

Himachal Pradesh Travel Guide

By Pluto Tours

Top Destinations



Shimla

- **Attractions:** The Ridge, Mall Road, Jakhoo Temple, Christ Church
- **Activities:** Toy train ride, nature walks, shopping
- **Best Time to Visit:** March to June, October to February



Manali

- **Attractions:** Rohtang Pass, Solang Valley, Hidimba Devi Temple
- **Activities:** Paragliding, skiing, river rafting, trekking
- **Best Time to Visit:** April to June, December to February



Dharamshala & McLeod Ganj

- **Attractions:** Dalai Lama Temple, Bhagsunag Waterfall, Triund Trek
- **Activities:** Trekking, spiritual retreats, exploring Tibetan culture
- **Best Time to Visit:** March to June, September to November



Kasauli

- **Attractions:** Monkey Point, Sunset Point, Christ Church
- **Activities:** Nature walks, photography, bird watching
- **Best Time to Visit:** April to June, September to November



Kullu

- **Attractions:** Great Himalayan National Park, Raghunath Temple
- **Activities:** River rafting, trekking, attending Kullu Dussehra
- **Best Time to Visit:** March to June, September to November



Spiti Valley

- **Attractions:** Key Monastery, Chandratal Lake, Pin Valley National Park
- **Activities:** Trekking, camping, stargazing
- **Best Time to Visit:** May to October



Dalhousie

- **Attractions:** Khajjiar, Dainkund Peak, Kalatop Wildlife Sanctuary
- **Activities:** Hiking, exploring colonial architecture, nature walks
- **Best Time to Visit:** March to June, September to November

Adventure Activities



- **Trekking:** Explore trails like the Hampta Pass, Beas Kund, and Triund Trek.
- **Skiing:** Experience skiing in Solang Valley and Narkanda.
- **Paragliding:** Take a thrilling flight over Bir-Billing, Asia's best paragliding spot.
- **River Rafting:** Conquer the rapids of the Beas River in Kullu.
- **Camping:** Set up a camp in Spiti Valley or along the riversides in Tirthan Valley.

Cultural Experiences



- **Local Festivals:** Immerse yourself in the vibrant festivals like Kullu Dussehra, Manali Winter Carnival, and Losar (Tibetan New Year).
- **Traditional Food:** Savor Himachali delicacies like Dham, Chana Madra, Siddu, and Babru.
- **Handicrafts:** Shop for Kullu shawls, Himachali caps, and Tibetan artifacts in local markets.

Travel Tips



- **Best Time to Visit:**
- **Summer:** March to June (ideal for sightseeing and adventure activities)
- **Winter:** December to February (for snowfall and winter sports)
- **Travel Essentials:** Pack warm clothes, sturdy shoes, a first-aid kit, and sunscreen.
- **Permits:** If visiting Spiti or certain restricted areas, ensure you have the necessary permits.
- **Local Transport:** Use local buses, taxis, or rent bikes for short trips; consider hiring a guide for trekking.

How To Reach

Himachal Pradesh is well-connected to major cities in India by air, rail, and road. Here's a detailed guide on how to reach this beautiful state:

By Air

Himachal Pradesh has three main airports:

1. Chandigarh International Airport (IXC)
 - Location: About 115 km from Shimla
 - Best For: Travelers heading to Shimla, Kasauli, and Solan.
 - Connectivity: Well-connected with major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad.
2. Kangra Airport (Dharamshala) (DHM)
 - Location: About 15 km from Dharamshala
 - Best For: Those visiting Dharamshala, McLeod Ganj, and Palampur.
 - Connectivity: Connected with Delhi, Chandigarh, and some other northern cities.
3. Bhuntar Airport (Kullu-Manali) (KUU)
 - Location: About 10 km from Kullu and 50 km from Manali
 - Best For: Travelers heading to Kullu, Manali, and Kasol.
 - Connectivity: Limited connectivity, primarily with Delhi.

After landing at these airports, you can hire taxis or take buses to your destination in Himachal Pradesh.

By Train

By Train

Himachal Pradesh has a few railway stations, with major ones being:

1. Kalka Railway Station (KLK)

- Location: About 90 km from Shimla
- Best For: Travelers heading to Shimla. From Kalka, you can take the famous Kalka-Shimla toy train, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, for a scenic journey to Shimla.
- Connectivity: Connected to Delhi, Chandigarh, and other major cities.

2. Pathankot Railway Station (PTK)

- Location: About 85 km from Dalhousie
- Best For: Travelers heading to Dalhousie, Dharamshala, and Chamba.
- Connectivity: Well-connected with Delhi, Amritsar, and other cities.

3. Una Himachal Railway Station (UHL)

- Location: About 120 km from Shimla
- Best For: Travelers heading to places like Kangra and Una.
- Connectivity: Connected with Chandigarh, Delhi, and other northern cities.

From these stations, you can take buses, taxis, or hire private vehicles to reach your destination.

By Road

Himachal Pradesh is well-connected by road with neighboring states and major cities. Here are some common routes:

1. From Delhi

- Route: Delhi – Chandigarh – Shimla/Manali/Dharamshala
- Distance:
 - Delhi to Shimla: Approx. 350 km (8 hours)
 - Delhi to Manali: Approx. 540 km (12-14 hours)
 - Delhi to Dharamshala: Approx. 470 km (10-12 hours)
- Options: State-run buses (HRTC), private buses, taxis, or self-drive.

2. From Chandigarh

- Route: Chandigarh – Kalka – Shimla/Manali/Dharamshala
- Distance:
 - Chandigarh to Shimla: Approx. 115 km (4 hours)
 - Chandigarh to Manali: Approx. 290 km (8-10 hours)
 - Chandigarh to Dharamshala: Approx. 250 km (6-8 hours)
- Options: Regular buses, taxis, or self-drive.

3. From Pathankot

- Route: Pathankot – Kangra – Dharamshala/Dalhousie
- Distance:
 - Pathankot to Dharamshala: Approx. 85 km (2-3 hours)
 - Pathankot to Dalhousie: Approx. 80 km (3 hours)
- Options: Buses, taxis, or private vehicles.

By Bus

Himachal Pradesh has a well-developed bus network operated by the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC). You can find regular buses (both ordinary and Volvo) connecting Himachal Pradesh to cities like Delhi, Chandigarh, and other parts of North India. Private bus operators also offer services with various comfort levels, including luxury buses.

Tips for Travel

- **Book in Advance:** Especially during peak tourist seasons (summer and winter), book your flights, trains, and buses in advance to ensure availability.
- **Prepare for Mountain Roads:** Roads in Himachal Pradesh are often winding and steep. If you're prone to motion sickness, take necessary precautions.
- **Weather Considerations:** Check the weather conditions before planning your journey, especially in winter, as some areas might experience snowfall and road closures.

With multiple travel options available, reaching Himachal Pradesh is convenient, allowing you to start your adventure in this Himalayan paradise.