INTACH

Aizawl





A charming hill station, Aizawl is the largest city and the capital of Mizoram in North East India. This citadel-like city is situated 1132 metres or 3715 ft above sea level with the Tlawng river valley on its west and the Tuirial river valley to its east. Majority of the population consists of people from various Mizo tribes such as Chakmas, Reangs etc. A beautiful and breathtaking place, Aizawl is known for varieties of flowers, timber houses, craft products made from cane and bamboo, monuments and memorials connected with legends and folklores. This 112-year-old town is also the centre of many important government offices, the state assembly house and the civil secretariat. Called the 'Home of Highlanders', Aizawl has a rich cultural richness. Chapchar Kut, Min Kut, Pawl Kut festivals etc are hosted in the city and the famous dances are Cheraw or bamboo dance, Khuallam, Chheihlam, Chai, Sarlamkai etc.

History of Aizawl

It is believed about 300 years ago the Mizo people came from China and settled here. In the 18th century, it had an autocratic political system ruled by hereditary chieftains. In 1871-72, after the misconduct of Khalkom, a Mizo chief, British established an outpost that later became the Aizawl village. In the 1890s, the British annexed the Lushai Hills as the hills of Mizoram under the district of Assam. There was a tribal uprising in 1890. Robert McCabe, Deputy Commissioner of the Lakhimpur district, restored order and forced 15 tribal chiefs to surrender. After this incident, more troops were employed at Aizawl. There was another uprising which was put to an end by McCabe in 1892. The city was then made the headquarters of the 1st Assam Rifles. During March 1966, the Mizo National Front (MNF) took control of the city and restored peace during an uprising.

Natural Heritage of Aizawl





- **Phawngpui-** Literally meaning 'Blue Mountain' is located at a height of 2165 metres known for exotic flowers, orchids, medicinal herbs etc, it is preserved by the Government of Mizoram etc.
- **Lamsial Puk-** the cave is regarded as the testimony to a battle between two neighboring villages in which many died. The bodies of the fighters from village Lamsial are said to have kept in the cave.
- **Kungawrhi Puk-** situated on a hill between Farkawn and Vaphai Villages, according to the folktales, a beautiful young girl named Kungawrhi who was kept confined in the forlorn cave and was later rescued by her husband from the evil spirits.
- **Other attractions-** Durtlang Hills giving a good view of Aizawl, Tamdil, a natural lake surrounded by forests, Vantawng, the highest and most beautiful waterfall in Mizoram, Palak Lake, an oval shape natural lake, Tlawng River, Turial River Valley, Tamdil Lake, Chhimtuipui River, Khawnlung Wildlife Santuary etc.

Have you visited Mizoram? What according to you is the most fascinating aspect of Mizoram's cultural life?

Built Heritage of Aizawl...



- **Phulpui Grave-** the legend has it that the formation of the grave revolves around a love story of Zawlpala, the Chief of Phulpui village and girl named Talvungi of Thenzawl. When Zawlpala died, she could not take the shock and out of grief she dug a grave next to the one of Zawlpala and asked an old lady to kill her and burry in the grave.
- **Memorial of Chhingpui-** story has it that a beautiful lady, Chhingpuii who was born in an aristocratic family decided to marry Kaptluanga as her husband. But after a few years of her marriage, she was killed and after that Kaptluanga took his life.
- **Mizoram State Museum-** This museum is situated at Mc Donald Hill has an interesting collection of historical relics, ancient costumes, traditional implements etc.
- **Other attractions -** Bara Bazar sells traditional costumes etc, Luangmual Handicarfts Centre where you will also find Khumbeu, ceremonial hat made of waterproof wild hnahthial leaves.

Find out an interesting legend about a monument in your city or state.

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