Dhankuta Municipality as a Capital of Avocado

Historic Background

Dhankuta is a very beautiful hilly city located at Mahabharat Hill Range of eastern Nepal. It was a powerful Eastern Development Regional headquarters of old political division of Nepal. Currently, it lies in State 1 of Nepal. The district headquarters of Dhankuta is also lies in this municipality. Looking back to its developmental phase, systematic human settlements in this area was started since 400 years ago. There is a stone inscription on a public platform called ‘Major Party’, located at Shirwani which is the base of HulakTole of Dhankuta -7. It was built by a person with Thapa caste in 1826 AD. During those days, there were settlements of Yesmali Magar.

Later on, a settlement of Newar people migrated from Bhadgaun was evolved. As Dhankuta got recognized as a strategic area in 1885, it has been an incredible hub of trade, transit and transportation for northern districts of Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung and Terathum.

Accommodating Chuliban, Dhankuta Bazar and Nigale, it was declared as Nagar Panchayat (City Council) by the then government on 16 December 1978. Dhankuta was declared as Eastern Regional Headquarters in fourth Five-Year plan of the government. Populated by multi-ethnic groups, this town has been a hub of its own typical tradition and indigenous identities.

These days, ethnic communities like Athpahariya, Newar, Brahmin, Chhetri, Rai, Limbu, Magar, Sherpa, Tamang, Damai, Kami, Sarki, among others, inhabit this town. After the success of historic People’s Movement of 1990, Dhankuta got recognized as municipality.

This municipality has two towns named Dhankuta and Hile. After the restructuring of local levels of Nepal in 2017, accommodating former Belhara and Bhirgaun Village Development Committees, this municipality, now, has 10 wards.
Description of Tourism Areas

Bhedetar Bajar

Located at an altitude of 1420 meter from the sea level, Dhankuta is a beautiful hill-station of Dhankuta. The central characteristic of the Bhedetar, officially located at Sangurigadh Rural Municipality of the district, is its volatile weather. Parts of plain Terai and tall peaks of the planet are clearly visible from this venue.

Distance: 16 kilometer north from Dharan Bazar
Situation of Roadways: Two-lane blacktopped track
Weather: Thick clothes are advised during Nepali months of Kartik to Falgun (Mid-October to Mid-February) as it is time of extreme cold. In other months, light sweater and windcheater are required.
Facilities:
- Tourist-class hotels and lodges
- Shopping of organic vegetables and fruits
- Medical outlets
- Police Post

Namaste Falls

Namaste Falls is situated at Sangurigadh Rural Municipality of Dhankuta district. Drive past Bhedetar, from a section of Koshi Highway, this falls is accessible in 10-15 minute-long walk from the main highway. This is crowded especially during summer season both by domestic and foreign travellers. Visitors enjoy this 80-meter-long falls by drenching themselves on the beautiful splashes of the falls. During sunny days, one can see a beautifully created rainbow after looking outside from inside falling waters.

Distance: 8 kilometer down from Bhedetar
Situation of Roadways: Two-lane blacktopped track
Weather: Best time for drenching is from Falgun to Ashok (Mid-February to Mid-September). In other months, it is suitable for picnicking.
Facilities:
- Medium level hotels and lodges
- Shopping of local agro products
- Organic food items

Mulghat, Dhankuta

Mulghat is the gateway to Dhankuta Municipality. This is an important point from touristic and religious point of view. Located on the Shore of Tamor River along the Koshi Highway, Mulghar lies in Dhankuta Municipality Ward Number 9 of the district. Tourists come here for visiting Bishrati Temple, organizing picnicking and for travelling around. Bishrati Temple is frequented by its devotees in times of Shrawan and Mahashivaratri. This is also a popular place for 1-day rafting route to Chatarra.

Distance: 35.3 kilometer away from Dharan
Situation of Roadways: Two-lane blacktopped track
Weather: Best time for travelling is from Falgun to Ashok (Mid-February to Mid-September).
Facilities:
- Medium-level hotels and lodges
- Shopping of locally grown fruits and vegetables
- Organic food
- Local fishes

Hile Bazar, Dhankuta

Hile is a second biggest bazar inside Dhankuta Municipality. It is some 13 kilometer away from Dhankuta bazar, Hile is a gateway town to go to hilly districts of Terahum, Sankhuwasabha and Bhojpur. Important both from touristic and transit point of view, Hile is a famous destination for summer-season travellers to escape baking sun. Bakrakunda temple and tea garden are very famous visiting hubs of Hile. Tongba(traditional beverage) and Sikut(fried meat). From Hile, one can reach to Pakhrribal Agricultural Research Center, Tinjure/Mike/Jaljalae, ChhintangBhagwatt temple.

Distance: 13 kilometers away from Dhankuta Bazar
Situation of Roadways: Two-lane black topped track
Weather: Tick cloth is recommended during Karik to Falgun (Mid-October to Mid-February). In rest of the months, thin sweater and windcheater is required.
Facilities:
- Medium-level hotels and lodges
- Locally produced fruits and green vegetables
- Typical foods
- Adequate health facilities
- Security post of Nepal army and Nepal Police
- Availability of educational and banking organizations

Dhankuta Bazar, Dhankuta

After driving through two-lane standard blacktopped track, one can reach Dhankuta Bazar. Based on climate and weather pattern, Dhankuta is one of the most beautiful livable places in Nepal. Dhankutahas its own significance and identity. Dhankuta Bazar carrying religious, cultural and historic significance of Nepal has its own typical taste of its organic products. Places like Salleri Ban, ChiblanDanda, GhumauaneChautari, Chuwabot Park, Avocado Park, among others, are must visit venues of this old bazar of eastern hills of Nepal. From religious perspectives, Nisan Bhagwat temple is a must-visit place of the bazar. Dhankuta, a bazar of multi-ethnic settlements, has a special area of Atpahariya Rai at ward number 8 of the municipality. They have their own typical tradition, culture and religion.

Distance: 52 kilometer away from Dharan
Situation of Roadways: Blacktopped two-lane track
Weather: All weather destination for travelling

Gifts from Dhankuta:
- Avocado
- Coconut biscuit
- Bamboo-built decorative items
- Hand-made Dhaka clothes
- Churpi(indigenous cheese) of Hile

Opportunity for Adventure Sports

- Taste flight of paragliding was successful from Dhankuta-7, Chulliban. The same venue is best place for takeoff and landing at Yachchana Ghat both for solo and tandem flights.
- Commercial rafting was successfully operated in between Yachchana Ghat to Mulghat of the municipality.

Description of local festivals, Jatra and fairs:

Dhankuta is inhabited by people of different caste, religion and costumes. Mostly populated by hill-origin Hindu faith-followers, Dhankuta also has population of Buddhism, Kirat, Islam and Christian. All castes and communities are in their own culture and tradition. festivals like Badha Dashain, Tihar, Ramnawami, Mahashivarati, Hariakal, Shripanchesha, Srikrishna Janmasthami, Vivahapanchami, Hol, Chaite Dashain, Saune and Maghe Sakranti, Matatirtha Ausi, Nagpanchami, Rakshyaabandhan(Janaipurnima), Kuse Ausi, Balachaturdashki, Kojagrast Purnima, Saraswathini Purnima, Udhauli-Ubbhaili, Sakela, Chhatt, Madhuganga Mela, Sitinak, Ghatakarnika, Gregorian New Year, Bakar Eid, Rama-dan, Christmas, among others, are celebrated in Dhankuta.