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1. Geographical location

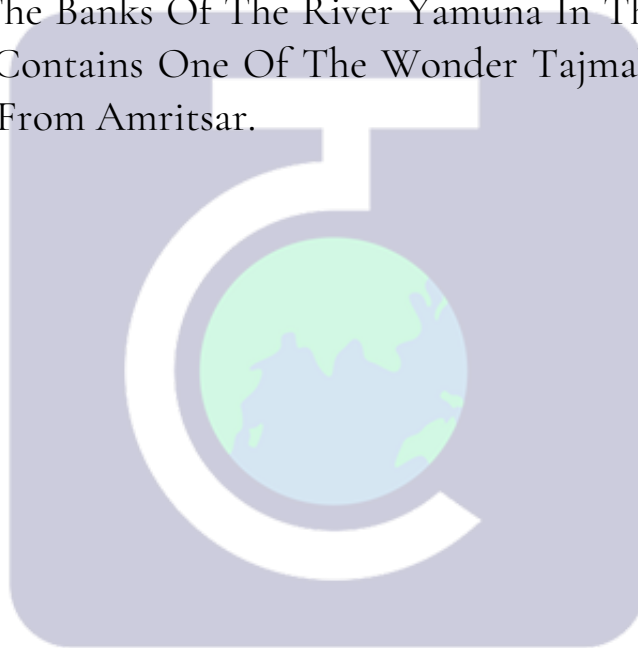
Amritsar historically also known as Ambarsar and colloquially called as Ambarsar, is a city in north-western part of India and the managerial headquarters of the Amritsar district is located in Majha. It is situated 217km northwest of state capital Chandigarh.



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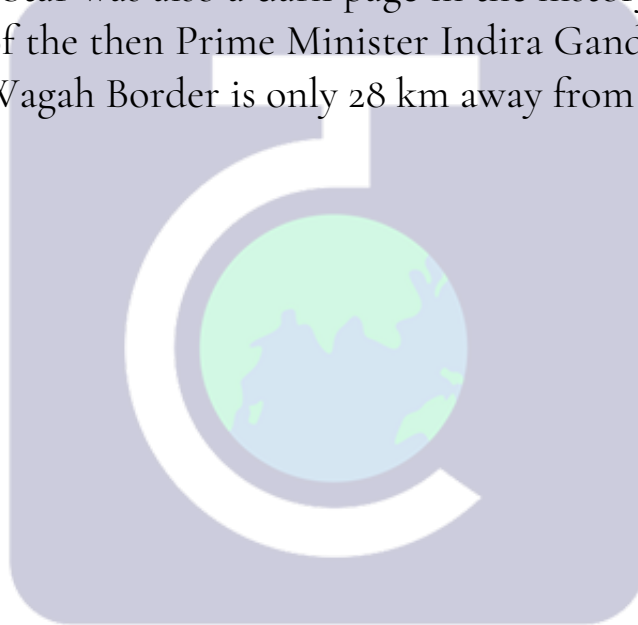
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Nearest City Is Lahore, The Second Largest City In Pakistan Located 50km Into The West. From The Amritsar, 83.5kms Distanced Jalandhar City Was Placed. Vaishno Devi Temple Is Distanced From 267.9kms From The Amritsar. There Is An Amazing Place Called Pathankot Distanced 121.2kms From Amritsar. The Familiar Tourism Honeymoon Place Shimla Is Near From Amritsar Is 335.7kms. Agra Is A City On The Banks Of The River Yamuna In The Northern State Of Uttar Pradesh That Contains One Of The Wonder Tajmahal Which Lies At A Distance Of 640kms From Amritsar.



3. Significance

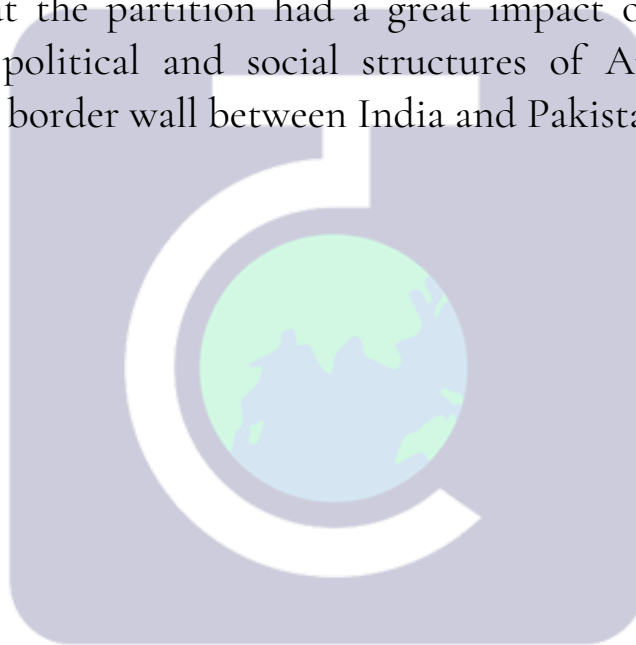
Amritsar is a holy city. It is home to the most important shrine in Sikhism, the Harmandir Sahib or the Golden Temple. Historically also the city holds great significance for India. This was the site of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1919 when innocent people including women and children were fired upon by the British Indian Army under the orders of the British Colonel Reginald Dyer. The 1984 Operation Blue Star was also a dark page in the history of Amritsar leading to the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The city lies close to Pakistan and the Wagah Border is only 28 km away from Amritsar.



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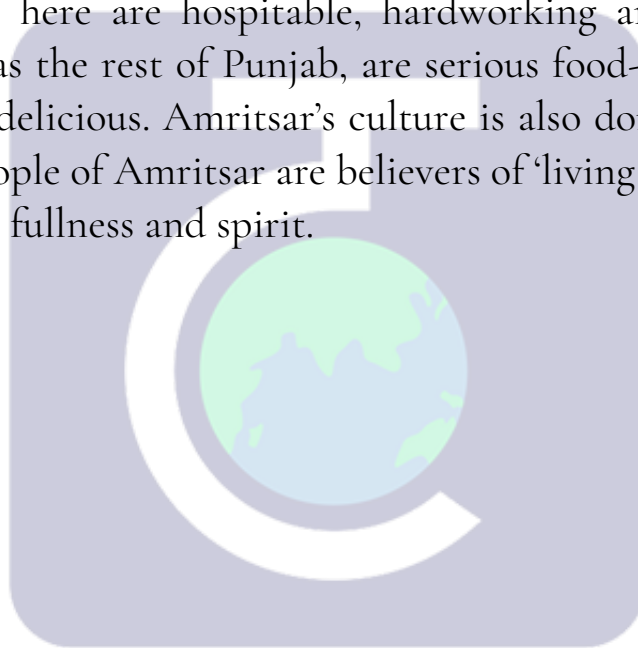
4. History

One of the largest cities of Punjab, Amritsar's origins is based in the village of Tung. The city was rechristened as Amritsar after the lake discovered by the fourth Sikh Guru Ram Das in 1574 when purchased the land for 700 rupees from the landlords of the Tung village. Amritsar history is lined with many historic events including the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the partition of India in 1947. It is well-known that the partition had a great impact on the demographics, economics, culture, political and social structures of Amritsar. The city of Amritsar became the border wall between India and Pakistan.



5. Cultural identity

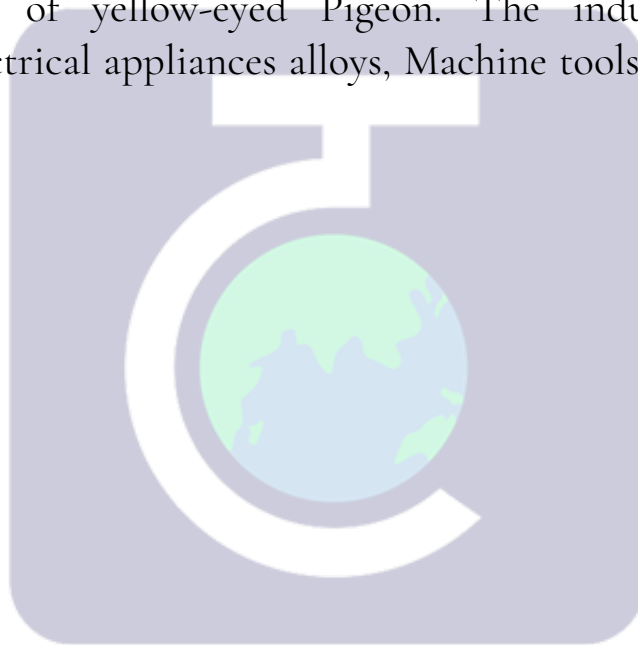
Amritsar is a kaleidoscopic cultural hub. Although its culture and other aspects are deeply rooted in the faith of Sikhism, people of different faiths are welcome here and there is a large population of people following all kinds of faiths and beliefs. The culture of Amritsar has many facets, all of them are very much visible in the city's art and architecture, the city's overall vibe and atmosphere is very friendly. The people here are hospitable, hardworking and God-fearing. The people of Amritsar, as the rest of Punjab, are serious food-lovers. The cuisine is vibrant, diverse and delicious. Amritsar's culture is also dominated by folk song and dance. As the people of Amritsar are believers of 'living it up', their culture is reflective of the same fullness and spirit.



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6. Natural resources

The forest cover is dense and it possesses a tropical dry type forest biome. The city has an endowed deposit of Lime Stone, Quartzite, Glass sand and Foundary sand and potash. The major crops that are grown in the city are Wheat, Rice, Mustard, etc. Variety of herbs, shrubs, trees and grasses are found. It is a home to the great Indian bustards and to the Black bugs along with rare birds like Indian Skimmer and that of yellow-eyed Pigeon. The industries related with Pharmaceuticals, electrical appliances alloys, Machine tools and Basic metals are found.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Maharaja Ranjit Singh Museum

The Summer Palace of Maharaja Raja Ranjit Singh transformed into a museum that archives the royal heritage of the king. Spellbinding paintings, century-old coins, manuscripts, sculptures, arms and armours are displayed in this museum. Surrounding the structure, is the Rambagh Garden which is known for its statue of the legendary king with his horse.

Address : Maharaja Ranjit Singh Bagh, Ram Bagh, Lawrence Road, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Zipcode : 143001

Location : 31.6379495, 74.87867269999992

Nearest Public Transport : Shivala Colony Bus Station

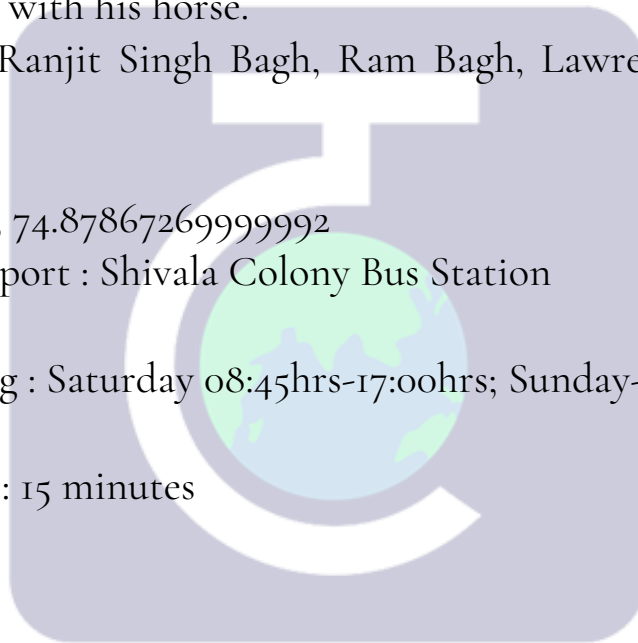
Entry Fee : INR 10

Open & Close Timing : Saturday 08:45hrs-17:00hrs; Sunday-Friday Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 15 minutes

Buy Ticket : No



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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Golden Temple

Also known as Sri Darbar Sahib, this is the holiest Gurdwara of Sikhism and is regarded as the abode of God's spiritual attribute. Thousands of worshippers and believers visit this tranquil Gurudwara in search of peace and harmony.

Address : Rajan Khadwal, Amritsar, Punjab 143006

Zipcode : 143006

Location : 31.61998029999999, 74.87648489999992

Contact : 0183 255 3957

Website : <http://sgpc.net/sri-harmandir-sahib/>

Nearest Public Transport : Free Bus To Airport Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 03:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Jallianwala Bagh

Widely known for its devastating Jallianwala Bagh Massacre that took place on 13 April 1919, it is a famous touring point in the city. What started out as a peaceful celebration of the Baisakhi Festival, later turned into a bloodshed on the orders of General Dyer, with his troops killing over 1200 people.

Address : Near Golden Temple, Amritsar 143001, India

Zipcode : 143001

Location : 31.6206437, 74.88010880000002

Contact : 91-9914404090

Nearest Public Transport : Free Bus to Airport Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-20:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Wagah

The iconic Wagah Border is a symbol of the two countries' rivalry and cooperation. The daily ceremony of lowering the flags is a military practice which the security forces of both, India and Pakistan have followed since 1959.

Address : Attari, Amritsar 143001
Zipcode : 143001
Location : 31.604757, 74.57413599999995
Time Required : 2
Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Shree Durgiana Tirath

This Hindu temple is popularly known by several other names like Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Durga Temple and Sitla Mandir. Though it is a Hindu temple, its structure resembles the Golden Temple of the Sikhs. Idols of Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Vishnu are deified here.

Address : Gole Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab 143001
Zipcode : 143001
Location : 31.6272078, 74.86736199999996
Contact : 91-9914404090
Website : <https://www.durgianamandir.com/>
Nearest Public Transport : Amritsar Bus depot
Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:30hrs-21:30hrs
Time Required : 1.5
Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Ram Tirath

The Ram Tirath Temple dates back to the period of Ramayana. Close to the temple, there is a hut where Mata Sita was believed to have given birth to Luv and Kush. It also has Maharishi Valmiki's hermitage and exhibits beautiful scenes from the epic of Ramayana.

Address : Kaler, Punjab 143101
Zipcode : 143101
Location : 31.6742646, 74.7560949
Nearest Public Transport : Bhagtanwala Train Station
Open & Close Timing : Daily 05:00hrs-09:00hrs
Time Required : 1
Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Lal Mata Mandir

Built in the honor of Mata Lal Devi, this temple is visited by several devotees all throughout the year. It is believed that those who visit this temple return home with boundless joy, leaving all their worries behind. Reaching the idol is not a simple task. Devotees must wade through ankle-deep waters, climb steep stairs and go through thin tunnels.

Address : Mohindra Colony, Lal Bhawan, Rani Ka Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Zipcode : 143001

Location : 31.6372803, 74.86090519999993

Contact : +91 9988089892

Nearest Public Transport : Guru Arjun Nagar Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 05:00hrs-23:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Pul Kanjari

Built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh, this was once an important trading center. Its interiors contain a bathing pool, temple, mosque and a Gurudwara, which act as a symbol of the Maharaja's secularity.

Address : Amritsar, Punjab 143109

Zipcode : 143109

Location : 31.6373154, 74.5549178

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Akal Takht

Built by Guru Hargovind Sahib as a place of Justice, this is one of the 5 takhts of the Sikh religion. The Akal Takht symbolises political sovereignty. It is said to be the highest seat of earthly authority of the Khalsa, and is also a place for the highest spokesman of the Sikhs, the Jathedar.

Address : Harmandir Sahib, Golden Temple Rd, Amritsar, Punjab 143006

Zipcode : 143006

Location : 31.620556, 74.87527799999998

Contact : +91-1832540820

Nearest Public Transport : Free Bus to Airport Station

Open & Close Timing : open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.9. Tarn Taran Sahib

A city and district headquarter, the Tarn Taran Sahib was founded by the 5th Sikh Guru, Shri Guru Arjan Dev Ji around 1606 AD. Tarn Taran Sahib was a part of the Bhangi Sikh Dynasty. It was once an important center of Sikh insurgency.

Address : Tarn Taran Sahib, Amritsar, Punjab

Location : 31.4616728, 74.92672289999996

Contact : +91-1852222707

Nearest Public Transport : Tarn Taran Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 4

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.10. Beerh Baba Buddha Sahib Ji Gurudwara

This Gurudwara was built to pay homage to Baba Budha, who was an extremely prominent Sikh in the time of Guru Nanak. Inside the Gurudwara, the holy book of the Sikhs, the Guru Granth Sahib is placed on a canopied white marble seat.

Address : Chaabal - Amritsar Road, Near Jhabal Kalan Village, Amritsar, India

Location : 31.5128323, 74.77367770000001

Contact : +91-1852277326

Open & Close Timing : Daily 05:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.11. Goindwal Sahib

It is one of the hubs for small scale industries of the Tarn Taran districts on the banks of the River Beas. It is at this place where Guru Amar Das met Guru Ram Das, who established this spot as a new center for preaching Sikhism. Today, it is a prime tourist destination.

Address : Goindwal Distt- Tarn Taran Punjab 143422

Zipcode : 143422

Location : 31.3638402, 75.13702539999997

Nearest Public Transport : Goindwal Sahib Railway Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.12. Santokh Pura

This Sikh Shrine is one of the 5 historical Sarovars constructed by Guru Arjun Dev. It is the place where Guru Ramdas waited for a Yogi to complete his meditation for a long time and give him salvation. Since he disclosed his name as Santakha, the tank was named as Santokhsar.

Address : Golden Temple Rd, Town Hall, Katra Ahluwalia, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Zipcode : 143001

Location : 31.3482648, 75.59316430000001

Nearest Public Transport : Free Bus to Airport Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 05:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.13. Gobind Garh Fort

It is a military fort of historic significance, which was claimed as the property of the 8th-generation descendants of Maharaja Ranjit Singh.

Address : Old Cantt Road, Vijay Chowk, Inside Logarh Chowk, Gobind Garh Fort, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Zipcode : 143001

Location : 31.6276227, 74.85802330000001

Website : <http://www.punjabtourism.gov.in/>

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.14. Hall Bazaar

The Hall Bazaar is the main shopping area in the city and is populated with a large number of shops and restaurants. Here you will find a wide range of products such as traditional clothes, handicrafts, jewelry, electronics and much more.

Address : Hall Bazar, Katra Ahluwalia Amritsar, Punjab

Location : 31.6293094, 74.87775910000005

Nearest Public Transport : City Bus Station 2

Time Required : 2.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.15. Guru Bazar

Guru bazaar is one of the biggest jewelry markets in Amritsar specifically known for selling a traditional piece of Indian jewelry called Jadau.

Address : Katra Ahluwalia Amritsar, Punjab 143006

Zipcode : 143006

Location : 31.622316899999999, 74.87319079999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.16. Katra Jaimal Singh market

This place is ideal for wedding shopping, with a huge market for everything from traditional clothes to jewelry and footwear.

Address : Kt. Jaimal Singh Amritsar, Punjab 143006

Zipcode : 143006

Location : 31.6261712, 74.87483539999994

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.17. Kapda Bazaar

Zipcode : 0

Location : 31.6229685, 74.87486080000008

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Major local sports in this city include cricket, hockey, wrestling, athletic, football and kabaddi. There are various world class stadiums in this city and include;

- **Gandhi Grounds:**

Address : INA Colony, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.63883239999999,74.87300809999999

Contact No : 099880 71564

- **Guru Nanak Stadium:**

Address : Club Rd, Near Mata Rani Mandir, Gandhi Nagar, Civil Lines, Ludhiana, Punjab 141001

Location : 31.6383126,74.87446990000001

Contact No : 0161 505 2062

Open/Close time : Monday-Saturday 05:00hrs-19:00hrs

9. Spas and relaxation

- **Texture Salon & Spa:**

Address : 1st Floor, Narula Mall, Mall Road, INA Colony, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.640986,74.87320599999998

Contact No : 0183 653 2777

Website : <http://www.texturesalon.in/>

- **Hyatt Amritsar:**

Address : Adjoining Alpha One City Center G.T Road, MBM Farms, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.6190243,74.9089146

Contact No : 0183 525 1234

Website : <https://amritsar.hyatthotels.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html>

- **The Thai Spa:**

Address : Unit- 10, A Wing, 3rd Floor, Trilium Mall, Circular Rd, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.658251,74.87857600000007

Contact No : 0183 501 2259

Website : <http://www.thethaispa.in/>

10. Events calendar

Month

Events

Lohri festival @ Amritsar

A festival held to mark the end of winter harvest with people dancing and singing around a bonfire that is kept burning by throwing peanuts and popcorns.

Basant Panchami @ Chheharta Sahib

A kite flying festival where each person tries to cut the kite of the other person.

Holla Mohalla @ Amritsar

A festival that was established by Guru Gobind Singh and is marked with sword fighting and other weapons performances.

Baisakhi festival @ Amritsar streets

A joyous festival held to mark beginning of spring with people wearing colorful clothes and dancing in the streets.

Gurudwara Fatehgarh Sahib Jor Mela @ Amritsar

A festival held to remember the

martyrdom of two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh who were murdered for refusing to convert to Islam.

Saint Kabir Jayanti @ Amritsar

A day established to honor the famous poet and mystical saint Sant Kabir Das.

Guru Purnima @ Amritsar

A Hindu festival held to celebrate the great sage Vyasa who wrote some of the Hindu scriptures.

Gurudwara Nanaksar Jagraon @ Amritsar

An annual fair held to commemorate and honor Sikh saint Guru Govind Singh.

Chappar Mela @ Amritsar

This is a fair where people worship snake embodiment of Guga with a lot of music and dancing.

Ram Tirath Fair @ Ram Tirath

A fair held to honor the tank that is believed to have been dug by Hanuman and has a circumference of 3km with temple at its sides.

Guru Purab festival @ Amritsar

**A festival organized where the people remember the holy sermons of Guru Nanak.
Harballabh Sangeet Sammelan @ Amritsar**

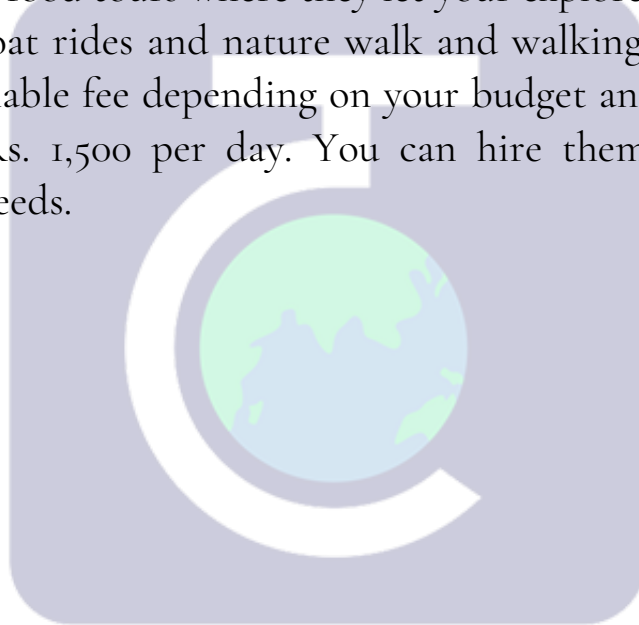
An event held to remember Swami Harballabh who was a composer of many forms of classical music.



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11. Key local guides and tours

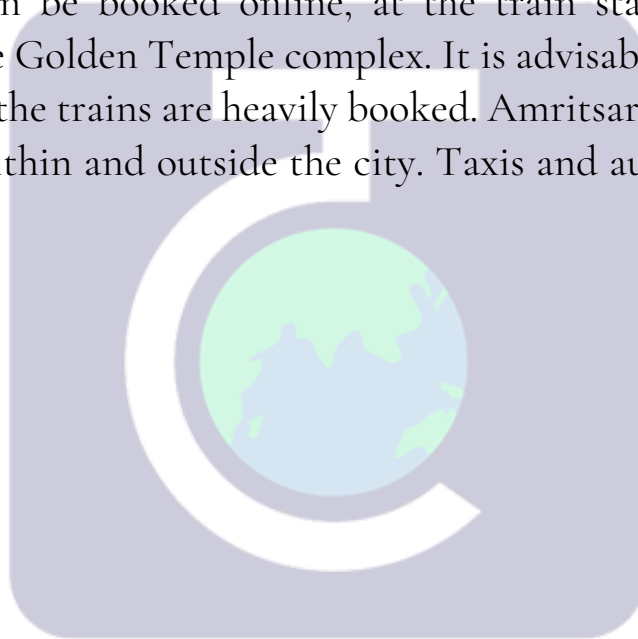
There is a lot to be explored in Amritsar and you might need a tour guide to help you explore the city. The tour guides offer different packages all depending on your needs and budget. Remember to hire the certified tour guides and those approved by the tourism department. Their packages include village tours where they teach you things like how to milk a cow the Indian way, nature farm tours for the nature lovers, food tours where they let you explore Amritsar dishes, eco tours that include boat rides and nature walk and walking tours among others. They charge a reasonable fee depending on your budget and most charges range from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,500 per day. You can hire them for a day or more depending on your needs.



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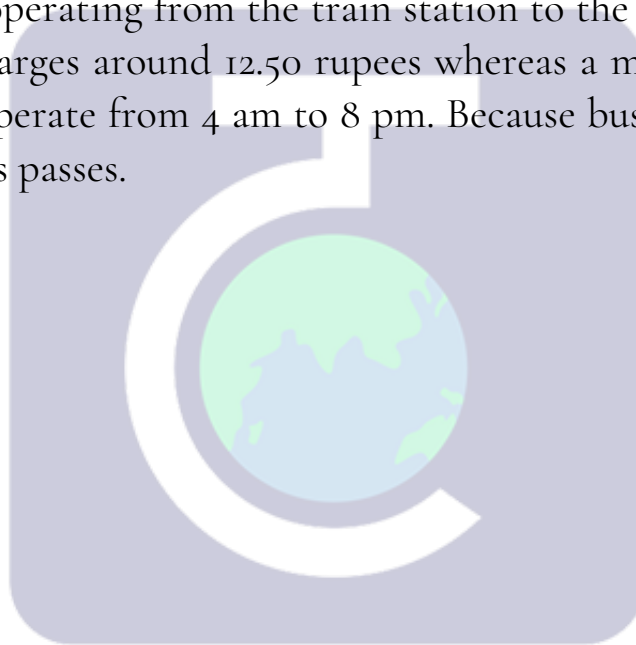
12. Transportation hubs

Amritsar's main airport is Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport named after the founder of Amritsar city Guru Ram Das. It is located 11 kilometers from the town center and it takes around 18 minutes. You can hire a taxi to take you to town that charges around Rs. 400 but you can bargain. Buses and auto rickshaws are also available. Amritsar railway station is well connected to other cities in India and tickets can be booked online, at the train station or at the small booking offices at the Golden Temple complex. It is advisable that you book your tickets in advance as the trains are heavily booked. Amritsar bus station has many buses that operate within and outside the city. Taxis and auto rickshaws are also available.



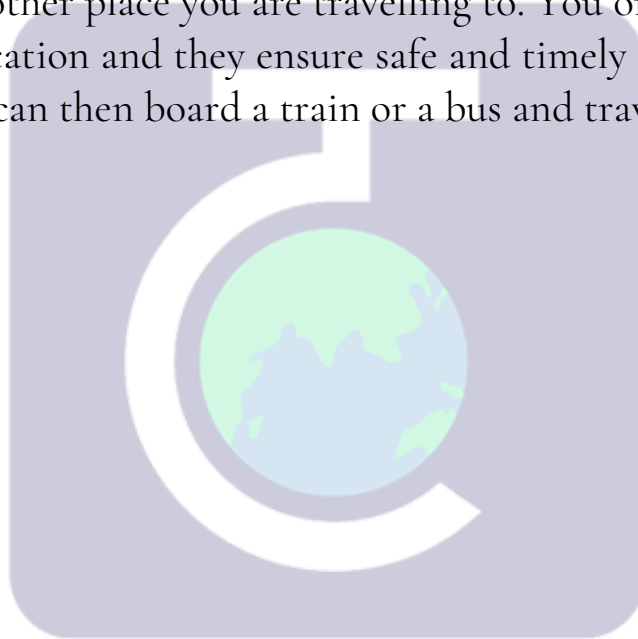
Index**13. Transportation cost**

Amritsar is a small city and so auto rickshaws and cycle rickshaws are the commonly used means of transportation for getting around. They are very cheap and for short distances they charge around Rs. 40. You can also rent a car to travel around with in the city and the renting companies charge a reasonable fee depending on the distances you want to cover. Buses are also available and there is usually a free bus operating from the train station to the Golden Temple. One way ticket by bus charges around 12.50 rupees whereas a monthly pass costs 520 rupees. Most buses operate from 4 am to 8 pm. Because buses are not commonly used, there are no bus passes.



Index**14. Baggage allowance**

A few trains and buses in this city have limited space for baggage. So if you have a lot of luggage, it is only reasonable to hire a taxi as they usually have enough space for your entire luggage and the journey is hassle free. Public transportation will mishandle your luggage and charge a lot of extra fee. You can alternatively look for the delivery company and have them deliver your luggage at the hotel you will be staying in or any other place you are travelling to. You only need to give them the address of the location and they ensure safe and timely delivery. They charge reasonable fees. You can then board a train or a bus and travel luggage free.



15. Restaurant & Nightlife

Eating out in Amritsar is more than just a dining experience. Most of the restaurants are found near INA colony.

Food -

Eating out in Amritsar is more than just a dining experience. Most of the restaurants are found near INA colony.

- **Kesar Da Dhaba:**

Address : Chowk Passian, Near Telephone Exchange, Shastri Market, Katra Ahluwalia, Amritsar Cantt., Punjab 143006

Location : 31.6242266,74.873021

Contact No : +91-183-2552103,+91-183-3195000 ,+91-9815576117

Website : <http://www.kesardadhaba.com/>

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Beera Chicken:**

Address : Majitha Rd, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.6419903,74.884000499

Contact No : 085669 14747

Open / Close Time : Daily 12:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **All India Famous Amritsari Kulcha:**

Address : Maqbool Road, Near Racecourse Rd crossing, Anand Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab 143104

Location : 31.6495495,74.869460800

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-15:30hrs

- **Friends Dhaba:**

Address : 219, Queens, Road, INA Colony, Amritsar, INA Colony, Cycle Market, Amritsar 143001

Location : 31.634989,74.869132999

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-23:00hrs

- **Bharawan Da Dhaba:**

Address : Near Town Hall, Town Hall, Katra Ahluwalia, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.6259196,74.877672699

Contact No : 0183 253 2575

Open / Close Time : Daily 08:00hrs-00:00hrs

- **Peddlers Amritsar:**

Address : Aneja Tower, Sco 36,, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.6521162,74.864696500

Contact No : 070879 62021

Open / Close Time : Monday-Friday 11:00hrs-00:30hrs; Saturday 11:00hrs-02:00hrs; Sunday 11:00hrs-1:30hrs

- **The Amritsar Club:**

Address : Ram Bagh Garden, Inside Company Bagh, Maharaja Ranjit Singh Nagar, Company Bagh, Amritsar, Punjab 143001

Location : 31.6383858,74.8794035999999

Contact No : 0183 222 3100

Website : <http://www.theamritsarclub.com/>

- **Groove In pub:**

Address : SCO 22, Ranjit Avenew, B - Block, Ranjit Avenue, Amritsar,
Punjab 143001

Location : 31.6511221,74.863701799

Contact No : 097819 92162

Open / Close Time : Daily 11:00hrs-22:00hrs



Index**16. Average meal cost**

In an inexpensive restaurant a normal meal will cost you 200.00 rupees and that of three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant for two people will be at 600.00 rupees. The combo meal at McDonald's can be purchased at 200.00 rupees. You can have a fresh regular Cappuccino at 95.00Rs. 11.2 oz small bottle of water is available at 12.50Rs. 1 pint draught of Domestic Beer is available at 100.00 rupees and 11.2 oz small bottle of Imported Beer can be purchased at 120.00 rupees. A mid-range bottle of Wine can be purchased at 450.00 rupees.



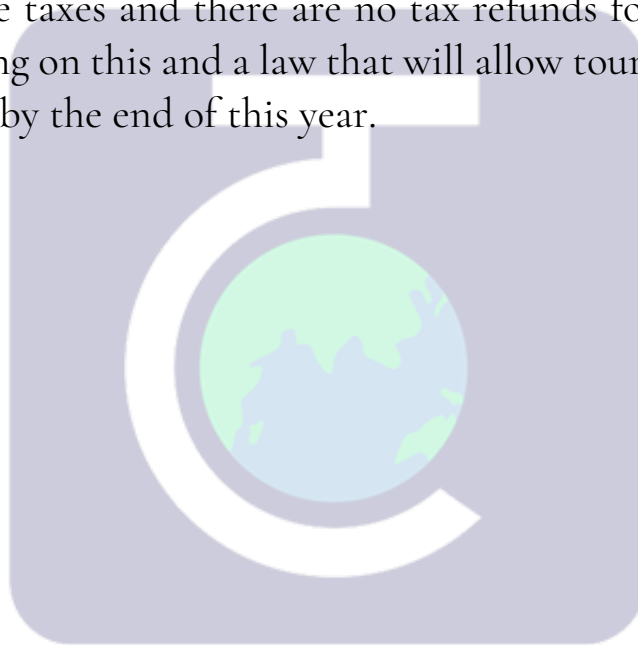
Index**17. Shopping**

Punjab is a shopper's paradise and amongst all the cities and towns in the State, Amritsar takes away brownie points as far as shopping options and experiences go. The city offers widespread scope for shopping both traditional and modern items. The city boasts of markets and open markets mainly. The top recommendations are: Hall Bazaar: It is a shopping complex where one can easily get to see and buy varieties of items of all kinds - electronic items, jewelry, books, handicraft items like phulkari and ready-made garments etc. Guru Bazaar: The oldest market in Amritsar, it is where you should go if silver and gold ornaments interest you. Katra Jaimal Singh Market : This place is amazing and a must-visit if you have wedding shopping to do. Kapda Bazaar : The city's all-in-one textiles market.



18. Tourist benefits

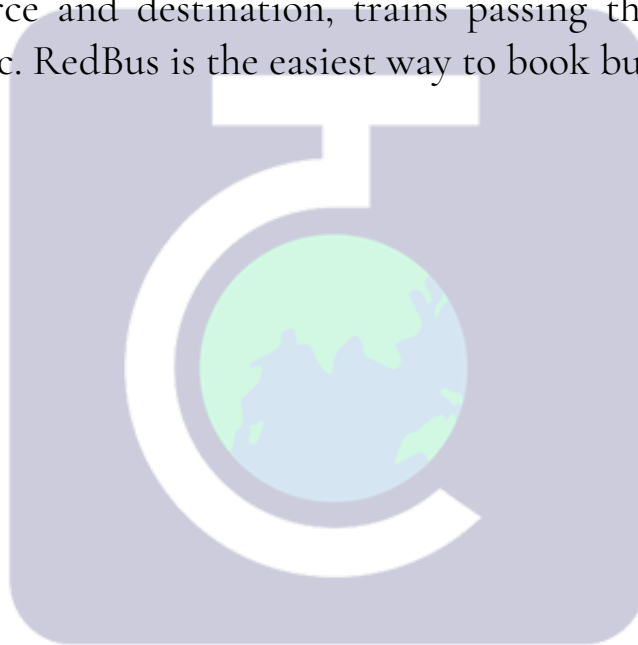
Tax free shops are available in this city more so at the airports. Some of these shops include the souvenir shops, malls and the brand stores. They will usually have the tax free logo. Tourists can buy products from these shops for relatively cheap prices. Goods and services have a tax rate of 8% (GST) in this city. Tourists visiting this country have to pay the taxes just like the citizens. They pay the full amount including the taxes and there are no tax refunds for them. However the government is working on this and a law that will allow tourists claim tax refunds will be implemented by the end of this year.



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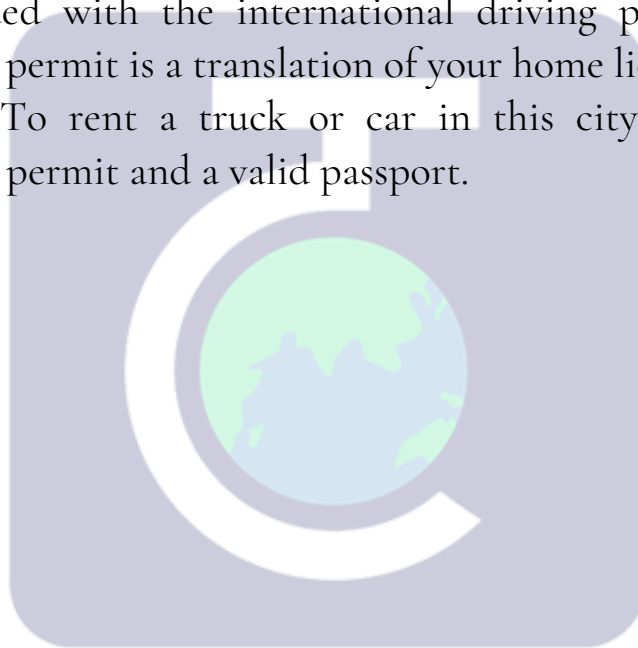
19. Essential local apps

Amritsar is a bust city with millions of devotees visiting the Golden Temple every day. It is quite helpful to use some travel apps that can help you in finding other important tourist spots and options for food and stay. IRCTC Connect is an Indian Railway app to book and cancel tickets, view trains, routes, timetable, facilities, etc. Indian Railway Offline Timetable provides a comprehensive list of trains based on source and destination, trains passing through a station, live route, PNR status, etc. RedBus is the easiest way to book buses and hotel rooms.



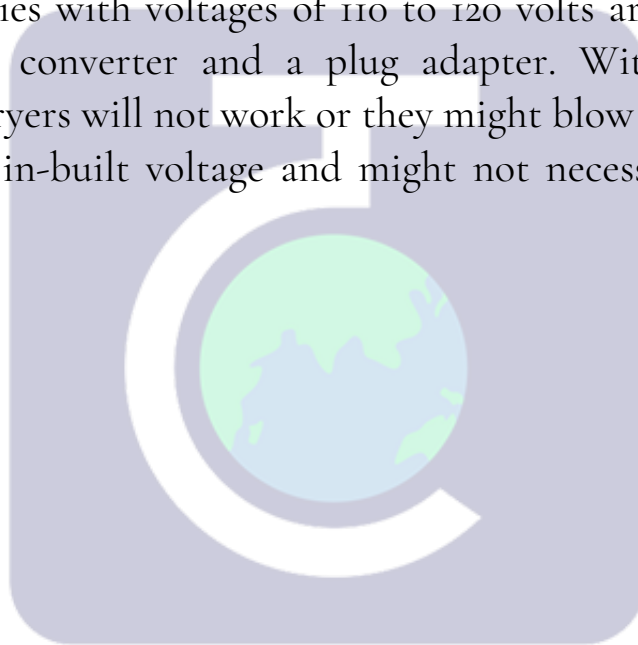
Index**20. Driving**

Driving in Amritsar is on the left side of the road. Indian roads are not safe to drive unless you are an experienced driver. An International Driving Permit and a valid driving license are required to drive legally in this town. The international driving license should be issued by the state that issued you your driving license. But if you plan to stay for a long time in the country, you can take the driving test and get licence issued with the international driving permit in India. The international driving permit is a translation of your home license and it is usually valid for one year. To rent a truck or car in this city you must have the international driving permit and a valid passport.



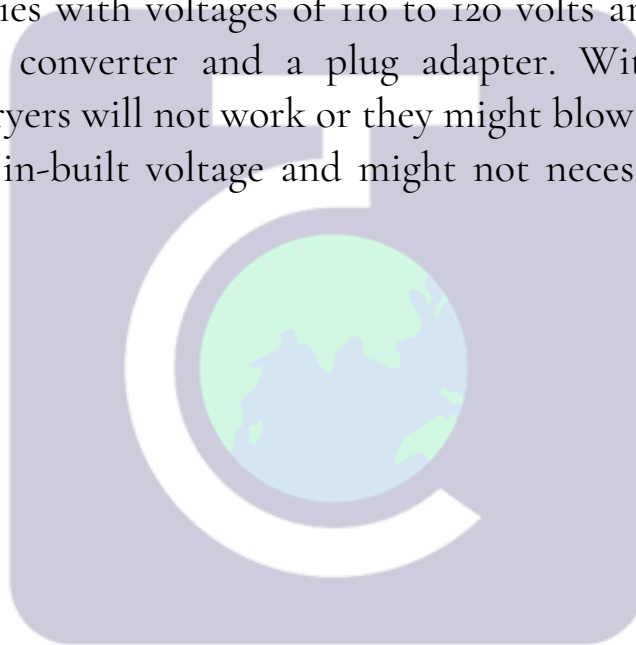
Index**21. Travel essentials**

Amritsar has a standard voltage of 240 volts with a frequency of 50 hertz. The sockets found in this city are the type D sockets (three pin plug configuration). There are some countries with the same voltage as that of this city. Nationals from these countries are only required to carry a travel adapter to fit the plug configuration because they might be different from those at their home countries. Visitors from countries with voltages of 110 to 120 volts are required to carry a transformer, voltage converter and a plug adapter. Without a transformer, appliances like hairdryers will not work or they might blow up. Most laptops and mobile phones have in-built voltage and might not necessarily require voltage converters.



Index**22. Essential clothes**

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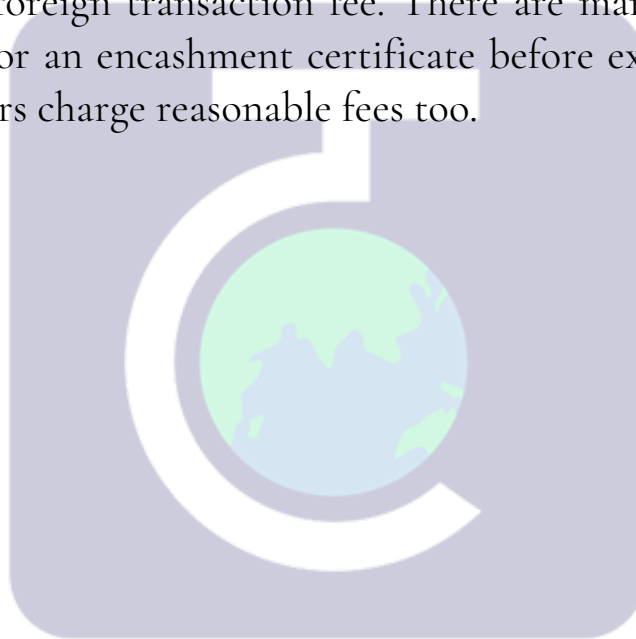
Index**23. Local currency**

Local currency of Amritsar is Indian Rupee. It is denoted as INR. 1 USD = INR 66.88



24. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges

It is advisable that you go with cash money as most banks charge slightly higher fees for the foreign transactions. Most ATMs at the airport accept foreign cards and it is also advisable to get your money at the airport ATMs just to be on the safe side. Visa and plus cards are widely accepted in Amritsar by ATMs that have visa or plus logos. Most banks charge around 2% of the transaction. Other ATMs will not charge any foreign transaction fee. There are many exchange counters but you should ask for an encashment certificate before exchanging the money. The exchange counters charge reasonable fees too.



25. Staying connected

Procuring a SIM card for mobile phones and Smartphones is very easy and convenient in Amritsar. You can reach out to any of the mobile shops or outlets which are very well-spread across the city. Don't forget to carry an ID-proof document. Airtel, Idea and BSNL telecom networks are the best in this region. A SIM card's cost should be between INR 50 and INR 200. Most hotels, cafes, pubs and bars have Wi-Fi-connectivity.



26. Time Zone

Amritsar follows Indian Standard Time Zone (IST) with UTC + 05:30 hours.



Index**27. Languages**

Maajhi which is a dialect of Punjabi is spoken widely in Amritsar followed with Punjabi and Hindi.



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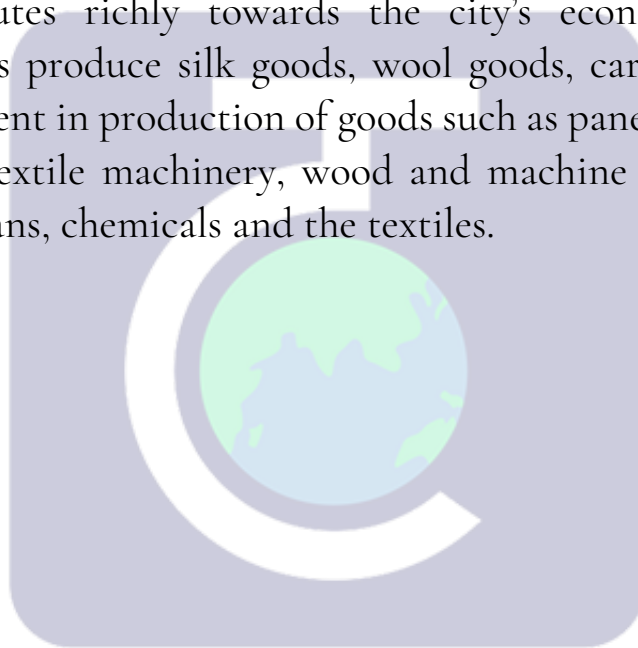
28. Political Scenario

The politics and upkeep of the city of Amritsar is overseen by district-level administration. The departments within are segmented to look and take care of matters in areas of healthcare, public welfare, education, agriculture etc. Furthermore, the local municipal corporation has the duties of regulating the city's civic matters. The Municipal body works in tandem with the other departments to ensure that the peace and harmony of the city is continuously improving and being maintained.



Index**29. Economic Scenario**

Amritsar's economy is mainly flourished by the incoming of tourists to visit the Golden Temple – the holiest shrine of Sikhism. The tourists coming to visit the shrine mean good business for the local shops and hotels based in the city. Of course, the Golden Temple is the top-most tourist attraction, however there is a lot more for tourists to see and explore across the city of Amritsar. The industrial sector also contributes richly towards the city's economy. A number of manufacturing plants produce silk goods, wool goods, carpets. The small-scale industries are proficient in production of goods such as panel pins, paper-cutting, engineering goods, textile machinery, wood and machine screws, printing and machinery, electric fans, chemicals and the textiles.



Index**30. Religious belief**

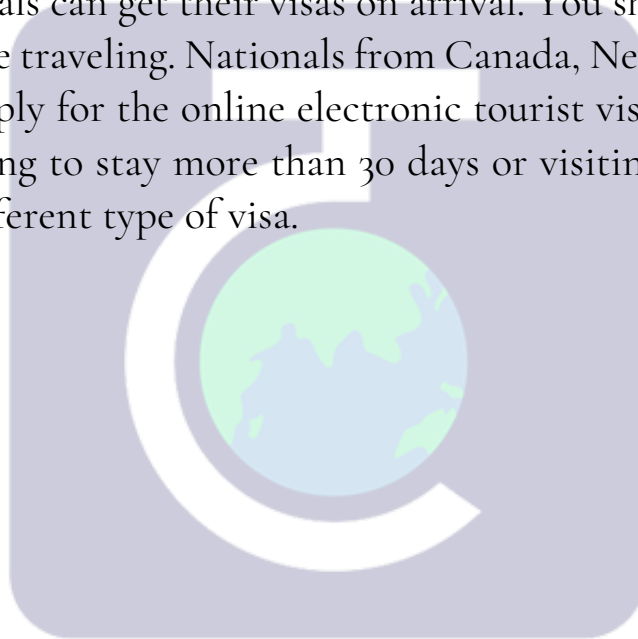
Hinduism and Sikhism are the two major religions in Amritsar with almost an equal number of people being the followers of these religions. Islam, Christianity, and other religions form a mere minority.



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31. Visa requirements

Tourists travelling to Amritsar, India should have a valid passport and a visa. To be issued with a visa, your passport must show validity of six months. It is advisable to carry with you photocopies of these documents incase the originals get lost so that you are able to get replacements. You should get your visa before travelling to India. Some countries however have made agreements with India whereby their nationals can get their visas on arrival. You should check if you are eligible for this before traveling. Nationals from Canada, New Zealand, UK, USA, and Australia can apply for the online electronic tourist visa that is usually valid for 30 days. If planning to stay more than 30 days or visiting for other purposes, you should take a different type of visa.



Index**32. Essential vaccination**

It is recommended to be vaccinated for Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus and Diphtheria, Typhoid, Japanese Encephalitis, Hepatitis B, Varicella, Mumps, Measles, Rubella and Routine vaccines.



Index**33. Theft and Safety**

There are no serious crimes reported against tourists. However, be cautious of pick-pockets who are known to focus on foreign tourists in crowded areas. Keep the purse and other valuable things in front pockets. Always keep expensive things locked away in hotel rooms.



Index**34. Embassy/Consulate**

There are no foreign embassies and consulates in Amritsar. To find more information of nearby places serving the same facility, you can visit <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/india>.



35. Accessibility

The Harmandir Sahib or the Golden Temple in Amritsar provides wheelchairs for the disabled and old. Apart from this, it may be difficult to move around as many other tourist spots are not disabled friendly.



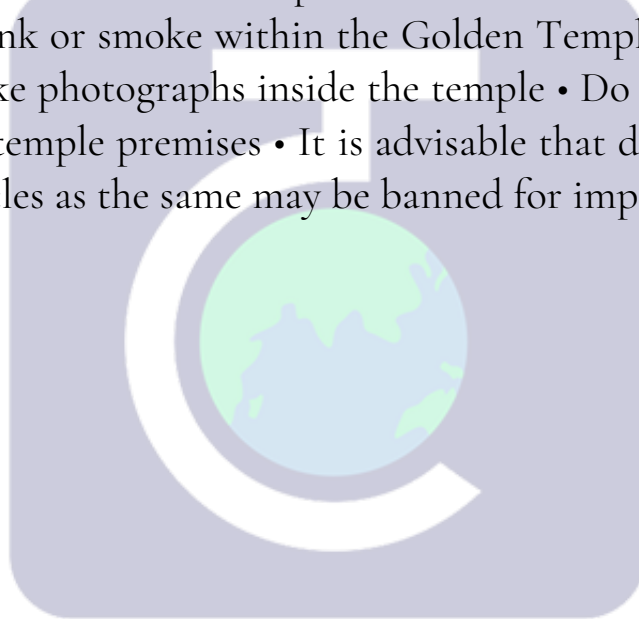
Index**36. Emergencies**

In case of emergencies you can call 100 for Police, 101 for Fire and that of Ambulance, you can call at 102. Apart from this, you can call 1099 for Traffic Police. You are provided with top-notch medical services and facilities even if you are a tourist. The hospital that offers help with travel insurance is Fortis Escorts Hospital .



Index**37. Do's and Don'ts**

Being the seat of a sacred religious institution, Amritsar expects and demands observation of certain customs and rules in and around the holy areas apart from the government laws and regulations. Do's - • Respect the religious attitudes of other people. • Cover your head when entering the Golden Temple or other gurudwaras. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • Avoid the use of plastic. Don'ts - • Do not drink or smoke within the Golden Temple complex and on its premises • Do not take photographs inside the temple • Do not drink and drive • Do not litter on the temple premises • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import.



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38.Tipping basics

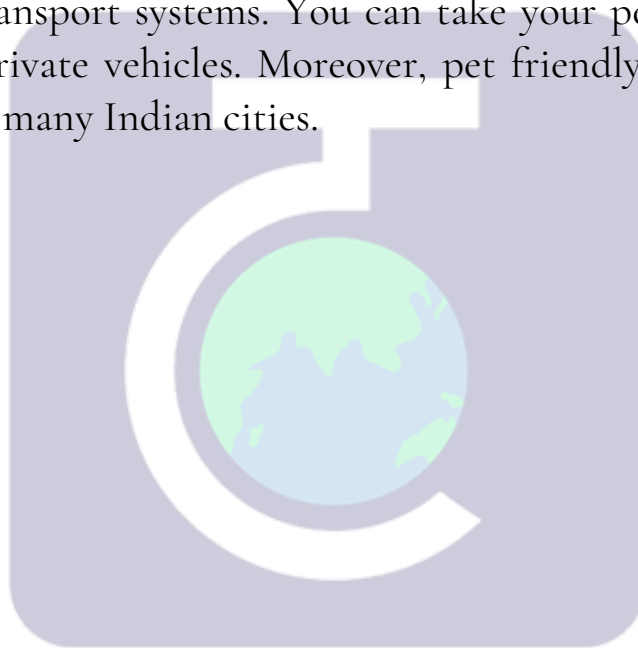
At hotels, tip is given to the room service boy and gate-keeper when one is leaving the hotel premises on the last day. Tips given to waiters at hotels or restaurants after eating is approximately considered to be 10% of total bill. In small restaurants, 10 rupees to 30 rupees can be modest. Guides expect certain amount of tip for their good services. One does not require tipping auto-driver and taxi driver for short journeys. However, for any long tour, one can tip 50 rupees to 100 rupees.



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39.Pet info

India has put a ban on foreign tourists bringing their pets into the country with them. This is to prevent the illegal trafficking of foreign breeds through agents posing as tourists. However, this has caused great inconvenience to many tourists who have no other option than leaving their pets at their home countries while they visit India. Even within India, domestic travelers cannot carry their pet animals on public transport systems. You can take your pets along only if they travel with you in private vehicles. Moreover, pet friendly hotels and stays are really hard to find in many Indian cities.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Why choose Amritsar ? Amritsar is more than a regular tourist destination. It is the spiritual and cultural hub of Sikhism and the land of the Golden Temple which has become the iconic landmark and center of life's activities in Amritsar. No tour of this city is complete without a visit to the stunning religious complex that boasts of a marvelous architectural style and a serene atmosphere even with millions visiting the sacred premises day and night. The temple is especially breathtaking when fully lit up at night and the pool near it reflects the building in its full glory as an inverted image. Opportunities are plenty for those who wishes to volunteer in the temple's day-to-day activities, like peeling or cutting vegetables, washing the floors, assisting the cooks in the kitchen, washing dishes, carrying sacks of wheat or rice or lentils to the storage areas, or donating ingredients for the daily meals. Important to historians is the site of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre where a memorial commemorates the martyrs of the British firing of 1919. The bullet holes on the walls and the well inside the park into which people jumped to escape the firing stand as symbols of human barbarity. Away from the bustle of the city lie the suburban towns and villages where life goes on mostly in traditional ways. Go and live with them to know how an average family lives with their cattle and fields. You may get a chance to milk a cow or work in a farm with the local people. The food in Amritsar is always a dinner date with the past; the dishes are traditional with home grown ingredients, cooking done in clay stoves and pots, and served on huge platters with vegetables, meat, and sweets with loads of the pure 'desi ghee' which is a staple of Punjabi cuisine.

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