



# TRIPURA SUNDARI TEMPLE

One of the most important and much venerated attractions of Tripura is the ancient temple of Matabari or Tripurasundari Temple. Tripura Sundari Temple is situated in Udaipur, the Gomati District headquarter & about 55 km from Agartala, and is believed to be one of the holiest Hindu shrines in this part of the country. This temple is popularly known as Matabari and is about 5 km from the main town of Udaipur. The temple consists of a square type sanctum with a conical dome. It was constructed by Maharaja Dhanya Manikya in 1501 A.D. There are two identical images of the same deity inside the temple. They are known as Tripura Sundari (5 feet high) and Chhotoma (2 feet high) in Tripura. The idol of Kali is worshiped at the temple of Tripura Sundari in the form of 'Soroshi'. One is made of kasti stone which is reddish black in colour. It is believed that the idol, Chhotoma was carried by the king in battlefield. Every year on Diwali, a famous Mela takes place near the temple which is visited by more than two lakh pilgrims.

Goddess Parvati is worshipped here as Tripurasundari, Tripureshwari and 'Soroshi'. The temple is a small, square edifice, measuring just 24 square feet (7 square metres) at the base with a height of 75 feet (24m approximately). The structure of the shrine resembles that of a tortoise, with a roof shaped like the humped back of a tortoise. For this reason, the shrine is also known as 'Koorma Peetha' (Koorma meaning tortoise). As in other typical Hindu shrines, stalls along the approach road sell flowers and baskets of offerings that visitors can buy and take up to be offered to Tripura Sundari and returned as Prasadam. A specialty here is the sweet, brown, condensed milk 'peda' that devotees carry back from the temple, to be distributed among family and friends back home. The red hibiscus flower is also prized as an offering.

## Kalyan Sagar:

Kalyan Sagar lies on the eastern side of the temple. Spreading over 6.4 acres, with a length of 224 yards and width of 160 yards this large expanse of water adds a dimension of great beauty to the temple precincts, with hills rising picturesquely in the background.

The water is full of tortoises, some of them quite large, that come up to the shore looking for crumbs of food that visitors buy at the nearby stalls to feed to these reptiles, as part of the rituals. Devotees feed them with 'muri' and

biscuits. Fishing is not permitted in the Kalyan Sagar. This big lake Kalyan Sagar below the Hillock at the back of the Temple adds to its beauty and is home to varieties of aqua species. The area of the Kalyan Sagar Lake is 2.752 acre. The lake is considered sacred and devotees worship the fishes and tortoises present here. Kalyan Sagar is famous for very rare species of tortoise in large numbers.

## How to Reach:

**Air** - The State Capital, Agartala is well connected by air with Delhi, Kolkata, Guwahati and Chennai. The M. B. B. Airport at Agartala is 67 km away from Tripura Sundari Temple or Matabari under Udaipur Sub-Division.

**Rail** - Tripura Sundari Temple or Matabari in Udaipur is connected by rail with Agartala. Udaipur Railway Station located at Khilpara under Gomati District is about 1 km from Matabari or Tripura Sundari Temple.

**Road** - Tripura Sundari Temple or Matabari in Udaipur is well connected by road with Agartala, the state capital of Tripura. It is 55 km from Agartala and located at Matabari under Gomati District. It takes about 1.5 hours by road from Nagerjala bus stand of Agartala. Luxury coaches both of private travel agencies and Public Sector Transport Corporation including tourist cabs and small cars ply on this road.

## Local Transport:

Tourist cabs and bus services are available to and from Agartala Airport to Matabari and also for local sightseeing. Tourist cabs are also arranged by Tourism Department at Agartala Airport Tourist Information Centre on hire for local transportation.

## Entry Formalities:

There are no entry formalities like Restricted Area Permit (RAP) or Inner Line Permit (ILP) to visit Tripura.

## Nearby Attraction:

Bhubaneswari Temple, Tepania Eco-Park, Shibbari, Gunabati Group of Temples, Jagannath Temple etc.

## Where to Stay:

Name of Hotel/ Guest House	Address	Contact details
Gomati Yatri Niwas	Udaipur Town, Hospital Road	03821-267939
Gunabati Tourist Lodge	Matabari, Udaipur	8794048572
Royal Inn	Near Ramesh Chowmohani, Udaipur	9856042427
Gouri Hotel and Guest House	Central Road, Udaipur	9862171764
Joygobinda Hotel and Guest House	Matabari, Udaipur	9862760499 9862480105

## Where to Eat:

1. Atithi Fast Food, New Town Road, Udaipur.
2. Gouri Hotel and Guest House, Central Road, Udaipur.
3. Rangamati Cafeteria, Jamtali, Udaipur.
4. Sagar Cafeteria, Matabari, Udaipur.
5. Gouri Hotel, Old Motor Stand, Udaipur.

## Shopping:

Purbasha (Govt. Emporium), Matabari, Big Bazar, Metro Bazar, New Town Road. For all kinds of marketing visitors may visit New Town Road.

