

The Himachal Chronicles

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TOURISM SPEAKS:

Tourism Increases in Himachal Pradesh this Summer



Many travellers are heading to the mountains to escape the scorching heat in the country's plains. Tourist spots in Himachal Pradesh are seeing a lot more guests now that students are on summer break. Many things happen in the towns of Shimla, Manali, Kasauli, Chail, Lahaul Spiti, and Kinnaur. Also, there are more tourists from other countries than ever before. Hotels usually have vacancy rates between 80% and 90%. Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) hotels reach 90% occupancy on weekends, but room rates in Shimla hotels have gone up during the week as well.



Himachal Facts to think about

- The word Himachal is a combination of the Sanskrit words, "Hima" and "Anchal", which means "snow" and "lap" respectively. It is no coincidence that the state is located in the lap of the Himalayas.
- The animal symbol of Himachal Pradesh is a snow leopard.
- The Kalka-Shimla Railway fondly known as the Toy Train is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Himachal Pradesh is home to 33 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 2 National Parks.
- Asia's biggest glacier is in Himachal Pradesh. Shigri Glacier located in Lahaul-Spiti nourishes the Chenab River.
- Khajjiar is well regarded as the 'Mini Switzerland' due to its enticing natural beauty.

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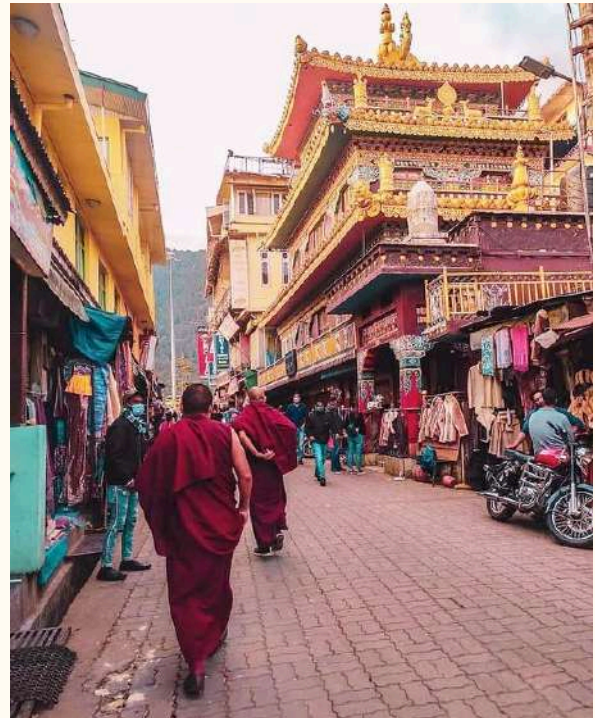
Heritage of Himachal

Tracing the roots of the Northern Subcontinent

The great tradition and Vedic roots of Himachal Pradesh defended it from multiple invasions into Himalayan valleys, distant kingdoms, and isolated villages. The powerful mountains have long provided refuge and comfort to those on a mission. Buddhism, Jainism, and Hinduism have coexisted happily with Shamanism for centuries.

Himachal's ethnic diversity celebrates life daily. Their clothing, dances, festivals, and fairs reflect the gods' pleasant culture. The country is strongly tied to its origins, and people celebrate wholeheartedly when they celebrate. Because of its attraction, the state attracts more visitors than inhabitants each year.

Culture, migration, and religion have shaped Himachal's art. Works of art include murals, illustrated books, miniatures, and religious paintings.



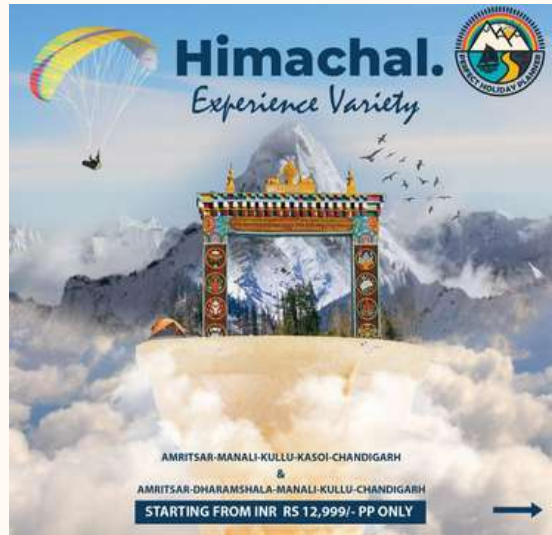
The Kangra school of painting combined indigenous art traditions with the Mughal style with hill valley kingdom monarchs' patronage.

Basholi, Kangra, Mandi, Chamba, Guler, Kullu, Arki, Bilaspur, Nurpur, and other art types can only be identified by specialists and collectors. Tibetan religious art flourished at Kinnaur, Lahaul, and Spiti monasteries.



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ARCHITECTURAL FINDINGS



Himachal has several historical and cultural forts, palaces, temples, monasteries, and houses. Tabo, a Spiti Buddhist monastery famed for its murals and plaster figures, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Pragpur, known for its cobblestone lanes and historic buildings, is a 'Heritage village'. Many Himachal Pradesh forts, palaces, and homes are privately owned, therefore their use is decided by their owners. Still, we are proud to include them in our rich cultural heritage.

KANGRA FORT

The Katoch Dynasty built Kangra Fort, one of the largest and oldest in the Indian Himalayas, during the Mahabharata's Trigarta Kingdom. Below Nagarkot Fort above a flat mountain range, the mighty Banganga River runs. The 1905 Kangra earthquake damaged major structures and monuments, including the 4-km fort with towering walls and ramparts. The fort's Maharaja Sansar Chand Museum houses earthquake-resistant stone sculptures, carvings, idols, and other artefacts.

Ambika Devi, Shitlamata, and Lakshmi Narayan temples are at the fort.



The 2000-year-old stone inscription from Kangra is written in which script?

- a) Brahmi and Kharosthi
- b) Devnagri
- c) Tibetan
- d) Sharada

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NURPUR FORT

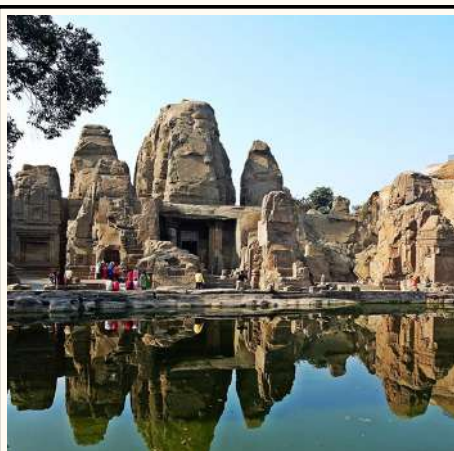
Nurpur Fort, built by Raja Basu in the late 16th century, is a huge fortification on the hill's western plateau. The fort overlooks the Jabhar Khud, a tiny river that enters the Chakki Rivulet. The Fort faces the River Valley. The palace's interior has decayed walls, deep niches, beautiful arches, and faded artwork. Beautifully carved animal motifs decorate the northwest walls.

The walls are decorated with beautiful pictures of men, women, children, monarchs, gods, goddesses, and birds.



KUTHAR FORT

The oldest components of Kuthar Fort, located 34 kilometres from Solan is more than 800 years old. The most recent structures are almost eight decades old. The stronghold covers a huge area and contains freshwater springs. Kuthar Fort is located on an offbeat route that few visitors take advantage of. It is easily accessible from the gorgeous Kunihar valley, the hill station of Kasauli, and the Gurkha fort at Subathu.



IDENTIFY THE ROCK STRUCTURE
AND WRITE FEW WORDS DESCRIBING IT.

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Delights of Himachal Cuisine

Himachal Pradesh has a diverse cuisine that uses natural herbs and spices, as well as a rich cultural heritage. People here eat a lot of locally grown food and products. The state's most distinctive feature is its delectable cuisine. Visitors to Himachal are typically surprised by the region's natural beauty and delicious cuisine. Tourists may enjoy delicious dishes owing



Dhaam, a Himachal Pradesh speciality, is tasty and nutritious. Dal, rajma, rice, curd, boor ki Kadi, and gur go well together. Dhaam is a festival staple with a variety of tasty dishes. Special chefs called 'botis' create this cuisine. For the greatest Dhaam, visit Himachal during festivals.



to Himachali cuisine, which identifies the state as unique. Because of their popularity, it is common for Himachali households to serve both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals on the same platter. The state's gastronomic culture is significantly influenced by Tibet and Punjab, which has a significant impact on Himachali food.

Chana Madra is a traditional dish from Himachal Pradesh. Chickpeas (chana) cooked in yogurt-based sauce with cinnamon, cardamom, cloves, and bay leaves make it a creamy, fragrant curry. A lot of ghee (clarified butter) makes the curry rich. Chana Madra is served with steamed rice at special events and celebrations.



Tudkiya Bhath is Himachal Pradesh's original pulao cooked by pahadis. Besides Indian spices, the lentils, potatoes, yogurt, onion, tomatoes, garlic, cinnamon, and cardamom give the meal a superb taste that will make you crave it again. Mashed dal and lime juice enhance the flavour of Tudkiya Bath.

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Culture of Himachal

Himachal is famous for its handicrafts. Carpets, leatherwork, shawls, paintings, metalware, and woodwork are all worth admiring. Pashmina shawls are popular not only in Himachal but throughout the country. Himachali hats are also well-known works of art among its people. Local music and dance represent the state's cultural uniqueness. .



People honour their gods with dancing and song during local festivals and other noteworthy events.

Many fairs and festivals are observed in Himachal Pradesh, including temple fairs in practically every area, which are extremely important to the state

Carpets, leather, shawls, metalware, woodwork, and paintings came from this state. Beautiful pashmina shawls are popular in Himachal and nationwide. The Dom tribe makes bamboo boxes, sofas, chairs, baskets, and racks. Utensils, ceremonial containers, idols, gold, and silver jewellery are state metalware.

Himachalis weave, carve, paint, and chisel. Himachal's Kullu produces famous shawls. The architecture, items, stores, museums, galleries, and craftspeople all exude a timeless appeal.

Women do pottery, men do carpentry. For centuries, Himachal has built homes, idols, etc. from wood.

Himachal's dances include Losar Shona Chuksam (Kinnaur), Dangi (Chamba), Gee and Burah (Sirmour), Naati, Kharait, Ujagjama, Chadhgebrikar (Kullu), and Shunto. The major dance of Himachal Pradesh is nati. State residents like folk music.



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Himachali dances are complex and diversified. These dances are fundamental to tribal existence. It represents Himachal Pradesh's culture and customs. All around the region, people dance Dulshol, Dharveshi, Drodi, Dev Naritya, Rakshas Nriyia, Dangi, Lasa, Nati, and Nagas.

Himachal Pradesh has stunning scenery and a rich cultural legacy in its traditional dress. Himachal's colourful and elaborate clothes honour its alpine culture.

Women of Himachal Pradesh wear Dhaatu. The long, wool or silk robe adds elegance. Colourful embroidery and delicate needlework demonstrate years of artistry.

The Himachali cap, or Topi, completes men's traditional dress. Cap styles represent a person's community and area. Himachali culture defines the Topi as a symbol of identity.

Traditional wedding dress enhances Himachal Pradesh weddings. Men wear the elaborate Sera, while women wear the Cholia, a richly embroidered garment. These outfits beautify Himachali weddings.

A colourful and useful cloth bag, the Jhola, completes the traditional attire. Jholas are colourful and detailed, reflecting Himachali art.

Himachal Pradesh has several fairs and festivals in addition to those held across India. The Himachalis wear in bright colours and socialize with their relatives during these celebrations. Upper regions' fairs and festivals include Kullu Dussehra, Shivratri Fair (Mandi), Shoolini Mela (Solan), Minjar Fair (Chamba), Mani Mahesh Chhari Yatra (Chamba), Renuka Fair (Sirmaur), Lavi Trade Fair (Rampur), Vrajeshwari Fair (Kangra), Jwalamukhi Fair, Holi Fair (Sujanpur Tira), Naina Devi Fair (Bilaspur), Fulaich {Kinnaur valley}.



BRAIN TEASERS

Q. Find out what other local styles of clothing prevail in different districts of Himachal Pradesh.

Q. Name some forms of folk dance not mentioned here.

Q. Find out what kind of fabrics are used to make Topi.

Q. Name some forms of folk music belonging to Himachal Pradesh.

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