

HOLY FOOTPRINTS OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN UTTARAKHAND



Ramakrishna Kutir, Almora

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SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN KUMAUN AND GARHWAL UTTARAKHAND

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN KUMAUN

1. Kathgodam Railway Station:

Swami Vivekananda visited Almora three times and Mayavati once and all the four times he passed through Kathgodam Railway Station, first in 1890 during his wandering years and subsequently after his return from the West in 1897 followed by 1898 and and finally in December 1900 on way to visit Mayavati.

Distance From Ramakrishna Kutir, Almora : 86Km



2. Nainital:

First stay in 1890 - Swami Vivekananda and his brother-disciple Swami Akhandananda stayed in Nainital for six days as guest of Babu Ramaprasanna Bhattacharya in 3rd week of August 1890 (21st to 26th August).

Second stay in 1898 - Swamiji with his brother-disciples, disciples and Western followers stayed in Nainital from 13th to 16th May 1898.

Distance From Ramakrishna Kutir, Almora : 62 Km



3. Kakrighat:

Swami Vivekananda accompanied by brother-disciple Swami Akhandananda reached Kakrighat on 29th August 1890. They spent the night under a peepul tree. Swami Vivekananda meditated under the tree and on returning to normal consciousness told Swami Akhandananda: "I have just passed through one of the greatest moments of my life. Here under this peepul tree one of the greatest problems of my life has been solved. I have found oneness of the macrocosm with the microcosm."



In this microcosm of the body everything that is there (in the macrocosm) exists. I have seen the whole universe within an atom. "The original peepul tree now known as JnanaVriksha, had completely dried up in mid-2014 and a cloned sapling from the same has been planted at the same spot on 15th July, 2016.

Vivek Shilalekh: Following an ancient practice of rock edict, realisations of Swami Vivekananda in his meditation under a peepal tree 29th August 1890 have been inscribed on a rock in Kakrighat.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 21 km



4. Vivekananda Shila:

On 30th August 1890, Swami Vivekananda, near Almora and opposite a roadside Muslim cemetery, almost fainted with hunger and sank from sheer exhaustion on a flat rock. The keeper of the cemetery, a fakir named Zulfikar Ali offered Swamiji a cucumber and water. Because of extreme weakness, Swamiji asked the fakir to feed him and finding the fakir hesitant, Swamiji said with a smile, "are we not all brothers?"

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 1.9 km



5. Amba Dutt's Garden

On 30th August, 1890 Swami Vivekananda rested for a while in the garden of Amba Dutt Joshi.

Distance from R.K. Kutir, Almora: 1.8km



6. Lala Badri Sah's House:

First stay in 1890 - Swamiji as a wandering monk came to Almora and stayed as guest of Lala Badri Sah from 30th August to 5th September 1890.

Second stay in 1897 - After returning from the West, Swamiji visited Almora on 11th May 1897 and stayed in the same house as guest of Lala Badri Sah.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 2km



7. Kasar Devi Cave:

Swamiji performed meditation and the most severe forms of spiritual practices in this solitary cave for 2-3 days in the first week of September 1890. He had higher and higher spiritual illuminations and his face shone with a celestial fire. But as he reached the climax of his spiritual experiences, he felt a tremendous urge to serve the suffering humanity and came out of his personal spiritual bliss to work for the world.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 9.3km



8. Lodhia - Vivekananda Dwar :

After his triumphant return from the West, Swami Vivekananda on way to Almora reached Lodhia on the afternoon of 11th May 1897 and was received by a large crowd. At their request, he mounted a handsomely decorated white horse and was taken in a procession to the reception place near Raghunath Temple.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 9.3km



9. Almora Main Bazaar (Raghunath Temple):

An unprecedented reception in the hill town of Almora was organized by the residents on 11th May 1897 when Swami Vivekananda after returning from the West visited Almora for the second time.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 9.3km



10. Dewaldhar:

During his second visit to Almora in 1897, Swamiji stayed altogether for 46 days in Dewaldhar, a place twenty miles away from Almora in two stints, from 18th May to 19th June and then after a gap of 21 days from 11th July to 23rd July.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 58km



11. Binsar Dak Bungalow:

Swami Vivekananda during his second visit to Almora in 1897 stayed for two or three days at Binsar Dak Bungalow.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 25km



12. The English Club, Almora (now Military establishment):

At the request of English residents of Almora, Swami Vivekananda gave a lecture on 28th July 1897 at the English Club subject being relationship of soul to God, its aspirations and its real unity with the Supreme.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 500 m



13. Government Inter College, Almora:

Swamiji delivered for the first time a speech in Hindi on 27th July 1897 at Government Inter College, Almora subject being "Vedic Teaching in Theory and Practice."

Quoted below from Swamiji's letter dated 29th July 1897 written from Almora to Swami Ramakrishnananda :

Yesterday I delivered a lecture in the circle of the local English people, and all were highly pleased with it. But I was very much pleased with the lecture in Hindi that I delivered the previous day — I did not know before that I could be oratorical in Hindi.

Swamiji again gave a lecture in English at the same venue on 31st July 1897.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 2 Km



14. Thompson House:

Swami Vivekananda stayed at Thompson House from 17th May to 25th May 1898, 28th May to 30th May 1898 and from 5th June to 11th June 1898. The monthly English journal of the Ramakrishna Order, Prabuddha Bharata or Awakened India, was published from here from August 1898 to March 1899.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 200 m



15. Oakley House (Sister Nivedita Cottage):

Sister Nivedita, Ms. Josephine MacLeod, Mrs. Ole Bull and Mrs. Patterson stayed here from 17th May to 11th June 1898. It was in this house that Margaret Noble was blessed by Swami Vivekananda under a deodar tree which, according to her, transformed her totally into Nivedita. Every morning Swamiji would visit here for breakfast followed by his expositions of Vedanta and other spiritual subjects.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 900 m

16. Syahi Devi:

Swami Vivekananda stayed here in a tent from 25th May to 28th May 1898. He meditated in a cave around 2 km from the temple. He used to spend in the silence of the forest about ten hours every day during this period.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 42 Km

17. Dhari Dak Bungalow:

Swami Vivekananda with his brother-disciple Swami Shivananda and disciples Swamis Sadananda and Virajananda and Lala Govind Shah started journey for Mayavati from Kathgodam on 30th January 1900 and travelled seventeen miles via Bhimtal to reach Dhari Dak Bungalow and spent the night there.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 38 Km

18. Paharpani:

Swami Vivekananda on his way to Mayavati was compelled to spend the night of 31st December 1900 i.e., the last day of Nineteenth Century at a tea stall in Paharpani and the experience was awful.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 56 Km

19. Mornaula Dak Bungalow:

Swami Vivekananda on his way to Mayavati spent the first night of Twentieth Century 1st January 1901 in Mornaula Dak Bungalow. He was accompanied by brother-disciple Swami Shivananda and disciples Swamis Sadananda and Virajananda and Lala Govind Shah. Swamiji spent the historically significant day very cheerfully enjoying snow covered hills and trees and scenic beauty of the place.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 51 Km



20. Dhunaghat:

Swami Vivekananda on his way to Mayavati reached Dhunaghat via Devidhura after travelling twenty-one miles from Mornaula and spent the night of 2nd January 1901 at Dhunaghat.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 104Km



21. Advaita Ashrama, Mayavati:

Swami Vivekananda visited Mayavati Advaita Ashrama only once, in January 1901 to console a bereaved Mrs. Sevier after her husband's passing away. He stayed for a fortnight here (3-18 January), which coincided with his 38th birthday.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 129Km



22. Champawat Dak Bungalow:

On his way back from Mayavati to Calcutta via Pilibhit Railway Station, Swamiji spent the night of 18th January at Champawat Dak Bungalow. He was accompanied by brother-disciple Swami Shivananda and disciples Swamis Sadananda and Virajananda and Lala Govind Shah of Almora.

Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 132Km



23. Deuri Dak Bungalow:

Swamiji with others stopped over for lunch in the afternoon of 19th January 1901 at Deuri Dak Bungalow.

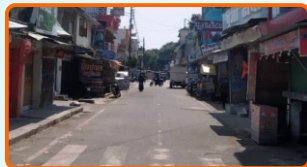
Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 157Km



24. Tanakpur:

On his way back from Mayavati, Swami Vivekananda spent the third night i.e., 20th January 1901 at a grocer's shop at Tanakpur bazaar as the Dak Bungalow in Tanakpur was found to be occupied by others.

Distance from R.K. Kutir, Almora: 185Km



25. Khatima:

On way to Pilibhit station, Swamiji with others reached Khatima at 2 p.m. and spent the fourth night i.e., 21st January 1901 in Khatima.

Distance from R.K. Kutir, Almora: 163Km



26. Pilibhit Railway Station (Uttar Pradesh):

Swamiji boarded the train on 22nd January 1901 at Pilibhit station and reached Calcutta on the morning of January 24, 1901.

Distance from R.K. Kutir, Almora: 183Km



OTHER PLACES OF SIGNIFICANCE

27. Ramakrishna Kutir

On 11th May 1897, Swami Vivekananda in reply to his reception by the residents of Almora expressed wish to establish an Ashrama in this serene hill town in the lap of the Himalayas associated with the best memories of our race. To realize his dream, his brother disciples Swamis Shivananda and Turiyananda established Ramakrishna Kutir nineteen years later on 22nd May 1916.



28. Turiyananda Tapasthali :

Swamis Shivananda and Turiyananda stayed at the 'Chilkapeta Outhouse' (now, Govt. Inst. of Hotel Management) in the year 1915. The brother monks immersed themselves in spiritual practices in this tranquil place overlooking the pine forest. Swami Turiyananda stayed here while supervising construction of Ramakrishna Kutir.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 1 Km

29. Patal Devi Temple :

More than 200 years old Patal Devi temple is one of the nine temples dedicated to nine forms of Goddess Durga. It is believed that Swamis Akhandananda, Shivananda, Turiyananda, Saradananda and Kripananda performed spiritual practices at this sacred place.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 5 Km

30. Vivekananda Ashrama, Shyamlatal :

Vivekananda Ashrama, located above the Shyamlatal Lake and overlooking the snow-clad mountain peaks is most ideal for contemplative life. By the moral and financial support of Mother Sevier, Swami Virajananda, a disciple of Swami Vivekananda, established this Ashrama on 21st May 1915 and practiced intense spiritual disciplines here.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 190 Km

31. Jageshwar Dham :

Built between 7th and 14th century, Jageshwar Dham is a cluster of about 125 stone temples dedicated to Lord Shiva and is also known as 'Valley of Gods'. Although there is a prevailing theory that some of these temples were built by Adi Shankara, there is no textual or epigraphical evidence in support of this claim.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 37 Km

SWAMI VIVEKANANDA IN GARHWAL

1. Karnaprayag:

Swami Vivekananda with Swamis Akhandananda, Saradananda and Kripananda left Almora for Kedarnath and Badrikashrama on 5th September 1890. On reaching Karnaprayag, they were respectfully received by a doctor of the Government hospital. They found that the road to Kedarnath and Badrikashrama was closed by the Government. They waited for three days but seeing no sign of opening of the road in near future cancelled the plan of going to Badrikashrama and decided to move to Srinagar



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 161 Km

2. Rudraprayag:

On way to Srinagar, Swami Vivekananda and Swami Akhandananda stopped at Rudraprayag. They spent the first night in the ashrama of Swami Purnananda, a Bengali monk and then shifted to a nearby Dharamshala, where both of them fell sick. The Sadar Amin of Garhwal took care of them and arranged a Dandi for them to Srinagar.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 191 Km

3. Srinagar:

Swamiji with others reached Srinagar in early October 1890. At Srinagar, they lived in a hut on the banks of river Alakananda and came to know that Swami Turiyananda also had lived in the same hut earlier. They stayed at Srinagar for more than a month living on Madhukari.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 224 Km

4. Tehri:

From Srinagar they moved to Tehri by walk. At Tehri, they found two rooms in a deserted garden built specially for the wandering monks. Swamiji was very eager to find a suitable place for meditation. The Dewan of Tehri State had a hut built for them at Ganeshprayag, at the confluence of Ganga and Vilangana rivers. However, Swami Akhandananda had severe relapse of bronchitis and hence Swamiji changed the plans. After staying for 15 to 20 days in Tehri, he decided to move to the plains to Dehradun via Mussoorie.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 304 Km

5. Dehradun:

First visit in 1890 - Babu Raghunath Bhattacharya arranged for two ponies to carry Swami Vivekananda and Swami Akhandananda to Mussoorie. They reached Rajpur via Mussoorie where they were delighted to meet Swami Turiyananda. For treatment of Swami Akhandananda, they went down to Dehradun where they stayed for three weeks. Second visit in 1897 - Swamiji again came to Dehradun from Lahore in November 1897 when he stayed for a week and left Dehradun on 26th November for Saharanpur.



Distance from R. K. Kutir, Almora: 350 Km



“Great occasions rouse even the lowest of human beings to some kind of greatness, but he alone is the really great man whose character is great always, the same wherever he be.”

-Swami Vivekananda-



