



# SHIMLA & AMRITSAR

Short Stay | 5 Days | Physical Level 1

Shimla (2N) – Amritsar (2N)

Embark on a captivating exploration of two distinct cities of North India. Enjoy Shimla's cool mountain air, panoramic views, and a scenic ride on the iconic Toy Train. Amritsar buzzes with energy, showcasing its rich cultural heritage through historical landmarks. This extension blends Shimla's natural beauty and historic allure with Amritsar's spiritual richness.

## TOUR INCLUSIONS:

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- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Daily tours and entrance fees
- Transportation and transfers as stated
- English speaking guide
- Toy train tickets

## ITINERARY

**Day 1: Train to Shimla**

Meals: None

Rise early this morning and transfer to the New Delhi railway station to board the Shatabadi Express train departing 07h40 hrs for Chandigarh. You will be met on arrival at Chandigarh railway station at 10h59 and transferred to your hotel in Shimla where you will stay for the next 2 nights.

Shimla is at an altitude of approx. 2,130 and is a charming resort town and the most loved hill station in India since British troops set up camp here in 1819.

The construction of the train line from Kalka to Shimla was built in 1903, allowing for easy access to the region.

Late in the afternoon, enjoy a walking tour of Shimla starting with a visit to one of Shimla's major landmarks the Christ Church, the second oldest church in Northern India built between 1846 and 1857. Walk around the The Mall Road, The Ridge, and the Scandal Point, which derives its name from the story about the flirtatious prince of Patiala, who was said to have eloped with the daughter of the British Viceroy

**Destination Information**

**Shimla** - The picturesque capital of Himachal Pradesh was once the summer capital of British India. Spread 12kms along a ridge that overlooks terraced hillsides and cultivations, Shimla is magnificently covered in dense forests of oak, pine, fir and rhododendron. In Shimla the altitude is 2,196m.

**Day 2: Explore Shimla**

Meals: B, L

This morning, after breakfast, enjoy a 2-hour ride on the narrow gauge mountain railway toy train. Disembark from the train and drive back to Shimla.

After lunch, take a hike to Jakhoo Temple – the highest point in Shimla which offers a panoramic view of the city. Glen forest is one of the most fascinating picnic spots here.

**Destination Information**

**Jakhoo Temple** - An ancient temple in Shimla that is dedicated to Hindu deity, Hanuman. It is located on Jakhoo Hill at a height of 2,455 m above sea level.

**Day 3: Shimla to Amritsar**

Meals: B, D

This morning, visit the Vice-Regal Lodge, also known as the 'Rashtrapati Niwas,' located on Observatory Hill. This magnificent building was once the residence of British Viceroy Lord Dufferin. Surrounded by well-maintained gardens and lawns, the lodge has now been converted into the Institute of Advance Study.



After the visit, you will be transferred to Chandigarh railway station for your train journey to Amritsar.

**Destination Information**

**Amritsar** - The centre of Sikhism, Amritsar was founded in 1577 by the fourth Sikh guru, Ram Das. Home to Sikhism's holiest shrine, the astonishing Golden Temple, Amritsar is an important part of Sikh history and culture. The city is also one of India's oldest and most fascinating cities divided into two parts; the old city, a swirl of narrow bazaars and historical buildings, and modern Amritsar, gleaming and bustling.

**Day 4: Explore Amritsar**

Meals: B,L

After breakfast start your tour of Amritsar city at the Golden Temple, also known as Harmandir Sahib. The Temple was built in 1574 and has a great spiritual meaning for Sikh believers. Close by is the Durgiana Temple which is modelled on the Golden Temple. Although it is dedicated to the Hindu goddess Durga, devotees also offer prayers to Lord Krishna and Lord Vishnu. You will also visit Jalianwala Bagh, infamous for the Jalianwala Bagh massacre that took place in 1919.



On this day, British troops opened fire without warning on innocent unarmed men, women and children attending the Baisakhi festival. Explore the park that commemorates the Indians killed and wounded here.

Later this evening you will visit the border between India and Pakistan, known as Wagah Border, to witness the flag lowering ceremony.

**Destination Information**

**Golden Temple** - The holiest Sikh shrine and a major pilgrimage destination for Sikhs all over the world. The Golden Temple sits on a rectangular platform, surrounded by a white marble corridor. The water that surrounds the temple is a sacred pool known as the Amrit Sarovar, said to have healing powers and which the city is named after. The temple is a captivating blend of Hindu and Islamic architecture, crowned by a dome gilded with 750kg of gold.

**Jallianwala Bagh** - A public garden that houses a memorial to the massacre that took place on 13 April 1919 against nonviolent protestors by the British occupying forces.

**Flag Lowering Ceremony** - A daily military practise held at the Wagah Border of India and Pakistan, which is sure to be a highlight of your trip! The ceremony first began in 1959 and involves the security forces of both countries. Beginning at sunset, this remarkable ceremony begins with patriotic songs and a parade on either side of the border gates and ends when the flags are lowered, neatly folded and carried back to their respective camps.

**Day 5: Depart Amritsar**

Meals: B

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Very early in the morning, you would be transferred to Amritsar Railway Station to board the Shatabadi Express train (12014) departing at 0455 hrs for Delhi. Upon arrival at New Delhi railway station at 11:02 hrs, you will be met and transferred to the International airport to connect your flight back home.

A packed breakfast from the hotel will be served onboard the train.

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