

# Haryana



The close proximity to Delhi has made this tiny state a much-sought-after location for industrialization and real estate development. Gurgaon lying just across the border from Delhi is being recreated into a modern 21st century city.

The name Haryana is said to have been derived partially from 'Hariyali' (greenery) and the rest from 'Aryana' (home of the Aryans). Archaeological discoveries of Ashoka pillars and stupas show that Haryana was part of the Mauryan Empire.

Haryana lies in the moist region between the Indus and Ganges, making the soil very fertile. Farming was till very recently the means of living for most of the population. However, rapid urban and industrial development is bringing in a change in lifestyle. Worth seeing are the fancy shopping malls at Gurgaon, springing up along the Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road and the highly industrialised district, Faridabad.

## CHANDIGARH

Haryana, carved out of the southern part of the state of Punjab, continues to share its capital with it. Fully covered in the chapter on Punjab, Chandigarh created by renowned French architect Le Corbusier, stands apart from other Indian cities with its clean planned parks, avenues and houses.

**Temperatures:** Summer: Min 20°C, Max 40°C; Winter: Min 5°C, Max 18°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

**City Code:** 0172

**Indian Airlines:** 2641145

**Jet Airways:** 2740550

(More information given in the chapter on Punjab)

## AMBALA

A pleasant town, with a large Army Cantonment, Ambala is famous for its 3 Gurudwaras, 2 Muslim shrines and the Amba Devi Temple after which it is named. The Badshahi Bag Gurudwara, Sheeshganj Gurudwara and Manji Sahib Gurudwara attract many pilgrims, many of whom add the city to their itineraries when visiting the Golden Temple at Amritsar. The



*Badshahi Bag Gurudwara*

## Haryana

two Muslim shrines of Lakhi Shah and Tawaqal Shah are visited by people of all faiths, while the Amba Devi Temple is said to be a 17th century structure.

**Temperatures:** Summer: Min 26°C, Max 40°C; Winter: Min 4°C, Max 19°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

**City Code:** 0171

### FARIDABAD

Lying adjacent to Delhi, Faridabad is said to have been named after Shaikh Farid, treasurer to Mughal Emperor Jahangir. Earthenware belonging to prehistoric times have been discovered in the area. It is a highly industrialised region and a number of big companies have set up their manufacturing units here.

**Temperatures:** Summer: Min 28°C, Max 42°C; Winter: Min 6°C, Max 22°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

**City Code:** 0129

**Banks:** Allahabad Bank: 5428478,

Central Bank of India: 5283049,

Canara Bank: 5262088

**Hospitals:** Escort Hospital and  
Research Centre Ltd.: 2417092,

Civil Hospital: 5413333

### Home Away From Home

Aravali Golf Course: 2414810, Delite: 5416284, Raj Hans (Surajkund): 5252054.

### Excursions

Badhkal Lake (4 km.) is a beautiful lake surrounded by expansive lawns and flowering shrubs. All tourist facilities are available here.

Ballabgarh (8 km.), a planned city, has a Fort, market-places, wells, cross roads and a large garden named Dilkhusha. Surajkund (6 km.) is an ancient pool, the surroundings of which have been modernised into a retreat. It is the venue of the annual Surajkund Fair held between February 1 to 15.



*Surajkund Fair*

### GURGAON

Originally a sleepy town, located on the Mehrauli-Jaipur Road, Gurgaon is now a very busy place indeed. Its close proximity to the capital, has made it a most sought after location, industrially and for residential purposes. One can see office blocks with new-age architecture and huge shopping malls all along the Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road. The shopping malls offer customers the latest creations in fashion and lifestyle products, both local and international. India's first Gold Souk is likely to become operational soon and there are a number of well-maintained international level Golf Courses. The vast variety of restaurants and cinema halls are a tremendous draw, making the area an ideal location for a night out for Delhiites.

**Temperatures:** Summer: Min 28°C, Max 42°C; Winter: Min 5°C, Max 22°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

**City Code:** 0124  
**Banks:** Allahabad Bank: 2334590, HDFC Bank: 2309384, Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corpn.: 2359784  
**Hospitals:** City Hospital: 2324886, Jain Hospital: 2324581, Civil Hospital: 2320102

#### Home Away From Home

The Trident Hilton: 2450505  
 Bristol: 2356030–33, The Plaza Solitaire: 2325832–33, Fortune Global Hotel opening shortly.

#### Excursions

Sohna (24 km) is known for its hot sulphur springs. The main tank with its medicinal properties, was popular with foreign visitors during British times. The place has now been developed into the Sohnā Tourist Resort and the Damdama Lake offers facilities for angling and boating. Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary (16 km) offers visitors a chance to see more than 100 species of local and migratory birds every winter, while artificial plantation encourages breeding. A visit to the library of books on birds and a showroom displaying rare stuffed birds, is quite an education.

#### KURUKSHETRA

The district headquarters and an important road junction on the National Highway, Kurukshetra is famous as the venue of the Mahabharata war and attracts pilgrims from all over the world. Surrounded by

archaeological sites, the area has thrown up fragments of pottery, copper vessels and medieval sculpture. The name Kurukshetra, is said to have been derived from the tribe of Kurus, who lived there.

The region abounds in holy spots associated with great events and personalities of the past and the cults of Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva and the Sun God. The orthodox belief is that charity performed here bears manifold rewards, while a bath in the Brahmasar or Kurukshetra Tank at the time of a solar eclipse, is said to bestow upon



*Brahmasar*

the bather, the benefit of a thousand Ashvamedha Yagnas.

Kurukshetra is said to have been visited by the Buddha and the Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang in the 7th century, during the rule of King Harsha.

**Temperatures:** Summer: Min 24°C, Max 40°C; Winter: Min 8°C, Max 18°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

#### Home Away From Home

Jyotisar: 43119, Neelkanth Yatri Niwas and others.

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