

About Shimla Town

The town of Shimla (earlier spelt Simla) came into being when the 'Gurkha wars' came to an end in 1815-16 and the Victorious British decided to retain certain pockets as military outposts and sanitarium.

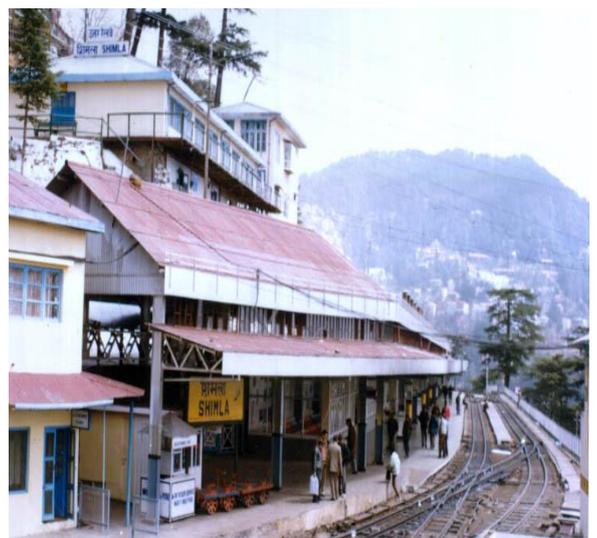
Here the first house was built in 1822 and is known as 'Kennedy House', which was the residence of Capt. Charles Pratt Kennedy, the then political officer to the Hill State. In 1864, during the period of Johan Lawrence, Shimla was officially declared as the summer capital of the British India - a status it retained upto India's independence in 1947.

The decision of Indo-Pak division was taken in 1947 in this city and also the historic Indo-Pak Shimla agreement was signed in Shimla on 3rd July 1972.

Shimla Railway station

The Shimla Railway station is at an altitude of 2075 m(6820 ft) and is nestled in forests of Deodar, Pine, Asphodel, Hyacinth, Celandine, Fir, and Himalayan Oak, Carmine & Rhododendron trees. It was constructed in 1903 under the supervision of the then Chief Engineer and agent of the KSR Mr. H.S. Harington. The walls of the Shimla station building were made of wooden planks and batons. The sloping roofs are made of galvanised iron sheets.

This was modified in 1921 with a new double storey design for the offices (station master, staff and control), accident relief arrangements, waiting rooms, telegraph office, shelters, shed for handcarts (called rickshaws in Hindi & the local language) and a horse stand. The walls of the building were constructed with brick masonry in lime mortar plastered from outside as well as from inside.



Later, in 1944, the platform shelter collapsed due to heavy snowfall (about 12 feet) and consequently a new shed over the station building and platform was constructed under the supervision of late Mr. M.W. Bouldwin, the then Engineer of the KSR. At the same time, additional offices were also constructed on the first floor.

In 1986-87, Shimla Railway station was selected for development as a modern station and accordingly many works have been undertaken over the years. These include end-to-end platform shelters, platform resurfacing, tourist information office, railway telephone exchange, rebuilding of the platform ticketing office, shifting of offices, provision of a computerised (nationally linked) booking-cum-reservation office, provision of shelter on the ramp leading to the road away from the station, retiring rooms (with 10 rooms each having large windows providing a valley view) and a spacious waiting hall on the ground floor that offers the tourists panoramic views of the valley and snowfall (in the season).

Important Places of Interest in and around Shimla

*	<i>The Ridge - Large open space in the heart of town, presents excellent view of the mountain ranges.</i>
*	<i>The Mall - Main centre of attraction & heart of Shimla.</i>
*	<i>BABA BHALKHU RAIL MUSEUM - 1 Km - A Railway museum containing rare artifacts of bye gone era of KLK-SML Railway.</i>
*	<i>Jhakoo Temple - (2455m) 2.5 km - An ancient "Lord Hanuman temple" on Shimla highest peak.</i>
*	<i>Institute of Indian Advance Studies (1983 m) 4 km - Former vice regal lodge.</i>
*	<i>Sankat Mochan - (1975 m) 7Km- Famous "Lord Hanuman Temple"</i>
*	<i>Kufri (2510 m) 16 Km - Famous ice skating spot.</i>
*	<i>Naldehra(2044 m) 22 km - Nine hole golf course.</i>
*	<i>Mashobra (2148m) 12 Km - Famous for thick forest.</i>
*	<i>Tatapani (650m) 56 km - Famous for Sulphur hot spring on the bank of river Satluj.</i>