

# Darang Tea Estate

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## Kangra

**Neeru** and **Naveen Bhandari** will be your host at The Darang Tea Estate. The Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh is well known for its tea gardens. The Darang Tea Estate was the first tea estate to be established by an Indian, Sardar Badadur



Amichand the great grandfather of Naveen, in 1859. The estate is now owned by Sarla Bhandari, who was the first lady in Kangra to run a tea estate and she is now helped in this venture by her son, Naveen. The estate is spread over 70 acres of greenery and has a

spectacular view of the *Dhauladar Mountain* range of the Himalayas. The average height of the area is about 3,000 ft.

The estate is surrounded by pine forest and a little stream runs right through it. Wildlife in the form of partridges, wild boar, barking deer and even panthers, if you are lucky, can be seen. The estate has its own kitchen garden and dairy and you will get fresh fruits, vegetables and milk. The place abounds in flowers of many different varieties and colours, adding to its beauty. Solar cooking, heating, lighting and gobar gas is used, making it a very eco-friendly estate.

Your stay at the Darang Tea Estate will be very calm and relaxing and one wonders whether there can really still be such places on Mother Earth! Neeru and Naveen, ever

the ideal hosts leave no stone unturned in looking after their guests and pampering them. They not only feed them with the best that is freshly available but also go out of their way to help them enjoy the natural environs better by their company.

The estate has 4 cottages and 5 rooms with attached baths and toilets. You can relax and laze here and also take any of the many interesting excursions listed below. If you do not come in your own vehicle, taxis can be easily arranged.



### **Places of Interest:**

**Dharamsala and Mcleodganj:** Dharamsala was the summer capital of Punjab. It has a museum that houses a collection of paintings from the famed Kangra school of painting. 8Km ahead is Mcleodganj, the abode of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual head of the Tibetans. It has their monastery and lots of shops run by Tibetans. One can sample authentic Tibetan food and enjoy a variety of other international cuisine. Altitude is about 6,500ft.

**Nobelinka:** The Tibetan cultural institute and handicraft outlet is a must with its Japanese style architecture and quaint café. Distance 20Km.

**Sidbhari:** The famous Chinmya Mission stands majestically overlooking the Dhauladhar mountain range. This is where Swamiji was laid to rest. One can attend lectures on the Gita and the Vedas when a camp is on.

**Chamunda Devi Temple:** An important place of pilgrimage for Hindus is only 8Km away.





**Kangra:** The Kangra Fort is the oldest fort and was only conquered once in its history, by Jehangir.

**Jwalamukhi:** 50Km away. Has a very well known temple with a natural eternal flame.

**Palampur:** A large bustling town is enroute to billing where one can do para-gliding depending on the season.

**Bajjnath:** It has the oldest Shiva temple in India. Distance 30Km.

**Andretta:** The famous artists' colony which houses the Sobha Singh art gallery. It also has the oldest kiln which was set up by Sardar Gurcharan Singh of Blue Pottery fame. It is now run by his son and daughter-in-law.

**Nagi:** 12Km away, has a small zoo with a variety of animals.

### **Access:**

Overnight train to Pathankot from Delhi and a picturesque two and a half hour drive to the estate.

Drive up in your car – 530 Km from Delhi, via Chandigarh, Anandpur Sahib, Una, Jwalamukhi, Kangra and Nagrota.





### Contact

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