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**Idea:** For a totally spiritual and unique experience in India go to Shimla, a hilly region offering amazing views of the Himalayas and home to the temple of Lord Hanuman. Expect to find mischievous monkeys and explore the town of Summer Hill, where Mahatma Gandhi lived during his time in Shimla.

Keyphrase: India holidays

## Shimla Offers a Unique and Spiritual Experience for Your India Holidays

Deep in the north region at the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains, surrounded by thick forest, lakes, and beautiful green pastures is India's largest and most famous hill-side station of Shimla. Shimla is the capital of Himachal and, due to its abundance of natural beauty, is a favourite for Indian newlyweds and families. However, Shimla is also perfect for Westerners looking for that unique and spiritual experience only India holidays can offer.

"Discovered" by the British in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, it became a sophisticated town with the British government making it India's official summer capital. Throughout the '20s, '30s, and '40s Mahatma Gandhi, one of the world's most spiritual leaders, visited Shimla many times during India's struggle for freedom. Be sure to visit Summer Hill where Gandhi lived during his time in Shimla.

Shimla still holds its original colonial allure creating a setting and character no other part of India has to offer. Explore Viceregal Lodge, the striking six-story Scottish baronial mansion that was the summer seat of the British Raj, or visit the prominent landmark Christ Church which was constructed in 1846 and is the second oldest church in North India. The sprawling Himalayans offer amazing views, and the centre of Shimla, a section of high ground known as the "Ridge" provides for an expansive square where locals gather to socialize. The Mall, the main pedestrian road, bends around the south slope of the Ridge where visitors can find Shimla's vibrant and colourful Lakkar Bazaar. Full of tousled shacks and brightly lit stalls, there is plenty to be found for those who love to shop.

Shimla is a great destination that can be visited by tourists any time during the year. Summers are typically warm with cool, refreshing evenings, while winters are can be very cold with the temperatures easily falling below zero. This area of India can also be quite affordable with budget, mid-range, and luxury lodging being available.

Total word count without title: 322