



Punjab & Haryana

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Best Places to Eat

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Best Places to Sleep

- Baradari Palace (p220)
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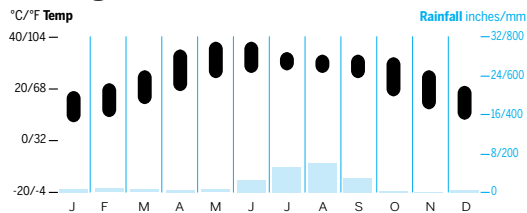
Why Go?

The neighbouring states of Punjab and Haryana were carved from the Indian half of Punjab province in the aftermath of Partition in 1947. Since then, Punjab has grown from strength to strength as the homeland of India's fabulously welcoming Sikh community, while Haryana has emerged as a dynamic hub for business and industry. Both share the same capital city, Chandigarh, which is geographically seated between the two states.

Studded with gleaming gurdwaras (Sikh temples) – including the overwhelming Golden Temple in Amritsar – Punjab has become a popular stop on the traveller circuit. Haryana, on the other hand, is more of a touristic mystery. The hinterland around the two states is dotted with fascinating, rarely visited historical towns that tell tales of battling empires and playboy maharajas, while some of India's most alluring abandoned forts hide among their dusty bazaars.

When to Go

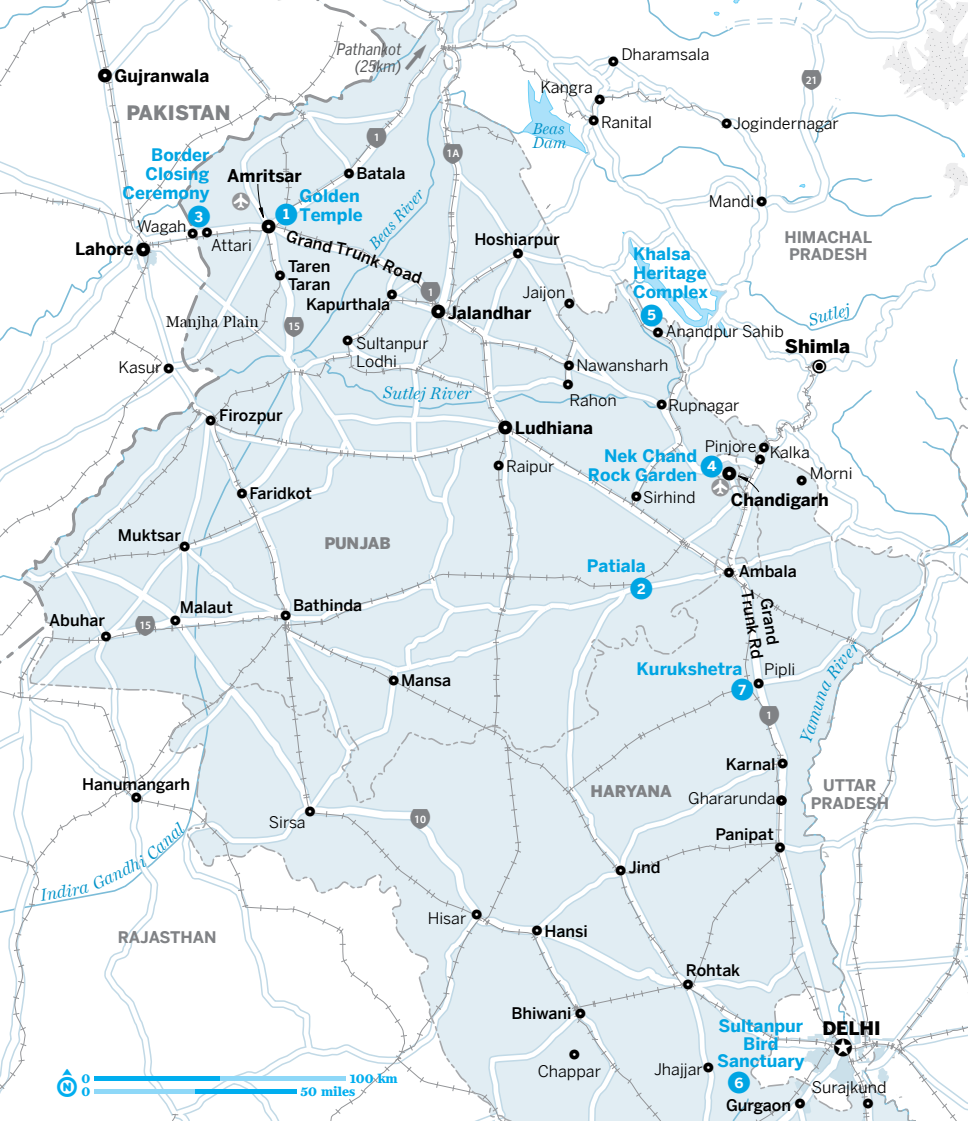
Chandigarh



Mar Three days of Sikh celebrations for Holla Mohalla unravel at Anandpur Sahib.

Apr Punjab's largest festival, Baisakhi, marks the Sikh New Year and the founding of the Khalsa.

Oct Diwali means lights, candles and fireworks everywhere; it's particularly magical at the Golden Temple.



Punjab & Haryana Highlights

- 1 Golden Temple** (p212)
Feeling the spiritual energy of absolute belief in Amritsar at Sikhism's holiest site.
- 2 Qila Mubarak** (p219)
Sizing up Patiala's impossibly charming 18th-century fort.
- 3 Attari-Wagah Border Checkpost** (p221)
Watching the theatrical battle for

- supremacy between histrionic Indian and Pakistani border guards during the border-closing ceremony.
- 4 Nek Chand Rock Garden** (p203)
Tumbling into an alternative reality in Chandigarh's unique rock garden.
- 5 Khalsa Heritage Complex** (p212)
Visiting this

- lotus flower-shaped museum of Sikh history.
- 6 Sultanpur Bird Sanctuary** (p224)
Spying on migratory bird species that come to roost at this sanctuary.
- 7 Brahmasarovar** (p223)
Brushing up on India's epic and mythological history in Kurukshetra.