

Hiking Trail Guide

Batadana — Sattu Bungalow Trail · Abbottabad



AT A GLANCE

DIFFICULTY
EASY – MODERATE

NAME & LOCATION

Batadana — Sattu Bungalow · Thandiani Forest Range, Abbottabad

DIFFICULTY

Easy to Moderate

TOTAL DISTANCE

~9 km (approx.)

START / FINISH

Jhala to Sattu Bungalow

SHORT ROUTE

Batadana village · ~5 km

ELEVATION · SATTU BUNGALOW

~2,893 m · 9,500 ft

ROAD FROM ABBOTTABAD

27.6 km · ~46 min drive

TRAIL TYPE

Forest · Nature · Hiking

WATER

2+ springs · water tank

HIGHLIGHTS

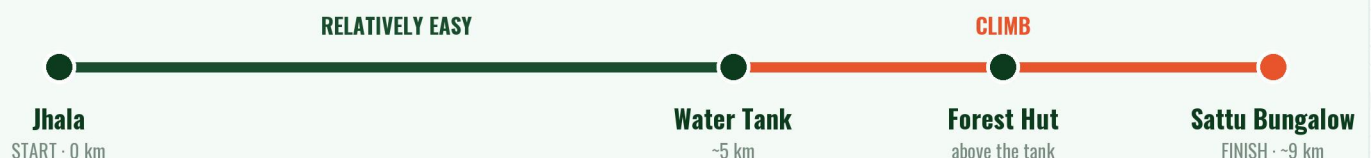
Dense forest · viewpoints

HERITAGE

Old British-era rest house

ROUTE PROFILE

Jhala to Sattu Bungalow · schematic, not to scale



• Short route: from Batadana village, ~5 km

The Route & Trail Notes

ON THE TRAIL



ABOUT THE TRAIL

A forest trail from Jhala up to the historic Sattu Bungalow. The first ~5 km to the water tank is relatively easy; the climb starts after it. Viewpoints look out to the Kashmir-side ranges and the Siran Valley.

~9 km

TOTAL DISTANCE

~5 km

EASY FIRST STRETCH

2+

NATURAL SPRINGS

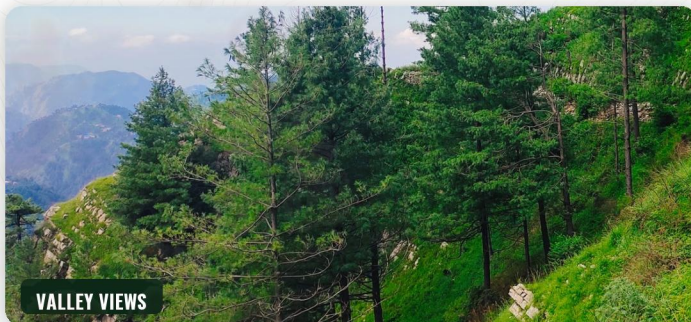
27.6 km

FROM ABBOTTABAD

THROUGH DENSE FOREST



VALLEY VIEWS



LEAVE NO TRACE

Carry all litter back, cut down on plastic, don't harm trees or wildlife, and never light unsafe fires in the forest.

PROTECT THE SPRINGS

Natural springs are this trail's most valuable asset. Keep them clean and leave no waste near the water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO HERE

• Hiking

• Nature Walks

• Bird Watching

• Photography

• Forest Recreation

• Eco-Tourism

• Controlled Camping

SATTU BUNGALOW



SATTU BUNGALOW



SUNSET AT SATTU BUNGALOW



Trail distances: RHCP concept note (approx.) · Elevation: Sattu Bungalow, per RHCP
Road: OSRM, Abbottabad city to Thandiani · Trailhead (Jhala) is not on public maps

Detailed Information

Batadana — Sattu Bungalow Trail: full details from the concept note for sustainable tourism & trail development

- Eco-Tourism
- Hiking
- Forest Recreation
- Community-Based Tourism (CBT)

1 INTRODUCTION TO SATTU BUNGALOW

ABOUT SATTU BUNGALOW

- British-era (c. 1890s) Victorian forest rest house at ~2,893 m (9,500 ft), Thandiani Forest Range, between Abbottabad and Galiyat.
- Name, most accepted: "Sattu" is the local word for the high, roof-like ridge it was built on.
- Name, popular belief: the seventh British forest bungalow, "Satwan Bangla", worn down to "Sattu Bangla".
- Views: panoramic Pir Panjal range and the snow-capped mountains of Kashmir.

Nestled within the dense Thandiani Forest Range at an elevation of approximately 2,893 meters (9,500 feet) above sea level, Sattu Bungalow is an ancient, picturesque British-era forest rest house built in classic Victorian architecture.



HISTORY & ORIGIN OF THE NAME

Various theories exist regarding the origin of the name "Sattu." While "Sattu" in common Urdu/Hindi refers to a traditional barley-based drink, the location has no historical connection to it.

High / Elevated Ridge

Most authentic origin

According to local tradition and historical accounts, when the bungalow was constructed during the British colonial era (around the 1890s), a high peak or flat ridge was chosen. In the local dialect, such a roof-like high plateau was referred to as Sattu.

The Seventh Bungalow Theory

Popular belief

Among the series of forest inspection bungalows constructed by the British administration across these mountain ranges, this was built at position number seven — hence named Satwan Bangla (Seventh Bungalow), which gradually evolved into Sattu Bangla over time in the local dialect.

Secondary Theory

Minor opinion

The name is a local corruption of a British officer's name, though the high-ridge theory remains the most historically supported.

A NOTE ON ITS HISTORY

Further documentary research into its history could be carried out through the relevant department or experts.

OVERVIEW OF THE LOCATION

Located between Abbottabad and the Galiyat region, this serene retreat offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Pir Panjal range and the snow-capped mountains of Kashmir. It stands as a historic landmark and a favored haven for nature lovers and hikers alike.

THE TRAIL GUIDE

Multiple scenic routes lead to Sattu Bungalow, passing through dense pine forests and pristine natural landscapes. Detailed guide information for one of the most popular and scenic trekking routes is provided below.

2 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The roughly 9 km natural forest path from Batadana to Sattu Bungalow lies in a beautiful and relatively little-known part of the Abbottabad / Thandiani Forest Range.

The trail offers dense forest, natural springs, a water tank, natural viewpoints, mountain scenery and access to the historically significant Sattu Bungalow.

Given its existing natural features and suitable terrain, the area has the potential to be developed as a low-impact eco-tourism and hiking destination.

CORE AIM OF THE PROPOSAL

Rather than a large construction project, make the existing natural path safe, clear, accessible and visitor-friendly with minimal environmental intervention.

In the initial phase, the trail entrance, signage, trail marking, cleaning, protection of the natural springs and viewpoints, and basic safety information can be provided.

BACKGROUND

Hazara Division, particularly Abbottabad, Thandiani and the Galiyat, has notable tourism potential thanks to its natural forests, high mountain areas, historic sites and natural scenery.

However, many beautiful natural paths still lack formal trail management, signage and basic visitor facilities. The Batadana — Sattu Bungalow trail is one of them, and with proper planning it can become an organised hiking and

eco-tourism route.

3 THE ROUTE — STEP BY STEP

- 1 **Start: Jhala**
The trail starts at Jhala. The concept note proposes an eco-friendly entrance gate here.
- 2 **First stretch: to the water tank**
Roughly the first 5 km, up to the water tank, is relatively easy and accessible.
- 3 **The climb & the Forest Hut**
After the water tank the climb begins. The upper section has a Forest Hut that could in future serve as a rest point or a controlled camping facility.
- 4 **Finish: Sattu Bungalow**
The trail ends at the historic Sattu Bungalow. Total distance is about 9 km.



Alternative access — short route

A shorter hiking route of about 5 km also starts from Batadana village.



4 WATER, TERRAIN, DIFFICULTY & VIEWS

Water sources

The trail has at least two natural springs and one water tank.

Terrain & difficulty

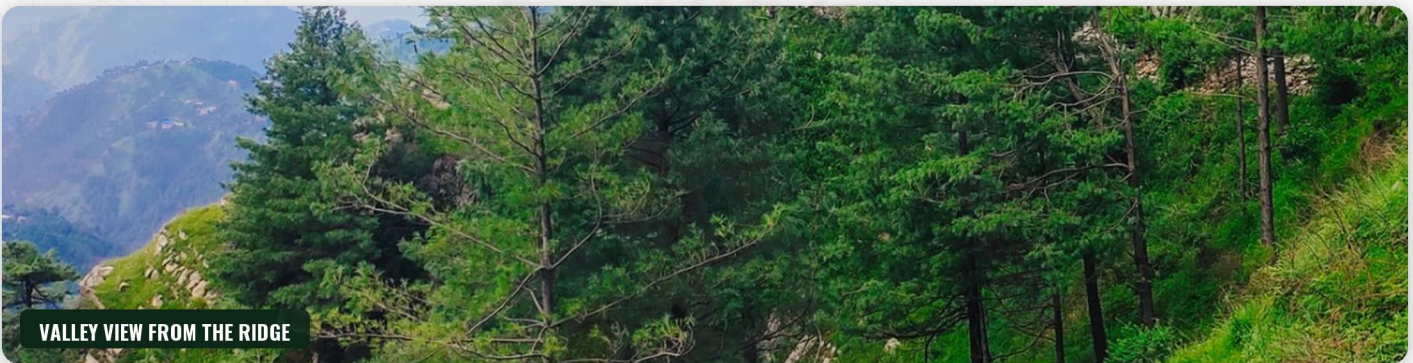
Difficulty: easy to moderate. Type: forest, nature and hiking trail. First stretch relatively easy; the climb starts after the tank.

Scenery

Natural viewpoints along the trail look out over Batadana, the mountain ranges towards Kashmir and the mountains of the Siran Valley.

Key natural features

Dense forest, natural springs and natural viewpoints.



FIGURES — SOURCES

Elevation ~2,893 m (9,500 ft) is for Sattu Bungalow, per RHCP; Jhala, Batadana and Sattu Bungalow are not on public maps. Road distance from Abbottabad city to Thandiani: 27.6 km, about 46 min (OSRM). Trail distances (9 km and 5 km) are approximate, per the concept note.

5 SAFETY & ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES

According to the concept note, the trail's current condition is:

- Safety and environmental information for hikers is not yet available.
- The trail entrance is not clearly identified, directional signage is limited and there are no distance markers.
- Routes at junctions need clear marking.
- In places, bushes and vegetation narrow the path, and some sections are slippery and hazardous.
- Viewpoints need basic safety arrangements.

LEAVE NO TRACE

All visitors should carry their litter back, cut down on plastic, not harm trees or wildlife, and never light unsafe fires in the forest.

6 TOURISM POTENTIAL & ACTIVITIES

The trail has the potential to be developed for the following activities:

- Eco-Tourism
- Nature Walks
- Hiking
- Forest Recreation
- Bird Watching
- Photography
- Community-Based Tourism
- Educational Nature Trips
- Controlled Camping

Batadana village could also be developed as a Local Tourism Support Point.

7 KEY ISSUES & CHALLENGES

Despite this beautiful natural path, the challenges are:

- 1 The trail entrance is not clearly identified.
- 2 Directional signage is limited / insufficient.
- 3 There are no distance markers.
- 4 In some sections, bushes and vegetation narrow the path.
- 5 The natural springs need cleaning and protection measures around them.
- 6 Viewpoints need basic safety arrangements.
- 7 No safety or environmental information is available for hikers.
- 8 Routes at the various junctions need clear marking.

8 DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

OBJECTIVE

Develop the Batadana — Sattu Bungalow trail as a safe, environment-friendly, organised and community-based eco-tourism hiking destination.

9 PROPOSED MEASURES — PHASE I

Trail entrance gate

Build an eco-friendly entrance gate at the Jhala trailhead showing: trail name, distance, difficulty level, estimated hiking time, safety instructions, emergency contacts, forest rules and Leave No Trace guidelines.

Directional signage

Install clear signboards at key points: start point, water spring, water tank, viewpoint, Forest Hut, camping area, Sattu Bungalow and Batadana village.

Distance markers

Place distance markers every 1 km or at suitable intervals so hikers know their position and the distance remaining.

Trail clearing & safety

Clear bushes where needed (without harming the environment), mark slippery and hazardous sections, and make minor improvements using natural stone or eco-friendly materials.

10 NATURAL SPRINGS PROTECTION

The natural springs are this trail's key natural asset. To protect them:

- Clean around the springs and stop waste disposal near them.
- Install information boards to prevent water contamination, and provide proper drainage.
- Avoid entirely any construction that would affect the springs' natural flow.

11 VIEWPOINTS & FOREST HUT

Viewpoints

Develop the existing natural viewpoints without unnecessary construction — only a safety rail, wooden seating and information boards.

Forest Hut

Use the Forest Hut above the water tank as a rest point, emergency shelter or controlled camping support point.

CONTROLLED CAMPING RULES

Strict environmental rules will apply to controlled camping: fire safety, waste management and no tree cutting.



12 ROLE OF BATADANA VILLAGE (CBT)

Batadana village can become an important Local Tourism Support Point for the trail. Local people can gradually be offered employment as:

- Local Guides
- Porters
- Transport Providers
- Refreshment Providers
- Trail Maintenance

13 REQUIRED INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

INSTITUTION / STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSED ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY
Forest Department	Forest area assessment, trail permission / management, Forest Hut assessment, environmental protection
Tourism Department	Tourism promotion, trail branding, tourist information & promotional material
Local Administration	Inter-departmental coordination, access & local facilitation, community coordination
Environmental Authorities	Environmental assessment, eco-friendly development guidelines, conservation measures

INSTITUTION / STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSED ROLE & RESPONSIBILITY
Local Community	Guide services, maintenance support, local tourism services

14 ROLE OF RUNNING & HIKING CLUB PAKISTAN (RHCP)

As an outdoor community organisation, RHCP offers the relevant institutions voluntary and technical cooperation in:

- Trail Survey & GPS Mapping
- Route Assessment
- Clean-up Drives
- Environmental & Hiking Safety Awareness
- Volunteer Monitoring
- Eco-Tourism Promotion

15 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Phase 1: Assessment

Duration: 1 month

Joint site visit, GPS mapping, risk & water assessment.

Phase 2: Basic Development

Duration: 1–2 months

Entrance gate, signage, distance markers, trail clearing, spring protection.

Phase 3: Eco-Tourism

Duration: 3–6 months

Viewpoint development, controlled camping area, local guide training, promotion.

PRIORITY MATRIX

TASK / MEASURE	PRIORITY
Joint trail survey & GPS mapping	High priority
Entrance gate, directional signage, distance markers	Immediate
Trail clearing & natural spring protection	Immediate
Safety measures & risk mitigation	Immediate
Viewpoint management & waste management system	Priority
Controlled camping area & Forest Hut assessment	Phase II
Tourism promotion & CBT capacity building	Phase II

16 EXPECTED BENEFITS

Tourism

A new, organised hiking route.

Local economy

Jobs and security through guides, transport and porters.

Environment

Organised protection of the natural setting.

Health & youth

Positive outdoor activities.

Regional identity

A new eco-tourism identity for Abbottabad.

17 IMMEDIATE DECISIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Carry out an initial site assessment and GPS mapping of the trail through a joint team of the relevant departments.
- 2 Approve the signage and entrance-gate plan in line with safety, forest and environmental considerations.
- 3 Ensure protection of the natural springs and the participation of the local Batadana community.
- 4 Include RHCP and local outdoor organisations in consultative and voluntary measures.

Presented by: Running & Hiking Club Pakistan (RHCP)

Vision: Healthy Lifestyle · Eco-Tourism · Leave No Trace

Subject: developing the Batadana — Sattu Bungalow trail as a safe, organised and environment-friendly eco-tourism hiking destination.

