



"Tripura : Where Culture Meets Nature"



## Local Contact

### Administration:

1. District Magistrate and Collector, South Tripura District, Belonia, Ph-03823-222012.
2. Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Santirbazar, Ph-03823-272668.
3. Block Development Officer, Jolaibari, Ph-03823-263003.

### Police :

1. Superintendent of Police (SP), South Tripura District, Ph-02823-222218.
2. Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO), Santirbazar Ph-03823-272762.
3. Officer-in-charge, Santirbazar P.S., Santirbazar, Ph-03823-262231.

### Hospitals :

1. Chief Medical Officer, Santirbazar District Hospital, Santirbazar Ph- 8794880641.

### CORPORATE OFFICE

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# PILAK

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# Pilak Archaeological site



Pilak is a place of attraction for its archaeological wonder dating back to the 8th – 9th century. Many images and structures, belonging to Buddhist and Hindu sects, have been discovered here since 1927. The Pilak archaeological site represents a syncretic coexistence of Hinduism and Buddhism. Artefacts of Hinduism are in the form of sculptures and plaques of Hindu gods Shiva, Surya and Baishnabi. Large number of antiquities pertaining to the Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhism practices are found here. The site is strewn with a large number of terracotta plaques and statues. Huge stone sculptures of Avalokiteswara and Narasimha have been unearthed at the site.

Pilak site is located at Jolaibari, in South Tripura, and is spread over an area of about 10 square kilometres. It is 114 kilometres away from Agartala, 51 kilometres from Udaipur; Santibazar is 18 kilometres away, and 3 kilometres from Jolaibari. The sites excavated are in Shyam Sundar Tilla, Deb Bari, Thakurani Tilla, Balir Pathar, Basudeb Bari and others.

The archaeological site used to be a part of Samatata kingdom in historical Bengal. It is part of a series of archaeological sites that includes Mainamati and Somapura Mahavihara in Bangladesh. The earliest dates of the Hindu and Buddhist sculptures, terracotta plaques and seals found at this site are between the 8th and 9th centuries. The artefacts unearthed at the site bear the sculptural and architectural styles of the Palas and Guptas of Bengal, as well as that of the Arakan, Myanmar (earlier known as Burma) and of the indigenous tribes.

The inscribed terracotta seals found at Pilak depict the Buddhist Stupas of very small sizes. There is a cone shaped stone slab with an image of Buddha in an upright posture, dating back to the 8th century, and only the right arm of the image is seen while the left hand is holding the border of a vestment. An Ushnisha (a three-dimensional oval form) adorns the top of the head which has a 'close-curling hair' style, and a very small stupa is also engraved on the left part of the slab.

A sculpture of the 8th-9th century found here is that of Goddess Marichi, venerated by both Mahayana and Vajrayana Buddhists.

However, it is now an iconic idol which is installed in a Hindu temple known as Vasudev-badi. A sculpted sandstone statue from the site dating back to the 8th-9th century is of Chunda which is now revered as 'Raja Rajeshwari' in a temple at Muhuripur.

Even now one finds at Pilak, the images of Ganesha, Durga and Suriya etc. One Suriya image holding a lotus is of 10 feet height. There are terracotta images of Kinnars. Two bronze statues of Buddhas were discovered in Rishyamukh near Pilak. A number of hidden treasures have come out after further excavations have been taken up by the Archaeological Survey of India at Shyamsundar Tilla and Thakurani Tilla. Tourists are delighted to explore the history of this lovely destination. Thousands of visitors gather here during Pilak Festival held during the month of December. Buddhist tourists from Tibet, South East Asia and Japan often visit the place. The Dalai Lama of Mahayana Buddhism visited the site in 2007.

## 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 124 km away from Pilak in Santirbazar Sub-Division under South Tripura District.

**Rail** - Pilak archaeological site is connected by rail with Agartala. Nearest Railway Station is Jolaibari under South Tripura District which is about 2 km from Pilak.

**Road** - Pilak is well connected by road with Agartala through NH-8. It is 114 km from Agartala, 51 km from Udaipur, 18 km from Santirbazar and 3 km from Jolaibari located at Shyam Sundar and Thakurani Tilla at Jolaibari under South Tripura District. It takes about 2.15 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 cab and bus services are available to and from Agartala, Udaipur, and Jolaibari to Pilak 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 is no need of entry formalities like Restricted Area Permit (RAP) or Inner Line Permit (ILP) to visit Tripura.

## Nearby Attraction:

Shyam Sundar Tilla, Deb Bari, Thakurani Tilla, Balir Pathar, Basudeb Bari, Raja Rajeswar Temple, Muhuripur and Mahamuni.

## Where to Stay:

Name of Hotel/Guest House	Address	Contact Details
Pilak Tourist Lodge	Jolaibari	9862642130
Muhuri Tourist Lodge	Belonia	9436127759
Dakshinayan Tourist Lodge	Sabroom	9862905108

## Where to Eat:

1. Pilak Tourist Lodge.
2. Muhuri Tourist Lodge.

## Shopping:

Santirbazar Market.

