

Nakki Lake, Location, Origin, Mythology, Importance

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Nakki Lake is a **famous lake located in the hill station of Mount Abu in Rajasthan**. It is known for its scenic beauty, religious importance, historical association, The lake lies in the Aravalli hills and attracts both pilgrims and tourists throughout the year.

Nakki Lake Location

Nakki Lake is situated in the hill station of Mount Abu in the state of Rajasthan.

- The lake is located at an altitude of more than 1,200 metres above sea level.
- It lies within the ancient **Aravalli Range**, one of the oldest mountain systems in the world.
- The lake is surrounded by rocky hills, dense forest patches, and natural cliff formations.
- It serves as the main water body of Mount Abu and is central to the geography of the region.
- Due to its high elevation and surrounding vegetation, the lake contributes to the formation of a cooler microclimate in an otherwise hot and arid region of Rajasthan.

Nakki Lake Origin, Formation and Mythological Belief

- Nakki Lake is widely **described as the first manmade lake in India**. It is believed that early inhabitants modified a natural depression in the landscape to create the lake.
- The primary purpose of its creation is understood to be water storage in a region that experiences dry climatic conditions.
- Nakki Lake is deeply associated with Hindu mythology and local folklore. It is believed that gods created the lake using their nails while escaping a demon named **Bashkali**. The act of digging the ground with nails is said to have led to the naming of the lake as “Nakh ki Jheel,” meaning a lake formed by nails.
- Over time, the pronunciation and usage of “Nakh ki Jheel” gradually evolved into the present name “Nakki Lake.”

Nakki Lake Cultural and Tribal Importance

Nakki Lake is also important for local tribes and culture.

- The **Garacia tribe of Rajasthan** considers the lake a sacred place. It is linked with their traditions of remembering and worshipping ancestors.
- During the Shukla Paksha festival in April, people perform rituals at the lake and symbolically offer their nails into the water as part of their religious practice.
- These customs show the close connection between nature and tribal beliefs, where the lake is not only a water body but also a place of faith and cultural identity.

Nakki Lake Historical Significance

The Nakki lake also holds national historical importance:

- The ashes of **Mahatma Gandhi** were immersed in this lake on 12 February 1948, soon after his assassination, marking it as a site of national remembrance and respect.
- To honour this event, a memorial known as **Gandhi Ghat** was constructed at the site.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/nakki-lake/>

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