

Chandigarh, the capital city of Punjab and Haryana, is one of the most popular tourist destinations of India. However, unlike most of the other places, the city is famous for the modern architectures and the exotic landscape, rather than the ancient historical monuments. Be it the magnificent Capitol Complex or the unique Rock Garden, the tourist attractions of Chandigarh are quite unusual in their very nature. Of all the major tourist places in the beautiful city, we have provided information on the most popular ones, in the lines below:

### Places to See In Chandigarh

#### Sector 17

The most popular hangout of youngsters, **Sector 17** houses the most upscale shopping market of Chandigarh. Apart from the market, the sector also prides itself on being dotted with fountains, sculptures and groves of trees. In short, it is completely a shopper's as well as a pedestrian's paradise!

#### Rock Garden, Sector 1

Rock Garden is a unique attraction as Chandigarh, in its being a magnificent gallery of artistic works made out of industrial and urban wastes. The raw materials have been molded to form lively images of animals, human beings, trees, etc. Founded by Nek Chand, a government official, in 1957, the garden preserves a special collection of artistry found nowhere else in the world. Chandigarh rock garden is an epitome of creativity and innovation. **It is located in Sector 1 between the Capitol Complex and Sukhna Lake**

. The credit for laying its foundation goes to Nek Chand, who was the then Road Inspector in the Engineering Department of Chandigarh Capital Project.

Rock garden has been established in the form of an open-air exhibition hall. The garden houses sculptures made by using a variety of different discarded waste materials like frames, mudguards, forks, handle bars, metal wires, play marbles, porcelain, auto parts, broken bangles etc. Rock garden in Chandigarh, India is a unique creation and connoisseurs come from different parts of the world to see this amazing garden.

#### Sukhna Lake, Sector 1

Sukhna Lake is a popular artificial lake in Chandigarh, made at the foothills of the Shivalik hills. It was created by Le Corbusier, in the year 1958. It is an ideal place for exercises like walking, jogging, strolling and even organizing picnics. The lake is rich in natural beauty and serves as the shelter for several migratory birds as well. The nature lovers will find the Sukhna Lake of Chandigarh perfect for them. **Situated in Sector 1**, the lake was created by building an artificial

dam on a seasonal stream. Go for boating, relax in the restaurant situated there or just sit on the 2-km-long promenade and take in the beauty of nature

### Open Hand , Sector 1

Open hand in Chandigarh, India is one of the most significant monuments of the city. The credit for laying down its plan goes to Le Corbusier. It is located in sector 1 in the Capitol Complex. Chandigarh open hand monument has been designed in the form of a giant hand made from metal sheets that rotates like a weathercock, **indicating the direction of wind. This giant hand is 14 metres high and weighs around 50 tonnes.**

The significance of open hand is that it conveys the social message of peace and unity that is "open to give & open to receive." Open hand is the city's official emblem.

### Capitol Complex, Sector 1

Chandigarh capitol complex houses the seat of Government. Initially, it served as the seat only for the Govt of Punjab, but now it has **the headquarters of both, the Govt of Punjab and Haryana**.

The credit for the awesome designing of the Capitol complex goes to Le Corbusier.

**Located**

#### in Sector 1,

capitol complex in Chandigarh, India consists of three main edifices, namely, the Secretariat, the Legislative Assembly and the High Court. There was a plan to build a fourth building also, which is going to be the Raj Bhavan, as in the Governor's Palace or a Museum of Knowledge. However, till yet, it has not come into existence. The three buildings of the Capitol complex stand majestically representing themselves as the temples of democracy of free India. Capitol Complex is Le Corbusier's most spectacular work in the Chandigarh city. He had conceived the master plan of Chandigarh as analogous to the parts of the human body, in which Capitol Complex was supposed to be the heart. It consists of three architectural Government buildings, High Court, Secretariat, and Legislative Assembly. In the middle stands The Open Hand, the official emblem of the city, signifying the city's credo of "open to be given, open to receive".

### Leisure Valley, Sector 1

Le Corbusier planned lots of greenery in Chandigarh, by constructing a series of parks and gardens, collectively called the Leisure Valley. **The valley consists of gardens extending from Sector 53 in the Southern edge to the Sector 1 in the North.**

**Leisure valley** is the most beautiful and popular tourist attraction destination in Chandigarh. Chandigarh Leisure valley is like a garland of gardens that beautifies the entire city. It begins from Rajendra Park in Sector 1 that is basically used for long walks, yoga and other fitness workout activities and stretches till the Bougainvillea garden in Sector 3. It also covers the splendid garden of roses in Sector 16. Leisure valley takes a curvaceous turn, when it enters Sector 23. It is in the Leisure valley in Chandigarh, India that different kinds of theme gardens are set up.

### **Zakir Rose Garden, Sector 16**

The Rose Garden of Chandigarh was established in 1967. Named after India's former President Dr. Zakir Hussain, this garden is the largest of its type in Asia. It is spread over an area of 27 acres and has more than 17000 plants, which represent some 1600 varieties of roses. Along with the roses, trees of medicinal value, like bel, bahera, harar etc, are also grown here

Rose Garden also boasts of some unique species, which further increase the beauty of the garden. The annual "Festival of Gardens" is organized in the garden in the month of February and is listed in the "National Calendar of Events". The best time to visit the garden is February-March, which coincides with the blooming season of the flowers.