

Hee-Bermiok Heritage Tourism

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Tourist infrastructure builds up in Hee-Bermiok

In order to promote tourism in the richer concept of 'Heritage Tourism', Hee Bermiok Tourism Development and Heritage Conservation Society, West Sikkim has been making tremendous efforts. Working in line with the vision of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr Pawan Chamling and in consonance with the dynamic efforts of the Hon'ble area .M.L.A Shri K.N Subba, Hee Bermiok is fast developing as a new destination of Heritage Tourism.

The Society has been organizing "Heritage Festival" in the month of May every year as a regular feature since 2005. A lot of tourist infrastructures are underway which are directly being monitored by the area M.L.A with the assistance of this Society to ensure quality works viz. mountain cycling cum Trek route to Barsey(13 km under construction), Sirijunga Falls and the area around holy cave and box at Martam, a lake under construction at Hee-Kyangbari, traditional tourist huts the same place is maintained. A lot can be anticipated in the days to come. Thanks to the efforts of the Chief Minister, Tourism Department and M.L.A that such areas hitherto unexplored are on their way to reach the height of tourism activities well mobilizing the local stakeholders.

Sirijunga Phuku(cave),the Holy box and the Wadhan(Falls)

At about an hour's steep downward walk from Bermiok Bazar, are the Sirijunga Falls(Sirijunga Vadhan), Sirijunga Cave(Sirijunga Phuku) and the mysterious holy box, all located in the vicinity of each other situated at the confluence of Kalej and Reshi Khola. There is a village foot trail leading to these places one via Phagudara and the other via Martam village of Hee-Bermiok. The place is regarded as holy as the Mecca of the Muslims and Kashi or Gaya of the Hindus and Buddhists. This is visited by many believers of the Yuma Samyoreligion from all the world over. This place is recently developed and beautified and a waiting shed constructed by Tourism Department. This is of course, a potential tourism destination.

HERITAGE FESTIVAL:

Hee Bermiok Tourism Development & Heritage Conservation Society, West Sikkim has been organizing Tourist Festival on 'Heritage' concept in May every year since 2005. The main feature of this festival is to showcase the rich cultural, traditional, natural, ethnic and religious heritage of our society. Started on 2005 and organized as a part of Khanchendonga tourist festival, the Society continued this in May 2006, to make this festival a regular feature of the Society. The society without any financial assistance from the Tourism Department has been organizing this, through local community participation. The participation of local community, it has been felt, has greatly helped in mobilizing the local resource, human or otherwise, in the generation of

self employment through heritage tourism ventures. The main features of the festival celebrated hither to have been

- 1: Exhibition of traditional items of domestic use.
2. Exhibition of multi ethnic cultural dances belonging to all the ethnic communities of Sikkim.
- 3.Exhibition of Gumpa, Temple, Puranas, Tongsing worship of Limboos, the tradition diviners like Dhama, Jhakri, Bijuwa, Phedangma and cultures like –deonsi, balan, sangini etc.
4. Exhibition of Traditional huts and the traditional life style of the prople.
- 5.The exhibition of dhinki(traditional wooden husking machine),Jhato(stone grinder) traditional sugar extracting machine 'Kol'
6. Exhibition of traditional grain storage system, the extraction of mustard oil, the goat rearing shed etc.
7. Organising a mountain bike rally. This festival has been spectacular and it has been attracting above 300 tourists from home or abroad, each year.

PHENG DOJI FALLS

This is beautiful falls located in an isolated place at Hee-Gaun known as Pheng Doji Falls or Van Jhakri Falls. This falls is associated with the story of a 'Van Jhakri', the jungle is diviner believed to have been existing here. This place is soon going to be developed and beautified with an imaginary statue of the 'Van Jhakri' It is perhaps the mysterious Yeti, or ice-man ,long being talked of by modern science.

TREK-ROUTE

A trek route cum mountain biking trail is being constructed from Hee-Gaon to Barsey in a stretch of 19 Kms. The route, stone paved smoothly all along, is 6 ft wide. It passes through Hee-Farus to Barsey, a 19 km pleasant family trek or mountain biking trail. Once you reach you can't help enjoying it.

Sirijunga, Statue and the First Man-made lake of Sikkim at Hee-Kyangbari

A large man-made lake is under construction at Hee-Kyangbari, which will serve as a boatable lake to the tourists. Towards the bank of the lake is a beautiful traditional guest house, almost under completion and atop the lake on the hill, the biggest statue of incarnate Sirijunga is proposed to be constructed. The lake would reflect the statue of Sirijunga after the construction is completed. This place would really look very spectacular and would certainly seem a heaven drawn to earth.