

HOW TO REACH SHIMLA

Himachal Pradesh, India | Best time: March to June; December to February for snow

Shimla can be reached by road from Chandigarh, by a limited flight to Jubbarhatti, or on the UNESCO-listed Kalka-Shimla toy train. Kalka is the main broad-gauge interchange and offers the most memorable arrival, while buses and taxis are faster. Winter snow can slow the final hill section, so daytime travel is preferable.

BY AIR

Shimla Airport, Jubbarhatti | 23 km | 50-70 minutes

Transfers: Pre-booked taxi or hotel transfer. Taxi: Rs 1,200-Rs 1,800.

BY TRAIN

Kalka Railway Station | 90 km by road / 96 km toy-train line | 3-6 hours

Transfers: Toy train, taxi or connecting bus

ROAD ROUTES

Delhi: 350 km, 7-9 hours. Frequent Volvo and HRTC buses. Route:

Delhi-Chandigarh-Kalka-Solan-Shimla

Chandigarh: 115 km, 3-4 hours. Frequent buses and taxis. Route:

Chandigarh-Kalka-Dharampur-Solan

Amritsar: 300 km, 7-8 hours. Limited direct buses. Route: Amritsar-Ropar-Chandigarh-Shimla

Jaipur: 590 km, 11-13 hours. Services via Delhi or Chandigarh. Route:

Jaipur-Delhi-Chandigarh-Shimla

TRAVEL TIPS

1. Choose a daytime hill drive when snow or fog is forecast.
2. Reserve Kalka-Shimla toy-train tickets as soon as bookings open.
3. Hotels near the Mall may require walking because vehicle access is restricted.
4. Carry shoes with good grip during snow season.
5. Check parking availability before driving into central Shimla.

BEST OPTION

Take a train to Kalka and continue by toy train for scenery, or use a direct Volvo bus from Delhi for the simplest overnight journey.