

# PONG DAM

Dear Reader,

Experience the enchanting allure of Pong Dam, where breathtaking natural vistas and cultural treasures await. Explore the historic Dadasiba Temple, perched on the banks of the pristine Pong reservoir, where ancient legends intertwine with sacred rituals. As you immerse yourself in the spiritual ambiance of the temple, savor the tantalizing flavors of Himachali cuisine, renowned for its rich spices and hearty ingredients.

-Hemraj Bairwa

DC-Kangra & Chairman, Destination Management Committee, Pong Dam, Swadesh Darshan 2,0

## DADASIBA

Dadasiba is a village with preserved heritage known for beautiful Kangra paintings carved on walls of Radha Krishna Temple. The Radha Krishna Temple is surrounded by lush fields and mangroves bordered by the waters of Maharana Pratap Sagar, also called "Pong Dam".

The panels of images are in marble relief and have been delicately coloured. The sanctum sanctorum itself has barely an inch of space that has not been adorned with frescoes. Images bear various styles - Mughal, Sikh and various Pahari schools of paintings - find expression in assorted sections. The ceiling is also decorated with paintings.







The Dadasiba Fort is an abandoned fortress built in ancient times and showcases ancient architecture on beautifully carved arches.

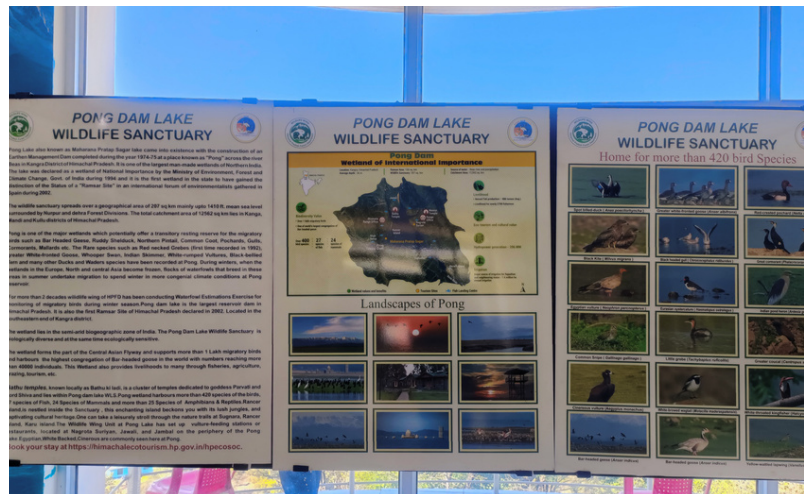
## PONG BIRD FESTIVAL- FEBRUARY 1 ST & 2ND 2024

The theme of the festival was to celebrate the legacy of birds in the manmade wetland destination.

A spot for the congregation of more than a hundred species of birds, the Pong Bird festival was an important event aimed at generating awareness, sensitization, and interest among the local youth. The aim was also to instill wider awareness among potential travelers and bird lovers.

Approximately around 400 people participated in the two day festival at Pong Dam Lake, Nagrota Surian Wildlife Sanctuary.

The event featured activities such as bird ringing, bird racing, bird talks, guided bird watching tours, and boating, alongside a cycle rally, a Kangra painting exhibition, a local cuisine fair, and a handicraft exhibition. The most seen species was that of Bar-Headed Geese, the world's highest flying migratory bird. Among other species that descended in large numbers were the Eurasian Coot, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Little Cormorant, and Common Pochard.







## CUISINES

The traditional cuisine of Himachal Pradesh is renowned in the villages and towns surrounding the Pong dam reservoir. Local delicacies such as pakoras, dal makhani, mash dal, mittha, and chana gosht are readily available and highly recommended. Additionally, dishes prepared with the exotic fish found in the lake are popular choices among visitors. While there are limited options for fine dining enthusiasts, exploring the local dishes and street food is a delightful culinary experience.

Dham, an integral part of Himachali culture, is served as a mid-day meal during celebrations such as weddings, birthdays, retirements, or religious occasions. The meal sequence typically begins with plain rice and a dal variant called moong dal. Following this, a bean-shaped pulse dish, known as rajma or black-eyed peas (madra), is served, followed by palda, khatta, maa ki dal, and concluding with meetha bhatt, signifying dessert.



Kangri Dham, a traditional meal, is exclusively prepared by botis. The elaborate preparation for this mid-day feast commences the evening prior. Brass utensils are typically utilized for cooking, and the meal is served in courses to guests seated on the floor. The food is presented on leaf plates known as patlu, locally. The Dham comprises fragrant plain rice, fried pulses or dal, a spicy vegetable curry made from red kidney beans, and an assortment of desserts to satiate one's palate.



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# SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0 UPDATES

## DMC Meeting (21/02/24)

The new Deputy Commissioner of Kangra District was given a detailed introduction about the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 project in his capacity as Chairman-Destination Management Committee - Pong Dam. Project deliverables and timelines were reviewed in detail.



## Joint Site Visit to Nangal chowk ( 22/02/24) :

A joint site visit of various departments was carried out for the identification of the land at Nangal chowk. Participating officials included:

- DFO ( WLD) Hamirpur Division
- Deputy Director (Tourism), Kangra
- Tehsildar (SDM Dehra – Revenue Department)
- HPPWD Dadasiba subdivision – Asst. Engineer and Junior Engineer
- Social media influencer
- Panchayat Secretary – Nangal Chowk
- Pradhan – Nangal chowk
- Locals and residents of villages
- Members from PDMC (JV of Voyants Solutions with iDeck)

