

9

A Sustainable Approach Towards Balancing Tourism Growth and Preservation in Uttarakhand, India

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This chapter critically evaluates the Uttarakhand, a state nestled in the scenic Himalayan mountains, renowned for its natural beauty and offering a diverse range of attractions. From snow-capped peaks and cascading waterfalls to sacred pilgrimage sites and vibrant cultural festivals, the region presents a rich and varied tourism experience. Tourism plays a crucial role in the economy of Uttarakhand; however, with the increasing influx of visitors, the challenge of promoting sustainable tourism while preserving the state's natural and cultural heritage has become more pronounced.

Introduction

The majestic Himalayan Mountain ranges' foothills are home to the pious state of Uttarakhand. Regarded as Devbhoomi (Land of Gods), the state has interstate boundaries with Himachal Pradesh in the west and northwest, Uttar Pradesh in the south, and international boundaries with Tibet (China) in the north and east. Within the state, Hindi, Garhwali, and Kumaoni are the most widely spoken tongues. Uttarakhand's climate and vegetation differ in accordance with its varied geographical features, which range from snow-capped Himalayan peaks in the north to tropical rainforest in the south. Formerly, known as Uttaranchal, the state was established in November 2000 through the division of Uttar Pradesh's thirteen hill districts.

The state is particularly well-known for its spiritual significance, housing several prominent pilgrimage sites, including the Char Dhams – Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, and Kedarnath – as well as the sacred cities of Haridwar and Rishikesh along the banks of the Ganges River. These religious landmarks