

HIMALAYAS & THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

12 Days / 11 Nights

Welcome to Himachal Pradesh, the 'land of snow', whose proximity to the heavens also sees it referred to as the 'land of the gods'. This, as the Himalaya raises its mighty head to gossip with the clouds, is easy to believe. The soft, natural beauty of the land is uplifting, regardless of the face it reveals or the mood it is in. The verdant valleys of Himachal Pradesh are incomparable in offering a panoramic feast to tourists who flock to the state throughout the year. Easily accessible from the plains of northern India, the picturesque Shivalik Valley in the Kalka-Shimla region affords a breathtaking experience.

This itinerary takes you to Shimla, the stately summer capital of the Raj, with its resplendent Viceregal Lodge, the Christ Church and other Raj buildings. From there the journey takes you to Paragpur, the only listed 'heritage' village in the country, and the orchards and tea gardens of Palampur framed against the mighty Dauladhar mountain range. Nearby is the Andretta, a potter's village, which was home to the famous studio potter, Sir Shobha Singh. Andretta has acquired a reputation as an artists' colony. Dharamsala is the current home of the Dalai Lama (his headquarters are in nearby McLeodganj), and has a sizeable Tibetan community. Coming down from the hills, you stop at Amritsar to visit the Golden Temple, which is the holiest of the Sikh shrines.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Delhi

Welcome at Delhi Airport followed by transfer to your hotel.

Day 2

Delhi

A full-day tour introduces you to the capital of the world's largest democratic republic as well as the colonial and imperial city. B

Day 3

Delhi-Kalka-Shimla

Your train to Kalka connects with the famed Toy Train to Shimla. B

Days 4&5

Shimla

Take a heritage walk around Shimla. B

Day 6

Shimla-Paragpur 235 kms – 7 hrs drive

Today involves a scenic drive by car to beautiful Paragpur. B

Day 7

Paragpur

Spend the day exploring the village and its surrounds, and interact with the locals. B

Day 8

Paragpur-Dharamsala 60 kms – 2 hrs drive

On the way to Dharamsala there are many opportunities to enjoy the distinctive sights of the Kangra Valley. You will also experience the Tibetan influence in Dharamsala. B

Day 9

Dharamsala

Spend the day visiting the Buddhist learning centres and other places of interest in Dharamsala and McLeodganj, home to the Dalai Lama. B

Day 10

Dharamsala-Amritsar 200 kms – 6 hrs drive)

Today you will descend the mountains on a long but scenic 200 kilometre, 6-7 hour journey to Amritsar, which will take most of the day. B

Day 11

Amritsar

Visit the Golden Temple and witness the changing of the guards at Wagha Border (the Pakistan border). B

Day 12

Amritsar

Free day in Amritsar; you will then be transferred to the airport or to the train station where your tour ends. B