

Punjab

Tourist Map



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Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board
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Punjab - A Distinctive History and Culture

As one of the oldest and richest civilisations of the world, the culture of Punjab dates back to the Harappans. Under the suzerainty of powerful empires like the Mauryans to the Afghans, the Mughals to the British, Punjab has been home to diverse religions and as such has a rich and varied heritage. Diminished in geographical size after the partition of India in 1947, it still emerged as a fertile expanse of land, rich in agriculture and industry. The brilliant architecture, the culture and the folklore of present day Punjab can be seen in the princely states of Patiala, Kapurthala and Faridkot as well as the major pilgrimage centres of the state.

A land of ethnic diversity, it embraces many religions like Sikhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Islam, etc. Among these, Sikhism emerged as the principal religion of Punjab around the 16th century. The Golden Temple at Amritsar is considered to be the holiest shrine of the Sikhs, where the sacred scripture, 'Guru Granth Sahib' is preserved. The people of Punjab are known for their hospitality, scrumptious cuisine, vibrant festivals and colourful attire. Spend time visiting the state and you be overwhelmed by the generosity and the warmth of the people and their traditions.

A Little Geography

'Punjab', literally is the land of five rivers – Beas, Chenab, Jhelum, Ravi and Sutlej. It is the granary and dairy farm of India. The eastern part of Punjab, the Shiwalik Hills mark the foothills of the Himalayas. It shares its capital city, Chandigarh with the state of Haryana. The Union Territory is a well planned city designed by the famous Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier. The City Bathing is a wonderful place to visit round the year.

Quick Facts

Area	: 50, 362 sq km
Capital	: Chandigarh
Language	: Punjabi, Hindi, English, Urdu
Population	: 2.77 Cr Approx. (Estimated 2011 census)
When to visit	: September to April
Airports	
Guru Ram Dass II International Airport, Amritsar	: 0183-2214386
Chandigarh Airport	: 0172-2659886

What to See (Main Attractions)

Patiala

Baba Ala Singh was the founding ruler of Patiala, a city of palaces, forts, grand havelis, gardens, cricket grounds and polo fields. Attractions include the grand Qila Mubarak fort, the Sheesh Mahal and the Darbar Hall. Once a beautiful place of royal families; the Old Moti Bagh Palace is now the Netaji Subhash National Institute of Sports. Famous for its luxurious lifestyle, the city is known for the 'Patiala Peg', a giant measure of whisky! Other attraction is the much-visited temple dedicated to goddess Kali.



Kapurthala

Founded by Rana Kapur of Jaisaimer, Kapurthala was established and named after its ruler. The magnificent Jagatji Palace with its beautiful gardens was designed by the French architect, M Marcel. It exhibits Indian and French architecture in a simulation of Versailles and other French Palaces. The Buena Vista Hunting Lodge and the Moorish Mosque were constructed in Spanish and Marrakesh (Morocco) styles. The *gurdwaras*, temples, citadels, palaces, gardens and the Science Centre are some of the other major attractions here.



Faridkot

Located close to Bathinda, Faridkot was named after the famous Muslim poet, Baba Farid. It is significant for its historical structures like the Tomb of Baba Farid, the Clock Tower, the Qila Mubarak and the Rai Mahal.

Major Cities

Chandigarh, Amritsar, Bathinda, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Patiala.

Getting in and Around

By Air: Flying from Delhi, to Chandigarh and Amritsar takes 40 and 60 minutes respectively. Besides domestic flight services, Amritsar also operates to international destinations like the Middle-East, Europe and North America. Pathankot airport offers regular domestic services.

By Train: Punjab has a wide network of railways. Express trains connect Chandigarh, Amritsar, Bathinda, Patiala and other parts of the state to Delhi, Kolkata, Jammu, etc.

By Road: Punjab also has a well developed road network and is well connected by private and state transport. The Grand Trunk Road passes through important cities.

Further Information & Booking: Visit www.punjabtourism.gov.in. Information and guidance can be availed at the tourist information centres of Punjab in Delhi (Hotel Jagatji, Jagatji), Chandigarh (Airport, Bus Stations), Amritsar (Airport, Railway Station) and Patiala (Mahindra Kotli, Mall Road).



Flag Ceremony, Attari

Virasat-e-Khalsa

The Anandpur Sahib complex was built as a platform for propagating the rich heritage of Punjab and the teachings of Sikhism. Covering an area of 6500 sq m, the magnificent structure was the brainchild of architect Moshe Safdie. Stepping in, the visitor walks through a 165 m overpass surrounded by small ponds, pathways and lush gardens.



Pushpa Gujral Science City

A joint project by the Government of India and the Punjab Government, the unique Science City, located on the Jalandhar - Kapurthala Highway is spread over 72 acres. It offers a mixture of education and fun, with world class attractions. There is something for everybody, regardless of age or education. The Science City includes a Space Theatre, a Laser Theatre, a virtual reality 3D Theatre, a Digital Planetarium, Earthquake Simulator, Flight Simulator, a 'Dinosaur Park on the Island', an Amazing Living Machine (health gallery), etc. For details, visit www.pgsccity.org.



Historical Sites

Sirhind

Once the capital of the Pathan Sur Sultans, Sirhind features imposing Mughal buildings such as the Royal Hammam and the ruins of Daulat Mahal and Sheesh Mahal within Aam Khas Bagh. Fatehgarh Sahib Gurdwara marks the site where the two young sons of Guru Gobind Singhji were killed on 1705 on the orders of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb, for refusing to convert to Islam. Other important attractions such as Rauza Sharif, the octagonal Muslim pilgrimage site with a blue-tiled dome, Salavat Bagh Haveli, the Mughal courtyard house and the Mir Miran Mausoleum are not to be missed.

Archaeological Sites

Rupnagar

Believed to be the site of one of the oldest civilizations of the world, Rupnagar is an important destination for archeologists, explorers and tourists. Ancient exhibits are preserved in the Archaeological Museum here.

Hoshiarpur

Well known for agricultural produce and inlay work, remarkable examples of various antiquities and arts excavated from the region are exhibited in the Hoshiarpur Archaeological Museum.

Pilgrimage Sites, Temples & Mosques

Amritsar

The Golden Temple is famous as the most sacred shrine of Sikhism. It is in Amritsar which is considered to be the holiest city of Punjab. Thousands of visitors and devotees visit the place every day, making it one of the most sought after tourist destinations. The Temple, exhibiting a mix of Hindu and Islamic architecture, welcomes people from all religions. The dome and the interior of the Harmandir Sahib, where the sacred scripture 'Guru Granth Sahib' is preserved, are covered with pure gold donated by Maharaja Ranjit Singhji. The benevolent tradition of *Langar* is followed in which about 10,000 free meals are served to visitors daily! The historic Jallianwalla Bagh, the Gobiindgarh Fort, the magnificent Durgiana Temple, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Museum and other significant *gurdwaras* are other important attractions here.

Anandpur Sahib

Considered to be one of the major *takhts* (seats) of Sikhism, Anandpur Sahib is situated in the Shiwalik Hills, within its imposing ring of forts including the renowned Sheeshganj Sahib and Keshgarh Sahib. Skillfully designed by Moshe Safdie, the Khalsa Heritage Centre (Sikh Heritage Museum, opened in mid-2010) is a remarkable museum which showcases modern architecture.



Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib, Anandpur Sahib

Qadian

Muslims of the Ahmadiyya Sect from all over the world gather here in the last week of December every year. Established by Sheikh Ahmad Qadiani in the end of the 19th century, the serenity of the town is enhanced by the Minar-e-Qadian tomb and the Ahmadiyya Mosque.

Museum

Sheesh Mahal Medals Gallery, Patiala: On display in this magnificent museum are more than 3200 rare historical medals as well as a collection of miniature paintings and decorations from various parts of the world.

A Taste of Punjab

Well known all over the world for its delightful cuisine, Punjab food includes delicacies like *tandoori* items, *tikkas* of different types, butter chicken, *daal* (lentils), *lassi* (flavoured yoghurt drink), and *butter naan* (bread). Some of these delicacies were introduced to Punjab cuisine by the Mughals. Roadside *dhabas* are a good place to break journey and try out traditional Punjabi delights like *samosa* (vegetable or meat patty) *kebab* or a spicy deep-fried fish.

Nature and Wildlife

Home to different species of migratory birds, Punjab boasts one of the best marshy wetlands in India. Harike, Ropar, Nangal and Kanjli (D4) are protected national sanctuaries. Covering an area of 200 hectares, south of Chandigarh, Chhatbir Zoo offers wildlife exhibits such as lions, tigers and leopards. At Ropar and Siswan Dam (near Chandigarh) one can spot wild peacock, boar, deer and the eagle-hawk. The Shiwalik Hills provide opportunities for adventure tourism. Autumn to Spring is the best period for bird-watching and eco-tourism.



Heritage Walk

Patiala

Know more about the ancient history and monuments of Patiala by taking the Heritage Walk. Start from Qila Mubarak, head towards Darshani Deori, Barton Bazaar and travel through the streets of Dal Dalia Chowk. Visit Shahi Samadhan, the memorial of many great rulers, pay obeisance at Lakhmi Narayan Temple, Mahavir Mandir, etc., continue the excursion towards Samania Gate. Visit Mohindra College, one of the oldest education centres in India, the Moti Bagh Palace and the Sheesh Mahal and end the journey at Old Moti Bagh Palace.

Amritsar

The heritage walk takes one on a trip through history, tradition, religion and architecture. The guided tour explores the *kattars*, *akharas*, *bungas*, *havelis*, *hatties* and *craftworks*. Start from Town Hall and continue towards Gurdwara Saragarhi which marks the bravery and patriotism of the 21 soldiers. Visit Qila Ahluwalia, a colonial-style fort and come across Jalebiwalla Chowk, famous for *jalebis* since 1956. Discover the narrow lanes of Sanghewala and Datta Akharas; admire the magnificent Darshani Deori from where Guru Arjan Devji and Guru Hargobindji gazed at the holy Shrine. Visit the ancient banyan tree, Baba Bohar; walk through the ancient passage, offer prayers at Shaheed Ganj Sahib, Bibekar Sahib and pay tribute at the historic Jallianwalla Bagh. Take a religious walk at the Golden Temple and marvel at its architectural elegance.

Handicrafts and Shopping

Crafts such as mirror-work, embroidery, woodwork and jute-work by the craftsmen of Punjab are widely known. One can look out for:

Jutties

The traditional leather shoes are exquisitely embroidered with gold and silver threads. With a large demand in the market, it is one of the most popular items for fashion lovers.

Phulkari

The beautiful flowery embroidery work with colourful threads on shawls, shirts and various other attire is highly prized by ladies.



Durries

Spectacular floor spreads, cotton bed and wall hangings, embellished with birds, animals and plant motifs in traditional Phulkari are very popular in Punjab.

Inlaid and Lacquer-finish furniture

Polished furniture and decorative woodwork items, toys and boxes decorated with mirror-work, inlaid ivory with exquisite designs, are favoured by collectors.

Shopping

Visitors can shop for high quality, fashionable jewellery, authentic leather and textile merchandise from sectors 17 and 22, Chandigarh. Genuine quality sports goods are available in Jalandhar and fine textiles and woollen clothing can be bought in Ludhiana. One can shop for fancy jutties and *parandies* from Patiala.

Festivals and Events

Flag Ceremony (Daily) : This spectacular ceremony by the Indian and Pakistani border soldiers is attended by huge crowds from both the countries as well as foreign tourists. The ceremony takes place at the Attari border, 30 km east of Amritsar on the road to Lahore; it is also held at Hussainiwalla border of Ferozepur and Sadki check post of Fazilka.

Rural Olympics (Early Feb) : The bustling fair of races, mainly bullock-carts and camels, attracts a large number of people. The excitement and the enthusiasm are further enhanced by other games like *kabaddi*, tug-of-war, traditional wrestling and trials of strength and endurance.

International Bhangra Festival (Amritsar, Oct / Nov) : Bhangra is the folk dance of Punjab; it is one of the most energetic and dynamic of dances and is well known all over the world. The traditional 3-day event organised every year is celebrated day and night with pomp and grandeur, enlivened by the presence of famous personalities.

Hola Mohalla (Anandpur Sahib, March) : This festival exhibits skilful performances of martial arts, archery, fencing, horse-riding, tent-pecking and weapon-handling by the *Nihang* warriors in characteristic blue attire. Hola Mohalla signifies the historical event of recruitment of the Khalsa military by Guru Gobind Singhji from among his Sikh followers.



Hola Mohalla Celebrations

Diwali (Amritsar, Oct / Nov) : Diwali, the annual festival of lights is celebrated by a large number of people at The Golden Temple in Amritsar. The lights, the colours, the spectacle and the firecrackers are a remarkable experience.

Cricket : Test Cricket and One-day cricket matches as well as IPL matches are held at the spectacular Mohiuddin Cricket Stadium. Be there to enjoy a game!

Where to Stay

Stay on a Farm

Stay on a farm and be welcomed by the warmest hospitality and experience the simple lifestyle of the people of Punjab. Engage in the daily activities of the villagers and feed the animals, learn how to make fruit pickles, ride a bullock-cart, discover the village. Get in touch with nature and appreciate the serenity and innocence of the village folk. Get involved in home-cooking and in preparing desi delights. PHTPB has approved more than 20 farm houses in the state for this purpose. Plan a vacation and get bewitched! See website or brochure for booking details.

Heritage and Resort Hotels

Spend your holidays in Punjab – enjoy the comfort and luxury of *havelis* (courtyard houses) or palaces or country-side eco-resorts which provide multiple facilities like spa treatments, massages and dips in the pool. Refer to website or brochure for more information.

Note : Due to space constraints, all places of interest could not be included here. Phone numbers are subject to change. For more information, visit www.punjabtourism.gov.in Or contact Punjab Heritage and Tourism Promotion Board Archives Bhawan, Plot 3, Sector-38-A, Chandigarh - 160036, ☎ : +91-172-5042963, 2625952, E-mail: phetp123@gmail.com Website: www.punjabtourism.gov.in

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HIMACHAL PRADESH

JAMMU & KASHMIR

RAJASTHAN

PAKISTAN

INDIA

CHANDIGARH

DELHI

UP

BIHAR

WEST BENGAL

MAHARASHTRA

GUJARAT

KARNATAKA

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