The temple was again occupied by extremes in 1986. The damage wrought on the Golden Temple by the tanks of the Indian army has now been repaired, and things are quiet again.

The Sikhs are justifiably proud of their capital city and the Golden Temple, and travellers have commented on their friendliness and helpfulness.

**Orientation**

The old city is south-east of the main railway station and is surrounded by a circular road which used to contain the massive city walls.

There are 18 gates still in existence but only the north gate, facing the Ram Bagh gardens, is original. The Golden Temple and the narrow alleys of the bazaar area are in the old city.

The more modern part of Amritsar is north-east of the railway station, where you will also find the beautiful gardens known as Ram Bagh, Mall Rd and 'posh' Lawrence St. The bus terminal is two km east of the railway station on the road to Delhi.

**Information**

**Tourist Offices** The tourist office (231482) is in the former youth hostel, now occupied
1. Main entrance and clock tower
2. Central Sikh Museum
3. Sarovar (pool)
4. Dukh Bhani Jhar Ber (the jujube tree that banishes sorrow)
5. Ath Sath Tirath (Shrine of the 68 Holy Places)
6. Watch towers
7. Langar
8. Guru Ram Das Serai (guest-house, place of lodging)
9. Teja Singh Samundri Hall (SCPC Management Committee Office)
10. Guru Nanak Serai
11. Baba Atal Gurdwara
12. Manji Sahib Diwan (Assembly Hall)
13. Baba Dhan Singh Shrine
14. Lachi Ber (cardamom tree, where a small shrine marks where Guru Arjan is believed to have sat while supervising the digging of the pool)
15. Akal Takhat
16. Flagstaffs
17. Thara Sahib (Shrine of Guru Tegh Bahadur)
18. Darshani Deorhi (Main Entrance)
19. Causeway
20. Harmandir Sahib
21. Ber Baba Buddha (tree where a marble platform marks where Baba Buddha sat while supervising such tasks as the mixing of mortar during the original building work)
22. Purikaram (walk-way around the pool)
For the first time in 400 years, the recital of gurbani was about to stop in the Golden Temple. As dusk fell on June 5, commandos dressed in black dugs entered the temple complex through the road between the sapphire and the Guru Ramdas langar building. They were able to bring back safely Akal Dal leaders like Harishan Singh Longowal and Gurcharan Singh Tohra along with four of their loyalists. The sky was lit with bright red tracers and massive columns of smoke billowing from the langar building where heavy fighting took place. Foot-soldiers marching towards the Akal Takht ran into a heavy machine gun barrage from the Harminder Sahib. Artillery pounded the Akal Takht and the heavily fortified pillboxes on top of the two 18th century towers and the langar building. During the day officers guided the fire from Chetak helicopters. In the evening on June 6, Jawans charged the Akal Takht under the cover of armour and subdued the opposition after fierce hand-to-hand fighting. Bishan Singh and his key associates, Amrik Singh and Shabeg Singh, were found dead in the basement of the building. A squad of tanks and armed personnel carriers guided the approach to the temple, aiming their machine guns at the parapets. The last to fall was the Harminder Sahib. On the evening of June 6, 22 terrorists led by Gurchar Singh Sandhu came out with a white flag. The first phase of Operation Bluestar was over.

—Shastar Gujral

**OPERATION BLUESTAR**

**RECALL** Khushwant Singh; after Operation Bluestar

*Why was it allowed to reach this point?*