

## Langar – Community Kitchen

Guru Nanak, the first Sikh guru started the concept of 'Langar'. Guru Amardass, the third Sikh Guru, institutionalized this concept of sharing and caring. It is a process where Sikhs share their honest earnings to provide food for everyone – rich and poor, high and low, bringing them all under one umbrella of equality. This is an important and integral part of Gurudwaras (Sikh place of worship)

In March every year local residents come together at the Gurudwara of Anandpur Sahib to organize Langar during Holla Mohalla. Men, women, and children volunteer with utmost humility to cook, serve and clean. Food served in Langar is always vegetarian.



**Panjab, South Asia**



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**HOLLA MOHALLA**

**"I am imbued with the deep crimson  
color of the Lords Divine Love" – Pg  
1180, Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Holy  
Scripture)**



**Anandpur Sahib, Panjab,  
South Asia**

## Sikh Festival

**Holla Mohalla** is an annual Sikh festival that symbolizes a Sikh's commitment towards universal brotherhood and fight for justice. These tenets of Sikhism were given the form of a festival in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the tenth Sikh Guru, Gobind Singh, at Anandpur Sahib (A city in the state of Panjab in South Asia).

Thousands flock to the holy city of Anandpur Sahib to celebrate the Sikh way of life which comprises meditation, contemplation and fitness. This rejuvenates the **'Saint and Soldier'** belief and strengthens allegiance towards upholding truth and justice to protect dignity and freedom.



Sikh Shrine Keshgarh Sahib in Anandpur Sahib during Holla Mohalla

In an awe inspiring display of virtue and courage, Sikhs perform martial arts, and engage in mock battles and military exercises. Millions of Sikhs gather every year to watch swordsmanship, horse riding, Gatka (Sikh spiritual art of self defense) and other skills ordained by the Sikh faith as a part of the **Saint Soldier** paradigm.



Spectacular skill of a Sikh riding two horses

In a stupendous display of battle skills on horseback, Nihang Singhs (Sikh Army in colorful attire) use spears, swords, daggers, arrows and Chakkars (sharp circular discs) signifying valor.



Gatka

Cavaliers on the fields, Nihang Singhs are extremely war-hearted and live a simple life.



A Nihang Singh (Sikh Army) at Holla Mohalla

## Other Attractions

Over the years, this festival has grown to include displays of Sikh art, music and the literary works. Scholars and artists from all parts of the world participate enthusiastically in poetry competition and lectures. Classical and instrumental music is also a major attraction of Holla Mohalla.

This three-day festival ends with a procession, led by Panj Pyarae (Five beloveds), which starts from Takth Keshgarh Sahib (Holy Shrine) and returns to its original location after marching past various Gurdwaras (Sikh place of worship).



Holla Mohalla Procession at Anandpur Sahib

Holla Mohalla symbolizes Sikh ideology and does not merely commemorate a past event. It reminds Sikhs to display valor and chivalry. The basic ideology remains the same but the practice has evolved over time. Today, Sikhs celebrate this festival by blending their display of bravery with colors of happiness.