

Gurdwara Tilla Jogian – a Forgotten Heritage

Tilla Jogian literally means the hill of saints or hill of Yogis. It is said that Yoga tradition started from here. It is located at 975 meters (3200ft) above sea level. It is about 15 km to the west of historical fort of Rohtas Fort (Dina, Jhelum) and from two historical Gurdwaras, one in the premises of Rohtas Fort (Gurdwara Mata Sahib Kaur Jee and other is outside of the fort (Gurdwara Choha Sahib Jee - Pehli Badshahi) that makes the region one of the top attractions for religious tourism. From its height of 3200 feet, you can see a panoramic view unparalleled in Pakistan, at least best one can have in Punjab.



For thousands of years it was a place of Sun Worship for the Hindus because the Sun can be seen here earlier and sets here later due to its height. So it became worship place not only for Hindus but also for Sikhs and later on for Muslim Jogis. Tradition holds that Tilla Jogian was founded 100 B.C. Tilla Jogian is place where the Kanpatha (pierced ears) Jogis, who pierced their earlobes, founded by Guru Gorakh Nath have left behind a monastery.

Tilla Jogian also finds mention in the epic love poem Heer Ranjha of Spiritual poet Waris Shah, and Ranjha spent his time on the rebound, sublimating his love & passion in the spiritual world, came here for consolation and got his ears ringed here as was the tradition of Guru Goraknath's followers.

For the Hindu and Sikh Punjabi there is another significance to Tilla Jogian as Guru Nanak Dev Jee spent 40 days in quiet seclusion of Tilla Jogian, Baba Guru Nanak, the founder of the Sikhism. The Sikhs in Ranjit Singh period made a stone pond here in his memory.

Apart from its historical beauty, Tilla Jogian offers the most serene and scenic beauty within Punjab – spending some hours on the top can produce immunity to handle worldly desires of today's life. A chairlift from the village of Bhait would be perfect way to make it most popular tourist resort in Punjab.