

PATIALA

Tourist Map



Punjab Heritage & Tourism Promotion Board
www.punjabtourism.gov.in

CITY OF PALACES, PARKS & POLO

Punjab's best known princely state achieved widespread prominence in the latter days of the British Raj. The Maharajas' legacy is a rich and fascinating collection of architecture, art and anecdotes. Patialvi culture is widely admired, and combines local folk traditions with Mughal and Rajput influences, notably in its distinctive Gharana style of music, culinary traditions and fine craftwork.

In 2011/12, the city is due to undergo major redevelopment which will restore the glory to its magnificent cultural heritage.

History

Founded in 1763 as a military stronghold by Baba Ala Singh, the first ruler of Patiala, this elegant city of palaces, parks, polo and cricket grounds took shape around its imposing fort, the Qila Mubarak. Baba Ala laid the foundation stone of the fort, where a flame has been kept burning ever since - legend has it that the city will be destroyed if ever it should be extinguished.

Grand havelis (courtyard houses) and bazaars gradually developed around the Darshani Gate. In the mid 19thC Maharaja Narendra Singh, a great patron of the arts, built the sumptuous Moti Bagh Palace and Sheesh Mahal, and added ramparts and nine additional gates around the old town. A sign-posted Heritage Walk (see map) now guides the visitor around the principal sights and attractions in the town.

Today, Patiala is the capital of Patiala District, and houses a population of 330,000 plus. A university town, it is home to many Punjab government institutions as well as the National Institute of Sports.

Places to Visit

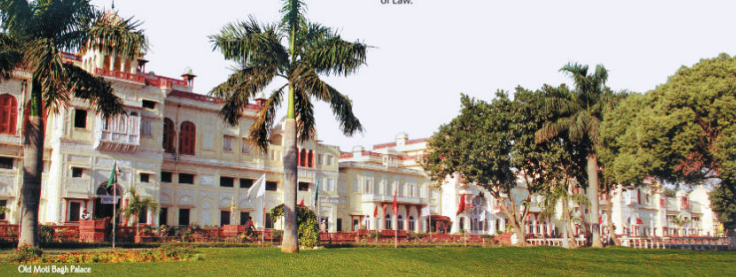
Old Moti Bagh Palace (Viewable only from the exterior) (sq G9)

Set among well-tended lawns and sports grounds, this monumental palace with its 15 dining halls was built in 1847 in Indo-Saracenic style to house the royal family in suitable splendour. Ceded to the State after Partition, at present it is home to the National Institute of Sport.

Qila Mubarak (Fort. Open daily except Monday 10:00 to 17:00. Closed on major national holidays) (sq J6)

Dating from 1764, the royal fort complex occupies ten acres and comprises inner and outer precincts, each with several buildings in a synthesis of Mughal and Rajasthani styles. It was the royal family's residence until the mid 19thC.

The inner Qila Androon, containing the private royal chambers, is divided into nine courts, including the Sheesh Mahal, elaborately



Old Moti Bagh Palace



(cool room), Ran Baas (guest quarters) and Durbar Hall. Notable for its superb ceiling and huge chandeliers of Bohemian crystal, the Durbar Hall currently displays a collection of armour, paintings and royal treasures, including a solid silver state carriage, a jade dagger belonging to Guru Gobind Singh, and the sword of the mighty Persian emperor Nadir Shah, who invaded India in 1739.

Sheesh Mahal (Open daily) (sq H10)

Fronted by a large artificial lake crossed by a suspension bridge leading to the Banasar Ghar, the Sheesh Mahal was designed by Maharaja Narendra Singh as a private place of relaxation. It was also a workspace for scholars, poets and artists, who decorated the interiors with exquisite murals and mirror-work. Elegant Mughal terraced gardens, with exotic fruit trees, water channels and a marble pavilion lead to the Old Moti Bagh. Today the palace displays the world's largest international collection of medals and decorations, including the only Most Noble Order of the Garter, the UK's oldest royal honour, to be found. The museum also has a fine collection of miniature paintings, carved ivory and metal artefacts, and numerous paintings, ornaments, clothes and weapons.

Notable 19th century heritage

The 'golden age' of Patiala in the latter half of the 19thC saw a big development of colonial style buildings, fountains, parks and gardens outside the old town walls around the Mall Road. Prominent among these are:

Rajindra Kothi (Now Baradari Palace Hotel) (sq G4)

A royal villa adjoining the Baradari Gardens, recently converted into a heritage hotel (www.neemranahotels.com).



Mohindra Kothi (Mall Road) (sq G5)

Former royal residence, now the temporary home of the Rajiv Gandhi Univ of Law.

decorated by Rajasthani and Kangra artists with mirror-work and frescos depicting themes from Hindu epics. The outer perimeter, entered through the majestic main gate, includes the Jalu Khana, Lassi Khana (kitchens), Sard Khana

Baradari Gardens (sq F4)

English-style park and gardens planted with rare trees and shrubs, overlooked by a statue of Maharaja Rajinder Singh.

Punjab Archives Bhawan (sq H4)

Formerly the District Commissioner's Office, today houses the archive record with some very rare manuscripts and also houses the tourist information centre.

Mohindra College (sq H8)

One of the oldest institutions of higher learning in northern India, built by Maharaja Mohinder Singh and opened by the Viceroy, Lord Ripon in 1884.

Rajindra Tank (sq G4)

Popular artificial lake on the Mall Road.

Circuit House

This colonial styled building today serves as a Government guest house.

Phul Cinema (sq F5)

Good example of art deco style, adjoining the Mohindra Kothi.



Moti Bagh Wildlife Sanctuary (sq J10)

Originally a protected forest it was declared a wildlife sanctuary under a government act. In earlier times it was an important hunting and shooting reserve for the rulers of Patiala. A small zoo is now located on the outskirts of the sanctuary.

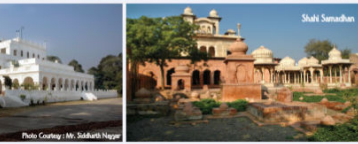
Temples

Kali Devi (sq G4)

Secular temple that attracts both Sikh and Hindu devotees, notable for its life-size statue of Kali brought from the Kali Ghat in Kolkata, in eastern India by Maharaja Bhupinder Singh.

Shahi Samadhan (Royal mausoleum) (sq J7)

In a garden setting, white marble cenotaphs stand in silent memory of the Patiala dynasty. Within the stately main memorial, inlaid with



delicate Islamic and Punjabi motifs, lies the tomb of Baba Ala Singh, the founding ruler of Patiala.



Gurudwara Dukh Niwaran Sahib (sq H2)
The pool is reputed for its healing qualities. A plaque marks the visit of Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1675.

Sports clubs and facilities

Raja Bhalindra Singh Sports Complex (Polo Ground) (sq G7)

One of the oldest polo grounds in India, now a sports field.

Rajendra Gymkhana Club (sq F4)

Graceful cricket stadium, where many distinguished Test cricketers have played.



Bahadurgarh Fort (6km NE)

Built in 1658 by Nawab Saif Khan, the massive walls have a circumference of 2km and enclose a Gurdwara and military camp. The name commemorates the visit of the ninth Sikh Guru Tegh Bahadur in 1672.

Sirhind (Fatehgarh Sahib, 30km N)



One-time capital of the Pathan Sur sultans, and a flourishing trade centre, with no less than 360 mosques. Razed by the Sikhs following the brutal execution of the two young sons of Guru Gobind Singh in 1705, walled up alive on the orders of Aurangzeb for refusing to convert to Islam. Some fine Mughal buildings survive within the Aam Khas Bagh, notably the Royal Hammam and the ruins of the Davlat Mahal and Sheesh Mahal. The octagonal Raiza Sharif, an important Muslim pilgrimage site, features a magnificent blue-tiled dome. See also Mir Mahan's imposing mausoleum, and the Salavat Beg Haveli, a delightful Mughal courtyard house.



Cuisine



Traditional Punjabi dishes, sweets and drinks can be enjoyed around the city in restaurants, hotels and street side dhabas, notably around the Adalat Bazaar, Anardana Chowk and Phuwara Chowk.

Crafts and bazaars

Patiala is renowned for the quality of its jutties (intricately embroidered leather slippers), phulkari (hand-embroidered shawls) and parandees (hair ornaments). Fine examples can be found in the narrow lanes around the Qila Mubarak, in the Adalat and Dharampura Bazaars.



Cinemas

Phul (sq F5)
Mall Road,
Tagore (sq C3)
Model Town,
Malwa (sq G5)
Chotti Baradari,
Harbans (sq G3)
Rajbaha Road,

Tourist Information Centre

Old Commissioner Office,
Mall Road,
New District Courts,
Mall Road Patiala, 147001
Open: 9:00 AM TO 5:00 PM
Information, accommodation and transport bookings. Punjabi crafts shop.

Important Information

STD Code : 0175
Police : 100
Fire : 101
Ambulance : 102
Inter State Bus Terminal (sq H4)
Rajpura Road,
Railway Station (sq J3)
Railway Road

Head Post Office (sq F5)

The Mail, # 2212846
Rajbaha Road,
Airways
Chandigarh Airport
Rajpura Road,
0172-2659886
Amritsar Airport
0183-2214166

Hotels

Narain Continental (sq G5)
The Mall, # 2212846
Hotel Eqbal Inn Rajpura Road
Patiala Phone No 0175-5050700
Hotel Neemrana, Baradari Gardens
Patiala Phone No 0175-2304533
Jwain Plaza (sq E3)
Bhupindra Road, # 0175-2210666

Flyover Classic (sq H3)

Near Railway Station, # 5000133
Mohan Continental (sq F4)
Opp. Head Post Office, # 2210102
Grand Park (sq D2)
Bhupindra Road, # 2210725

Garden Resort (sq F4)

Rajbaha Road, # 2215107
Hotel Alpha Residency Sangur Road
Patiala Phone No 0175-2677637
Motel Sunrise Sirhind Road
Near Bypass Patiala # 0175-3200404
Dhillon Residency (sq G2)
Nr Gurdwara Dukhniwaran Sahib,
5000823

Hospitals

Patiala Heart & Health Care (sq E5)
Jagdish Ashram Road,
Rajindra Hospital (sq E6)
Sangur Road,
Mata Kaushalya Hospital (sq H4)
Lahori Gate,
TB Hospital (sq H4)
TB Hospital Road,

