

# Amritsar City Guide

How to visit the Golden Temple respectfully, what else to see in Amritsar, and what to know before you go — built to pair with Indroam's North India itinerary templates.

## A CITY CENTERED ON ONE SITE

Amritsar exists, in large part, around the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib), Sikhism's holiest shrine and one of the most welcoming major religious sites in India to visitors of any faith. The city is compact enough to see in a day or two, and most itineraries center the whole visit around the temple's rhythms — including its free communal kitchen, the langar. This guide covers how to do that well.

## GETTING AROUND

- The old city around the Golden Temple is walkable and largely pedestrianized near the complex itself
- Cycle-rickshaws and autorickshaws cover the rest of the city, including the route to the Pakistan border
- The Attari-Wagah border ceremony is about a 45-minute drive from the city center — go with a car or organized transport, as it draws large crowds
- Visiting the Golden Temple at multiple times of day (dawn, midday, after dark) shows a genuinely different atmosphere each time
- Amritsar is well connected by air and rail to Delhi, making it an easy add-on to a North India itinerary

## GOLDEN TEMPLE ETIQUETTE

The temple complex welcomes visitors of all backgrounds, but expects everyone to follow the same customs as Sikh worshippers.

- Cover your head before entering the complex — head coverings are provided free at the entrance if you don't bring your own
- Remove shoes and wash your feet at the entrance pools before walking on the marble parikrama
- Dress modestly; avoid shorts or sleeveless tops
- Alcohol, tobacco, and non-vegetarian food are not permitted anywhere in the complex
- Join the langar (free communal meal) if you're able to — it's open to everyone regardless of faith, and helping clear dishes afterward is welcomed
- Photography is generally allowed in the outer complex but check signage near the inner sanctum

## TOP SIGHTS & EXPERIENCES

- The Golden Temple itself, ideally visited at both sunrise and after dark when it's lit up
- The langar hall, where volunteers serve a free meal to tens of thousands of people daily
- Jallianwala Bagh, a memorial garden adjacent to the Golden Temple commemorating the 1919 massacre

- The Attari-Wagah border closing ceremony, a high-energy daily flag-lowering event with crowds on both the Indian and Pakistani sides
- Partition Museum, documenting the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan

Border ceremony timing and access rules can change — confirm current details before planning that part of your day.