

Punjab



Traditionally known as the 'land of five rivers' Punjab is a must on the modern-day traveller's itinerary: the Golden Temple to pay obeisance, Jalandhar to do business at, and Chandigarh to unwind in. The state whose tandoori chicken is as much admired as the *sarson ka saag* with *makki ki roti*, has more to its credit than mere lush green fields that keep the granaries of the country overflowing.

CHANDIGARH

Le Corbusier's famed city, Chandigarh is unique by many standards. Its beautiful and well-maintained gardens are a perfect compliment to the easily defined localities, or 'sectors'. The clean air, short distances and the abundance of transit facilities make it a perfect gateway to the more tourist-visited parts of northern India. Rose Garden, Rock Garden, Capitol

Complex are as much mandatory on your must-do numbers, as are boating in the Sukhna Lake...A visit to Chandigarh is not complete without a visit to the temple of Goddess Chandi, in Panchkula, 10 km away, that has lent Chandigarh its name.

City Lights

Asia's biggest, the **Rose Garden**, or **Zakir Gulab Bagh** spreads over 30 acres, in Sector 16. Here 1600



Rose Garden

species bloom on 50,000 rose-trees. In Sector 1 is the **Botanical Garden**, sprawling over 88 acres, full of glass houses and green houses for special plants, lily pools, and a collection of



Botanical Garden

cacti. The **Bougainvillea Garden**, in Sector 10, is home to hundreds of bougainvillea varieties, and the

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Annual Bougainvillea Show. Rock Garden is another attraction, built by Nekchand, with multicoloured pieces of useless stones and other throwaway scrap. In summer it is open from 9 am to 7 pm barring two hours 1 pm to 3 pm. From October to March, it is open from 9 am to 5 pm barring 1 pm to 2 pm. Serious 'walkers' pursue fitness



Rock Garden

regimes and families enjoy an evening stroll around the **Sukhna Lake**.



Sukhna Lake

The **Museum & Art Gallery**, in Sector 10 C, has the largest collection of Gandhara Sculptures second only to the Lahore Museum. The adjacent museum contains fossils and implements of prehistoric humans found in India. It opens to public daily between 10 am and 4:30 pm except on Mondays, national and public holidays. The **Secretariat** is the largest of the edifices in the **Capitol Complex** and is the headquarters of both Punjab and Haryana governments. **International Dolls Museum** boasts over 300 dolls from



The Secretariat

25 countries, 10 ceramic murals and a large model train. This opens everyday except official holidays, 10 am to 5 pm. **Pinjore Yadavindra Gardens** (20 km) and **Chattbir Zoo** (15 km) are interesting nearby places for excursions.



Pinjore Yadavindra Gardens

City Culture

Museums & Art Galleries: National Gallery of Portrait: Sector 17; Fine Arts Museum: Sector 14; Museum of Evolution & Life: Sector 10; Government Museum & Art Gallery: Sector 10 (2714914).



Government Museum & Art Gallery

Auditoria: University Auditorium: Sector 14; Tagore Theatre, Sector 18A.

Gourmet's Delights

The traditional Punjabi favourites, *sarson ka saag* and *makki ki roti*, are relished with generous helpings of *ghee* and butter, and are available all over. However, those seeking spicy Mughlai food and trendy western fast food need not lose heart since there is a profusion of multicuisine food outlets in the city. Some of the popular ones are: **Bazm**, Hotel Shivalikview, (North Indian and Mughlai, 2700001), **Mountview Restaurant** (multicuisine, 2740544), **Hot Millions**, Sector 17D (fast food), are places you simply can't miss out on. The **Hot Millions Pub**, also in Sector 17, is an ideal place to gulp down a few mugs of beer. **Indian Coffee House**, Sector 17, **Mehfil** and **Ghazal**, SCO 185 and SCO 189-191, Sector 17C are popular multicuisine restaurants. Live music and a bar add to the attraction. **3B The Eating Mall** (2375924) is a new conceptual eating and private parties venue.

Night Out

Pubs: Sip N Dine, English Garden, 26 Carat and Down Under.
Discos: Blues, The Night Club, Boon Docks and Las Vegas.

Shopper's Paradise

If not very keen on the Benetton and Levis that peek out from many malls and shopping plazas that abound here, then browse through shops for the famous tip-turned-up *jootis*, the colourful Punjabi *dupattas*, local woollen wear, or even the delicious jams and juices from the Himachal region: **Phulkari**, Punjab Government Emporium, **Black Partridge**,

Haryana Government Emporium, **The Weaver**, Haryana Government Emporium, **Charma Shilpa**, Haryana State Handlooms, and **Cooperative Emporium**. Most of them are in Sector 17.



Shopping Mall at Sector 17

Facts at a Glance

Access: By Air: Chandigarh is connected to Delhi (daily flight) and Amritsar (bi-weekly flight) by Indian Airlines. There is also a weekly flight to Leh from Chandigarh. Jet Airways has daily flights to Chandigarh from Delhi. The airport is 11 km away from the main city. **By Rail:** The railway station is 7 km away from the city centre. Via Delhi, one can get Shatabdi Express that plies twice in a day and the Kalka-Delhi Himalayan Queen. **By Road:** Chandigarh is well connected by road to almost every small or big town of northern India. Frequent buses ply from Chandigarh to Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and even Rajasthan. One has a choice of luxury, ordinary buses and taxis, all readily available. It is well connected to the major cities of India. **Distances:** Delhi 238 km (via NH 1, also called GT Road), Bikaner 575 km, Amritsar

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264 km, Kasauli 77 km, Shimla 117 km, Dharamshala 239 km, Chail 107 km and Jodhpur 827 km. **Getting Around:** Yellow-topped cabs are not there, so hire a tourist taxi or pre-paid autorickshaws (available at the auto stand behind the ISBT and the railway station). Cycle-rickshaws are other options for shorter trips. You can also rent a bicycle from your hotel and do your own city tour. **Temperatures:** Summer: Min 19°C, Max 38°C; Winter: Min 4°C, Max 18°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

City Code: 0172
Indian Airlines: 2704539
Jet Airways: 2740550
Punjab Tourism Development Corporation: 2781138, 47, 2781091
CITCO Information Office: 2704356
CITCO Tours: 2703839
Taxi/Tour Operators:
Banga Tourist Service: 2706261,
Cozy Tours: 2740850
Rail Reservation Centre: 2708573
Punjab Roadways : 2704023
Haryana Roadways: 2704014
Himachal Roadways: 2704015
Banks: HDFC: 2549893-5,
ICICI: 2743708/13/ 15/ 16/ 18,
Punjab and Sind Bank: 2726168,
SBI: 2702238, PNB: 2737730
Police: 100
Hospitals: Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research (PGIMR): 2747585-90, Government Medical College and Hospital: 2665253-59.
Chemists: Panchkula General Pharmacy, Sahib Singh and Sons, Bharat Medical Stores.

Home Away From Home

Mountview: 2740544, The Piccadilly: 2707571, Shivalikview: 2700001, President: 2791731, Maya Palace: 2600547.

AMRITSAR

Talk about Amritsar and immediately it conjures up images of the legendary Golden Temple and a culinary heritage. Samjhauta Express, linking India with Pakistan, starts from here. Established by Guru Ram Das, Sikhism's famous fourth guru, in 1577, Amritsar rose to become the most sanctified city in Punjab and a major trade and industrial centre under the patronage of Maharaja Ranjit Singh himself.

City Lights

The two core structures of the Golden Temple are **Hari Mandir** (Darbar Sahib) and the **Akal Takhat Sahib** (Throne of Timeless God). The



Golden Temple

removal of the Guru Granth Sahib from the **Hari Mandir** to the **Akal Takhat** for the night is a solemn ceremony, where devotees like to join in. Participate in the ritual where free Vaishnav (pure vegetarian) food is offered to one and all by the community kitchen. Traditional Sikh martial art, **Gataka** is conducted on the roof of the *langar* and can be witnessed between 8.30 am to 11 pm.



Sri Akal Takhat Sahib



Gataka

Travel Advice

- * Keep your head covered at all times.
- * Deposit all leather items at the Darshini Darwaza.
- * No photography allowed, except in the *parikrama* area.

Durgiana Temple Complex, in the old city, dedicated to Durga, reflects the ambience of the Golden Temple. Also located in the complex are the Bhairon Mandir and the Hanuman Mandir.



Durgiana Temple

The **Jallianwallah Bagh Martyrs' Park** is an important landmark. The rather sterile Martyrs' Gallery recounts the valour of those leaders who lost their lives in a bid to challenge the might of the British Empire by gathering here (despite the ban) on the occasion of the Baisakhi festivities.



Jallianwallah Bagh

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Gourmet's Delights

Most restaurants here can be termed multicuisine since they often serve Mughlai, North Indian, Continental and Chinese! Popular ones are: **Crystal, Delite Refreshers, Kwality, Manbhavan** and **Napoli**.

Shopper's Paradise

Punjab is known for its woollens and footwear. *For footwear:* **Drish**, off Cooper Road; **Trendy**, on Lawrence Road; the little shops outside **Hall Gate** stock *jutis*. The **Mochi Bazaar** offers everything from the *chunj wali*

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juti (pointed-toed *jutis* for men) to the more delicate *mojris*. **Guru Bazaar** is known for Amritsar's *jadau* jewellery. **Woollens: Shastri Market;** For rice, dry fruits, blended teas, spicy papads and *vadis*, visit **Majith Mandi**.

Excursions

Tarn Taran: 22 km away, is the Gurudwara Tarn Taran, built in 1768 to honour Guru Ram Das. Its gilded dome edifice reflects the spirituality inspired by the Golden Temple. It is believed the holy waters of the tank can cure lepers!



Tarn Taran

Hari-Ka-Patan: Just outside the city, at the confluence of the Beas and Satluj rivers, this sylvan spot is a hot favourite with bird-watchers and nature-lovers.

Facts at a Glance

Access: By Air: The Raja Sansi Airport is 12 km northwest of the city. Indian Airlines/Alliance Air connects to Delhi, Chandigarh and Lucknow. **By Rail:** The railway station is situated in the northern part of the city. There are direct train connections to Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai. Computerised railway reservation facilities are also available at the

Golden Temple Complex. You can hire cabs, autorickshaws or cycle rickshaws, all readily available outside the station. **By Road:** Both state and private bus services link the city to Punjab, Himachal and UP. Coaches are also available to Delhi, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Kullu and Dehradun. The bus journey from Delhi to Amritsar can be pretty tedious and uncomfortable. The inter-state bus terminus is situated just 2 km away from the railway station. **Distances:** Chandigarh 234 km and Delhi 445 km. **Temperatures:** Summer: Min 15°C, Max 34°C; Winter: Min 0°C, Max 18°C. **Best time to visit:** October to March.

City Code: 0183

Indian Airlines: 2213392

Punjab Tourism Information Office: 2402452

Information Bureau:

(Golden Temple Complex) 2553954

Railway Enquiry: 2225028

Banks/Post Office: ANZ Grindlays: 2557420, SBI: 2225260

Hospitals: Adlakha Hospital, Dr. Ved Gupta Hospital, Nayyar Hospital and Kakkar Hospital.

Home Away From Home

Mohan International: 2227801, Hotel Ritz Plaza: 2562836, Astoria Hotel: 2262977, Amritsar International (PTDC): 2555991, Mrs Bhandari's Guest House (in Cantonment): 2228509.

Free Temple accommodation is available for devotees at Guru Ram Das Niwas (300 rooms, common toilets), Guru Nanak Rest House (nominal rent, attached toilets), Mata Gangi Niwas (120 rooms).