



# Sukhna Lake

golden hue of the dawn shimmers through its placid waters, a stream of joggers hurry along to savour the fresh morning air.

Others amble on the dew-wet grass, children frolic around, while a few others find time to meditate in tranquility. On weekends in winter, one can hear the melodious strains of the flute or classical rendering by famous musicians on its banks. As the golden orb emerges brightly from the Shivalik hill range, the morning crowd recedes and groups of students arrive to browse through their books under the shady trees. The afternoon attracts families on picnic and a siesta to complete their foray into the lap of nature.

### Activities

The evenings see Sukhna again come alive with tourists, and families thronging the promenade, the Chef Lakeview, Citco's fast food joint, shops and of course the jetty for a boat ride. For children there are a number of joy-rides and a mini train. As night descends, the lights from the hill resort of Kasauli reflect in the lake and present a bewitching sight.

### Lake Club

Sukhna has a membership based Lake Club with open lawns, a gym, indoor games, swimming pool and tennis courts with both synthetic and grass

courts. Boating, rowing, sculling, sailing, kayaking and water skiing can be enjoyed throughout the year. The Lake, which has been the venue for the Asian Rowing Championships, has the longest channel for rowing and yachting events in Asia. It also has facilities for other water sports like water surfing, skiing and skulling.

### Migratory Birds

Sukhna is a sanctuary for many exotic migratory birds like the Siberian duck, Storks and Cranes, during the winter months. The Lake has been declared as a protected national wetland by the Government of India.

### Musical Programmes

Sukhna Lake is the venue for many musical events too. Morning and evening musical programmes are held here during the Chandigarh Carnival, The New Year Festival and on other occasions.

### Other Facilities Available

Shikaras, Paddle Boats, Cycles for hire, Souvenirs etc.



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On the south eastern boundary of the city is the seasonal rivulet Sukhna choe. Water through it used to flow away in the rainy season. The planner of the city through his imagination, created a lake by obstructing the flow of rain water through the Sukhna Choe. A three and half km long dam was built to create a reservoir of water, now known as Sukhna Lake. People generally come here for a morning or evening walk. It has an eating place, children's park. It also has a facility for boating and rafting for the adventure seekers, a major hit with children and grown-ups alike. Water sports are an annual feature. It is now the hub of activity and is a place for families to spend quality time.

### Introduction

The creation of Lake was one of the greatest gifts from Le Corbusier and the Chief Engineer P L Verma to the city of Chandigarh. To preserve its tranquility Corbusier insisted that it be forbidden for motor boats at the top of the dam. The Lake is fringed by a Golf Course to the south, and Shri Nek Chand's famous Rock Garden of Chandigarh to its west.

Sukhna is an inseparable part of the city of Chandigarh. Le Corbusier had foreseen that the residents of the city would be drawn to it for the 'care of the body and spirit'. The planners of the city will be thrilled to find that this beautiful gift to the city has extended its attraction beyond its boundaries. The city planners were deeply attached to the lake. So much so that Pierre Jeanneret's ashes were immersed in the lake in 1970 as per his wishes .

### History

This 3 kms rainfed lake was created in 1958 by damming the Sukhna Choe, a seasonal stream coming down from the Shivalik Hills. Originally the seasonal flow entered the lake directly causing heavy siltation. To check the inflow of silt, land

measuring 25.42 km<sup>2</sup> was acquired in the catchment area and put under vegetation. In 1974, the Choe was diverted and made to bye-pass the lake completely, the lake being fed by three siltation pots, minimising the entry of silt into the lake itself.

### Close to Nature

Walking at Lake Promenade the roof of the 'bund' or dam, elegantly landscaped has become a favourite exercise for young and old alike. Serious 'walkers' pursue an exercise regime, families enjoy an evening stroll and nature lovers mingle with children on roller skates - to partake of this extraordinary amenity. Photographers and painters love to capture its scenic beauty of the setting sun, or the heavily clouded monsoon sky, or the early morning mist in winter set amidst the tranquility of the lake. Even anglers do not leave unrewarded.

The curvilinear profile of the promenade along the banks of Sukhna hums with activity from dawn to dusk, reflecting changing moods of the day. As the

