

AWESOME HIMACHAL 08 N - 09 DAYS



Welcome to India - the Land of Dreams & Romance. India's capital & a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis which successfully combines in its fold the ancient & the modern. British coined the term "Queen of the hills" for Shimla....

Duration: 08 Nights / 09 Days

Places Covered: Delhi (02 Nts) – Shimla (02 Nts) – Manali (03 Nts) – Chandigarh (01 Nt) – Delhi (Drop)

Day 01: Arrival Delhi

Welcome to India - the Land of Dreams & Romance. On arrival at Airport/Railway Station in New Delhi, our local representative will be waiting outside the customs area to welcome you and to take you to your hotel.

Your hotels have been carefully chosen and are ideally located.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Delhi.

Day 02: Delhi

After breakfast, spend a delightful day in Delhi.

Delhi: India's capital & a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis which successfully combines in its fold the ancient & the modern. Its strategic location was one of the prime reasons why successive dynasties chose it as their seat of power. New Delhi also reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New & Old Delhi is the distinction between the capitals of the British & the Moghuls respectively. So, wherever the visitor goes, he will invariably confront the city's past.

Sightseeing places:

NEW DELHI

Rashtrapati Bhawan: Visit the Viceroy's House (now the residence of President of India known as Rashtrapati Bhawan) and Lutyen's magnum opus. It is larger than Versailles

and architecturally is a fusion of Indian and Western design. Within the courtyard is the 145 feet high Jaipur column, a symbol of victory designed by Luyten. Luyten created masterpiece - the 250 acre Mughal Gardens on the grounds of the Rashtarpati Bhavan, which at one time required the care of 418 men and the great Vice Regal Palace required a staff of 2000.

India Gate: a war memorial arch which Luyten built in honor of 60,000 soldiers who died in World War- I. It is also inscribed with the names of some 13,000 Indian and British soldiers missing presumed dead. Next to it is Luyten's last Imperial monument he built, a stone canopy in which he placed the marble statue of King George V after his death in 1936.

Qutub Minar: which is Delhi's Eiffel Tower, its Statue of Liberty and Nelson Column. Visit the mosque, mausoleums and ruins of forts that lie around it including the Iron Pillar which is Delhi's totem pole 24 feet high, made of 99% steel and which has stood for 1600 years without a speck of rust on it.

OLD DELHI

Red Fort: This palace citadel was built Shah Jahan in 1648 and was a veritable city within a city. When Shah Jahan transferred his capital from Agra to Delhi he built the Red Fort as his residential palace as well as his military fortress. The fort is a complex of marble buildings with balconies, filigreed windows, massive red sandstone walls, ramparts and gateways. The most elegant building is the DIWAN-E-KHAS or the Hall of Private Audience.

Jama Masjid: This great mosque, the largest in India, lying opposite the Red Fort, was built by Shah Jahan between 1650 and 1656, as a part of his new city Shahjahanabad. Five thousand workmen are said to have laboured for six years to construct it.

Chandni Chowk: From the Red Fort you will take a cycle rickshaw to Chandni Chowk or the Moonlit Square. It is a medieval area in which you will recognize not just Cairo or Istanbul, but also Chester and Heidelberg. This is perhaps one of the Delhi's most populated areas and the largest marketplace - jewelers, spice merchants, food vendors, money lenders, shopping arcades, workshops as well as residences, are crammed here. Within this area is the British built Town Hall, the St. James Church built by Colonel Skinner in the early 19th century, the old St. Stephens College and the office of the state department of Archeology with a colonnaded facade going back to the 19th century when it was the British Residency.

Raj Ghat and Shantivan: North-east to Ferozshah Kotla, on the banks of the river Yamuna lies Raj Ghat, a simple square platform of black marble, the place where Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, popularly known as Bapu, was cremated on January 31, 1948 following his assassination. The Samadhi is set amidst sprawling lawns. Adjacent to Raj Ghat is Shanti Van or the Grove of Peace, a secluded and wooded place, where Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India was cremated his daughter and the third Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The site of her Samadhi is known as Shakti-sthal or the Place of Power. This whole area is a beautiful green stretch full of trees, flowering plants and shrubs.

To Shop In Delhi: Delhi is a shopper's paradise. The most famous bazaars, shopping arcades, emporia and bargain centers, brass and copper ware, brocades and silk, leather goods, perfumes, paintings, sandalwood carvings, etc., include Connaught Place, Janpath, Central Cottage Industries Emporium, State Emporia Complex on Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Kinari Bazaar, Ajmal Khan Market, Hauz khas and Sunder Nagar Market.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Delhi.

Day 03: Delhi – Shimla (340 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from hotel and drive to Shimla. On arrival check-in to hotel

Evening at leisure or you can explore the market at Mall.

Mall: The mall is an ideal spot for shopping and tourists have a major attraction to this place for the place besides catering to shops also have a theater and a number of good eating joints.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Shimla.

Day 04: Shimla

After breakfast, visit Shimla - The Queen of Hills.

Shimla: Located at the Shivalik foothills, Shimla is the capital city of Himachal Pradesh. It is a beautiful hill town in the lap of nature, surrounded by pine and deodar forests. Dotted with scenic beauty, this hill station was discovered by the Britishers that settled here to have respite from the blazing sun of the plains. Shimla was a home of the British troops in the bygone era of the 19th century. British coined the term "Queen of the hills" for Shimla. This small hamlet then soon became a main tourist attraction for the people from all over the world. Shimla is enveloped with refreshing surroundings and is easily accessible from the major parts of the country. It is lined with several tourist spots thus making it a popular tourist destination of north India.

Sightseeing Places:

Kufri: is a famous hill station located on the National Highway No. 22, around 13 km from Shimla. Kufri is sited at an altitude of 2633 meters above the sea level, in the foothills of Himalayas. Kufri always popular among the travellers due to its adventure sports options. Various adventure sports are available at Kufri. Skiing is one of the popular winter sports at Kufri, which is a favourite among the teenagers. The slopes of Kufri hills are always sprinkled with skiers, during the months of winter. Apart from skiing, other sports are also played here like horse riding, hiking and tobogganing. Kufri hosts an annual winter sports festival every year, in the month of February.

Naldehra: 10 kms from the Ridge, is well known for its nine-hole golf course. The charm of Naldehra which lies in it with bracing and sylvan environs, and quiet splendor, is really irresistible.

Ridge: This ridge of Shimla gives a spectacular sight of the ice-covered mountain peaks. Tourists also can have a look of the Tudor library and the Christ Church from this ridge.

Jakhoo Temple: The temple being situated at the highest peak of Shimla gives a stunning view of the Shimla town. The temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman.

State Museum: This is the abode to excellent paintings, handicrafts, textiles and stone carvings of Himachal Pradesh.

Chadwick Fall: The sight of the amazing waterfall of Chadwick being surrounded by thick forests and bushes from all around is very exciting.

Tara Devi Temple: 10 kms from Shimla, is a shrine atop a 1851 m. high hill dedicated to goddess Tara.

Summer Hill: This hilly path with trees shading the way is ideal for a pleasurable walk.

Narkanda: This is an important part of Shimla sightseeing as it gives an enchanting view of the mountain ranges being enveloped in white snow.

Jubbal: Jubbal has been a very exciting tourist destination as it embraces the history of an age old palace that has been a conglomeration of the European and indigenous architecture.

Prospect hill: This place turns out to be an ideal spot for picnic. The temple of Kamana Devi is situated here.

Viceregal Lodge: This is the President's house which is now the center of the Institute of Advanced Studies.

Annadale: This place is found just below the ridge and is a spot for picnic and other sports.

Glen: This is also a nice spot for the picnic planners with a dazzling stream flowing behind.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Shimla.

Day 05: Shimla – Manali (208 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from hotel and drive to Manali. En-route visit Kullu.

Kullu: Kullu valley is gifted everything that you can imagine. The Marvelous landscapes, hospitable, peaceful & co-operative people having distinct life style & culture are some of the points that separate Kullu from rest of Himachal Pradesh. Kullu has also become the center of many adventure activities like trekking, mountaineering, river-rafting etc. There are many places of pilgrimage like Manikaran, Hadimba, Bijli Mahadev, Vashistha etc.

Later continue drive to Manali. On arrival check-in at hotel.

Evening you can explore nearby market.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Manali.

Day 06: Manali

After breakfast, take an excursion to Rohtang.

Rohtang Pass: Rohtang pass is 51 kms. from Manali on highway to Keylong/Leh at an altitude of 3979 m. It offers a panorama and spectacular Mountain View. The pass is open from June to October each year although trekkers can cross it earlier. It is a gateway to Lahaul Spiti, Pangi and Leh valley just as Zojila pass is a gateway to Ladakh. There is a beautiful sight of glaciers, peaks and Chandra river flows down in the Lahaul valley. Slightly to the left are the twin peaks of the Geypan.

Evening free for leisure OR you can explore the nearby market..

Overnight stay at Hotel in Manali.

Day 07: Manali

After breakfast, visit Manali – The Valley of the Gods.

Manali: is a hill station situated at a height of 2050 m (6398 ft) in the Himalayas. Manali, at the northern end of the Kullu Valley in Himachal Pradesh, situated on the Beas river (and near its source), it is a popular tourist spot for Indians in summer and a magical, snow-covered place in winter. A staging point for a number of treks (Beas Kund, Chandrakhani Pass) and sports such as white-water rafting, Manali is also on the road to Ladakh via the valley of Lahaul and Spiti.

Sightseeing Places:

Hadimba Temple: Manali has many attractions but the chief centre of interest, historically and archeologically, is undoubtedly the DHOONGRI TEMPLE dedicated to goddess Hadimba, the Bhim of Mahabharat fame. It has four-tiered Pagoda shaped roof and the doorway is carved with legendary figures and symbols. This temple located amidst wooden forest of deodar is about 2.5 kms. from the tourist office. It is a pleasant experience to stroll in the temple complex which was built in 1533 A.D. A large festival is held here in May.

Manu Temple: 3 kms. from the main bazar in old Manali lies the temple of MANU RISHI. It is believed that this is the only temple of Manu in India, who was the creator of human race on the earth.

Tibetan Monasteries: There are 3 newly constructed colorful monasteries, where visitors can buy carpets and other Tibetan handicrafts. Two are located in the town and one at Aleo on the left bank of Beas river.

Vashist Hot Water Springs And Temple: 3 kms, Vashist, a small village located on the left bank of river Beas towards Rohtang pass is worth a visit. It is renowned for its hot springs and temples. Nearby is the pyramidal stone temple dedicated to VashistMuni. There is another Temple of Lord Ram here. Natural hot sulphur springs with two separate bathing tanks for gents and ladies are always full of tourists. Turkish style showers fitted baths have also been built nearby. Hot water from the nearby spring is provided for bathing.

Nehru Kund: 5 kms. on National Highway to Leh, a natural spring of cold clear water named after Pt. JawaharLal Nehru, who used to drink water from this spring during his stay in Manali. This spring is believed to originate from the Bhrgu lake situated high-up in the mountains.

Manali Sanctuary: The Manali sanctuary starts from behind the town square and goes up in the mountains behind Manali. There is a biodiversity trail for the visitors, which showcases all the flora and fauna.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Manali.

Day 08: Manali – Chandigarh (245 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from hotel and drive to Chandigarh. On arrival check-in to hotel.

Evening free for leisure.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Chandigarh.

Day 09: Chandigarh – Delhi

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel visit Chandigarh.

Chandigarh: is the present capital city of the States of both Punjab and Haryana is the first planned city of India. However, it does not belong to either of the States. It is a Union Territory, administered by the Government of India. The city is very modern and has derived its name from a temple on the slope of the Sivalik hill, ChandiMandir (deity Chandi, goddess of power), and a fort or "garh" beyond the temple, called Chandigarh.

Sightseeing Places:

Rose Garden: This is Asia's largest rose garden, ZakirGulab Bag spread out over 30 acres of land, in sector 16. Here bloom 50,000 rose-trees of 1600 species. One can only see the flowers and cannot pluck them. Named after India's former President, ZakirHussain, the garden was established in 1967 under the guidance of Chandigarh's first Chief Commissioner late Dr. M. S. Randhawa. Apart from roses emphasis was given on trees of medicinal value and some unique specimen trees to enhance the beauty of the garden. Some of the medicinal trees planted here are bel, bahera, harar, camphor and yellow gulmohar. It is located next to the city centre. Affording a sight to behold during spring, the rose plants have been planted beautifully in carved-out lawns and

flowers beds. This garden is the venue of the annual Festival of Gardens, an event listed on the national calendar of fairs and festivals. This is one of the main cultural events of the city drawing thousands of visitors.

Rock Garden: The first planned city of India is an architectural marvel. But what stands out in this city is the Rock Garden. A marvel in itself created by Nek Chand out of the waste material found around. The urban waste material turned into creative patterns and textures, mute rocks turned into art objects attract tourists to Chandigarh. A visit to the Rock Garden is a must for all the tourists traveling to Chandigarh. It is perhaps the world's most poignant and salient statement of the possibility of finding beauty in the unexpected and accidental. It expresses the fragility of the environment, the need for conservation of the earth's natural resources, the importance of balancing industrial development and sound environmental practices. Above all, it is a community's testament of appreciation for art, expressing ideas and problems in a universal language.

Later drive to Delhi.

Transfer to the Airport/Railway Station to board the scheduled flight/train back home. (Depending on your flight/train timing, you will be taken to airport/railway station for your flight/train)

It's time to say goodbye to all the new friends you have made. We hope you take back many happy memories of your Tour.