

Must-Know Tips for Your Northern India ADVENTURE

**TOURISM
SCOUTS**
Authentic Discoveries

ESSENTIAL TIPS FOR YOUR **HIMACHAL PRADESH ADVENTURE**

Himachal Pradesh beckons with breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural experiences. To ensure an unforgettable journey, here are some key things to keep in mind:

PLANNING YOUR TRIP

Highway Upgrades

Be prepared for extended travel times due to ongoing construction for wider, four-lane highways. This affects popular routes like Chandigarh-Shimla, Chandigarh-Manali, Pathankot-Mandi, and Dharamshala-Shimla. Traffic jams are likely, so factor in extra travel time when planning your itinerary.

Essential Documents

Ensure you have valid ID, like a Voter ID or Passport, along with any other required documents.

STAYING SAFE & HEALTHY

Uneven Terrain

Himachal's winding roads can be challenging. If prone to motion sickness or headaches, pack any prescribed medication. Medical Kit: Pack basic supplies like pain relievers, bandages, and antiseptics.

High Altitude Travel

If traveling to high-altitude regions, allow time for acclimatization to prevent altitude sickness. Stay hydrated and avoid strenuous activities on your first day.

PACKING FOR COMFORT

Layering is Key

Pack light cotton for summer days and warmer clothes for cooler evenings.

Winter Essentials

Woolen clothing, socks, and caps are crucial for winter travel.

STAYING CONNECTED & INFORMED

Weather Monitoring

Check the forecast, especially during monsoon (July-September) or winter (December-February) to avoid disruptions from rain, landslides, or snowfall.

Limited Connectivity

Remote areas may have weak network coverage. Download offline maps and navigation apps in advance. Inform loved ones about your location and itinerary when venturing off the beaten path.

ADVENTURE RESPONSIBLY

Safety First

Only participate in adventure activities under the guidance of trained professionals from authorized service provider.

Respect the Rivers

While rivers are stunning, maintain a safe distance. Their unpredictable currents can be dangerous.

TRAVEL ETIQUETTE

Smoke-Free State

Public smoking is prohibited in Himachal Pradesh and hefty fines apply.

Responsible Tourism

Be a mindful traveller. Avoid littering and respect local customs. Plastic bags are banned in Himachal Pradesh, so pack reusable alternatives.

Cultural Sensitivity

Dress modestly, especially at religious sites. Always ask permission before photographing locals, particularly in rural areas.

YOUR ESSENTIAL TRAVEL **GUIDE TO SHIMLA**

Planning a trip to Shimla? This guide equips you with all the essentials for navigating the city and maximizing your experience. From exploring colonial history to soaking in stunning scenery, Shimla offers a diverse adventure. Our insider tips will save you valuable time and ensure a stress-free visit.

HIGHWAY WIDENING WORK

- The Chandigarh-Shimla highway is currently undergoing construction activities to expand to four lanes. This may cause longer travel times, especially during peak hours and landslides triggered by rain.

NAVIGATING NARROW ROADS

- Shimla is charming, but hilly terrain means more walking than you might expect. Pack comfortable, flat shoes for all seasons.

HERITAGE SITES AND ATTRACTIONS

- Many historical landmarks, including the Rashtrapati Niwas in Mashobra, the Governor House, the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, the Himachal State Museum, the Gaiety Theatre, the Army Museum, and the Bird Park, are closed on Mondays and public holidays. It's recommended to check opening hours before your visit.
- Some attractions may require special permissions for visits or may charge additional fees for entrance, photography, and filming. It's wise to book tickets in advance whenever possible to avoid any disappointment.

JAKHOO TEMPLE VISIT

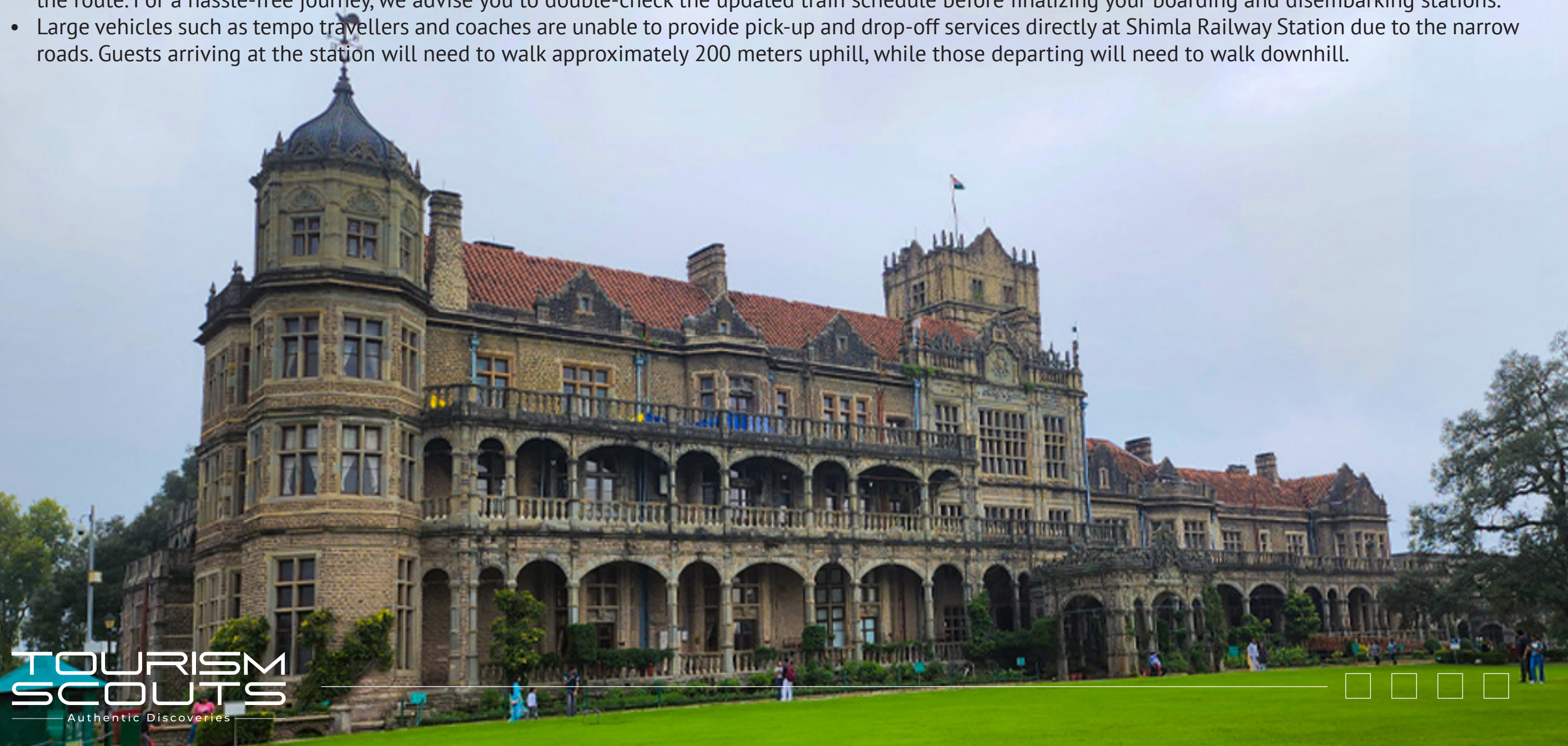
- Keep an eye out for the monkeys around Jakhoo Temple. They're known to snatch loose items like bags or sunglasses. It's best to avoid carrying anything they might easily grab.
- The last kilometer to Jakhoo Temple is a bit of an adventure! Large vehicles like tempo travellers can't access this final stretch. You'll have the option to walk the remaining distance uphill or downhill, enjoying the fresh mountain air and scenic views. Alternatively, you can choose a smaller vehicle for this final leg of your journey.

EXPLORING KUFRI

- Don't miss out on the Kufri Zoo. Just be sure to plan your visit, as it's closed on Tuesdays.
- While mule rides in Kufri may seem exciting, it's best to avoid them due to safety concerns. The trails are not well-maintained and pose a risk to both riders and animals.
- Seniors and anyone with mobility concerns should be extra careful while navigating Mahasu Peak. The paths can be slippery and challenging.

KALKA-SHIMLA TOY TRAIN RIDE

- The scenic journey aboard the Kalka-Shimla Toy Train, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a delightful way to experience the breathtaking beauty of the region. Book your tickets conveniently online through the IRCTC website or app, or purchase them directly at the railway booking counter.
- Toy Train seats fill up quickly, especially during peak seasons. Book well in advance for your preferred date, train, and class.
- For a unique experience, consider booking a Rail Motor Car or Jharokha, available on a full-charter basis.
- Railway authorities have recently revised the halting points for the Kalka-Shimla Toy Train. The train no longer stops at all stations previously included on the route. For a hassle-free journey, we advise you to double-check the updated train schedule before finalizing your boarding and disembarking stations.
- Large vehicles such as tempo travellers and coaches are unable to provide pick-up and drop-off services directly at Shimla Railway Station due to the narrow roads. Guests arriving at the station will need to walk approximately 200 meters uphill, while those departing will need to walk downhill.



EXPERIENCE MANALI LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Manali, nestled amidst the majestic Himalayas, promises an unforgettable experience. To ensure your visit is as smooth as the fresh mountain air, here are some insider tips:

GETTING THERE

- The Chandigarh-Manali National Highway is currently undergoing road widening work, which may cause travel delays. Weekends and peak seasons can get crowded, so patience is a virtue.
- Large coaches are not allowed in Manali city center to prevent traffic congestion. Plan your transportation accordingly.

NICHOLAS ROERICH ART GALLERY

- The Nicholas Roerich Art Gallery is a must-see attraction, but it is closed on Mondays. Make sure to schedule your visit for another day to explore its fascinating art collection.

ROHTANG PASS ADVENTURE

- National Green Tribunal (NGT) regulations mandate permits for excursions to Rohtang Pass. While we will make every effort to secure them on your behalf, availability is limited to permitted vehicles.
- Separate charges will apply for obtaining permits and using special vehicles for this excursion. These fees are not included in the tour cost and will be the responsibility of the guest.
- The Rohtang Pass is closed from November to April during the winter. Maintenance is scheduled for Tuesdays, so no vehicles are permitted.

REACHING THE MANU TEMPLE

- The road leading to the historic Manu Temple is narrow. Your cab may only be able to take you to Old Manali, so be prepared for a short walk to the temple itself.



TIPS FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE TO DHARAMSHALA

Dharamshala beckons with its spiritual energy and stunning landscapes. This comprehensive guide unlocks the secrets to a truly enriching visit.

ROAD WIDENING PROJECTS

- The highways connecting Dharamshala to Chandigarh, Pathankot, Shimla, and Manali are currently undergoing construction to expand to four lanes. Expect delays, especially during peak season.

CULTURAL EXPLORATION AND MUSEUM HOURS

To fully experience the diverse cultural attractions in Dharamshala, please take note of the following closure days for popular cultural attractions in the area:

Kangra State Museum: Closed on Mondays and all government holidays.

Norbulingka Institute & Losel Doll Museum: Closed on Sundays.

Tibetan Medical Institute: Closed on Sundays.

MEETING HIS HOLINESS, THE DALAI LAMA

If any of our guests wish to request a meeting with His Holiness during their visit to Dharamshala, we kindly ask them to provide the following well in advance of their scheduled tour:

- Four passport-size photos of each guest
- Photocopies of passports and visas
- Please ensure that we receive these documents a minimum of 15 days before the start of your tour. This allows sufficient time to process all necessary permissions.
- Kindly note: Because of the busy schedule of His Holiness, meeting requests are subject to availability and are offered on a limited basis. Railway authorities have recently revised the halting points for the Kalka-Shimla Toy Train. The train no longer stops at all stations previously included on the route. For a hassle-free journey, we advise you to double-check the updated train schedule before finalizing your boarding and disembarking stations.
- Large vehicles such as tempo travellers and coaches are unable to provide pick-up and drop-off services directly at Shimla Railway Station due to the narrow roads. Guests arriving at the station will need to walk approximately 200 meters uphill, while those departing will need to walk downhill.

MUST-KNOWS BEFORE **YOUR TRIP TO DALHOUSIE**

Learn how to make the most of your trip to Dalhousie with these helpful tips designed to enhance your travel experience.

UNIQUE 'MALLS' OF DALHOUSIE

- In Dalhousie, “malls” take on a different meaning. These aren’t shopping centers, but rather charming circular walking paths, each with its own character. Explore these to gain a deeper understanding of the town’s layout.

STEP BACK IN TIME AT RANG MAHAL

- Located in nearby Chamba, the Rang Mahal welcomes visitors year-round (except Sundays) from 10 am to 5 pm. Immerse yourself in the region’s rich history and culture at this architectural gem.

VISITING THE BHURI SINGH MUSEUM

- Delve deeper into heritage of Chamba at the Bhuri Singh Museum. Discover fascinating artifacts that tell the story of the region. Note that it’s closed on Mondays and gazetted holidays.



HANDY TIPS FOR YOUR **KINNAUR & SPITI VALLEY ESCAPE**

Here are some handy suggestions to make sure your adventure in Kinnaur & Spiti Valley goes off without a hitch!

AVAILABILITY BY SEASON

- While the region holds beauty year-round, June to October are the most favorable months weather-wise, making it the prime time to experience Kinnaur & Spiti Valley at its finest. Winter expeditions (November to March) are highly dependent on unpredictable weather conditions.

INNER LINE PERMIT FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS

- Foreign travellers journeying between Kinnaur and Spiti require an Inner Line Permit. If your Spiti trip begins from Shimla, you can secure permits at authorized government offices in Shimla, Kalpa, Pooh, or Sumdo. Permits can be collected in Manali if entering Spiti from there.
- Acquiring a permit mandates your presence at authorized offices during working hours. Plan your trip accordingly, as permit processing may take more than a day, necessitating an additional stay.

ACCOMMODATION BOOKING

- Due to limited lodging options in Kinnaur and Spiti, making full advance payments for accommodation is highly recommended. This guarantees confirmed bookings and a hassle-free experience.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

- While we strive to adhere to the itinerary, the Trans-Himalayan region is prone to unpredictable events like rain and landslides. In such cases, last-minute changes may be necessary, and these adjustments are non-refundable.
- Please note that driving times mentioned may vary due to traffic conditions or unexpected roadblocks.

CONTINGENCY MEASURES

- In areas susceptible to landslides, a backup vehicle might be used to transport guests if roads are blocked. Guests may be responsible for any additional costs incurred and may need to walk a short distance to reach this vehicle.

HIGH-ALTITUDE TRAVEL

- Travelling above 2500 meters increases the risk of altitude sickness. Proper medication and suitable clothing are crucial. We strongly recommend consulting a qualified doctor before undertaking this high-altitude adventure.

IDENTITY AND DOCUMENTATION

- Indian nationals are recommended to carry valid identification such as a driver's license, voter ID, Aadhar card, or passport, as these may be necessary at army checkpoints. Foreign citizens should carry all original travel documents, including their passport and visa.



KEY POINTS FOR A REWARDING **EXPLORATION OF LAHUL & LADAKH**

Heading out on a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Lahul & Ladakh? Here are a few key things to keep in mind that will help make your journey unforgettable and ensure you have a safe and fulfilling experience.

OPERATIONAL WINDOW FOR MANALI-LEH ROAD

- Please note that travel on the Manali-Leh road is recommended between June 10 and October 15. Any travel beyond this period is subject to weather conditions and the availability of accommodations. Guests are solely responsible for any problems or obstacles that arise from travelling outside of the operational window.

IDEAL TOUR TIMING

- The best period for this tour extends to mid-September. Following this date, the onset of winter can bring severe cold, especially in Trans-Himalayan regions like Tsokhar, Tsomoriri, and Pangong. During this time, fresh snowfall might disrupt your travel plans.

FOREIGN NATIONALS AND SECURITY REGULATIONS

- Security regulations stipulate that non-resident Indians (NRIs) or Foreigners are prohibited from travelling the road from Tsomoriri to Pangong Lake via Hanle due to security concerns. They must instead drive directly from Tsomoriri to Leh. However, foreigners are permitted to travel the road from Pangong to Nubra.

INNER LINE PERMITS FOR FOREIGNERS

Foreign nationals require an Inner Line Permit to visit locations such as Tsomoriri, Pangong, and Nubra Valley. We can assist you with securing this permit by collecting copies of your passport, visa, and four passport-sized photographs at least 15 days before your arrival. This ensures efficient processing.

FLEXIBILITY AND UNFORESEEN CHALLENGES

- We acknowledge that holidays, particularly those involving high-altitude travel and adventure, require a high degree of flexibility. While our intent is to follow the planned daily itinerary and overarching objectives, potential external factors such as rainfall, landslides, snowfall, floods, domestic flight delays or cancellations, strikes, illness, climate changes, civil unrest, mechanical problems with vehicles, political closures, or disputes may require modifications. We cannot control these circumstances and are not liable for any costs or expenses arising from them.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Comprehensive travel insurance is essential when travelling from Manali to Leh or going on any high-altitude excursion. The insurance should cover adventurous activities and emergency evacuation by helicopter. Keep in mind that our prices don't include travel insurance, emergency evacuation costs, damages, or any claims related to unexpected events. Please ensure you purchase appropriate insurance cover from your country.

MEDICAL PREPARATION AND WEATHER VARIABILITY

- This journey takes place at high altitudes, spanning from 3000 m to 5600 m. Please prepare with appropriate clothing and medicines, and consult a qualified physician before setting out on this adventure. Conditions in the Himalayas can be variable and unpredictable - preparedness is the key.

MUST-KNOWS FOR AN AMAZING CHANDIGARH TRIP

Get ready for a rewarding and inspiring journey in Chandigarh! Here are some essential tips to make the most of your visit.

EXPLORING ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS

- Chandigarh's architectural scene is truly impressive. A must-see on any visit are the Palace of Justice, Secretariat, and Palace of Assembly. These landmarks are open Monday to Friday and closed on Saturdays, Sundays, local Punjab holidays, and National holidays.

GOVERNMENT MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

- The Government Museum and Art Gallery provides an immersive journey into creativity and cultural legacy. Visitors can tour its extensive collection on weekdays, excluding weekends (Saturday and Sunday), all local Punjab holidays, and National holidays.

LE CORBUSIER CENTER

- The Le Corbusier Center is a peek into the world of modern design and architecture. The center is closed on Mondays, as well as during local Punjab holidays and all National holidays.



KEY SUGGESTIONS FOR MAXIMIZING YOUR AMRITSAR EXPERIENCE

Getting ready for your unforgettable trip to Amritsar, a city overflowing with history, spirituality, and delicious food? Let us equip you with crucial insights that will make your experience even better and ensure a hassle-free exploration.

VISITING THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

- When visiting the Golden Temple, be aware that there is no online or other forms of booking available for priority viewing.
- While the temple is open to everyone, it's important to observe a few important rules. These rules are vigilantly enforced by the temple guards. They include removing your shoes before entering the complex, washing your feet in the entrance pool, and keeping your head covered at all times. If you haven't brought a head covering, the temple offers one for your convenience.
- The Palki Ceremony, a blend of tradition and veneration, happens every morning at 4:15 AM and every evening at 9:30 PM in an environment filled with solemnity and grace.
- Consuming or bringing drugs, alcohol, meat, or cigarettes into the temple is not permitted.
- Respect the queue and refrain from breaking it. This shows a collective commitment to maintaining order and respect within the temple.
- The Golden Temple is known for having one of the world's biggest community kitchens, serving thousands of people constantly throughout the day.

WAGAH BORDER TOUR

Every journey to Amritsar is incomplete without a tour to Wagah Border, the boundary line separating India from Pakistan. An enthralling flag-lowering ceremony takes place at the border every evening at sunset, after which the borders are closed for the day. The Wagah Border Retreat ceremony, featuring synchronized marching by the soldiers and ritualistic lowering of the national flag, is just as mesmerizing as a dramatic performance.

- The Wagah Border is open for visitors from 10 AM to 4 PM. The flag-lowering ceremony takes place at 4:15 PM in winters and 5:15 PM during the summer months. Tickets for the Flag Lowering Ceremony at the Wagah International Border in Amritsar can now be booked online. Reservations can be made through the official BSF portal at <https://attari.bsf.gov.in/> or by using the dedicated 'BSF Attari' app available on the Google Play Store.
- Seating is provided on a first-come-first-served basis, starting from 2-3 PM onwards. There is no need to purchase tickets or passes for entry. Foreign tourists may find seating arrangements near the designated VIP corner.
- Please keep a valid ID card for identification. It is recommended to arrive an hour early for the ceremony. Cellular services may not be functional here. Visitors are advised to keep their carry bags in the designated lockers. Photography during the show is allowed.
- This daily ceremony, a symbol of national respect, occurs even on holidays.

RANJIT SINGH MUSEUM & HERITAGE WALK

- Kindly note that the Ranjit Singh Museum is closed on Mondays.
- Don't forget to take a heritage walk around the city. Amritsar's heritage walk takes you through its narrow, age-old lanes, around corners displaying beautiful architectural styles. Every building has a story to tell; every street resonates with the sounds of history.

PARTITION MUSEUM AND GOBINDGARH FORT

- If you plan to visit the Partition Museum, the entry fee is Rs. 250 for foreigners and non-resident Indians, and Rs. 10 for Indians.
- At Gobindgarh Fort, experience the Bhangra program and the informative 7D show on Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Please note that there is an additional entry fee for the wax statue of the Sikh soldier.

