

6 Hike and Fly Routes Around Bir India

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Nestled in the Dhauladhar mountain range, Bir-Billing is globally renowned as a premier XC and Volbiv destination, offering a diverse array of flying lines—from easy to challenging—set against stunning landscapes at various altitudes.

For pilots seeking to enrich their adventure, the Bir region provides the perfect opportunity to explore on foot while still enjoying the thrill of flying. This guide highlights six top Hike&Fly routes in the area, designed for pilots who want to combine the flying with rewarding hikes. Each route boasts its own unique charm and, most importantly, offers a refreshing escape from the crowds that often gather at Billing's popular takeoff spot.

Route 1: Bir-Billing Vertical Kilometer

[Hiking Map](#) | [GPX File](#)

Elevation: 1021m

Distance: 5.1km

Duration: 1-2h

Hiking Start: Surya Hotel Bir

Takeoff Point: Billing

Takeoff Type: Grass

Takeoff Direction: East, West, South

Landing Options: Bir landing site

Advantages: Easy hike and easy takeoff. No driving is needed. Possible to fly with mini-wing. It is possible to take a taxi down if unflyable.

Disadvantages: Crowded Takeoff

Caution: None

Route 2: Chinnha Pass - Devdarh Forest House

[Hiking Map](#) | [GPX File](#)

Elevation: 535m

Distance: 3.69km

Duration: 1-2h

Hiking Start: Chinnha Pass (20min driving from Billing)

Takeoff Point: Devdarh Forest House

Takeoff Type: Grass

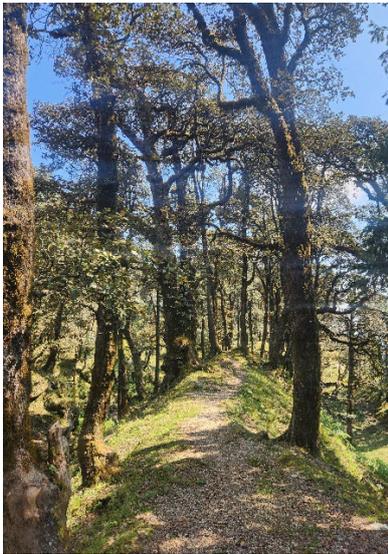
Takeoff Direction: South

Landing Options: Bir Landing site

Advantages: Possible to glide with a mini wing back to Bir. Great Camping site.

Disadvantages: Not ideal after raining -- the trail in the forest gets slippery. Although the takeoff name, don't expect to find a kiosk there.

Caution: None



Devdarh Forest Trail



The House (north side)



The Take Off (South face)

Route 3: Joginder Nagar up on the train tracks

[Hiking Map](#) | [GPX File](#)

Elevation: 1200m

Distance: 3.3km

Duration: 2-3h

Hiking Start: Joginder Nagar / Shanan

Takeoff Point: 2 Grassy patches: one 30m above the train station, the other is at the

Advantages: Cool hike straight up on the track line

Disadvantages: Steep ascent: if unflyable - walking down is a bitch. Not within a glide distance to Bir landing.

top of the hill 10min walk.

Takeoff Type: Grassy

Takeoff Direction: South-East

Landing Options: Glide to the rice fields of Chuntra / rice fields of Joginder Nagar / Bir Landing site (needs thermaling)

Caution: Watch out for the multiple cables around the station.



The Trail



1200 vertical meters on the tracks

Route 4: 360

[Hiking Map](#) | [GPX File](#)

Elevation: 250m

Distance: 4.3km

Duration: 1-2h

Hiking Start: Jhatingri pass (1h drive from Bir)

Takeoff Point: 360 Takeoff

Takeoff Type: Grassy

Takeoff Direction: South

Landing Options: Toplanding / 20km XC to Bir landing site

Advantages: Easy hike. Possible to extend hike along the ridge. Great for non-flyable days. It is possible to stay overnight at 360 camp.

Disadvantages: Limited landing options at the foot of the ridge.

Caution: Non

Route 5: Rising Star Hilltop

[Hiking Map](#) | [GPX File](#)

Elevation: 1400m

Distance: 5.1km

Duration: 2-3h

Hiking Start: Chhatair (2h driving from Bir)

Takeoff Point: Rising Star Hilltop

Takeoff Type: Grass

Takeoff Direction: East, South, West

Landing Options: Rice fields of Yol / 35km XC to Bir landing site

Advantages: Panoramic hike. Great Camping site.

Disadvantages: 2h driving from Bir

Caution: Landing in open/rice fields



Top of the hike south face



East Take Off

Route 6: Chamunda Devi Temple

[Hiking Map](#) | [GPX File](#)

Elevation: 1443m

Distance: 5.8km

Duration: 2-3h

Hiking Start: Kardiana (1.5h driving from Bir)

Takeoff Point: Chamunda Devi Temple

Takeoff Type: Grassy

Takeoff Direction: East, South, West

Landing Options: Rice fields of Yol / 30km XC to Bir landing site

Advantages: Panoramic hike. Great Camping site.

Disadvantages: None specified

Caution: Landing in open/rice fields



Top of the Hike and takeoff area

Tips / Guidance

How to read this guidebook?

Hiking Map | GPX File: Interactive map of the hiking part – can be used with Strava app though the GPX file can be uploaded to any navigation app

Elevation: Accumulate gaining vertical meters

Distance: Hiking distance in km

Duration: Estimated required time in hours, excluding stops

Hiking Start: Name of the start point of the hike

Takeoff Point: Name of the takeoff

Takeoff Type: The nature of the surface

Takeoff Direction: Possible directions of takeoff

Landing Options: Suggested landing

Advantages: Why this tour is awesome

Disadvantages: What is fucked-up about this tour

Caution: Pay attention

Map and Navigation

This guide is using Strava to navigate the hiking part of the tours. It is recommended to study the map on Strava's website or download FATMAP app prior to the hike:

<https://www.strava.com/maps>

Though India generally has good cellular coverage, some areas may lack connectivity. It's advised to download the route for offline use in advance.

Time Management

The estimated times on the map do not account for the time needed to locate the takeoff spot and prepare your gear. Add at least an extra 30 minutes for this.

Additionally, the estimated times do not include breaks. You should also allow time to hike back down in case flying is not possible.

Disclaimer

This is a basic guidebook for hike-and-fly tours, outlining only the key principles of each tour in bullet points. It assumes that users are experienced and autonomous paragliding pilots (and hikers) who can plan and execute their own adventures, especially in the Himalayan region.

Important: Always inform someone where you are starting your journey and when you expect to return.

This guide does not take any responsibility for your actions or safety. Do your own research and take full ownership of your decisions.

Weather Forecast and Other Sources

Weather Forecast: www.meteoblue.com

Wind Forecast: www.windy.com (I like ECMWF model)

Bir weather station: <https://ws.paraguide.in/>

Emergency numbers in India: 108 (from an Indian number). Radio emergency frequency: 144.500

Gear

Carrying 15kg of paragliding gear? Forget it. The tours listed here require "lightweight" paragliding gear. For each tour, you'll need to pack slightly differently, but the general rule is to go "light & fast." Otherwise, the required times are not feasible, and you will compromise your safety on the more delicate hikes.

Water sources are often not available and the temperatures can be high: ensure to carry enough water.

Seasons and Conditions

Pay attention to the seasons: October, November, April, and May are the best months for hiking. However, showers and strong gusts can develop quickly while hiking. Additionally, the takeoff spots can be covered with low clouds. Always be prepared to descend on foot if necessary, and ensure you have enough time to do so.