



Devdar Devdar

Landour, Uttarakhand
30° 27.486'N / 78° 6.128'E / 2205m

Deodar Cedar
Cedrus deodara
Pinaceae



In the Himalayan foothills, above the holiday town of Mussoorie, a guesthouse called Devdar Woods has a massive Deodar in a front courtyard. Visible from many vantage points, this impressive tree has dozens of branches oriented upwards to form secondary trunks. This was perhaps triggered by lightning or wind damage. From Mussoorie Mall, climb steeply up to Sister's Bazaar on Landour Ridge. Find the guesthouse just 1 minutes walk west. The hotel's owner, A. Prakash, sells excellent peanut butter and cheese!

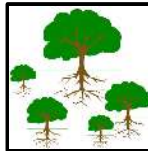


The cedar and planted deodars below



Several secondary trunks

Landour's impressive cedar forests were planted by the British military more than 100 years ago; they are native to higher regions of the mountains. Mussoorie was British India's first hill station, and an excellent place to escape the heat of the Indian plains. Landour Cantonment is a small settlement perched above, and here, for 100 years, Landour Language School teaches Hindi to foreigners.



Deodar Cedar:
Cedrus deodara

Deodar is a lovely evergreen, one of India's tallest and most stately trees. Its dark green needle and upright round cones are strikingly different from flowering trees in Southern India. Confusingly, many trees across the world are called cedars, but the genus *Cedrus* are the true cedars. They were harvested almost to extinction in the Middle East highlands for their high-quality wood.



Landour's planted deodars



The Pine Family: Pinaceae

The Pine Family members are versatile & common in the Northern Hemisphere- stretching across Asia and North America. The Pine family includes some superlative individual trees: spruces, Douglas-firs, & true pines in Pacific North American rainforests are some of the tallest, largest, & oldest trees in the world. Pineaceae are critically important trees for habitat, timber, & carbon storage. India is one of its southernmost reaches. Compared to lowland India, the Himalaya provides a cooler, less monsoonal habitat for many members of the Pineaceae, including cedars, firs, true pines & spruces.



Monsoon sunset over Landour Bazaar