Shimla; A mesmerising place

Shimla is the place where you will feel the Himalayas in all its incomprehensible magnificence! This place is famous as the "Queen of hills." A place where rolling valleys, beautiful evergreen forests, breathtaking lakes, and royally ambience all come jointly to provide this hill station a unique charm. With a diverse magnetism –man-made wonders and natural splendours– Shimla lives up to its status. If you are planning to visit Shimla, you must make a list of places to visit to avoid missed areas. Don't worry if you don't know how to make a list. This article of mine will help you in this work, whether you are going with your family, for a honeymoon or as a solo traveller. Let's get started with history-

## History of Shimla:

Shimla is the capital of Himachal Pradesh and the most famous hill station. It spreads its astonishing beauty all around. It was also the summer capital of the country during the British period. In summer, the British used to rule India from here. The altitude of the Shimla district ranges from 300 to 6000 meters. The British used to see a glimpse of their country in Shimla, the queen of the mountains. They liked this place so much that they tried to shape it into a city in England. The remarkable thing is that they used to spend most of the year in Shimla only. Even today, the historical buildings are an attraction for tourists.

Shimla had the status of 'summer capital' till independence in 1947. The credit for setting it up goes to the famed 'Choris Pratt Kennedy'. Kennedy was appointed by the British as the political officer of the hill states. In 1822, he built the first house here, which was known as Kennedy House. In the year 1830, the exercise of settling Shimla as a city started. In 1832, the Governor-General of the British Government, Lord Peter Aaronson, took the land from Maharaja Ranjit Singh. In 1864, the British officially declared it the Summer Capital. Most of the land in this area was either with the state of Patiala or with the local Keonthal state. After independence, Shimla became the capital of Punjab and was later named the capital of Himachal Pradesh.

## Culture of Shimla:

Shimla is located in the vast and mysterious ranges of the Himalayas. It is the capital of Himachal Pradesh. The best part about this city is that it is one of the tourist places in India; it is still relatively untouched by the globalization and commercialization that prevails among other tourist destinations. Therefore, it still has retained the old world charm and is very different from other Indian states.

The culture of Shimla is the perfect blend of modern ideas and traditional values. Shimla has a prosperous cultural heritage which is rural and traditional. You can see some traces of the Tibetan lifestyle here, as their lifestyle has greatly influenced the people of Shimla. For example, most people wear salwar, kurta, kameez or Juan Chadian.

## Food of Shimla:

If you come to Shimla, then the question will be that what to eat here? Chowmein and Maggi are all dined in the mountains, but you can also eat lentils, broth, rice, vegetables and bread here. Non-veg are very much preferred here as compared to other places. Red meat and wheat bread are exceptional in the food here. Aromatic spices rich gravy is used a lot here.

## Best season to visit Shimla:

The best season to visit Shimla is from March to June. The weather of Shimla is pleasant during this time. Suitable for outdoor activities. During these four months, the temperature remains between 15 to 35 degrees. You can enjoy Trekking, camping, rafting or paragliding in this season. However, you will not get to see snow in these months.

If you want to enjoy the snow by visiting Shimla, the season from December to February is the best.

# How to reach Shimla?

* **By Air:** Shimla's airport is at Jubbarhatti, 23 km from the city. This airport is well-connected with Delhi, Chandigarh and Kullu airports. The flight service of Jagsons Airways is outstanding.
* **By Train:** Kalka (96) is well-connected to Shimla. Let me tell you that Kalka station is connected to many big cities apart from Howrah, Delhi, Amritsar. From here, Shimla can be reached by a small train via the Heritage Rail Route. The Kalka-Shimla route consists of 107 tunnels and 864 bridges. Every day 4 trains run from both the stations.
* **By Road:** Shimla is connected by road to many cities of North India. Many Himachal Road Transport Corporation buses run from Delhi, Chandigarh, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ambala, Dehradun, Saharanpur, and Ludhiana. Apart from this, there is an AC Volvo bus service from Himachal Bhawan in Delhi to Shimla every night, the booking of which can be done from the website of Himachal Tourism Department. The distance from Delhi to Shimla is 380 km and from Chandigarh is 113 km.

# Sight Seeings in Shimla:

## The Ridge:

The Ridge Shimla, located in the centre of Shimla, is a large and open road situated along Mall Road. The Ridge is a place where you will get to see the natural beauty. If you want to see spectacular views of snow-capped mountain ranges, then definitely come here. Here you will find shops selling exceptional artworks, so if you are an art lover, then definitely come here.

The most memorable thing about "The Ridge" is that this place was the unique place to stay during the summertime in the British era. This beautiful place of Shimla attracts a lot of tourists coming here. "The Ridge" is not only a market, but it is also the social centre of a city. This scenic spot of Shimla remains full of travellers. You will also find many cafes, boutiques, bars, shops, and restaurants that attract huge crowds.

## Mall-road; attraction for shopping lovers

This place is one of the best tourist places in Shimla. It gives you an enchanting view of the mountains and deep valleys. Mall Road is such a place where you can take a road walk while enjoying various delicacies and seeing the natural beauty. Horse rides, photographers and small vendors are one of the main attractions of Mall Road.

Mall Road is at a distance of about 6 km from Shimla to Viceregal Lodge. You can see beautiful buildings and monuments by walking. The Mall Road is a no-vehicle zone which makes it pedestrian-friendly. Various cultural activities and events make this place very enjoyable during special festive occasions. Mall Road Shopping is also famous for its variety of cafes and delicious cuisines. Mall Road is such a wonderful place in Shimla that it attracts many tourists. The beauty of this place will mesmerize you.

## Arki Fort Shimla-

If you are a history lover, then definitely include this fort in your list. This fort was built in the year 1660, which reflects both Rajput and Mughal styles of architecture, architecture. Apart from this, this fort is known for the Kangra paintings, which attract tourists to visit this fort.

## Kufri; A beautiful place of Shimla-

Kufri is a small hill station in Shimla district in the state of Himachal Pradesh, India. It is situated 20 km away from the state capital Shimla on National Highway No. The name Kufri is derived from the word Kufr "lake" in the local language.

It is the starting point of treks to Fagu, Shimla, Manali and Rewalsar. Kufri, along with Chail and Shimla, forms the famous Golden Triangle of Himachal Pradesh. The annual winter sports festival is held here in February, which is a major attraction for tourists.

It is an amusement park with many enjoyable rides for the kids. The park also includes the world's tallest go-kart tracts – adults can join in. If you are travelling to Kufri with kids, you must visit this place. This will surely be the best part of your trip. A canteen to provide breakfast for tourists is located within the park.

## Jakhoo Hill; One of the main attractions of Shimla

Jakhu hill is the highest peak of Shimla. It is famous for Jakhu Temple, which is dedicated to Lord Hanuman. If you look up from the tree house near Christ Church, you will feel that this 33-meter high statue of God is staring at you. It is said that when Lord Hanuman had gone to get Sanjeevani Booti for Lakshmana, he took a rest here. This temple is located at a great distance from the city, so its attraction on the world stage remains as it is. If you want to reach this temple, you can take a short cable car ride, which goes from the top of the mountain. Apart from this, you can also go to the temple through the beautiful paths of the hill, which start next to the church. There are hundreds of monkeys in its vicinity, which are the reason for great attraction among the tourists here. These monkeys feel the temple premises as their home. So you have to keep your belongings safe from these monkeys.

## Christ Church; the crown of Shimla

The historic Christ Church situated on the ridge grounds of Hills Queen Shimla is called the crown of the capital. It is the second oldest church in northern India. It’s beauty still captivates people.

This church, built during British rule, remains the pride of Shimla even today. Built-in the year 1857 in Neo-Gothic art, this church was built for the Anglican British community, which was then called Simla. The church has five large windows made of precious glass. These windows symbolize the Christian faith, hope, benevolence, patience, humility. This church is open every Sunday. Every year lakhs of tourists coming to Shimla from abroad do not forget to visit this church. The tourists who come here also take photos in front of the church. The administration has also made a lot of effort to save this historic building. Strict arrangements have been made so that its artwork should not be tampered with.

## Kalka Troy Train-

If you want to see the beauty even before reaching Shimla, you should go to Kalka Railway Station. Shimla Railway is not only the hill railway station of India; apart from this, it also comes in UNESCO World Heritage. This railway route was built by the British in 1898. This train runs from Kalka to Shimla. This train passes through many beautiful places like Summer Hill, Solan. If you are going to visit Shimla, then definitely travel by this train. This train will show you many breathtaking views. In this, you will also find many tunnels and bridges.

## Solan; mushroom city of India

Situated on the border of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh, Solan is known for its beautiful and serene environment. Located at an altitude of 1,600 meters above sea level, the city is famous for various adventure activities such as paragliding, water sports, and trekking. The credit for the development of Sonal goes to the British because it was the British government that did the initial economic development of this place. Every year many tourists come here to enjoy such activities. It has been named "The Mushroom City of India" due to its good production of mushrooms and tomatoes and "Red Gold" due to its bulk production of tomatoes. It is an ideal travel destination for those who want to spend some time in the lap of nature. If you are also planning a trip to Shimla, then do not miss visiting Solan in any month of the year. The most notable thing about this place is that it has suitable temperatures throughout the year; the attractive and natural scenery here will amaze you every time.

## Dara Valley:

If you want to see Shimla more beautiful, then you have to go a little further away from Shimla. Dara Valley is 150 kms far from Shimla. Daraghati is a National Forest Reserve, which is spread in 167 kms. This place is one of the most beautiful places in Shimla. This sanctuary is in the upper reaches of Shimla, which was once a hunting ground for the Rampur Bushahr royal family. Today this place is rich in wildlife. If you have time to visit, then Dara Valley is a must-visit.

## Naldehra - Beautiful hill station of Shimla

Located at an altitude of 2044 meters above sea level, Naldehra is a beautiful hill near Shimla. Lord Curzon had established a golf course here. The dense deodar trees and the magnificent greenery here make the atmosphere of this place very attractive. This is a great place to see the snow-capped Himalaya Mountains. The atmosphere of this place is so calm that you will hear the sound of the winds blowing here. If you want to cover this area, you can ride a horse. If you go to Naldehra, you will find watching the sunrise and sunset here very attractive. If you are looking for a relaxing place, this is the perfect hit station for you.

## Shimla State Museum-

The Himachal State Museum and Library is located about 3 km far from Scandal Point, also known as Shimla State Museum. The museum was established in 1947 and has a beautiful display of Pahari miniature paintings, Mughal, Rajasthani and contemporary paintings. Various bronze artefacts, stamp collections, photographs, and anthropological objects are also preserved in the museum. Tourists can see statues of Guptas, rock paintings of Masroor and masks of Kullu here. The library houses a collection of various historical books and manuscripts for the host of visitors. The museum is open from Tuesday to Sunday while closed on Mondays and gazetted holidays. The departure timings start from 10 am to 5 pm.

## Takeaway-

Shimla is a famous tourist destination which is visited by people from all over the world every year. You can also come here for your family, friends or honeymoon trip. If you want to spend your holidays in Shimla, then you will find here from low budget hotels to luxury hotels. So without wasting any time, definitely go to Shimla in the next holidays.