**An interesting trip to Kapurthala with fascinating landscape**

Bhati Rajput clan from Jaisalmer in Rajasthan found this state of Kapurthala in the 11th century. Ahluwalia Dynasty ruled the state for many years. Often referred to as “Paris of Punjab” for the monuments and gardens in the city with Indo-Saracen and French-style architecture, Kapurthala is one of Punjab’s smallest yet tourist attraction places.

The city is situated in the Doaba region at the confluence of rivers Beas and Sutlej. Many of the monuments constructed result from the passion of enthusiast of French architecture, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, the last ruler of the princely state of Punjab.

The city also has the fame of producing superior quality crops, like, wheat, sugar, cotton and major seller of all kinds of rice.

**Some places to visit in Kapurthala**

Many places like Jagatjit Palace, Elysee Palace, Moorish mosque, and Jagatjit club are examples of the kings’ love and passion for French architecture.

**Jagatjit Palace was used to be the royal residence of Kapurthala, Maharaja Jagatjit Singh, with Indo-Saracen Architecture built in** 1908 AD. With the help of a local builder, the palace was constructed under the guidance of French architecture for eight years. The land on which the place stands is 200 acres area.

The palace was inspired by the Versailles Palace of Paris, France. The interiors of the building consist of ‘beaux art,’ French style painted ceiling and plaster of Paris figurines displaying the royal life of Indian rulers. The Sainik School is now inhabited to train the boys for National Defence Academy.

**The Elysee Palace** was built in the year 1862 AD in Indo-French style architecture by Kanwar Bikram Singh. Famous for its magnificent facade and monolithic structure, life-sized statues of animals and attractive white marble fountains add grandeur to the palace. This Elysee Palace is worth visiting with a library of two levels, with golden galleries, used to be the office of Maharajas. Kanwar Bikram Singh is considered one of the influential Sikh leaders who ruled the Kapurthala from 1835 AD to 1887 AD. At that time, it cost about 3.4mn rupees for the construction, which is spread over the land with an area of 300 acres. Now, the palace is converted into MGN School.

**Kanjli Wetlands** was created across the Bien river in 1879 to supply water to the region for irrigation purposes. The manmade wetland has Kanjli reservoir, spread over 490 acres of land, which is a great picnic spot with amazing surroundings. Many species of birds like night heron common Moorrthan, Pond heron, purple swamphen and white-breasted kingfisher and so on are found along with many mammalian species. An excellent place for nature lovers and photography enthusiasts. Boating and bird watching are popular activities.

**Moorish Mosque** is indeed an example of religious harmony during the time of Maharaja’s reign. Commissioned by the Maharaja Jagatjit Singh Bahadur in 1913 AD, the mosque completed its construction in 1930 AD. The mosque has intricate designs and everlasting beauty that enthrall travelers and entice devotees. You will find 3km from the town.

The mosque complex, located amidst beautiful gardens, comprises some amazing paintings done by the Mayo School of Arts of Lahore students. The structure was inspired by the Grand Mosque of Marrakesh, Morocco and was constructed under the guidance of Monsieur M Manteaux, famed French Architect of that time. The harmonious monuments depict the religious equality and beliefs of the rulers and the people of that time. The inner dome of the complex is the most attractive of all.

**Panch Mandir** was built during the reign of Sardar Fatah Singh Ahluwalia using a bright white material. Inside the temple, you will find that there are five small temples dedicated to several Hindu Gods and Goddesses. Several archaeologists find it fascinating to discover the intricate structure built so many years back. The marvelous architecture happens to be a replica in Lahore’s Museum. One of the extraordinary features of this temple is from the entry door. Only one can see all the five idols and pay obeisance to them. The place is a must-visit for ardent devotees who come for worship.

**Jagatjit Club** is a geek-revival style building that has served many purposes. It has the Coat of Arms of the Royal family of Patiala. The Acropolis of Athens inspired the building.

**Shalimar gardens** are the hugely frequented tourist spots located in the city’s heart, Kapurthala. The gardens contain the cenotaphs of the Royal family of Kapurthala, Paramjit Singh, Maharaja Kaharak Singh, and Jagatjit Singh, characterized by the marble obelisks in the red sandstone chambers. Along with these structures, which provide peaceful time away from city noise, there is a swimming pool to relax further for the swimmers while the book-lovers can hop to the library to soak in some knowledge.

Kapurthala is just 18km from Jalandhar and hence many places in Jalandhar can also be visited when planning a visit to Kapurthala and vice versa.

**Tasty foods of Kapurthala**

Many multi-cuisine and street restaurants offer various kinds of food items to the visitors as well the locals. You can find authentic Punjabi foods and chaats/snacks and sweets and lassi that can be enjoyed in Kapurthala.

**Shopping places of Kapurthala**

Many places like Puda Market, Gurudwara Market, Devi Dayal Market, Sangam Market, Choudhary Market and so on are the main hubs to buy cloths, Juttis, Pandolas, accessories, electronics, and so on.

How to reach and when to visit Kapurthala

Whoever wants to visit Kapurthala or Punjab can plan between the winter season months, i.e., from September to March, preferred for sightseeing activities. The summer and the rainy season have extreme conditions that are not suitable for outdoor activities.

Many flights from major cities of India and abroad fly from and to Amritsar. As Kapurthala does not have its own airport, one can use the facility till Amritsar from various locations. They can use either cab or bus facilities to reach Kapurthala through many private or Punjab Government Transport facilities.

Good conditioned roads private and government transport systems help the travelers to have beautiful memories of the trip. Kapurthala lies on the Jalandhar-Ferozpur Road, and hence one can access the extensive network of roads. The National Highways 1, 44 and 71 connect Kapurthala to the rest of Punjab.

Kapurthala has a City Railway Station, which connects to the major cities of India like Delhi, Jammu, Jalandhar, Ferozpur, Bathinda, Veraval and many more. Some trains passing through this station are Jat Adi Express, 9226 Express, BTI Jat Express and 2JF Passenger etc.