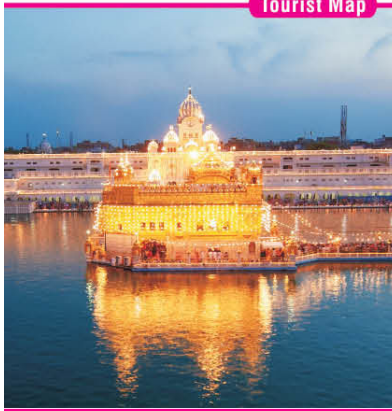
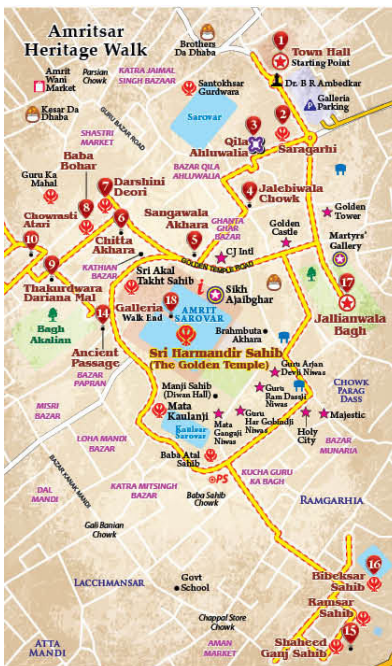


Amritsar

Tourist Map



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AMRITSAR

The holy city of Amritsar derives its name from the words 'Amrit' and 'Sarovar', meaning 'pool of nectar'. Established by the fourth Sikh Guru Ram Dasji in the year 1577, Amritsar is the sacred religious abode of the Sikhs. The city has seen many great empires like those of the Sikhs, the Mughals, the Persians, the Afghans and the British flourish. Its history has bestowed a rich cultural heritage upon the city. Built around the holy water tank, the Golden Temple, also known as Harmandir Sahib is the holiest place of worship for the Sikhs and is a renowned tourist destination. Today Amritsar is the largest and most sacred city of Punjab.

Old Town

Sri Harmandir Sahib (The Golden Temple) (Map Grid L8) (Information centre open daily 3am-1am; guided tours available 7am - 8pm; open for all, remove shoes, bathe feet and wear a head-cover. Except inside the main Temple, photography is permitted in the premises. Early morning and sunset are the best times to visit.)

Built in the year in 1776-1784, the Golden Temple exhibits an aesthetic amalgamation of Mughal and Rajput architectures. The temple is situated at the centre of the holy tank which is approximately 5m deep. The copper-gilt ornamentation of the interior of the sacred shrine and the outer dome's coating of pure gold were donated by the legendary Maharaja Ranjit Singhji. In the premises of the Harmandir Sahib, Sri Akal Takht Sahib is where the holy book of the Sikhs, 'Adi Granth' is preserved. It is strongly believed that the pilgrimage is incomplete without a religious *parikrama* (circumnavigation) around the sacred shrine and a meal which is provided in the religious *Langar*, where free food is served 24 hrs everyday as a symbol of dedication to the *Gurus*. The *Langar* is considered to be a benevolent tradition and spiritual custom of Sikhism. Visit the Golden Temple to pay obedience (*Waitha Taksar*), to listen to the *Gurbani* and feel the serene ambience. It is an out of the world experience.

Jallianwala Bagh (Map Grid M7)

The historical site is known for the infamous Jallianwala Bagh Massacre of April 13, 1919. More than a thousand men, women and children were fired upon and killed mercilessly by the British soldiers under the command of General Dyer. The Martyrs' Well, where many had jumped to their deaths and the Martyrs' Memorial remain today, as evidence of the fateful event.



Jallianwala Bagh

Gurdwara Baba Atal Sahib (Map Grid L8)

The significant octagonal tower marks the martyrdom of Atal Rai, the 9 year-old son of Guru Hargobind Singhji. Built in 1770-1784, it is a constant reminder of the indelible tragedy. Distinguished works of art on the second and third floors of the citadel are worth visiting.

Getting there

By Air

Connected to all the major cities in India, Guru Ram Dasji International Airport is located at a distance of 11 km from Amritsar city. Being a major airport, it provides regular domestic and international flight services of Air India, Spice Jet, Jet Airways, Jet Air, Turkmenistan Airlines, Uzbekistan Airlines, etc.

By Rail

Amritsar is connected to all the major cities like Bangalore, Delhi, Haridwar, Kolkata, Mumbai, Nanded, Patna, etc. via an extensive rail network. Major trains from the city include the Golden Temple Mail (Mumbai-Amritsar), the Amritsar Howrah Mail, the Akal Takht Express (Howrah-Amritsar) and the Swarna Shatabdi Express (Delhi-Amritsar).

By Road

Amritsar is linked to major cities by the Grand Trunk Road. Regular bus services operate to neighbouring states. Places like Chandigarh, Delhi, Shimla, Kullu, Manali, Dharmsalaha, Dalhousie, Dehradun, Rishikesh and Jammu are within a few hours of driving distance.

Auto-rickshaws, taxis and Tongas are convenient options for travelling in and around the city.

What to See

Durgiana Mandir (Lohgarh Gate) (Map Grid I6)

Dedicated to Goddess Durga, the majestic temple is a facsimile of 'The Golden Temple'. Refurbished in the 20th century, it is built from white marble with its upper dome plated with pure gold. Being a repository of Hindu holy books, it is visited by a large number of saints and devotees.

Summer Palace (Map Grid M3)

What was once a significant summer retreat of Maharaja Ranjit Singhji, the 19th century citadel is now a renowned historical museum. It exhibits arms and armour from the Mughal period, coins and manuscripts, portraits of the royal families of Punjab and an archetype of the Kohinoor Diamond. It is believed that the Maharaja's son was hoodwinked into giving the original diamond to the British. The magnificent palace incorporates the Darshani Deorhi gate-house which features exquisite architecture.

Rambagh Gardens (Map Grid LxM3)

Covering an area of 84 acres, the picturesque gardens surround the magnificent Summer Palace of Maharaja Ranjit Singhji. Dedicated to the Sikh Guru Ram Dasji, the complex was built in simulation of the beautiful Shalimar Garden of Lahore. The statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singhji on horse-back enhances its charm.



Rambagh Gardens

Gobindgarh Fort (Map Grid H6)

On the advice of Jaswant Rao Holkar, this mud-walled fort was established by Maharaja Ranjit Singhji to safeguard the kingdom's treasures. Constructed in the interior of the fort, the *Tashkhanah* can preserve grains and provisions for up to 12,000 troops. The magnificent Malwa gate was named after the eminent Sikh warrior. It gave shelter to refugees during the partition of India. The Darbar Hall and the Hawa Mahal were built by the British after they seized Punjab.

Maharaja Ranjit Singh Panorama (Map Grid L2)

This is the documentary collection of the life and achievements of the legendary Maharaja Ranjit Singhji. The events of the brave battles fought and the victories of the mighty ruler are exhibited in a circular chamber. The exhibits and relics depict the heroic Sikh history of 200 years, and as such this is a centre of education and entertainment for both children and adults.



Maharaja Ranjit Singh Panorama

Ram Tirath (Inset)

Believed to be the birthplace of Lord Ram's sons, Luv and Kush; the well known battle between father and sons and is thought to have been fought here. It is also believed that the immortal epic, Ramayana was composed at this place by Maharishi Valmiki. Located at a distance of 10 km from Amritsar on the Lopek Road, it is one of the most sought-after pilgrimage sites for Hindus.

Pul Kanjiri (Inset)

Near the summer retreat of Maharaja Ranjit Singhji, a 12 ft wide canal flows towards the Shalimar Garden in Lahore. Once a beautiful dancer (Kanjiri) had lost her shoe in the water while on her way to the Maharaja's *baradari* to perform a dance; she refused to dance unless a bridge was built over the canal. After her wish was fulfilled by the Maharaja, the place came to be known as 'Pul Kanjiri'.



Pul Kanjiri

Attari Samadhi Complex

The complex includes the tomb of Sardar Shyam Singh Attariwala, the general and a devoted friend of Maharaja Ranjit Singhji. It commemorates the martyrdom of Attariwala. Legend has it that on the occasion of the marriage ceremony of the Maharaja's grandson and Attariwala's daughter, Maharaja Ranjit Singhji visited his village and the *haveli*.

Khalsa College (Map Grid B4)

Exhibiting Indo-Saracenic architecture, the Khalsa College is one of the impressive colleges of Northern India. Established in 1904, the impressive structure was designed by the renowned architect, S Ram Singh and construction was completed in the year 1920.



Khalsa College

Around Amritsar

Goindwal Sahib (40 km)

The construction of the *Gurdwara* and the *Baoli* (step well) with 84 steps was commenced in the year 1559 by Guru Amar Dasji in the expanse of the land owned by him. Sikhs strongly believed in the divine words of the Guru and that spiritual freedom can be attained by chanting the *Japji* or prayer of Guru Nanak Devji on each of the steps before taking a bath with complete devotion and honesty. Built in Goindwal, on the bank of the river Beas, the town was prominent as an important site for Sikhism at the time.

Tarn Taran (24 km SE)

Dedicated to Guru Ram Dasji, an imposing *Gurdwara* was established by Guru Arjan Devji in the year 1590 at Tarn Taran. This marble structure has a tank which is larger than that of the Darbar Sahib (another name for the Golden Temple). It is an eminent pilgrimage centre. Guruji founded the Home here for people who have been rejected by the society for the first time in India.



Gurdwara Tarn Taran Sahib

Baba Bakala (42 km)

The octagonal 8-storey *Gurdwara* marks the divine spot where Guru Tegh Bahadurji spent years engaged in meditation. This is where he attained enlightenment as the ninth *Guru*. The eighth *Guru*, Guru Harkrishanji before his death in Delhi on March 30, 1664, mentioned the word, 'Baba Bakala', which was a proclamation of the fact that the ninth *Guru* will come to light in Amritsar at Bakala village.

Sultanpur Lodhi (102 km)

Situated on the bank of River Kali Bein, it is the place where Sikhism originated. Because of its connection with the life of Guru Nanak Devji, the town features many temples. Gurdwara Ber Sahib marks the divine spot of the holy Ber tree where the *Guru* meditated.

Kapurthala (76 km E)

Famous for its monuments with brilliant architecture, Kapurthala is a former princely state. It is marked by structures built by Maharaja Jagatjit Singhji, the last ruler of the region before Indian independence. Outstanding among them are the Jagatjit Palace, now transformed into the Sanik School, the Moorish Mosque, the Pushpa Gaural Science City, a centre for education and recreation, and the Darbar Hall, which exhibits French architecture, the beautiful Shalimar Garden and royal cenotaphs.

Harikie Wetlands (50 km, S)

This protected wetland and wildlife sanctuary attracts a large number of migratory birds during winter. One can spot freshwater dolphins, aquatic plants and endangered animals.

Events

Flag Ceremony, Attari (30 km)

This vibrant ceremony is held at the Attari Border every evening by India and Pakistan soldiers. Soldiers of both the countries lower the national flags in a formal cadence. Attended by a large number of people, it is a major tourist attraction.



Flag Ceremony, Attari

Diwali (Oct / Nov)

The festival of lights and crackers is celebrated with pomp and joy in Amritsar and is a remarkable experience.

Heritage Sites

- Sri Harmandir Sahib (3am- 1am)
- Attari Border
- Pul Kanjiri
- Jama Masjid Khairuddin
- Gobindgarh Fort
- Town Hall (Map Grid M6)
- Rambagh Gardens (Summer Palace)
- Khalsa College (visits by prior arrangement only) (Map Grid B4)
- Maharaja Ranjit Singhji (Panorama 10am - 5pm)
- Durgiana Mandir (6am - 2am)
- Jallianwala Bagh (6am - 7pm)
- Samadhi of Guru Angad Dev Ji
- Samadhi of Shriwan
- Mata Lal Devi (Map Grid H3)
- Ram Tirath

Cuisine

Reputed for warm hospitality and luscious cuisine, Amritsar is well known for traditional delicacies. From spicy, rich dishes such as multi-layered *paranithas*, *chana-bhatura*, *tandoori kulcha*, *Amritsari Fish*, *sharbat*, *rabri* and *lassi*; it is also famous for *Pappad* and *Vadlan*. Some of the most popular places to visit for these delicacies are Kesar da Dhaba, Brother's da Dhaba, and Kundan Dhaba.

Shopping

Well known for its craft-work and metal-work, Amritsar has maintained its traditional arts and crafts till date. Classical and modern products like carpets, heavily embroidered *shawls*, *jutties*, *durries*, bangles, woollen textiles, brass ware and skillfully decorated furniture are available in the leading emporia of Hall Bazaar, Katra Jaimal Singh and Lawrence Road. Widely acclaimed for the traditional crafts, textiles and souvenirs; the noisy lanes and bazars create a delightful shopping experience for the visitor to Amritsar.



Punjabi Jutties

Katra Sher Singh (Bartan Market) (Map Grid K3)

Katra Jaimal Singh (Cloth, Textiles) (Map Grid L5)

Guru Ka Bazaar (Clothes, Jewellery) (Map Grid K7)

Bazaar Bhaganat Wala (Map Grid L9)

Hall Bazaar (Jutties) (Map Grid L5)

Lawrence Road (Food Stalls, Wari and Pappad) (Map Grid L1)

Mail Road (Dhabas, Cafe) (Map Grid K2)

M M Malviya Road (Textiles, Handloom Emporium) (Map Grid L3)

Important Information

Emergency Nos

Police	100
Fire	101
Ambulance	102
General Railway Enquiry	139
STD code	0183
Inter State Bus Terminus, GT Road	+91-183-2551734
General Post Office, Albert Road	+91-183-2566032
Town Hall	+91-183-2545155
Tourist Information Centre	+91-183-2402452

Car Hire

Avis	+91-9779074586
Mega Cabs	+91-183-5151515

Airways

Guru Ram Dass Ji International Airport	+91-183-2214100
Turkmenistan Airways	+91-183-2214046 / 2502503
Uzbekistan Airlines	+91-183-2223888 / 2214008
Air India	+91-183-2214015

Hotels

Ritz Plaza 45, The Mall	+91-183-2562836-39
Hyatt Hotel GT Road	+91-183-2708888
Comfort Inn Alstonia	+91-183-5077777 / 9872344001
Mohan International, Albert Road	+91-183-3010100
Mrs Bhandari's Guest house	+91-183-2228509
No. 10 Cantonment	+91-183-2566618
Ranjit's Swasa, 47-A, The Mall	+91-183-5095393
Sanjiv International, Court Road	+91-183-5005271

Hospitals

Dr. Dajjit Singh Eye Hospital, Circular Road	+91-183-2557260
Civil Hospital	+91-183-2552464
Khetarpal Hospital, Circular Road	+91-183-2556321

Cinemas

Amrit Talkies, Hall Bazar
Aaram, Taylor Road
Adarsh, M M Malviya Road
New Rialto, Court Road

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 Tourist Information Centre. Railway Station, Outer Gate, GT Road, Amritsar - 143001. Ph: +91-7837613500, +91-183-2402452. For GIS map of Amritsar, please visit www.punjabtourism.gov.in

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