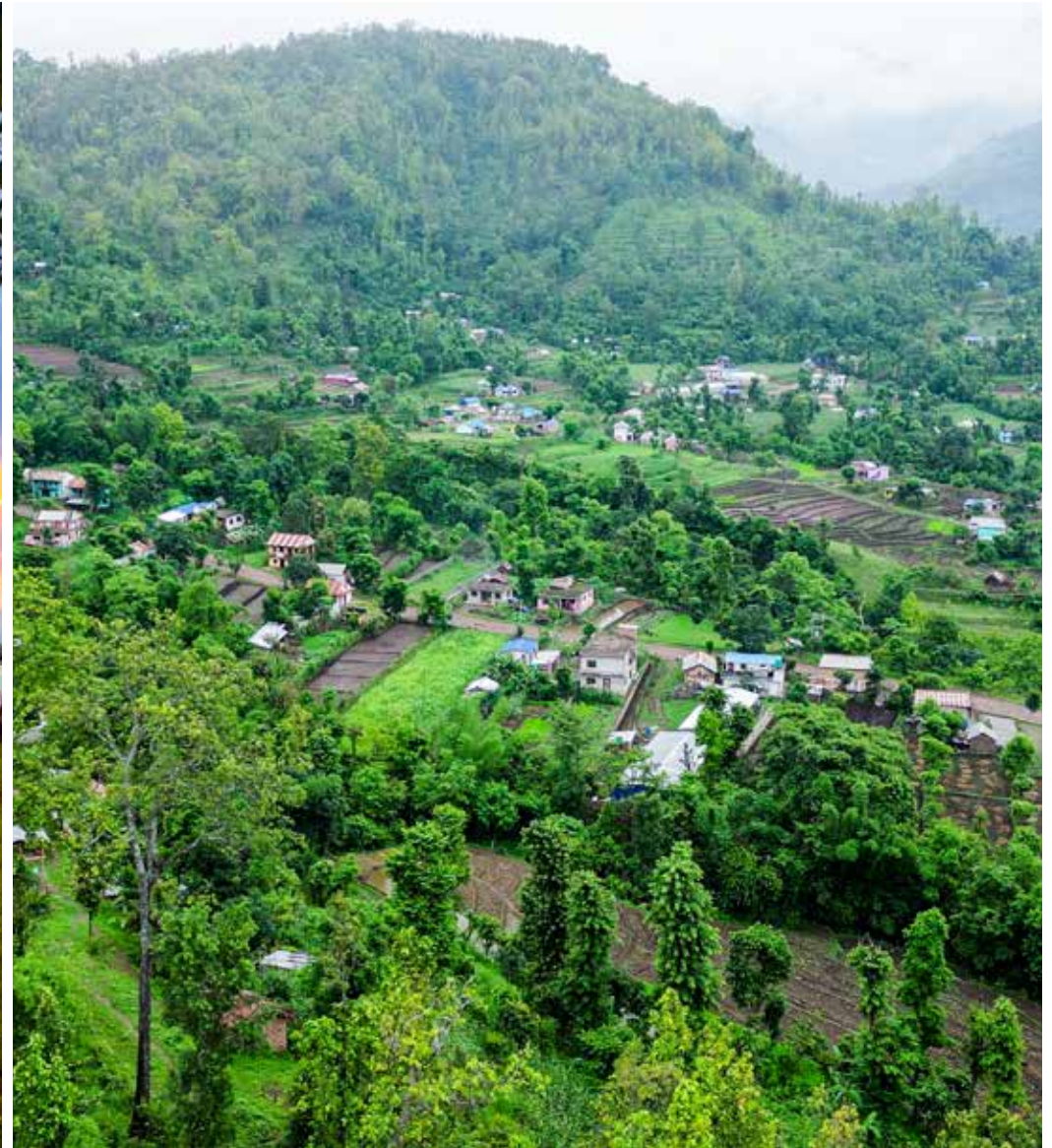


Jaleshwar Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 3, Surkhet

Hindu devotees refer to deities residing in water-filled ponds as Jaleshwar Mahadev. The Jaleshwar Temple is named after this deity. The temple contains stones dating back to the time of the Pandavas as well as the idols of Jaleshwar, Shiva, Durga Mata, Ganesh, Bhagawati, and other deities. Built in 1990 BS, it is also known as Uttarganga Jaleshwar Dham particularly because the pond's water flows northward. The former Uttarganga VDC was named after this temple's unique feature. The pond still flows north, and the place is also known as Khambagade.

There is a water reservoir constructed to the east of Jaleshwar Temple. The programme of offering Pipal Pani also gets conducted in this place. Devotees visit the temple regularly for morning and evening prayers to Lord Shiva. During Shivaratri a grand fair is held. Similarly, there are fairs held at Maghe Sankranti, on the first day of Baisakh as well on the first day of every month. People gather for bhajans-kirtans, recitation of holy books as well as bratabandha and marriage ceremonies at his holy site. Situated approximately 4 kilometers west of Mangalgadhi Chowk, this temple is accessible via a paved road within around 10 minutes by vehicle and around 1 hour on foot.



Jarbuta Hill

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 13, Surkhet

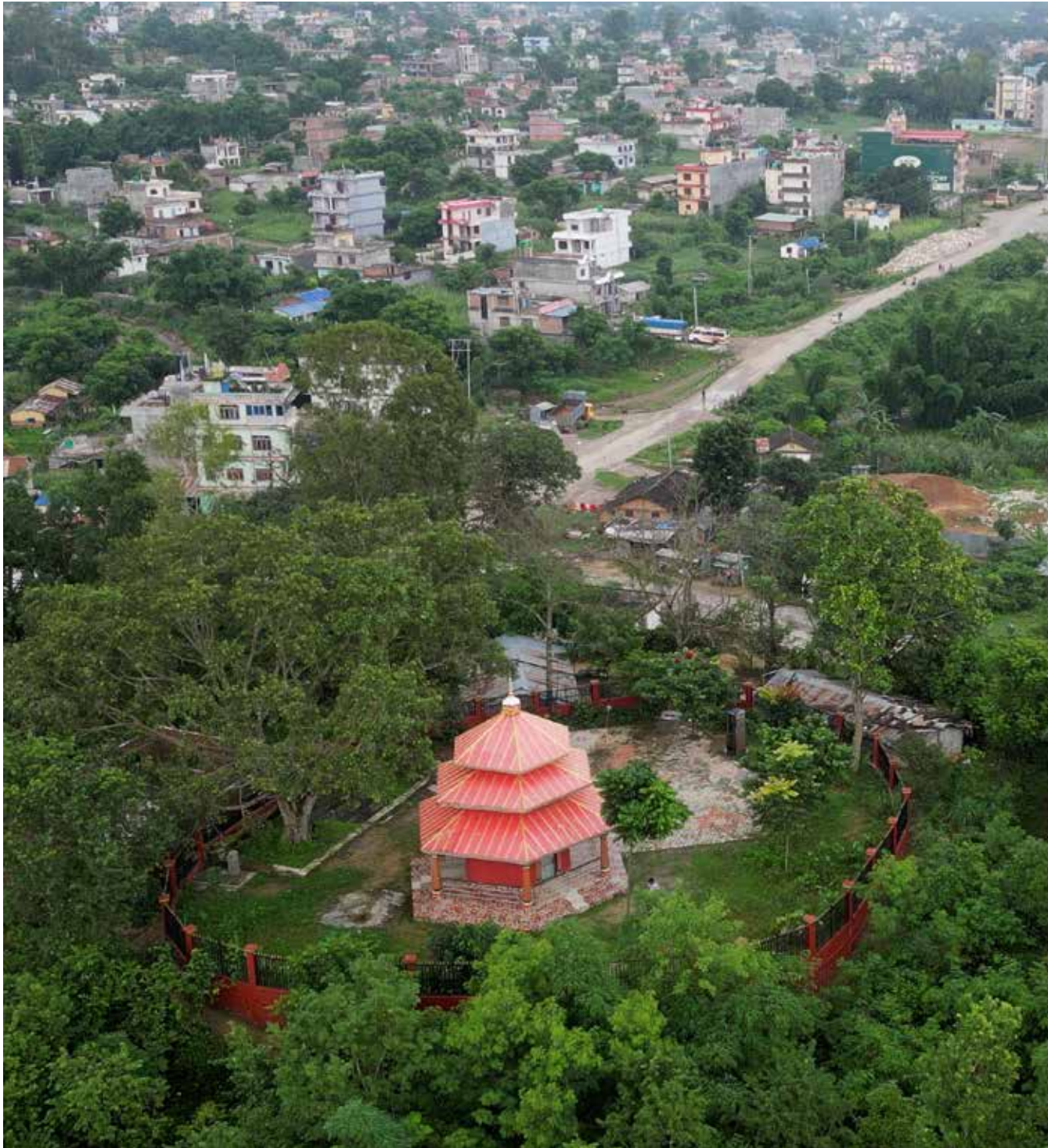
Jarbuta Hill, a flat, peaceful and cool spot in eastern part of Surkhet Valley, offers stunning views of the valley, earning it the nickname "Mirror of Surkhet Valley." Approximately 9 km away from Mangalgadhi, accessible via paved and gravel roads, with some parts requiring foot travel, it takes about 30 minutes by vehicle to reach here. Its cooler climate makes it a popular picnic and sightseeing destination. Once densely populated before systematic settlement in the valley, this area now has a cooler climate, making it a popular picnic and sightseeing destination.



Ram Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 6, Surkhet

Ram, as per *The Ramayana*, popularly known as Maryadapurusotam (a great honourable man) is considered to be one of the ten avatars (incarnations) of Lord Vishnu. His life and valor are depicted in Valmiki's *The Ramayana* written as well as in Tulsidas's devotional poetry Ramcharitmanas. Revered particularly in North India and Nepal, Ramchandra is an ideal figure in Hinduism and Ram Temple was established in his honour. There are the idols of Ram and Sita, ceremony halls, spaces for Yagya and wedding ceremonies. Regular rituals, weddings, and fasting ceremonies are regularly conducted in this temple. Accessible by a paved road, it is located just 1 kilometer away from Mangalgadhi Chowk, a journey of approximately 3 minutes by vehicle.



Durga Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 1, Surkhet

Durga is considered a revered deity among Hindus, representing the unified form of nine goddesses. She is also called 'Sherawali Maa', 'Maa Durga' and 'Jagadamba' and is said to be attainable through rigorous practices of Ashtanga Yoga, karma and devotion.

Durga Temple, located in Bangesimal, Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 1, is dedicated to Goddess Jagadamba Durga.

Originally, it was established as 'Mai Ko Thaan' in 2024 B.S. but it was renamed as 'Durga Temple' in 2069 B.S. Before 2024 B.S., the site was home to Tripureshwor Secondary School, which was relocated to Dhodhekhali, paving the way for this temple's establishment.

Accessible via a paved road, this temple can be reached in around 10 minutes by vehicle from Mangalgadhi Chowk.

Ganesh Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 5, Surkhe

Lord Ganesh is worshipped first before all other deities in Hinduism.

He is depicted with the head of an elephant and a human-like body, revered as the remover of obstacles and bestower of success.

Thus, he is also known as Siddhi Vinayak. Siddhi Vinayak Ganesh Temple is located on the border of Ward No. 5 and 6 in Birendranagar, adjacent to a commercial center known as Ganesh Chowk. Established in 2032 BS, the temple houses statues of Ganesh, Santoshi Mata, and other deities.

Regular rituals and ceremonies are conducted at the temple besides occasional bratbandha and weddings. Accessible via a paved road, it is approximately 1.5 kilometers away from Mangalghadi Chowk, a five-minute drive.

The temple is open every day although Ganesh Chaturthi is a special day.





Bhairav Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 4, Surkhet

Bhairav is worshipped as a specific aspect of Lord Shiva, known for removing fears. In Hindu cultures prevalent in Nepal, India, Bangladesh, and other places, Bhairav holds a significant position as a principal deity worshipped in Bhairavasthan.

It is believed that Bhairav represents the fierce and formidable aspect of Lord Shiva. Bhairav Temple, named after this deity, is situated in Bhairavasthan, Birendranagar 4, Surkhet.

It is believed that performing rituals and offering prayers at this temple fulfills the desires and alleviates illnesses and misfortunes of people. The local community regularly performs worship rituals at the temple while there is special worshipping during the festivals like 'Ubhauli' and 'Udhauli'





Patal Ganga

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

Patal Ganga, in Ganesh Jal Tole of Ward No. 9, Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet is a historical and sacred site where holy water from Dailekh Srasthan merges with Patal Ganga Kund. Located 4 km south of Mangalgadhi, it is accessible by vehicle in 15 minutes. The site includes a Lord Ganesh Temple, four perennial streams, and spans 3 kattha of public land. The path is partially paved. A visit typically takes 15 minutes, with a special fair held during Maghe Sankranti. Worship, study, and observation are the main activities here.



Siddheshwar Shiva Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 8, Surkhet

Lord Shiva, known by 108 epithets including Siddheshwar Shiva, is believed to fulfill the devotees' pure-hearted desires. The Siddheshwar Shiva Temple in Birendranagar 8, dedicated to him, was established in 2049 BS with a small idol and structurally completed in 2057 BS. The temple, situated on 1 kattha of land, houses idols of Shiva, Parvati, and a Shivalinga. Registered in the name of Siddheshwar Shiva Service Center at the District Administration Office in Surkhet, it is 2 km away from Mangalgadhi and accessible by vehicle in 5 minutes. Special worship days include Mondays in Shrawan, Shivaratri, and Teej, featuring devotional singing, weddings, and sacred thread ceremonies.



Ram Janaki Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 11, Surkhet

Ram Janaki Temple, managed by the Bauddhik Sanatan Dharma Pindeshwar Mahadev Dharmik Sanstha, is in Gagretal, Ward No. 11 of Birendranagar. Initially a shrine to appease tigers, it evolved into Ram Janaki Temple. Established in 2050 BS

This temple is located 5 km east of Mangalghadi, accessible in 10 minutes by vehicle on a dirt road, the temple conducts regular worship of Kalika and Ram Janaki, with Ram Navami as a special day.



Om Kareshwar Shiva Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 6, Surkhet

Believed to be named after the sacred word 'Om' first uttered by Brahma, this temple was established by Ekatya Baba in 2028 BS, who always kept one hand raised. Dedicated to Mahadev, this temple consists of the statues of deities like Bam Bam Bhole and a Shivalinga. The temple is important for regular worship of Shiva, bhajan-kritan, bratabandha, marriage jaldhara and trikal pooja. Accessible via paved road, this temple can be reached within 5-minutes by vehicle from Mangalgadhi. Special worshipping occurs on Shivaratri and Mondays in Shrawan here .



Shiva Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 13, Surkhet

In 2068 BS, a Shivalinga was discovered while constructing a road using bulldozer, leading to the establishment of the Shiva Temple in Birendranagar Municipality 13. After the establishment of Shiva Temple a regular worshipping of Lord Shiva is conducted. The temple houses a Shivalinga, a Shiva statue, and a statue of a tiger. Worshipping includes offering incense, Naivedya, and milk. Registered with the District Administration Office, Surkhet, in 2074 BS, this temple is located about 6 kilometers away from Mangalgadhi Chowk. This place can be reached by vehicle in 20 minutes along the graveled road.



Shwet Baraha Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 12, Surkhet

Established in 2059 BS, Shwet Baraha Temple in Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 12, Neware, Surkhet, was registered at the District Administration Office in 2067 BS. It serves as a religious center for worshipping, scripture readings, and doing bhajan-kirtan. Its devotees believe that praying to Lord Baraha brings happiness and prosperity. Located 3.5 km north-east of Mangalghadi Chowk, it is accessible in 8 minutes by vehicle.



Shree Kuleshwar Shiva Temple

Birendranagar-12, Surkhet

Shree Kuleshwar Shiva Temple is located in Ward No. 12 of Birendranagar Municipality. A special religious fair is particularly held here during Shivaratri. Every day, yoga and worship are conducted in the temple in the morning, and weekly bhajans and kirtans are organized with the participation of senior citizens.



Andheri Cave

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

Andheri Cave, located around 8 km south of Mangalghadi in Ward No. 9 of Birendranagar Municipality, dates back to ancient times and was discovered by local cowherds a century ago. Visitors have explored up to 70 meters inside although its total length has not been exactly found out yet. It is popular among tourists for the photography and entertainment. Accessible via pitch, gravel roads, and footpaths in about 20 minutes, this cave is frequently visited on Saturdays and public holidays for sightseeing and exploration.



Kapileshwar Shiva Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 7, Surkhet

Kapileshwar Shiva Temple, near Shivalaya Chowk in Ward No. 7 of Birendranagar Municipality, was established in 1989 BS. Initially in Katkuwa due to malaria, it later moved to Surkhet Valley along with the settlement of people to Surkhet Valley. Located 2 km north of Mangalgadhi, accessible in 7-minutes by paved road, this temple features statues of Shiva Panchang (Shivalinga, Vishnu, Surya, Devi, Ganesh), Kal Bhairav, and Nandi. Daily worship, hymns, and gatherings are regular. Special days for the worship and ceremonies include Shivaratri, Shrawan Month, Akshaya Tritiya, and Bala Chaturdashi.



Saktekanda

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

Saktekanda, located 9 km south of Mangalgadhi in southern Surkhet Valley, is accessible within half an hour via paved and gravel roads. Registered under community area of Ward No. 9, Saktekanda Hill offers stunning views of Surkhet Valley and the Bheri River, making it a popular picnic spot. The area features natural diversity, hilly plants like kafal, ainselu and timur, and a flat, peaceful terrain, making it a prime tourist spot. Historically, locals lived on this hill before settlement development in the Valley. Visitors can observe the statue of Kalbhairav in this place and enjoy a lot by spending around half an hour.



Radhasarveshwar Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 6, Surkhet

In Gaudiya Vaishnava scriptures, Krishna is called Bhagwan and Radha, his supreme lover, is regarded as the supreme goddess. Radha's love controls Krishna, and he performed 'Raslila' with her in Vrindavan. Their story is detailed in The Shrimad Bhagavata Mahapurana. The Radhasarveshwar Krishna Temple, named after Radha, is in Ward No. 6 of Birendranagar Municipality. This three-story temple hosts gatherings, bhajan-kirtan sessions, and daily worship, primarily for Radha and Krishna devotees. Religious gurus recite The Shrimad Bhagavata Mahapurana here. It remains open daily for worship and religious activities.



Radha Krishna Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 8, Surkhet

Radha Krishna Temple in Birendranagar, Ward No. 8, originally built in 2029 BS and reconstructed in 2058 BS, is located about a kilometer east of Ghantaghar at Kalunchowk accessible via paved road. Having the idols of Radha, Krishna and Panchayat deities, this temple is a popular site for daily worship, bhajan-kirtan, and religious readings. On Krishna Janmashtami, a grand procession and large bhajan-kirtan sessions attract many devotees.



Nikaas Khola

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 9, Surkhet

Nikaas Khola, crucial for draining water of Surkhet Valley into the Bheri River, is in Ward No. 9, southern part of Surkhet Valley, 9 km south of Mangalgadhi Chowk. Legend says deity Shur created its outlet with a sword, making the valley habitable. Accessible in 25 minutes by gravel road from Mangalgadhi, it is a sightseeing and explorational spot.



Raharpur Shivalaya

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 10, Surkhet

Raharpur Shivalaya, dedicated to Lord Mahadev, is revered for bringing peace and prosperity. Located 7 km from Mangalgadhi Chowk, it is accessible via a paved road in about 20 minutes by vehicle. Consisting a temple, Shivalinga, and various Shiva statues, this temple is popular for regular religious activities like worship, weddings, and fasting. Shivaratri is the special occasion when thousands of devotees visit the temple for worship and milk offerings.



Kalika Devi Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 16, Surkhet

Kalika Devi Temple, located in Ward No. 16 of Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet, has a temple and idols, holding religious and tourist significance. It is approximately 22 km north-east of Mangalgadhi, accessible in about 1.5 hours via paved, gravel, and dirt roads. The route offers natural beauty, including different flora and fauna with a cool, moist climate. Locals gather here for worship and celebrations during Chaite Dashain and Vijaya Dashami.



Ratu Devasthan Temple

Birendranagar Municipality, Ward No. 15, Surkhet

Ratu Devasthan Temple in Birendranagar 15 is about 20 kilometers north of Mangalgadhi Chowk, accessible in approximately an hour by vehicle via partially paved, gravel, and dirt roads. Originally with a stone roof destroyed by a thunderstorm, it holds historical and archaeological significance. Animal sacrifices are offered during Dashain. The travelers enjoy lush greenery, seasonal flowers like rhododendrons, and fruits like bayberries and ainselu on the way. The tranquil atmosphere and fresh air make it a popular tourist spot, with observation taking about half an hour.



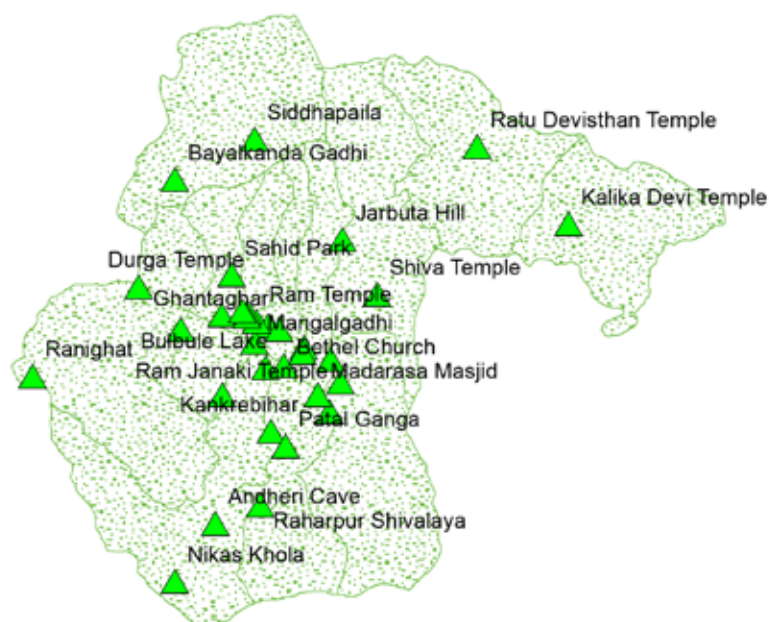
Karnali Province Stadium

Birendranagar-8, Surkhet

Karnali Province Stadium under construction in Ward No. 8 of Birendranagar Municipality in Surkhet is a priority project of the provincial government highlighting the immense potential for sports and tourism in Karnali. Preparations are underway to host the major events of the 10th National Sports Competition, scheduled for Manshir 2081, in this stadium. Designed with the latest structures meeting international standards, the stadium will have a seating capacity of 10,000 audiences.

The Current Leadership of Birendranagar Municipality

Name	Designation	Phone No.
Mohanmaya Dhakal (Bhandari)	Mayor	9858055870
Nilkhantha Khanal	Deputy Mayor	9848029105
Dinesh Khatri	Chairman, Ward No.1	9858099099
Gaj Bahadur Budha	Chairman, Ward No.2	9848050749
Binod Singh Bista	Chairman, Ward No.3	9858061500
Sher Bahadur K.C.	Chairman, Ward No.4	9848156123
Lok Bahadur Shahi	Chairman, Ward No.5	9848037017
Janak Bahadur Rawal	Chairman, Ward No.6	9848041337
Dhruba Kumar Chapai	Chairman, Ward No.7	9848022215
Tikaram Sharma	Chairman, Ward No.8	9848023783
Rishi Giri	Chairman, Ward No.9	9848032830
Dil Bahadur Rakhal	Chairman, Ward No.10	9848041918
Khimlal Devkota	Chairman, Ward No.11	9848039988
Chudamani Chapai	Chairman, Ward No.12	9848038873
Dipendraraj Koirala	Chairman, Ward No.13	9858047394
Dev Bahadur Rokaya	Chairman, Ward No.14	9848036106
Krishna Bahadur Thapa	Chairman, Ward No.15	9848075727
Danda Bdr Bishwokarma	Chairman, Ward No.16	9848122508
Yamuna Nepali	Excutive Member	9848192342
Tika Ghale	Excutive Member	9848041472
Laxmi Chaudhari	Excutive Member	9762212088
Sarita Chaudhari	Excutive Member	9867276748
Navaraj Gurung	Excutive Member	9848050963
Rachana Batha	Excutive Member	9816556878
Tripti Kumari B.K.	Excutive Member	9815587112
Dhirendra Prasad Sharma	Chief Administrative Officer	9858080380
Prakash Poudel	Senior Officer (Head, Tourism Section)	9858052798



Legend



Sheet1\$ Events



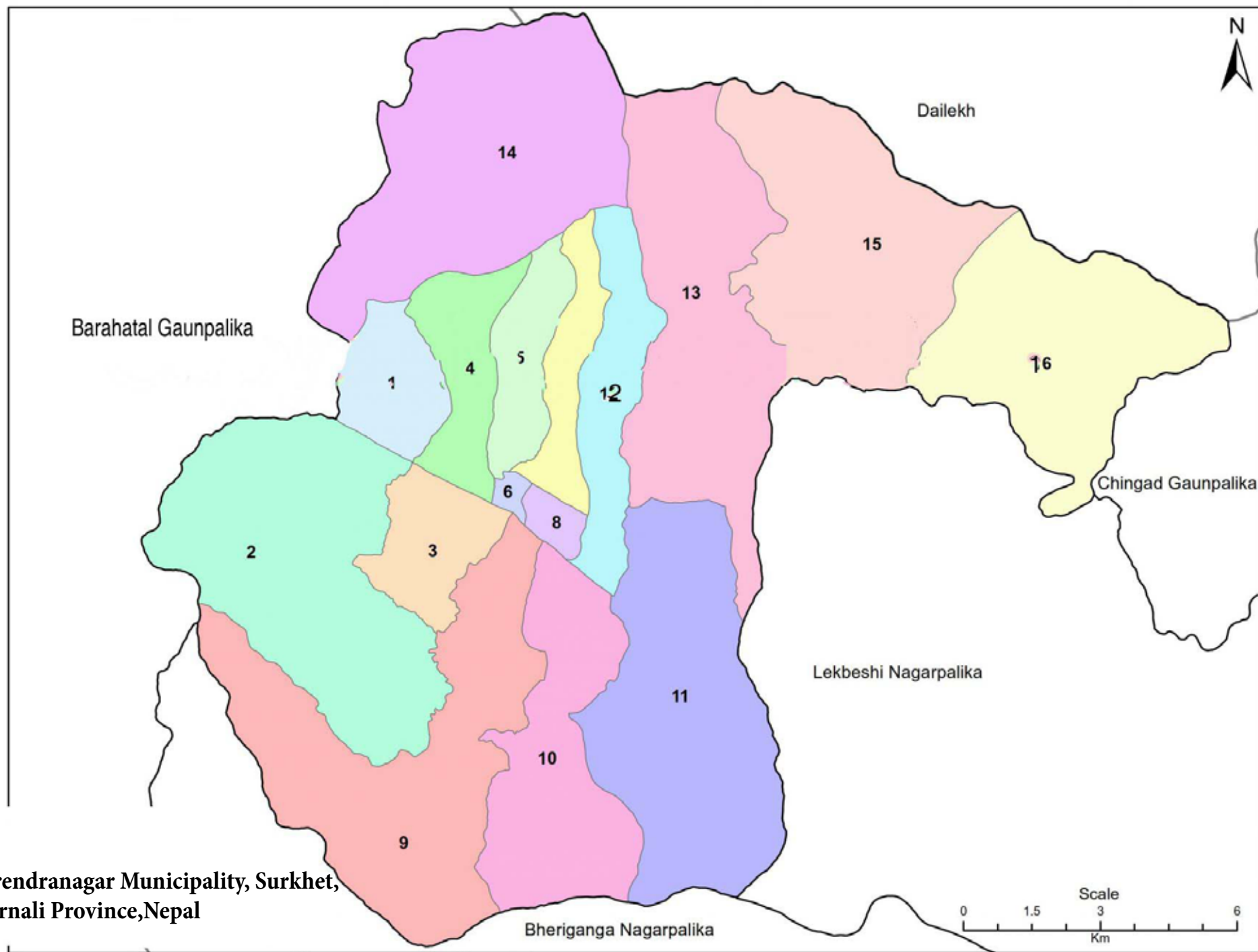
birendranagar_ward

4 6 8

Miles

GPS Waypoints of Destination Birendranagar

S.N	X	Y	Remarks
1	560741	3159978	Kankrebihar
2	560564	3162123	Bulbule Lake
3	562691	3160648	Deuti Bazzai Temple
4	560657	3163555	Ghantaghar
5	559433	3165263	Sahid Park
6	557554	3168489	Bayalkanda Gadhi
7	559132	3161205	Latikoili Shiva Temple
8	561029	3163416	Province Museum and Archives
9	560201	3162987	Mangalgadhi
10	560208	3169855	Siddhapaila
11	561171	3162189	Bethel Church
12	562305	3161200	Madarasa Masjid
13	552795	3161842	Ranighat
14	557750	3163411	Jaleshwar Temple
15	563131	3166456	Jarbuta Hill
16	560255	3163693	Ram Temple
17	556331	3164864	Durga Temple
18	559972	3163993	Ganesh Temple
19	559103	3163906	Bhairav Temple
20	561230	3159472	Patal Ganga
21	561792	3162638	Siddheshwar Shiva Temple
22	563072	3161647	Ram Janaki Temple
23	564281	3164616	Shiva Temple
24	562745	3162392	Shwet Baraha Temple
25	558889	3156863	Andheri Cave
26	561847	3162818	Kapileshwar Shiva Temple
27	559947	3163873	Om Kareshwar Shiva Temple
28	559791	3164042	Radhasarveshwar Krishna Temple
29	561792	3162638	Radha Krishna Temple
30	560391	3157476	Raharpur Shivalaya
31	570664	3166984	Kalika Devi Temple
32	567622	3169598	Ratu Devasthan Temple
33	557551	3154900	Nikas Khola



**Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet,
Karnali Province, Nepal**