Chandigarh is one of India’s best examples of urban planning and modern architecture. The city has 56 sectors of 800m by 1200m area with all modern facilities and is considered one of the wealthiest cities in the path of becoming a ‘Smart city.’

**Places of interest in Chandigarh**

With many places to explore by the visitors, Chandigarh holds onto the fame of being the first planned city of India, designed by Swiss French architect Le-Corbusier. It is also one of the cleanest cities in India.

The Punjab University of Lahore was established in the year 1882 but later got transferred from Lahore to Chandigarh, after the independence, in 1947 on October 1. The university has 188 affiliated colleges in and around eight districts of Punjab and is one of the well-ranked universities of India. It has 78 teaching and research departments, spread over 550 acres of land with a health center, a sports complex, hostels, and residential housing.

Sukhna Lake: A man-made picturesque lake stretched over 3 km with a dedicated area for joggers, walkers, and picnickers with a boating facility best for family and friends.

**Gardens of Chandigarh**

The Rock Garden of Chandigarh is a perfect example for making the best use out of waste and a place not to be missed by anybody who visits Chandigarh is this Rick Garden. A road inspector’s (by name Nek Chand) brainchild came in the form of a vast hall that displays sculptures made out of waste was constructed in the year 1957 AD in sector 1 of Chandigarh.

Butterfly Park is where one can enjoy the greenery and the colorful garden along with flying Butterflies in Butterfly Park in sector 26. The silence zone here is the special area one has to avoid loud and harsh sounds to listen to the buzzing of the Butterflies. Around 35 breeds of insects are reared here in a perfect environment.

Rose Garden is located in sector-16 of Chandigarh. It is also known as the Zakir Hussain Rose Garden hosts about 825 types of flowers, with unique and amazing fragrances. The flower beds and the greenery attract people of all ages.

The botanical garden is spread across Chandigarh. This Botanical Garden is full of green, exotic plant species which are soothing to the eye throughout the year. The symmetrical patterns are the most attractive parts. One can see these Garden in Punjab University campus, Sukhna Lake and Rock Garden

Bougainvillea garden has around 50 species of Bougainvillea that can ever be found in Chandigarh. From the arch pavilions, arcades, etc., one can see all covered in bowers clusters. This is true in many other structures that happen to be covered with the colorful bougainvillea plant and flowers. This garden is spread over 20acre of land. It was established in the year 1976.

The Hibiscus Garden consists of roses or the Bougainvillea, but the hibiscus also owns a dedicated garden to showcase its beauty and family. Around 40 varieties of hibiscus shrub can be found here amidst trees and Greenland spread over 8 acres of expanse. One can admire nature’s beauty and gift when they visit this garden established in the year 1996.

Garden of Silence is a place to visit after all the busy life filled with chaos and disturbance. One can relax their minds when they visit this Garden of Silence, with a huge idol of Lord Buddha at the heart of the garden. With the Shivalik ranges acting as a backdrop and surrounding greenery creating a tranquilizing atmosphere, one cannot hesitate to meditate or sit quietly for some time as if they are listening to Buddha’s preachings.

Garden of Fragrance is home to many fragrant and beautiful flowers like Raat ki rani, Demask rose, Haar Shringar, Jasmine, and many more. The garden happens to be a sensory delight.

Leisure Valley, Pinjore Garden, Terraced Garden and Shanti Kunj are places to relax, jog and stroll around amidst greenery keeping pollution at bay.

Another example of the blend of nature and man-made beauty is a Japanese garden, also planned by Le-Corbusier, housing several pagoda towers, a buddha idol, small waterfalls, and many other structures. Another specialty of this garden is the underground tunnel, decorated with beautiful artworks, connecting the two phases of the Japanese garden.

**Museums of Chandigarh**

Government Museum and art Gallery was established in 1968, displaying a commendable collection of traditional artifacts, miniature paintings and stone sculptures, and artifacts from different places, like Lahore, post-partition.

National Gallery of Portraits was originally placed. The purpose of the construction of this museum was to respect the freedom fighters, so one can see the rare documents, portraits, and recorded voices that are proof of the fighters’ struggles—even the recorded voices of Gandhiji and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru is played here, giving a patriotic feeling.

Le Corbusier Center is one of the places where you can find the planning draft of Chandigarh. The visitor will also find that some places in Japan and America are shared along with the works of Le-Corbusier, an architect who planned Chandigarh city, are displayed in the museum, transformed office where he worked from 2008 AD. This place is a tribute to his dedicated work in making Chandigarh a beautiful city to explore.

International Doll museum is a place where one can love the miniature puppets and about 250 dolls, exhibited in the International Doll Museum, constructed in 1985 AD. Everyone, especially the kids, falls for the cute dolls of India and from Denmark, Germany, Spain, and Korea.

Open Hand Monument happens to be another place displaying amazing artwork by the architect, Le-Corbusier, is Open Hand Monument, which symbolizes “hand to give and the hand to take, peace and prosperity and the unity of mankind.” The gem enlightens the Capitol Complex of Chandigarh.

Gandhi Museum is also known as Gandhi Bhavan. This museum pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by displaying the range of works, books and materials that reflect his life. A cousin of Le-Corbusier, Pierre Jeanneret, also an architect, designed this museum. It is designed to be located in the middle of the pond.

Museum Of the Evolution of Life is a great place for a science nerd not to get upset that there are no places to explore. This museum showcases the beautiful roadmap of human lives and the study of evolution elaborately. You can also find several scientific and technical elaborations of Astronomical along with Prehistoric and Archaeological related interesting topics.

With many places like Fun city and Thunder zone, one cannot resist participating in enthusiastic activities, which are fun-filled and refreshing activities. These places are surely for all aged people as per their interest and choice.

Mahendra Choudhary Zoological Park is home to large varieties of mammals, birds, and reptiles. The visitor will find about 370 mammals, 400 birds and 20 reptiles in this zoo, located 20km from Chandigarh city. The walk-in aviary has five different themes: terrestrial, Rock & Duck, Woodland, Japanese Trail, and Rainforest. The park was established in the year the 1970s.

The best places to hang out at night are Hops N Grains and Sector 17 Marketplace for shopping.

**Shopping places for shopaholics**

One can buy various products like gems, handcrafted materials, artificial jewelry, Oxidized jewelry, cosmetics and accessories, gift items, traditional Punjabi footwear or Juttis and Phulkari dupattas salwar suits, wooden and bamboo furniture, handbags, and many more in Chandigarh.

Some of the places where we can get these items are Old Bazaars like Shopping Plaza, Furniture Market, Palika Bazaar, Shastri Market, Patel Market, Punjab Government Emporium, and modern malls. You can check out the Elante Mall, North Country Mall, and many other places where the youth and older population can shop to enjoy the fashion trend.

**Delicacies of Chandigarh**

Punjabis are known for their food habits and the dhabas. Many authentic foods like Amritsari Kulcha, stuffed Paranthas, lentil curries like Rajama curry, Maa Ki Dal, Chole Masala are relished with Poori, roti or rice. Makki di Roti with Sarson ka Saag is a special winter delicacy that visitors can enjoy during their stay.

Many non-local and foreign-influenced food items like burgers, spring rolls, momos, noodles are also available here.

Chicken tikka, tandoori chicken, shami kebab, Punjabi kadhi are non-veg items for non-veg lovers.

Paneer tikka, baingan ka bhurta, Panjabi Lkadhi and dal with Punjabi tadka are some other vegetarian foods one can enjoy here.

Gujiya or Besan ki barfi, hot Gulab Jamun, Jalebis, Kaju Katli and, not to forget, Lassi (sweet or salty) here are mouthwatering. Sweet Lassi is again topped with thick cream, nuts, rose petals and silver foil to enhance the flavor. Without the dessert, the meal/dinner is incomplete, and the trip is not fulfilled.

**How to reach Chandigarh**

Chandigarh has a well-planned transport facility as a double-state capital and Union territory. One can avail the facility of NH1 highway to reach Chandigarh from Delhi or any highways that connect to Chandigarh. To reach Chandigarh, one can use buses running from Shimla, Mussoorie, Kullu, Dharmashala, or any other major city.

Chandigarh railway station is 8km from the city and many trains ply through this station. Regular train from Delhi, Jan Shatabdi connects to Chandigarh and many other trains stop here.

The Chandigarh Airport lies 12km from the city and one can reach Chandigarh through an extensive network of domestic and international flights. Many air carriers fly their planes to and from this place. People can take a bus or taxi/cab from this place to reach their desired destinations nearby.

**Best time to visit Chandigarh**

Chandigarh has extremely hot summers, cold winters, and unpredictable rainfall during the monsoon. The best time to visit this place would be from September to November or before the onset of summer or during February and March.