

MIZORAM AT A GLANCE

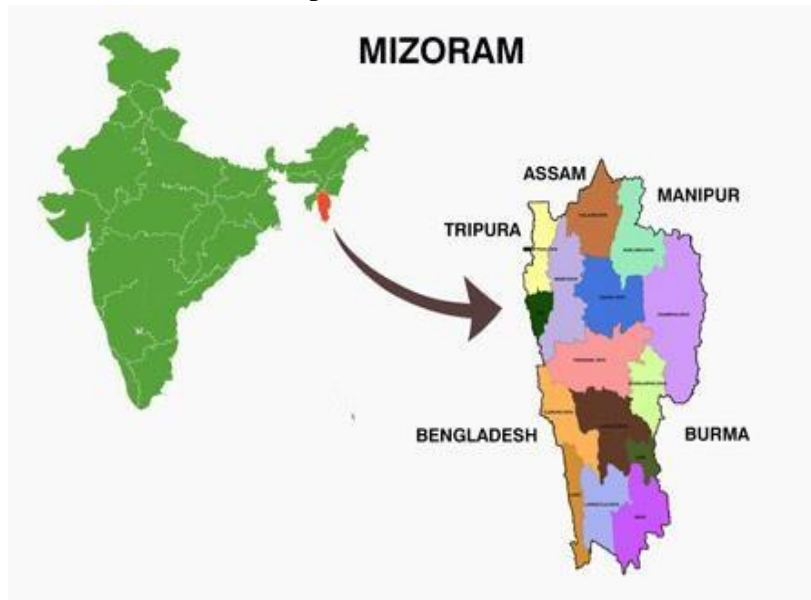
Introduction

Mizoram is a mountainous State at the Southern region of North-East India which shares its international boundaries with Bangladesh in the South and Myanmar in the East. It has beautiful landscapes covered with dense forests, bluish hills, lakes, rivers, caves, spectacular waterfalls, pristine flora and fauna, distinctive culture and tradition becomes a perfect landing place for nature admirers. The climate is pleasurable all round the year. The inhabitants- Mizos are friendly and obliging and English is widely spoken all over the State apart from the regional language. The development of accessibility throughout the State makes the trade routes with international borders easier. The State is one of the major contributors of bamboo in the country. It constitutes the highest percentage (84.41 percent) of bamboo forests covered in India with regards to geographical area. Mizoram holds the third position in literacy rate with 91.3 per cent and Serchhip District of Mizoram has the highest literacy rate in India. **Mizoram** is linked with the rest of the country by Air, Rail and Road Transport. NH-54 connects Aizawl with the rest of the country through Silchar. Buses and taxis are available from Silchar to Aizawl (6-8 hrs). Night services are also available.

Lengpui Airport (IATA: AJL, ICAO: VELP) (*Mizo: Lengpui Tumhmun*) is a domestic airport in [Aizawl](#), [Mizoram](#), [India](#). The airport is connected by flights to [Kolkata](#), Guwahati and [Imphal](#) and is located at a distance of 32 km from [Aizawl](#), the capital of [Mizoram](#). Lengpui Airport is the first large airport in the country to be built by the State Government.



Mizoram set forth Tourism as an 'Industry' on 18th March 1993 with a vision to obtain higher revenue. Being a young State, it is still striving to develop its infrastructure for tourism embellishment. Due to these circumstances, tourism started off late to be considered as a significant sector in order to boost the State's economy and exponential growth in employment. Nonetheless, the State government is trying to revamp its vital infrastructure to meet the forthcoming demand. In this regard, the Government of India has extended impartial financial assistance for tourism advancement in the State. The National Tourism Policy 2002 improved in channeling the tourism development in an efficient way and facilitated the Central Government and State Government to legislate tourism growth. Now the State has realized the importance of tourism for its economic development.



Mizoram declared its Tourism Policy in 2014 with the aim of promoting tourism with socio-economic, cultural and religious practices of the State. Tourism department has launched Ecotourism policy in 2017 and Mizoram Responsible Tourism Policy in 2020. The purpose of the State Government is to provide quality tourism in a sustainable manner and to encourage private sector to expand tourism related infrastructure without diminishing the ecology and environment. Activity-based tourism and unexplored potential destinations are being emphasis and tourist facilities and infrastructure are being developed in many parts of the State. Today, the tourism department has a total number of 68 hotels with 505 rooms, 41 registered Travel Agents and 8 Tour Operators are functioning in the state.

Figure 1. Map of Mizoram
TABLE 1.1

STATE WISE DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TOURIST VISITS, 2018

Number of Tourist Arrival in North East States					
Sl. No.	State	2018		Growth Rate Y-O-Y	
		Domestic	Foreign	Domestic	Foreign
1	Assam	5856282	36846	-3.24	69.33
2	Arunachal Pradesh	512436	7653	15.41	7.08
3	Manipur	176109	6391	14.76	82.76
4	Meghalaya	1198340	18114	20.94	50.31
5	Mizoram	76551	967	12.95	16.28
6	Nagaland	101588	5010	60.33	20.26
7	Tripura	9414388	102861	3.94	47.16
8	Sikkim	1426127	71172	3.65	44.92

Source: India Tourism Statistics, 2019

Table 1.1 provides the percentage shares and ranking of various States in domestic and foreign tourist visits during 2018 in North East States. Tripura received the highest number of domestic and foreign tourists during 2018 whereas Mizoram received the lowest number of foreign and domestic tourists respectively. All the other states have received lakh in number of arrivals. In terms of percentage share, Mizoram got the lowest ranking in foreign tourist arrival and second lowest in domestic tourist. This shows that there are lots of challenges in tourist inflow to the state. However, the State government has taken many initiatives for the tourism development in the State. During the year 2019-2020, the total number of tourist arrivals have increased by **161,677** with domestic tourist arrivals stood at **159,534** and foreign tourist arrivals at **2143**.

Places of Interests in Mizoram

The major tourist attractions offered to its tourists are beautiful places due to its spectacular landscape, pleasant climate and unique cultural and traditional practices. There are 11 districts in Mizoram and each districts have several tourist attractions with uniqueness of their own. Here is a list of the places to visit in Mizoram in district wise.

Tourist Attractions in Aizawl District:

Aizawl city is a beautiful place comprising of lush green belt, mountains and a cloud cover. Being the state capital, it is the political, cultural and commercial hub for everyone. The state is known for its indigenous Mizo population and famous for their craft work.

Hmuifang Tlang



The mountain range is located at elevation of about 1619 metres. It is covered with the old forest which is devoid of human activities which is having its existence from the times of Mizo chiefs. The range is famous for its tourism and picnic spree. The tourism spot at the peak also hosts a regular dance festival, i.e., *ThalfavangKut*. Various Mizo folk dance forms like *Cheraw*, *Sawlakai*, *Siktuithiang lam* and *Chheihlam* are showcased by the dancers here. Being the oldest untouched forest, it is a host of various rare and indigenous forms of orchids and wildlife specially birds.

Lungleng Lal In

The century old house is the residence of a famous Mizo chief, Mizo, *Khamliana Sailo* at Lungleng village. The reason of its popularity is because of its owner, the chief. He was a writer who wrote to the then colonial authorities about the situation of Mizo in the village, land rights, permissions to keep arms and several others. He was a writer with a straight forward voice of his words. The house itself was built back in 1918 with a tin roof. It is surrounded by lush green forest ideal for picnics. And it is truly feasible having about 30 kms distance from the city.

Typical Mizo Village- Falkawn



It represents the set up of a typical village life of Mizo. It depicts the lifestyle and culture of Mizo life. It typifies the Lusei village of the olden days. The centre is having a mini live-museum where *Zawlbuk* (Dormitory), *Lal In* (Chief's House), *Pum* (Blacksmiths) and other Mizo typical houses have been created. There are freedom fighter memorial stones and *Taitesena* commemoration stone. Due to its culture connectivity it has become a tourist spot gradually.

Sibuta Lung – Tachhip

Sibuta Lung is a gravestone situated at about 26kns of distance from *Aizawl*. It is of about 12 feet in height. The tombstone has been created in the memory of chief of Palian clan, *Sibuta Lung*. He was known for his cruelty he did towards his step mother. In *Khuangchawi* festival, a community feast as locally known, made his mother killed by a spear in the place of a bull *Mithun*. The act was a revenge sort to his step sister because of the same which she did to him in his younger days. Also, when this tombstone was erected, it was a telltale that, one alive slave was buried beneath it to remind of the cruelty towards *Sibuta*.

Tualvungi leh Zawlpala thlan – Phulpui

Another gravestone which is having its significance as a memoir of love story of *Tualvungi* and *Zawlpala*. Located at about 35 kms distance from the city at the top of *Phulpui* peak. The gravestone has inspired many to fall in true love. The story goes like, the couple was residing in the village a beautiful life when one fine day, *Phuntiha* a rich and powerful leader of a distant village was passing by. He became mesmerised by the beauty of *Tualvungi* and eventually asked *Zawlpala* regarding her. Due to lack of interest, *Zawlpala* told him that she is his sister. And this made *Phuntiha* ask him for his marriage proposal to her. At his *Zawlpala*, in zest, told him that it will be a big price including jewellery made of rare stones, valuable cloths, expensive beads, etc. In his thinking he was right enough to think that a stranger couldn't afford the price. But after few months *Phuntiha*, returned with the said assets to get married to *Tualvungi*. And ultimately *Zawlpala*, couldn't do anything else, and lost his beloved wife to *Phuntiha*.

Mizoram State Museum

The museum built in 1977 is an ethnographic museum with multipurpose collections on display. There are five galleries, i.e Textile, Ethnology, History, Anthropology, Natural History and Archaeology. The collection comprises in five floors. All the collections depict the vast culture of Mizo life. Several others like, tribal lifestyle, their housing, dress, weapons, tools, mode of transport, food styles, education, etc. is also shown though various artefacts in the museum. Various species of flora and fauna is also having some of the dedicated sections in the museum for display.

Solomon Temple



The Solomon Temple was constructed by Kohhran Thianghlim as 'The Holy Church' and later the whole church was relocated due to its inaccessibility and constructed by Dr. L.B. Sailo in 1984. The temple area is vastly built on the area of about 180 ft. on each side built in a square shape. Temple consists of prayer space, restaurant for visitors, parks and some of the educational space has also been in plan. The temple is made of white pristine marble giving it a soothing feel in summers.

Tourist Attractions in Lunglei District:

Lunglei town is the second largest town after Aizawl. Lunglei means, 'bridge of rock' and got its name from a bridge like rock found in the riverine area around Nghasih, a small tributary of Tlawng, the longest river in Mizoram. There are various places in the district for tourism attractions which are:

Darkhuang Tlang – Pukpui

DarkhuangTlang is a place which is worshipped and known for prayer rituals. It's literal meaning is Gong Mountain located in *Pukpui* village. There is a famous story behind it. There was a prophet named, *Darphawka*, a Mizo prophet of late nineteenth century. He used to communicate with spirits and used to tell about the future events. He also told about Christian missionaries and their arrival. At that time Mizos were unaware about the religion. A prayer house has been constructed at the peak for visitors.

Kristian Hmasate Thlanmual - Theiriat

Better known as cemetery of early Christians. A Khasi officer who used to supervise the construction of Aizawl-Lunglei bridle path converted some Mizo labourers and formed a village by 1900 in *Theiriat*. As many as 40 families came at the village and set up a Christian village. Later when missionaries arrived at the place, better future prospects came into life of the families who were converted, like formal education was introduced. Conversion to Christianity also led to engravement of Christian versus from Bible on the gravestones of labourers in English.

Bungalow of Pioneer Missionaries

The bungalow was constructed in 1903 in Serkawn, Lunglei. Therefore, becomes the oldest building in Mizoram. The bungalow was constructed by Rev. J.H. Lorrain (elder brother of Rev. R.A. Lorrain) and Rev. F.W. Savidge also known as Pu Buanga and Sap Upa respectively. These two pioneer missionaries from Welsh, came to Mizoram in 1894 and establish a Presbyterian Church mission in Aizawl. The establishment of church led to

learning of local dialect, formation of Mizo alphabet in Roman script, compilation of Mizo-English dictionary and translation of Bible and hymns.

Thangliana Lung – Tlabung



A memorial dedicated to a courageous army man, Captain T H Lewin a Britisher. He was known by Mizos as, ‘A man of great fame’. He was known for his bravery when he get signed a peace treaty between the then Mizo chief of that time of Rothangpuia of Thangluah clan. He also had to shift his headquarter from Rangamati to Tlabung.

Lungding - Rualalung

In Mizo, Lungding is called as, ‘The stone that stands upright’. It is the natural landmark created by rock and hard soil of about 60 ft. in height and 120 ft in girth at the base and tapers to a small flat top of about 20 sq. ft. Being the place of worship to witnessing the night vigils by Rualalung village warriors, still the place is covered from vegetation and adding to the scenic beauty.

Lung Milem

Three statues of persons in Buddhists’ meditational pose have been carved on rocks. Local people call them, ‘Stone figures’ or Lung Milem. Their creation is unknown till date and no other relics related to Buddhism were found elsewhere in the state.

Tourist Attractions in Siaha District:

Siaha is the southernmost tip of the state. It shares its borders with Myanmar from east and south sides. It is the Headquarters of the Mara Autonomous District Council, one of the three autonomous district councils within Mizoram. Tourist places in Siaha district are highlighted below:

Palak Lake



It is the largest natural lake in Mizoram. It is oval in shape and covers about 1 sq km area surrounded by rich flora and fauna. The formation of lake has its story. It is said that there used to be a village in the place of lake at very long time back. And there used to be a serpent around the village. Earlier it used pick eatables, but when it came to picking up of children for food. Then the villagers formed a bait and killed the serpent. The body was divided and distributed in the village. A widow living with her two children got its head. When she was cooking the head, the eyes of the dead serpent began to blink and the lady threw away the vessel and ran from her home outside. The moment she started running and soon the water followed her footsteps. And the whole village submerged under water soon. And this formed the wide lake called as Palak Dil.

Castle of Beino (Kolodyne)

The castle is the beauty of nature and a geological marvel. Set in the pristine river of Koladyne, Castle of Beino is a sprawling alley of rocks about 10 metres high on both sides of the river. It is said that the River Queen of Spirits inhabits the place acting as an ombudsman. This nature's beauty needs to be explored and the beauty needs to be described.

Tokalo Wildlife Sanctuary

It is the second largest wildlife sanctuary in the State. It is spread in the area of about 250 sq. km. it's been declared a wildlife sanctuary in the year 2007, comprising of various breeds of mammals, birds, amphibians and reptiles. It is also having a rich variety of butterflies. It also is a host to moist deciduous and semi-evergreen forest.

Tourist Attractions in Champhai District:

Champhai is a bustling commercial district. Surrounded by Myanmar border which offers tourist a various tourist attractions. It offers a wide variety of cash crops like, rice, kiwi plantation, vineyards, passion fruit, etc. It is also known a rice bowl of the state. The marketplace offers a wide variety of imported goods too in the form of electronics, cloths, household items, cosmetics, etc. Though, custom penalty is also there to stop excess bargain at counters. Tourist places in Champhai district are mentioned below:

Kungawrhi Puk (Cave)

KungawrhiPuk is one of the most significant and largest cave in Mizoram. The cave is located between Farkawn and Vaphai villages. There is a legend behind the name of the cave. According to villagers spirits used to reside in the caves. And they used to abduct people who pass by the caves. There was a beautiful girl named Kungawrhi who was getting married to Panthira. When they were crossing the cave, some spirits abducted the girl and her groom came to her rescue and won the battle. Then the caves were named after Kungawrhi.

Ṭiau Lui (River)

The legendary river Tiau is between the international boundary of India and Myanmar. The river being the juncture between two international places offers a wide variety of imported goods.

Mangkhaia Lung

These are some of the stones in series having engravings of human figures, animals and birds. According to the local belief, these engravings act as guardians of the dead.

Lianchhiari Lunglen Tlang



This is a cliff hanging loosely hanging from the rugged mountain. It is a legend behind the cliff that Lianchhiari use to lookout for her lover Chawngfianga from the cliff. Undoubtedly, it raised to many folklores and sweet love stories.

Ṭhasiama Se No Neihna

The steep rugged hillock which is not even walkable and navigable by man is located at Vaphai village. According to one of the legend, Thasiama's Mithun gave birth to a calf on the hillock. It was considered that the Thasiama was in love with a fairy and it bestowed a gift upon her that her calf will multiply and there will be no sorrows afterwards. So, Thasiama gave birth to her calf on the hillock to save it from wild animals and being hunted down.

Fiara Tui

Fiara Tui was believed that there lived a widow and her son Fiara. They used to cover long distances for fetching drinking water. In one of the instance, Fiara, happened to find out source of clear water, suitable enough for drinking purpose under stone. He kept it a secret but some of the villagers found it and felt relieved. As the water was sweet, clean and fit for drinking purpose. And hence it was named after Fiara.

Kawtchhuah Ropui -Vangchia

Kawtchhuah Ropui (Great Entranceway) a natural heritage site marked with 171 carved stones. It is located at Khawbung. The 171 menhir stones in the village became Mizoram's first protected archaeological site in 2012.

HlaKungpuiMual (Mizo Poet's Square)

Mizo Hlakungpui Mual is a monument which was set up in 1986. It was built to commemorate Mizo poets, writers and composers. After the interval of ten years Mizo

laureate poets and writers were given a place at the monument. About 36 known writers and poets of Mizo culture have got their place here so far.

Murlen National Park



Murleen National Park is known for its virgin forests, sub-mountain forests, honeycombs, bird watching. Situated at Indo-Myanmar boundary of Champhai district is known for being one of the few remaining features of refuges of Mizoram state bird, *Vavu* (Mrs Hume's Pheasant).

Lamsial Puk (Cave)

The cave is situated in the north of Farkawn district. The cave is of about nine metres in length. It is known for a wooden box of about cubic metre, placed inside the cave, comprising of human bones. There are also Mizo shawls, 'Chawgnak', which act as a cover of these skeletal remains. These bones are supposed to be about 300 hundred years old.

Champhai Winery

The Hnahlan Grape Winery (HGW) was established in 2007 and it serves as the first for Mizoram.. The first wine was released in 2010 by the name of Zawलाई which means Love Potion. This is a lovely place for wine testing.



Lungphun Lian

It is named after a large monolith found in the vicinity. The stone is uneven in shape and of about 13 and half feet in height, 6 and a half in breadth and 2 ft in thickness. Lungphun Lian itself means, 'A large monolith'.

Lengteng Wildlife Sanctuary

The sanctuary is located at the second highest mountain with a height of about seven thousand feet. It occupies sub-tropical broad leaf and tropical evergreen forest. Various other plantation of rhododendrons and cherry are also there.

Rih Dil (Rih Lake) near Myanmar Border

The lake is situated at the border of Mizoram and Myanmar. Still at boundary and being the centre point of dispute, it is open for tourism activities at both the places with special permissions. There is a tribal folklore associated with the lake is that, the lake offers a resting place for dead soul before they pass to afterlife.

Tourist Attractions in Lawngtlai District:

Phawngpui Tlang (Blue Mountain) National Park

Phawngpui is the highest peak in Mizoram and it covers an area of 50 sq km. Better known as Blue Mountain is situated near the south eastern border of Myanmar. The height of the peak of about 2157metres. Availability of plenty of flora and fauna makes it a good place for study, bird watching activity, excursions, picnic spot, adventures like trekking, and various other activities which could influence tourism in their own sense.

Tialpari Puk

The cave is located on the south eastern part of Phawngpui mountain. According to a legendary story, Tialpari was a girl who was in love with a warrior named Dopawrha. And her parents wanted her to get married to a chief of a distant village. Because her lover was away from the village she ran away from her home and took hiding place in the cave. The villagers indeed found her, but didn't reported her and instead provided her necessities like food and waited for her lover to come and rescue her. He finally came and they both got married.

Ngengpui Wildlife Sanctuary

The sanctuary comprises of deciduous and tropical green forests. It is home to elephants, gaurs and other mammals and a great variety of primates. It is also rich in birdlife including peacock pheasant, pigeons and hornbills.

Tourist Attractions in Serchhip District:

Serchhip is the land of paragliders. It has also topped the list of highest literacy record in India. The district attracts tourists due to its diverse tourism attractions which are:

MZP Puk - Ngentiang

A cave named after the Mizo Zirlai Pawl (MZP), a student organisation following its discovery by student explorers in 1980, MZP Puk is located near Ngentiang village. The length of about 220 metres (725 ft) which makes it the longest cave in Mizoram.

Paragliding Spots, Serchhip



As described the place of adventure and sports, the paragliding is the main attraction which attracts youth and tourists to the place. It also hosted International Paragliding Accuracy Championship, 2020.

Lungkhawdur - Vanchengpui

It means, 'Cloudy Stone', Lungkhawdur is located near Vanchengpui village. There are some embossed elliptical shapes on the surface of this large flat stone resembling to the formation of clouds. Till date it is unidentified that whether it is man-made or natural.

Tuilut - Ngentiang

Tuilut is a sinkhole found near MZP Puk. It is a large crack on a rocky ground where a stream called Pherpui flows in without any known outlet, which till today remains a mystery. The sinkhole has a vertical drop of about 40 ft from the mouth, and then inclined slightly and can be explored up to a length of about 213 metres.

Vantawngkhawthla

The water falls were named after a swimmer, Vantawnga. He was a good swimmer and can swim almost like a fish. But during one of his acts, a log fell down and it hit him badly and he died.

North Vanlaiphai

N. Vanlaiphai is the village having its mention in history of World War II. It was the only village being attacked by the Japanese fighter planes. Because of a hospital made by Britishers and it was attacked and targeted due to its quarter facility for doctors too. The building still having the bomb craters, and shells of bombs.

Khuaikham- Ngentiang Village

This mountain cliff is home to wild bees which are very large in numbers. For this reason this mountain cliff is commonly known as “Bees Cliff” meaning “Khuai Kham” in Mizo. These bees produce large quantities of honey.

Deer Park, Thenzawl

The park offers a variety of deers of different breeds in their natural settings. As it is situated nearby the village, tourists can easily walk around the park anytime.

Tuirihiau Falls

The falls are near Thenzawl village. The water automatically stops for a minute and a pathway becomes visible for a minute to Chawngchilhi Puk(cave). It is about a minute walk to the cave too. This astonishing natural scenario needs to be explored and witnessed.



Thenzawl Golf Resort

The Ministry of Tourism has developed the place in order to enhance golf as a sport and also to cater tourism attraction to Thenzawl Golf resort.



Tourist Attractions in Hnahthial District

Khawnglung Wildlife Sanctuary

With sheer cliffs on all sides the mountain has always been a natural shelter for man and animal for ages. Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 2000, Khawnglung covers an area of 35 sq.km and is rich in flora and fauna, particularly primates and birds. It however requires trekking for about 10 km to reach the sanctuary.

Phunhnawma Lungpui – Lungpui Tlang

It is a large rock with a dimension of about 60 metres and a height of roughly 26.60 metres. Situated on the top of a breezy hill with an altitude of 5058 ft. Legend has it that it was discovered during a hunting trip by Phunhnawma, chief of Cheural village. During one of his hunting spree, he met fairy guardians of the rock and they strike a deal with him. He should get them a cock and they will bless them with a large hunting of animals of his choice. He did the same and the fairies kept their word. Later on Phunhnawma was known around as famous hunter.

Ui Lung – Ngharchhip

Ui Lung offers view of large monoliths with carvings of animal heads, human figures with spears and weapons and gongs. The monoliths are considered to be around 1800 years old.

Tourist Attractions in Khawzawl District:

Chawngtlai Historical Village

The village has derived its name from its flower called as Chawngtlai, which is abundant in nature but a beautiful creation of nature. Village inhabitants are trying their best to make their village a flower village. It also offers a site for artefacts, historical relics, and monuments. One of the interesting place to visit is Lungsen, a red coloured rock which is believed to be tells fortune.

Tourist Attractions in Mamit District:

The district of Mamit lies in the North Western part of Mizoram. Majority of the tribes inhabiting the district comprises of Mizo, Reang (Bru) and Chakma.

Reiek



The mountain offers a range of caves and caverns with anatural forest preserved since the days of ancient Mizo chiefs. The rocky cliffs of the range gives it a spectacular view from the bottom.

Khuangchera Puk

Khuangchera Puk is a cave located in Ailawng near Reiek village. The cave is named after Khuangchera, the legendary Mizo warrior who used to live here in the late 19th century. The vertical range of the cave is 10 metre deep Khuangchera Puk is an ideal adventure sports.

Dampa Tiger Reserve



As the name suggests, the bio reserve is a place for tigers specially, then hornbills, wood pigeons, jungle fowls, pheasants, etc. Dampa Tiger reserve hosts a wide variety of avifauna. It is the largest wildlife sanctuary in Mizoram, built in the area of about 500 sq.km.

Puk Zing

Puk Zing is a cave with narrow passages and having the large interiors which makes the voice echo around. It is also called as, 'The Cave of Shouting Stone'. It comprises of three sections and each about 4 sq.km, connected with narrow passages. According to a legend, villagers used to hear voices from the cave.

Tourist Attractions in Kolasib District:

The district offers a wide variety of local sports and adventure activities. It is still unexplored spaces which can be used for tourism attraction. Kolasib is having the only one rail centre, i.e., Bairabi.

Serlui B Lake



The lake is perfect for picnic spot and is about an hour drive from Kolasib town. Tourist attractions like water sport facilities are in the pipeline here. And also the eco-tourism will be encouraged.

Bak Puk

Some of the caves in Mizoram are still unexplored. BakPuk is one of them. It is located at Project Veng in Kolasib district. With its narrow entrance and mainly drawing rainwater and almost having no outlet, it is believed that it is built on the top of underground lake.

Tourist Attractions in Saitual District:

Tam Dil

A reservoir lake which means A mustard plant lake. The nearest town is Saitual. Being the reservoir lake its prevention and is the big responsibility and hence restricted tourism is practiced near the spot.



