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1. Geographical location

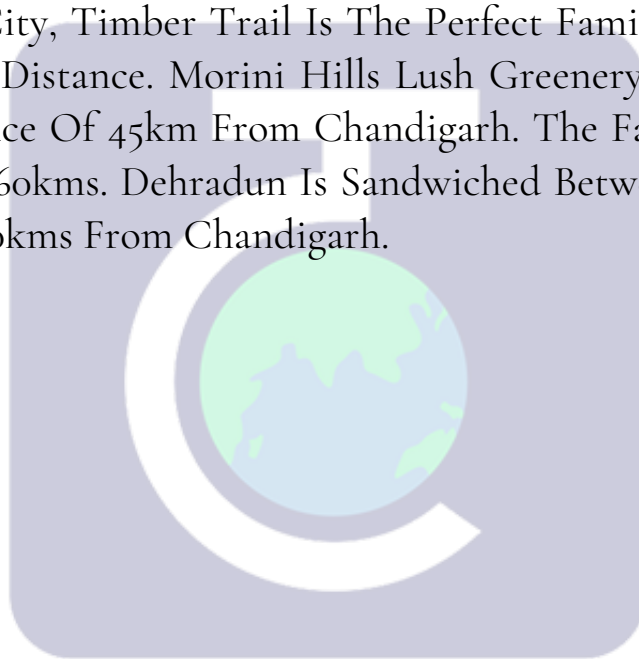
Chandigarh is the first ever planned city in India. The city tops the union territories of India and is noteworthy as it has the highest per capita income when compared to other union territories of the country. Elevation of the city is 350 m (1,150ft). Chandigarh is an area in northern India. Chandigarh is one of the perfect cities of the world in terms of its architecture, cultural growth, and modernisation. Roads in this city are surrounded by trees and it has third highest forest cover in India at 8.51 % following Lakshadweep and Goa. The city is known to be cleanest in the country according to their reports.



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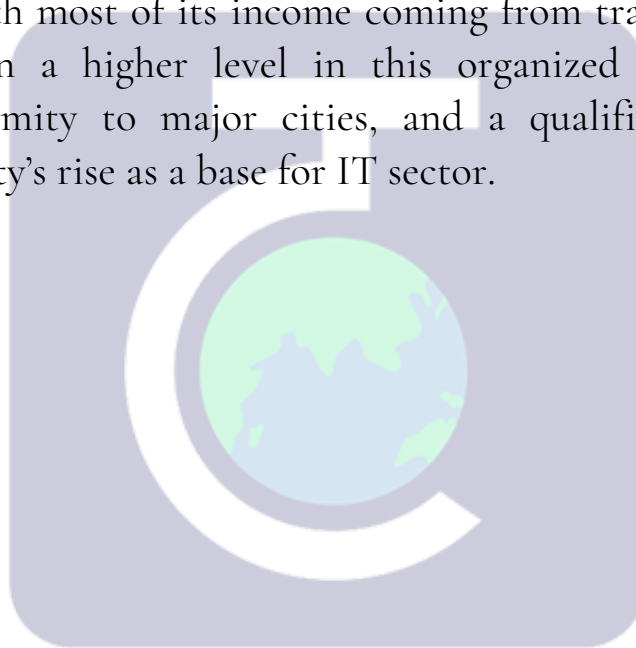
2. Neighbouring cities/countries

Being A Well-planned City, It Has Been Included In The List Of World's Most Popular Cities And For Its Quality Of Life. Chandigarh Is A Prestigious City As It Is The Capital Of Two States, Punjab And Haryana. There Is A Famous City Called Ram Darbar Distanced 6.9km Away From Chandigarh. Neighbouring Cities Are Mohali And Panchkula Which Are Recognized As The Chandigarh Tricity. From This City, Timber Trail Is The Perfect Family Picnic Destination Located From 100m Distance. Morini Hills Lush Greenery And Serene Lake Is Located At A Distance Of 45km From Chandigarh. The Famous Hill Station Is Barog Distanced As 60kms. Dehradun Is Sandwiched Between Ganga & Yamuna At A Distance Of 170kms From Chandigarh.



3. Significance

The first planned city in independent India, the capital of two states, a Union Territory, and a safe and clean Indian city – Chandigarh is all these and more. The city is renowned for its architecture and urban landscape designed by the Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier whose vision and design created the best buildings, houses, roads, and parks in neatly arranged sectors. Chandigarh is a very affluent city with most of its income coming from trade and business. The quality of life is on a higher level in this organized city. Availability of infrastructure, proximity to major cities, and a qualified talent pool have contributed to the city's rise as a base for IT sector.

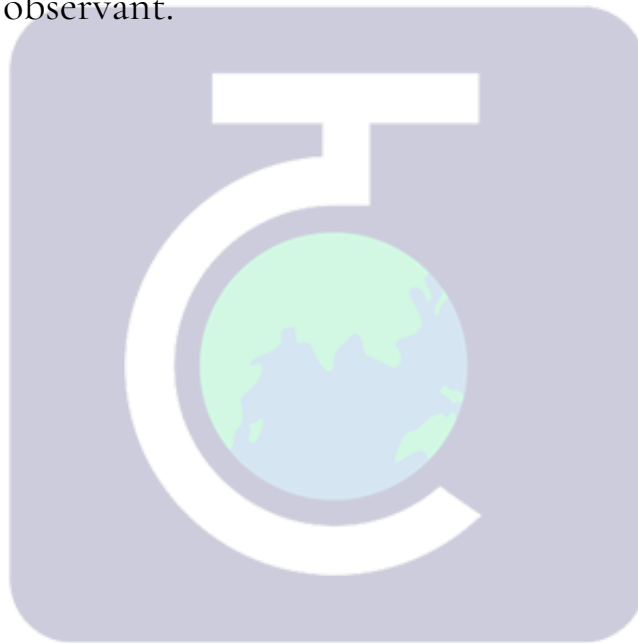


4. History

Before Chandigarh became to what it is today, the city has a lot of pre-historic past attached to it. The city is believed to have been the home of the inhabitants of the Harappa civilization around 8000 years ago. Former Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had a soft spot for the city of Chandigarh as he called it to be the dream city. Most of the historic actions witnessed by Chandigarh occurred during post-partition in 1947. The former province of Punjab was sliced between East Punjab (Hindu-dominated) in India and West Punjab (Muslim-dominated) in Pakistan. In order to give a new capital city to India's Punjab, the British carved out Chandigarh which was formed of 50 Pwadhi speaking village. The inception of the new state of Haryana in 1966 happened after which it was decided to give the majority Haryanvi-speaking people a new state – it was accomplished by carved out of the eastern portion of Punjab. The city of Chandigarh was declared as a Union territory after it was declared as the capital of Punjab and Haryana.

5. Cultural identity

The city of Chandigarh is mainly occupied by a large population of Sikhs, so the languages commonly spoken are Punjabi and Hindi. People hailing from different communities and cultures happily co-exist in Chandigarh and celebrate festivals with equal spirit. The population of Chandigarh usually wears a mix of Indian and Western attire. As far as customs and traditions are concerned, the people are very tolerant and observant.



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6. Natural resources

The vegetation and forest cover in the union territory is not so dense. Agriculture is extensively practiced as it has a fertile soil and so the territory produces crops in abundance. The major crops are Wheat, Rice and Mustard. A variety of shrubs, herbs, trees, grasses, climbers are found. Industries such as of paper manufacturing, machine tools, electrical appliances alloys, sanitary ware, auto parts, pharmaceuticals are the major one. The all other industries in the territory are related with the food products.



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7. Key site seeing places (paid and free)

7.1. Paid

7.1.1. Rock Garden

This sculpture garden is also known as Nek's Chand Rock Garden, which was built out of industrial and home waste items. It consists of man-made interlinked waterfalls and various sculptures that have been made of scrap and other wastes such as bottles, ceramic pots, sinks and electrical waste. Named after Nek Chand, its founder, this garden has been visited by more than 12 million visitors since its establishment.

Address : Rock Garden, Sector 1, Chandigarh, 160001

Zipcode : 160001

Location : 30.752535, 76.81010379999998

Contact : +91-0172740645

Nearest Public Transport : Himalaya Marg Bus Station

Entry Fee : Adults – INR 5 Children – INR 3

Open & Close Timing : Daily 09:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 10 minutes

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.2. Pinjore Gardens

Also known as Yadavindra Gardens, the Pinjore Gardens are a demonstration of rich Mughal Garden style which was built by the rulers of Patiala. It was created in the 17th century by architect Nawab Fidai Khan under the rule of Aurangzeb. The garden defines the rich history and of the Mughals.

Address : Ambala-Shimla Highway, Pinjore, Haryana 134102

Zipcode : 134102

Location : 30.7940877, 76.91471090000005

Contact : 01733 231 877

Nearest Public Transport : Kalka Railway Station (NR)

Entry Fee : INR 20

Open & Close Timing : Daily 07:00hrs-22:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.3. Government Museum and Art Gallery

This is a natural history museum and an art gallery. The museum was established in 1947 by one of the then famous architects, Le Corbusier. The museum exhibits about 10,000 artworks, especially that of Indian art such as paintings and sculptures. There are also two museum shops and a small cafeteria.

Address : Jan Marg, Sector 10 C, Chandigarh, 160011

Zipcode : 160011

Location : 30.7489118, 76.78746750000005

Contact : 0172 274 2010

Website : <http://chdmuseum.nic.in/>

Nearest Public Transport : Sector 16 Rose Garden Bus Station

Entry Fee : INR 10

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 10:00hrs-16:30hrs; Monday Closed

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.1.4. Chhattbir Zoo

Chhattbir Zoo is famous as a residing place for the Royal Bengal Tiger. Apart from housing the Royal Bengal Tiger, this zoo is home to a vast variety of mammals, birds and reptiles. The major crowd-puller is the adventurous lion safari where the visitors can enjoy a breathtaking visit to the reserve of Asiatic Lions. With over 950 animals this place accommodates animals such as Indian Gazelle, Sambar Deer, Asian Elephant, Swamp Deer, Emu and many endangered species like the Gharial.

Address : Chhattbir Zoo Rd, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Chhat, Punjab 140603

Zipcode : 140603

Location : 30.603913, 76.792463

Contact : 098148 99749

Website : <http://mczpchhatbir.com/>

Nearest Public Transport : Chhattbir Zoo Bus Station

Entry Fee : Children (3-12 years) – INR 5 Above 12 years – INR 20

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs; Monday Closed

Time Required : 2

Expected Wait Time : 30 minutes

Buy Ticket : Yes

7.1.5. International Dolls Museum

With over 6,500 displays from different countries of the world, this is one of the most well-known museums in India. Established by K. Shankar Pillai, a famous cartoonist, the museum brings you closer to the cultural ethnicity of India through its various sections that are dedicated to dolls that depict the ancient and traditional dance forms of India. Visit this museum to nudge the inner child within you.

Address : Bal Bhawan B, Udyog Path, 23B, Sector 23, Chandigarh, 160023, India

Zipcode : 160023

Location : 30.741636499999999, 76.770843199999994

Contact : 011 2331 6970

Nearest Public Transport : Lala Ram Charan Agrawal Chowk Bus station

Entry Fee : Child – INR 5 Adult – INR 15

Open & Close Timing : Tuesday-Sunday 10:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

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7.2. Free

7.2.1. Mata Mansa Devi Temple

Dedicated to Goddess Mansa Devi, a symbol of Shakti (strength), this temple is acclaimed as one of the most important Shakti temples in North India. The temple is visited by millions of devotees every year and is a must-visit during the festival of Navratri.

Address : Old Bhainsa Tibba Rd, Mansa Devi Complex, Rail Vihar, MDC Sector 4, Panchkula, Haryana 134114

Zipcode : 134114

Location : 30.7230964, 76.85339929999998

Contact : 0172 255 6328

Website : <http://mansadevi.nic.in/>

Nearest Public Transport : Bhainsa Tibba Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 04:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 1.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.2. Cactus Garden

The Cactus Garden was originally known as National Cactus and Succulent Botanical Garden and Research Center, and was opened in 2004 with 500 plants. At present, it has more than 3,500 species of cactus and many of them are endangered, includes Opuntias, Ferocactus, Echinocereus, Mammillarias and Agaves. Founded by J. S. Sarkaria, this botanical garden is one of the most unique gardens of Asia.

Address : Panchkula Urban Estate, Sector 5, Panchkula, Haryana 134108

Zipcode : 134108

Location : 30.69779980000001, 76.85083480000003

Contact : +91-9855034722

Nearest Public Transport : Sector 8 – 5 Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 08:00hrs-19:00hrs

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.3. Open Hand Monument

Situated in the in the Capitol Complex of Chandigarh, the Open Hand Monument is an iconic structure designed by noted architect, Le Corbusier. It is a 26-meter metal structure which symbolizes the willingness to give and receive; which implies peace and prosperity and the unity of mankind.

Address : Sector 1, Chandigarh, 160001

Zipcode : 160001

Location : 30.7589741, 76.80734840000002

Nearest Public Transport : Jan Marg Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 0.5

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.4. Tower of Shadows

The Tower of Shadows is a monument was built by the creator of Chandigarh, Mr. Le Corbusier. It is an architectural masterpiece that intended to demonstrate Le Corbusier's various theories of the sun control.

Address : Capitol Complex, Sector 1, Chandigarh, 160001

Zipcode : 160001

Location : 30.7596206, 76.80409889999999

Nearest Public Transport : Jan Marg Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Open 24 hours

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.5. Rose Garden

Rose Garden is also known by the name Zakir Hussain Rose Garden and is claimed as Asia's largest rose garden. The garden was established in 1967 during the reign of the first chief commissioner, Dr. M S Randhawa. It is home to not just roses, but also several medicinal plants such as Bahera, Harar, Bel, camphor and Yellow Gulmohar.

Address : Track, 16B, Sector 16, Chandigarh, 160016

Zipcode : 160016

Location : 30.746108499999999, 76.78198079999993

Contact : 1800 180 2116

Nearest Public Transport : Sector 16 Rose Garden Bus Station

Open & Close Timing : Daily 24 hours

Time Required : 2

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.6. Chandigarh Botanical Garden

Established by the administration of Chandigarh, this botanical garden consists of 15 botanical sections which promote the research and development of the floral heritage. You can find a variety of medicinal and herbal plants in the garden.

Address : Sector 14, Panjab University, Chandigarh, 160014

Zipcode : 160014

Location : 30.7626301, 76.76283579999995

Contact : 0172 277 9510

Website : <http://botany.puchd.ac.in/show-contactus.php>

Open & Close Timing : Monday-Friday 6:00hrs-17:00hrs; Saturday, Sunday closed

Time Required : 1

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.7. Sector 17

It is one of Chandigarh's most popular shopping destinations. The mall houses varieties of shops selling all kinds of goods, therefore, making it a one-stop destination for all your shopping needs. Here you can shop from international brands like Gucci, Zara and Levis, and homegrown brands selling clothes, accessories, furniture and cosmetics.

Address : Chandigarh

Zipcode : 160017

Location : 30.7398339, 76.78270199999997

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No

7.2.8. Sector 22

This place is nothing less than a paradise for street shoppers. Vendors selling their products at affordable rates, making this area a hub for shopping.

Address : Sector 22, Chandigarh, 160022

Zipcode : 160022

Location : 30.7339583, 76.77261969999995

Time Required : 0

Buy Ticket : No



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8. Key sites sports & adventure

Chandigarh is not a home to many adventure sports activity. One of the famous adventure sports here is Rock climbing.

- **Boating -**

Address : Sector I, Chandigarh- 160017, India

Location : 30.7421379,76.8187557

Entry Fees : pedal boats 2-/4-seaters per 30min ₹100/200

Open / Close Time : Daily 05:00hrs-21:00hrs

Time Required : 1.00

- **Timber Trail Ropeway Station -**

Address : Sco 143-144, Sector 8-c, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh- 160018, India

Location : 30.8348627,76.9825502999999

Contact No : +91-1722547374

Nearest Public Transport : Datyaar Bus Station

Entry Fees : INR 35

Open / Close Time : Daily 09:00hrs-18:00hrs

Time Required : 1.00

9. Adventure sports, Local sports, stadiums

Chandigarh has a wide range of sports including baseball, sumo, football, basketball, hockey etc. Sector 16 stadium has hosted some of the cricket international games.

- **I.S. Bindra Punjab Cricket Association Stadium:**

Address : Sector 63, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar, Chandigarh 160059

Location : 30.690889,76.73753099999999

Contact No : 0172 223 2300

Website : <http://cricketpunjab.in/>

- **Sector 16 Cricket Stadium:**

Address : Jan Marg, Sector 16, Chandigarh, 160015

Location : 30.7415214,76.7751293

- **Hockey Stadium - Sector 42:**

Address : 42A, Sector 42, Chandigarh, 160042

Location : 30.7290686,76.74567669999999

Open/Close time : Monday-Saturday 09:00hrs-17:00hrs

10. Spas and relaxation

- **Blue Terra Spa Chandigarh:**

Address : 1st Floor, SCO 479-480, Sector 35C, Above LG Showroom, Chandigarh, 160018

Location : 30.720098,76.75813700000003

Contact No : 075083 13494

Website : <http://www.blueterra.in/body-massage-spa-chandigarh/>

- **O2 Spa:**

Address : Park Plaza Chandigarh, 1st Floor, Hotel Park Plaza, Jan Marg, Block 10, Sector 17A, 22B, Sector 22, Chandigarh, 160017

Location : 30.7254316,76.78922740000007

Contact No : 099899 91186

Website : <https://www.o2spa.org/>

- **CLEOPATRA DAY SPA:**

Address : SCO - 34-37, Sector 9 - D, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh, 160008

Location : 30.7381103,76.7935109

Contact No : 0172 463 0821

Website : <http://cleopatradayspa.com/>

- **Tuscany Spa:**

Address : SCO 441-442, 1st Floor, Main Market, Sector 35C, Chandigarh, 160035

Location : 30.719771099999999,76.762034800000004

Contact No : 0172 657 0111

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

- **Seven Seas Spa Lounge:**

Address : S.C.O. 30-31, Madhya Road, Sector 8-C, Chandigarh, 160017

Location : 30.739656999999999,76.792879999999997

Contact No : 0172 467 5561

Website : <http://www.tresslounge.com/sevenseasspa/>



11. Events calendar

Month

Events

Republican Day @ Meiji Jingu Shrine

In 1950 India adopted a new Constitution. Republic day has been held ever since to celebrate this national achievement.

Chandigarh Plaza carnival @ Sector 7

This is where the upcoming thespians showcase their talents
Jaspal Bahati Humor Festival @ Tagore Festival


Two days of non-stop laughter. Top Indian comics are scheduled to perform at this event
Chandigarh Theater Festival @ Tagore Theater

Theater is slowly becoming the integral part of Chandigarh culture with over ten events organized annually
World music Day: chandigarh @ leisure valley

Join the top musicians as they entertain beautiful local crowd in

Chandigarh. This Day was commenced in 1982 in France and now it has spread through 110 countries and 450 cities with international musicians. Chandigarh Half Marathon @ Sukha Lake

Chandigarh half marathon is an annual event Sponsored by 94.3 MY FM Independence Day @ Chandigarh



It was the day when India achieved its Independence. This is a day that is commemorated with celebrations including military parades. La Feria Kitsch Bazaar @ Chandigarh Golf Club

La Feria Kitsch Bazaar festival is held annually and it features concerts, dances, food and photography. Chandigarh Plaza carnival @ Sector 7

This is where the upcoming thespians showcase their talents The Chrysanthemums Show @ Terrace Garden

A competition held in December

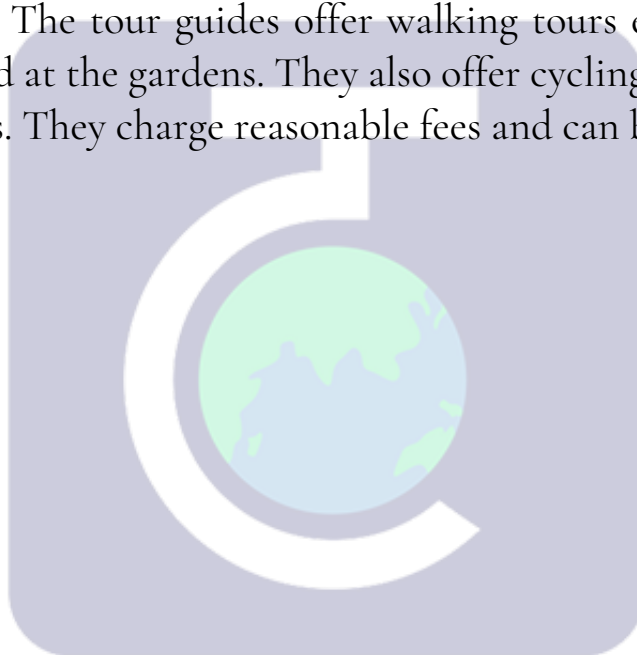
each year where the best of the gardeners is awarded.



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12. Key local guides and tours

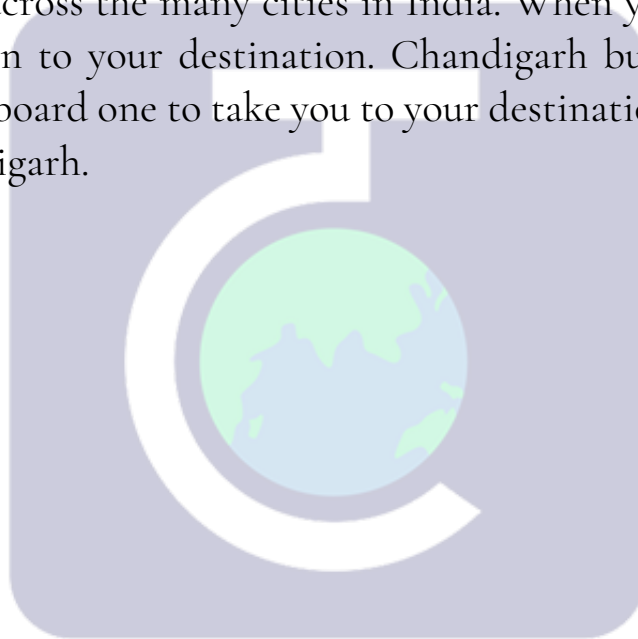
Chandigarh can be explored without a tour guide but to get helpful information about the attraction places in this city, you might be required to hire a tour guide. When hiring these tour guides, make sure to hire the certified ones and those with approval from the tourist department. Most tour guides in this city are individual and include Ms. Aparna Mutuja, Mr. Amit Kumar and Mr. Vikas Arora among others. The tour guides offer walking tours especially throughout this city of beauty and at the gardens. They also offer cycling, biking tours, family tours and youth tours. They charge reasonable fees and can be hired for a day or a number of days.



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13. Transportation hubs

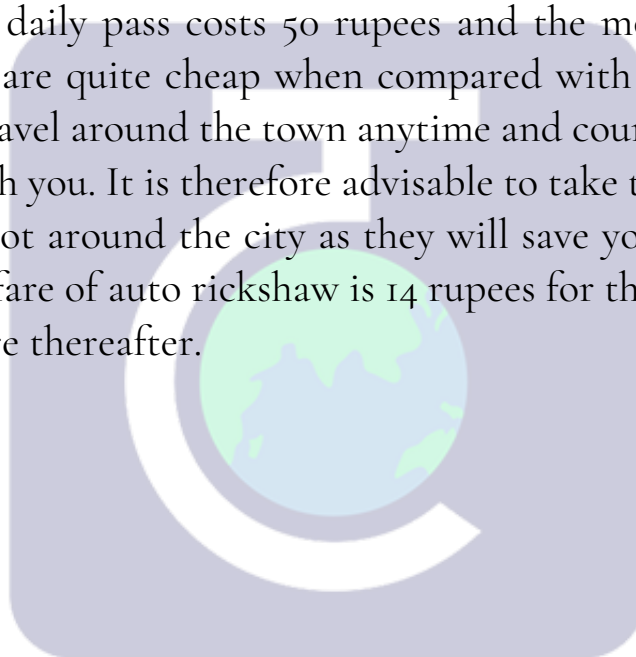
The main airport in Chandigarh is the Chandigarh International Airport which is 12.7 km from the town and it takes about 28 minutes. It is located 11km from Chandigarh railway station and 7.6 km from Chandigarh bus station . To reach these places, you can hire a taxi that will make your journey very comfortable. Chandigarh railway station is situated between Panchkuia and Chanigarh and offers train services across the many cities in India. When you get to the station, you can board a train to your destination. Chandigarh bus terminal has many buses where you can board one to take you to your destination as this is the major bus station of Chandigarh.



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14. Transportation cost

Chandigarh has better train connection than that of the busses. The bus terminals are hectic and very cumbersome. Chandigarh Transport Undertaking is the administration unit in Chandigarh and is responsible for coming up with the fare rates. The bus rates are 15 rupees for three kilometers, 20 rupees for ten kilometers and 25 rupees for more than 10 kilometers. There are also daily and monthly passes. The daily pass costs 50 rupees and the monthly pass costs 500 rupees. These passes are quite cheap when compared with the daily fares. With the passes, you can travel around the town anytime and countless times so long as you have the pass with you. It is therefore advisable to take the passes especially if you plan to travel a lot around the city as they will save you a lot of money and time. The minimum fare of auto rickshaw is 14 rupees for the first kilometre with 7 rupees per kilometre thereafter.



Index**15. Baggage allowance**

Most trains and buses usually have limited space for baggage. It is advisable to take a taxi if you have baggage because many taxis have enough space to accommodate your luggage. The public buses will end up charging you an extra fee Rs. 10 even for just one suitcase. The other option are the MTC buses that have a permitted limit for luggage and will charge you if have more than two bags, you are supposed to pay 50 rupees. There also delivery services in this town. If you do not want to travel without your luggage, you can give your luggage to one of the delivery companies with the address of the place you want them to be taken to. The delivery companies ensure safe and timely delivery of your luggage.



16. Restaurant & Nightlife

There are various restaurants located at Sector 26 and the Panchkula area of Chandigarh.

Food -

There are various restaurants located at Sector 26 and the Panchkula area of Chandigarh.

- **Bholey Da Dhaba:**

Address : 44D, Chandigarh, 160047

Location : 30.709742,76.772965900

Open / Close Time : Monday-Saturday 10:00hrs-21:30hrs; Sunday closed

- **Pal Dhaba:**

Address : Booth No. 165-166, Sector 28 D, Sector 28, Chandigarh, 160102

Location : 30.7194116,76.801575100

Contact No : 0172 507 8614

Open / Close Time : Daily 07:00hrs-22:30hrs

- **Amritsari Kulcha Hub:**

Address : Booth, Madhya Marg, 9C, Sector 9, Chandigarh, 160009

Location : 30.743248899,76.789565400

Contact No : 088822 25417

Open / Close Time : Daily 10:00hrs-15:30hrs

- **Whistling Duck:**

Address : SCO 10, Back Lane, Sector 26, Chandigarh, 160019

Location : 30.7285558,76.8031843

Contact No : 090236 91893

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

Open / Close Time : Monday-Thursday 12:00hrs-00:00hrs; Friday-Sunday 12:00hrs-01:00hrs

- **Hops n Grains:**

Address : SCO 358, Sector 9, Panchkula, Haryana 134009

Location : 30.6979082,76.849278599

Contact No : 080549 23856

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

- **Swagath Restaurant And Bar:**

Address : SCO 7, Sector 26, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh, 160019

Location : 30.728536,76.802752999

Contact No : 0172 304 5678

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

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

- **Underdoggs Sports Bar & Grill:**

Address : Elante Mall, 178A,3rd Floor, Elante Mall, Industrial Area Phase 1, Chandigarh, 160002

Location : 30.7053524,76.800613200

Contact No : 084278 00011

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

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

- **Lava Eat N Wrap:**

Address : Block No. 9, Sector 17A, 17A, Sector 17, Chandigarh, 160017

Location : 30.7407987,76.7976774

Contact No : 0172 661 3000

Website : <https://vivanta.tajhotels.com/en-in/chandigarh-punjab/restaurants/lava-bar/>

- **Whisky 111 - JW Marriott:**

Address : JW Marriott Hotel, Plot 6, Dakshin Marg, Sector 35 B, 35B, Sector 35B, Sector 35, Chandigarh 160022

Location : 30.7267037,76.767151600

Website : <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/photo-tours.mi?marshaCode=ixcjw&pageID=HWRAL&imageID=6>

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17. Average meal cost

If you want a normal meal in an inexpensive restaurant then it will cost you 200.00 rupees and that of three-course meal at a mid-range restaurant for two people will cost you 600 rupees. A combo meal at McDonald's can be purchased at 200.00 rupees. You can have a fresh cappuccino at 84.62 rupees. 11.2 oz small bottle of water is available at 15.56 rupees. 1 pint draught of domestic beer is available at 90.00 rupees and 11.2 oz small bottle of imported beer can be purchased at 127.50 rupees.



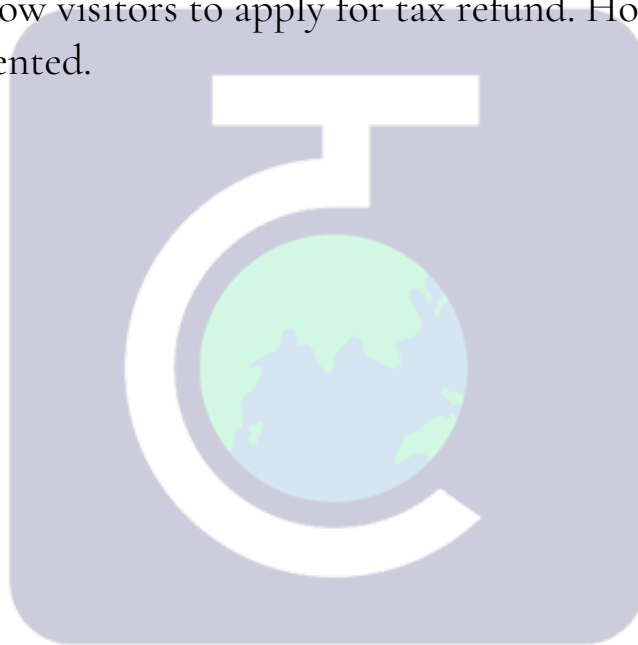
Index**18. Shopping**

Touted as one of the best cities to shop in India, Chandigarh has number of shopping options for avid shoppers – tourists and locals. The collection of handicrafts that Chandigarh has is unrivalled, however that does not imply that Chandigarh doesn't have much else to offer. Some of the best shopping spots of Chandigarh include: Sector 17 : It is one of Chandigarh's most popular shopping destinations. The mall houses varieties of shops selling all kinds of goods under one roof. Sector 22 : This place is a delight for street shoppers. The best part about this street shopping paradise, apart from vendors selling everything at affordable rates, is that this place has an open and non-congested feel!



Index**19. Tourist benefits**

There are tax free shops in Chandigarh that will usually carry a tax free logo. Many brand stores, malls and souvenir shops are tax free. Goods and services in this country have a tax rate of 8%. It is unfortunate that tourists and visitors have to pay this tax just like the Indian citizens. There is no tax refund for tourists. However, the government has been looking into this matter and came up with a policy that should allow visitors to apply for tax refund. However, this policy has not yet been implemented.



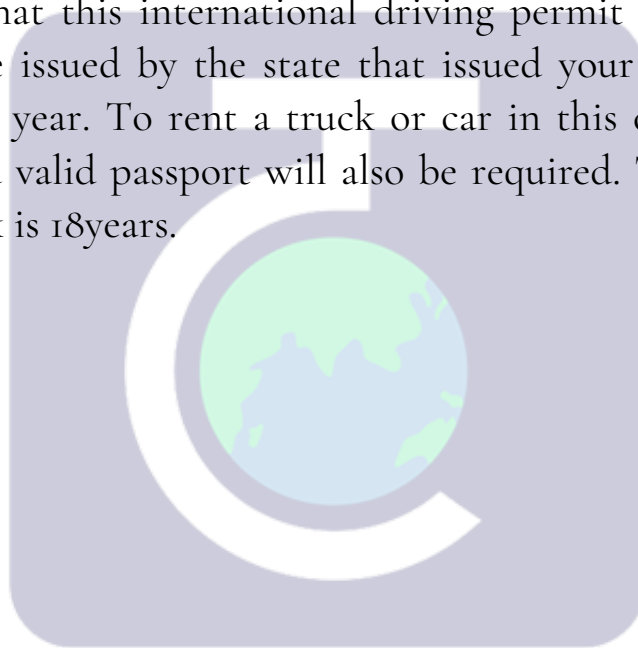
20. Essential local apps

Navigation and exploration of the city is made easy if you have helpful travel apps to guide you. Chandigarh Bus Guide Pro is a useful app that provides information about bus routes, bus stops, current location, and the like. IRCTC Connect has all the information about Indian Railway like trains, stations, routes, timetable, facilities, etc. Ridlr is a travel app for Chandigarh Transport Undertaking buses to get routes and schedules.



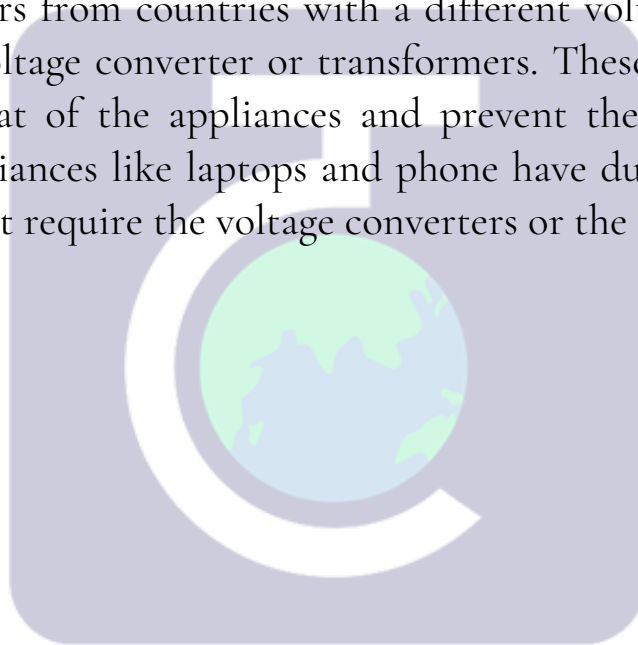
Index**21. Driving**

In Chandigarh, driving is on the left side of the road. It is not advisable to drive on Indian roads unless you know them very well. However if you choose to drive on your own, you will be required to have an International Driving Permit, a valid passport and a valid foreign driving license. The international driving permit, which is basically a translation of your foreign driving license. It is important to note that this international driving permit can not be issued in India; it can only be issued by the state that issued your driving license. It is usually valid for one year. To rent a truck or car in this city, an international driving permit and a valid passport will also be required. The minimum age of renting a car or truck is 18years.



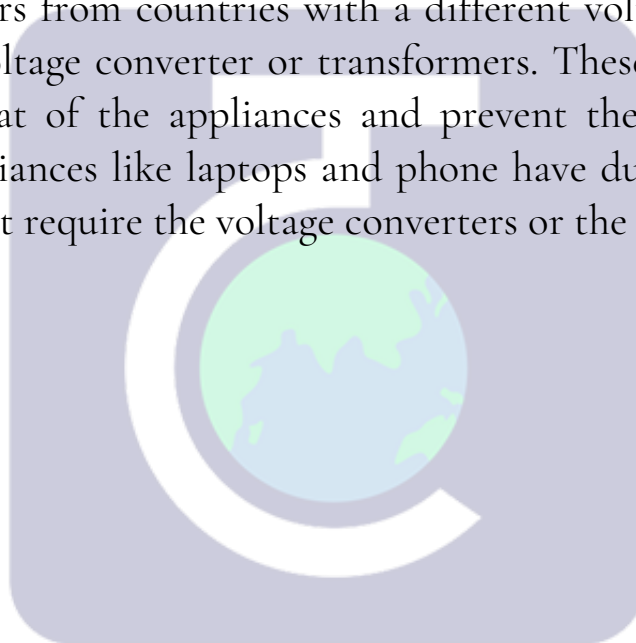
22. Travel essentials

Chandigarh has a standard voltage of 240 volts with a frequency of 50 hertz. This voltage is same with that of countries like Australia, UK and Europe.. Most sockets in this city are the type C (ungrounded two pin plug) and type D (grounded or earthed three pin plug). Visitors from countries with same voltage as that of the city will only require a plug adapter to fit the different type of plug configuration. Visitors from countries with a different voltage from that of the city will require a voltage converter or transformers. These help converting the voltage to match that of the appliances and prevent them from blowing up. However, many appliances like laptops and phone have dual voltage or in built voltage and might not require the voltage converters or the transformers.



23. Essential clothes

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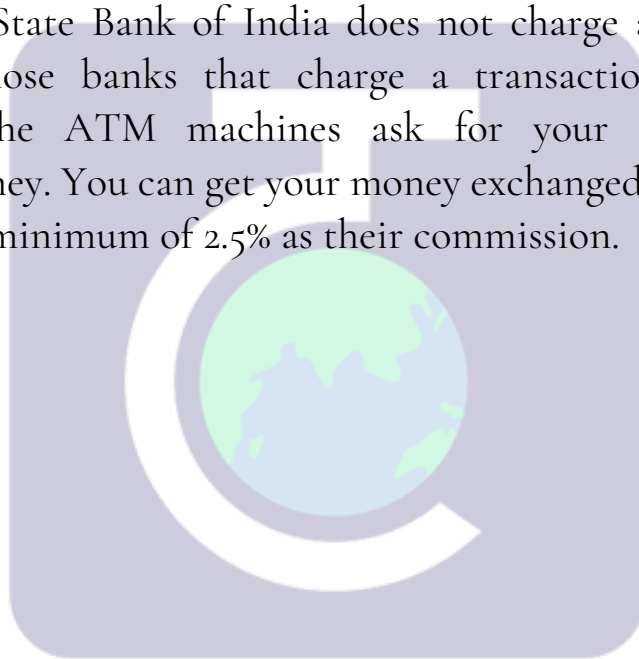
24. Local currency

The local currency of Chandigarh is Indian Rupee. It is denoted as INR. 1 USD = 66.77 INR



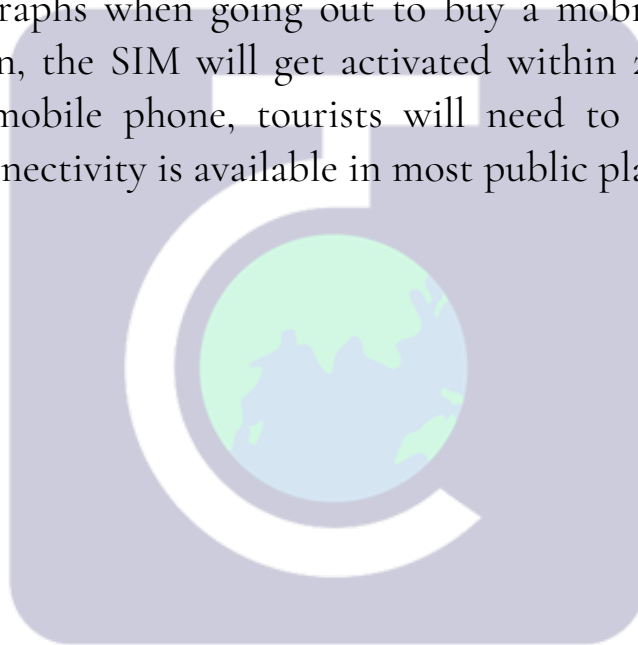
Index**25. Change vendor's commission, ATM charges**

It is always a good idea to consult with your bank before travelling to ask them if your card can be used in the country you are travelling to. This is because most banks will block a transaction carried out in other countries. Visa and plus cards are widely accepted in Chandigarh banks. Rates will vary depending with your bank. For example, ICICI, Citibank and HDFC banks charge approximately 1% to 2% per transaction. State Bank of India does not charge a fee for any foreign transactions. For those banks that charge a transaction fee, it is a legal requirement that the ATM machines ask for your confirmation before withdrawing the money. You can get your money exchanged with change vendors where they charge a minimum of 2.5% as their commission.



26. Staying connected

When venturing out to purchase a SIM card for your mobile, make sure you buy either BSNL or Airtel mobile SIM card – these are the best telecom operators in the region. Visit any mobile shop or outlet and you should easily be able to procure a SIM card at a nominal fee between INR 50 AND INR 200. For foreign tourists it advisable that they carry along their ID-proof documentation and two passport-size photographs when going out to buy a mobile phone SIM. After successful verification, the SIM will get activated within 24 hours. In order to access Internet on mobile phone, tourists will need to purchase data packs separately. Wi-Fi connectivity is available in most public places.



27. Time Zone

The city of Chandigarh follows Indian Standard Time Zone with UTC + 05:30 hours.



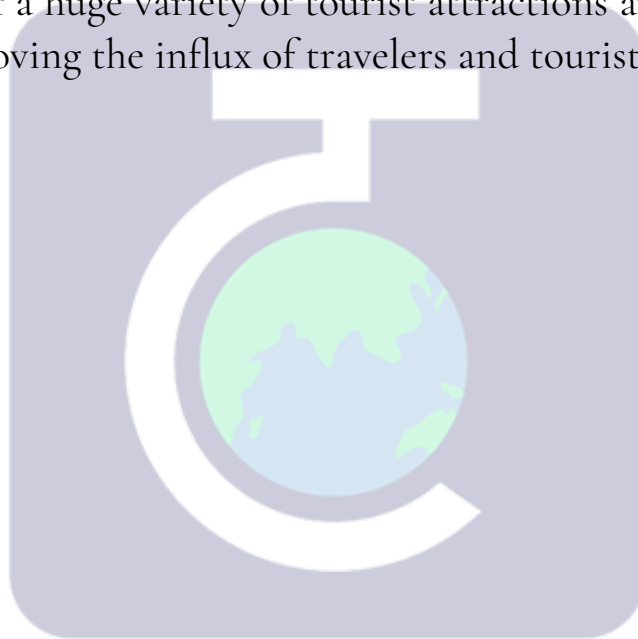
Index**28. Languages**

Chandigarhian is the widely used language here followed with Punjabi and Hindi.



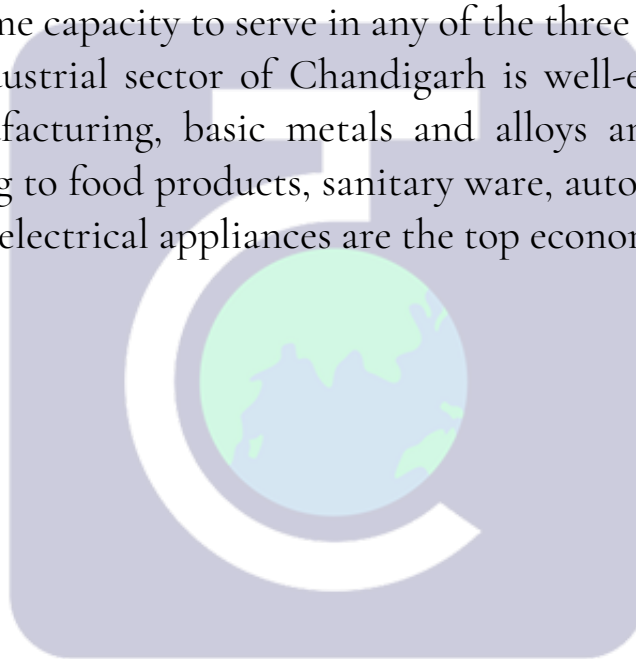
29. Political Scenario

As Chandigarh is a Union territory, the city and territory of Chandigarh are controlled directly by the Central government. The city's local municipal body is the second top-most authority is responsible for the entire civic administration. Due to a largely balance political environment, Chandigarh has flourished very well as a city. In fact, it is ranked as one of India's best-planned cities. As a result, Chandigarh boasts of a huge variety of tourist attractions and the government is still focused on improving the influx of travelers and tourists into the city.



30. Economic Scenario

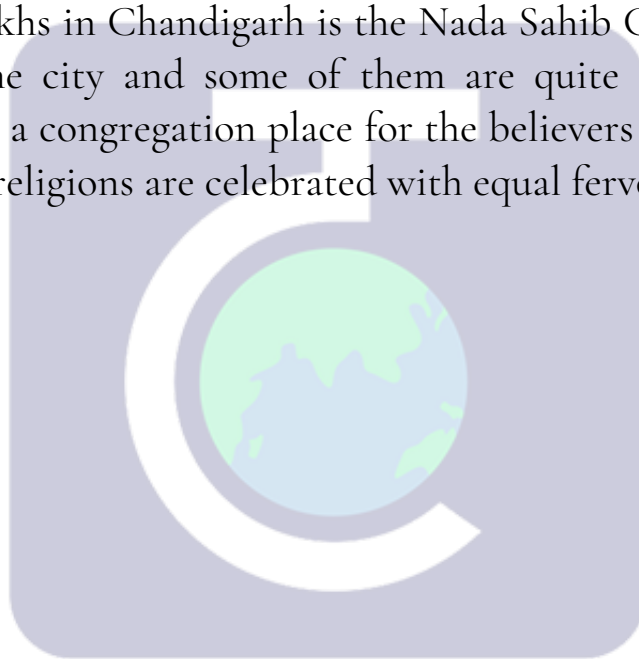
Chandigarh's economy is ranked as one of the wealthiest in India and its economy is poised as one of the most strong and stable ones in India. The governance of Chandigarh is a big employer by itself, why, because Chandigarh is the base here i.e. Chandigarh Administration, Punjab government and Haryana government. A good percentage of people residing in Chandigarh are or have been employed in some capacity to serve in any of the three governmental bodies. Apart from this, industrial sector of Chandigarh is well-endowed – industries such as paper manufacturing, basic metals and alloys and machinery. Other industries are relating to food products, sanitary ware, auto parts, machine tools, pharmaceuticals and electrical appliances are the top economic generators for the city.



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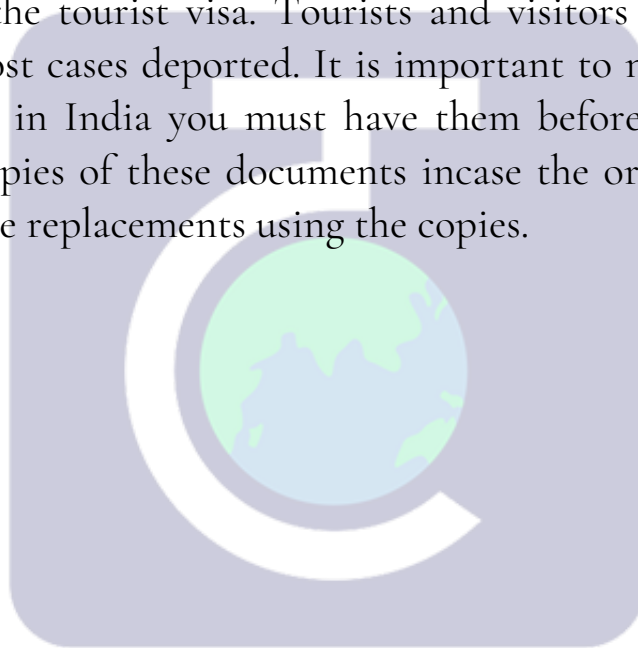
31. Religious belief

Hinduism is the majority religion in Chandigarh followed by Sikhism. Muslims, Christians, Jains, and Buddhists form a minority. The city derives its name from the most significant temple, Chandimandir located here. Another temple of prominence in the city is the ISKCON temple frequented by Hindus and even by people from other religions including foreign tourists. The most important place of worship for the Sikhs in Chandigarh is the Nada Sahib Gurudwara. There are many mosques in the city and some of them are quite old. The Mahabodhi Meditation Center is a congregation place for the believers of Buddhism. All the major festivals of all religions are celebrated with equal fervor in Chandigarh.



Index**32. Visa requirements**

All tourists and visitors travelling to Chandigarh in India must have a valid passport and a valid Indian visa. The visa is issued by the Indian embassy in their home countries. However, there is an exemption for U.S citizens who plan to visit only for tourist purposes and don't plan to stay for more than 30 days. They can apply for an electronic travel authorization at least five days before their arrival in India instead of the tourist visa. Tourists and visitors found without these documents are in most cases deported. It is important to note that you can not get these documents in India you must have them before travelling. It is also advisable to carry copies of these documents incase the original documents get lost; you can apply for replacements using the copies.



33. Essential vaccination

For visiting Chandigarh it is recommended to be vaccinated for Rabies, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Tetanus and Diptheria, Typhoid, Japanese Encephalitis and Routine vaccination.



Index**34. Theft and Safety**

Chandigarh is a very safe city. Pick-pocketing is a possibility in crowded tourist spot. Keep your purse in the front pockets and wear bags across the body. Police stations and patrolling booths are present in every sector for assistance.



Index**35. Embassy/Consulate**

There are no foreign embassies or consulates in Chandigarh. To avail more information about the same in neighbouring cities, you can use the site <http://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/india>.



36. Accessibility

The Chandigarh administration has begun actions to make the city more disabled friendly by identifying buildings and areas that need revamping including tourist spots like the Rock Garden. The project is expected to be completed in a year.



Index**37. Emergencies**

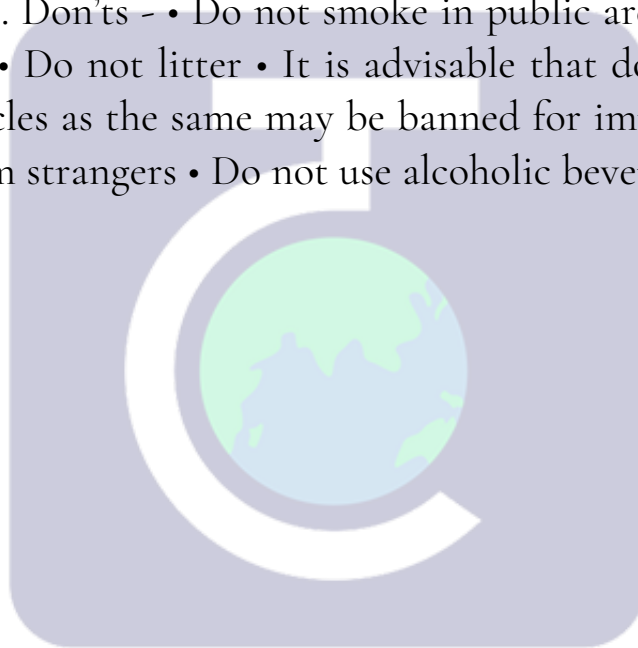
In case of emergencies you can call 100 for Police, 101 for Fire and that of Ambulance, you can call at 108. Apart from this, you can call 1098 for child helpline, 1099 for Traffic Police. You are provided with top-notch medical services and facilities even if you are a tourist. The hospital that provides travel insurance is Dharam Hospital .



38. Do's and Don'ts

India has some traditions and customs followed in specific places and even the foreign tourists are required to conform to them apart from the statutory laws.

Do's - • Remove shoes before entering temples and other religious institutions. • It is advisable to carry a certified doctor's prescription along with the medicines to ensure hassle free import clearance. • Cover your head if the religious place requires you to do so. Don'ts - • Do not smoke in public areas and in buses • Do not drink and drive • Do not litter • It is advisable that do not carry unsealed/unbranded food articles as the same may be banned for import. • Do not accept favors and offers from strangers • Do not use alcoholic beverages on the premises of religious sites



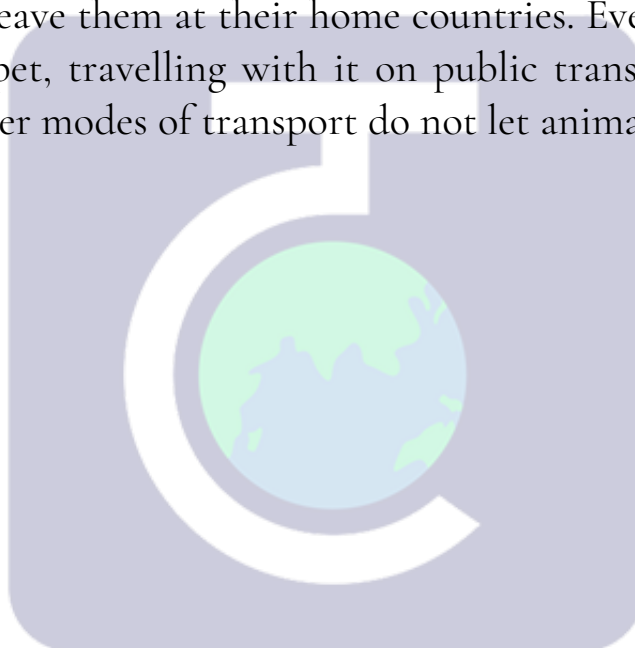
39.Tipping basics

In Chandigarh, tipping is longstanding and is traditionally accepted. Bars, restaurants, hotel porters and taxi drivers receive the customary tips for their good services. Presently, establishments are charging service tax. There is no right or wrong tipping rate. A driver can be tipped with 300 rupees to 500 rupees per day if you are hiring for the entire day. Restaurants can add your bill with service tax or you can pay them their tip with 5% to 7% of the total bill.



Index**40.Pet info**

Foreign travelers who wish to bring their pets along with them to India cannot do so as the law in India prohibits import of pets with tourists. Only those who are returning to the country after staying abroad for two continuous years can bring pets with them. While this curbs the unlawful trafficking of foreign breeds into the country, many international tourists face a dilemma when it comes to their pets as they have to leave them at their home countries. Even if you reside in the country and own a pet, travelling with it on public transport is impossible as buses, trains, and other modes of transport do not let animals on board.



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Conclusion – Why to select this destination

Why choose Chandigarh ? The first planned city in India, the safest city of the country, a clean and less congested city, the city of rock gardens and parks – the reasons to visit Chandigarh are numerous. It is a far cry from the rest of the cosmopolitan and big cities in India for its organization, maintenance, and facilities. Designed by the Swiss architect Le Corbusier, Chandigarh boasts of pedestrian friendly sectors, lakes, panoramic nature, self-contained areas with each one having its own shops, religious centers, health care facilities, parks, academic institutions, and residential areas. The city is extremely people-oriented with wide roads. The Nek Chand Rock Garden is not just another garden with cobbled paths and stone sculptures. It is the fantasy of a common man that turned waste materials into stunning pieces of art. It is also a reminder that nothing is useless in this world if you put your imagination into work. The city is a visual treat for fans of architecture. The carefully planned administrative and residential buildings, roads, parks, gardens, lakes, and sectors are all masterpieces in themselves. A number of museums and art galleries offer the best of the modern as well as ancient cultures. The sprawling parks of the city with its verdant landscape, themed gardens, green belts, water features, and public places for leisure and entertainment are examples of how the great architect had envisioned the coexistence of man and nature in a modern environment. Chandigarh is a very affluent city and there is no dearth of opportunities to splurge. The city is home to most of the leading brands and stores.

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