

KINNAUR SPITI ROAD TRIP

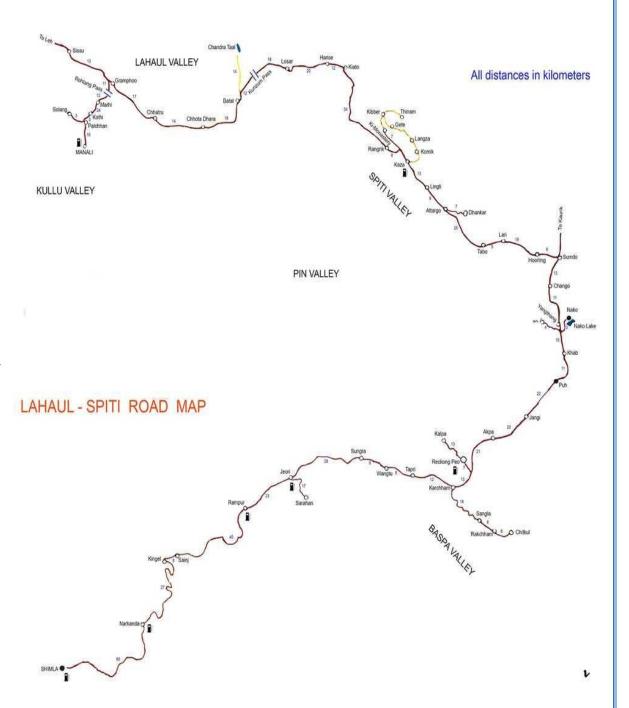
A JOURNEY TO THE MIDDLE LAND



Hidden in the Trans Himalayan region between Tibet and Ladakh, Spiti valley in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh is no less than a paradise.

Winter which starts from the first week of November, stays on till the second week of April. During this time, everything is covered in thick blanket of snow.

Spiti valley in winter is a real-life example of childhood fairy tales coming true. It is when some brave hearts, venture out to explore the laid back Spiti that remains hidden from the eyes of the regular travellers who visit during peak season.





OF MOUNTAIN LEGENDS, MYTHS AND EXQUISITE BEAUTY: KINNAUR

The Land of God, is rich in history with many mythological legends and forts and temples with fine and artistic wood carvings. Kinnaur is known to have some of the deadliest roads (**The most treacherous road** as per BRO) in the world.

Kinner Kailash (6050m), the abode of Lord Shiva is in Kinnaur. The natives of this place, 'Kinners' are believed to be halfway between men and God. Hinduism and Buddhism thrive in harmony in the valley.



THE MIDDLE LAND: SPITI

This Trans-Himalayan cold desert is situated between Ladakh and Tibet. In Tibetan language, Spiti literally means **The Middle land**. Majority of population is Buddhist oriented. Spiti, where road is a relative term, has some of the highest passes in the Himalayas. This valley is also home to some of the oldest monasteries in the Himalayas. Rugged terrain, white washed mud walls with red roofs and little square windows and Tibetan cuisine, a picture which our mind paints whenever someone mention SPITI.

Day 1 - Shimla to Sangla Drive

Day 2 – Holi celebration at Sangla

Day 3 - Sangla, Chitkul sightseeing

Day 4- Drive to Tabo

Reach Shimla by 6.30 AM. As we leave the bustling touristy town of Shimla, a scenic drive through the forest of Pine and Deodar takes us to the gates of Kinnaur. The mighty Sutlej River is a constant companion throughout the journey. As we reach Sangla, after check-in we will head to the Kamru fort to get a panoramic view of the Sangla village. Today marks the beginning of the festival of Faguli in Baspa Valley. Festivities will be in full swing at the Kamru fort.

Stay at Sangla

Today is Holi, the festival of colors! Imagine playing with colors on the fresh backdrop of snow-covered mountains. And, if you are lucky a fresh snowfall is there to give you company. For women travellers, this is the SAFEST Holi celebration you will find in whole India! The whole day will be spent in playing with colors, dancing to the local tunes, eating fresh, hot local food. The evening will be Holika Dahana ceremony where we will dance with the Gods. Late evening will be spent in our cozy homestay which is sure to blow your mind with its crazy views.

Stay at Sangla

Today after breakfast, we will leave for Chitkul to enjoy the winter wonderland. Chitkul is the last village on the India-China border. Later, we will return to Sangla to celebrate Badi Holi. Everyone in the village will be dressed in their traditional attire with their signature green hat. Evening will be spent dancing with the locals and the Gods.

Stay at Sangla.

We will embark on the journey to Spiti. Our stop for the day is Tabo, leaving behind the forests of Deodar and pine and moving to the rugged terrain of Spiti.

Stay at Tabo.

Day 5 - Tabo to Kaza via Dhankar

Day 6- Kaza excursion

Day 7 - Kaza to Reckong Peo

Day 8- Reckong Peo to Shimla

We start the day with a visit to the oldest continuously operating Buddhist Monastery of Tabo. Tabo is said to be built in 996 A.D, making it more than 1020 years old. From Tabo, we drive towards Dhankar. Dhankar is home to the Dhankar Monastery, which is one of the oldest monasteries in the entire Himalayas. Dhankar Monastery is built at the confluence of the Pin and Lingti river. We will drive further to the town of Kaza. Bonfire session followed by the Stargazing session.

Stay at Kaza.

After a lazy start of the day, we will head to the Icon of Spiti valley, Key Gompa. Moving further to the village of Chicham, where there is the highest bridge in the world. Later we will explore the village of Kibber. After lunch, we will drive to the famous Trio of Spiti valley, Hikkim, Komic, Langza. We will enjoy our sunset in the beautiful, serene village of Langza.

Stay at Kaza.

Today, we start early for the village of Kalpa/Reckong peo. Early dinner followed by fun game sessions as it is our last night of the trip

Stay at Kalpa/Peo.

Bidding adieu to the winter wonderland of Kinnaur and Spiti, we will drive to the bustling town of Shimla.

Cost for the Trip:

Stay	We will stay in hotels and homestays. Hotels and homestays will be cosy and hygienic. They are run by local people. All accommodation will be on double sharing basis. As it will be winter season and water freezes completely, running water won't be available in Spiti. But, we will always provide bucket water whenever required.
Food	Food will be local- fresh and simple. We will try the local cuisine of the places we visit. Mineral water, cold drinks, fast food etc. not included. All meals are inclusive. Cost of the meals on last day in Shimla (Lunch and dinner) are not included.
Transportation	We will use Xylo/ Innova /Bolero Tempo Traveller. (Depending on the group size)

Cost of the trip: **Rs. 23,000/-** Per Person Shimla to Shimla with above all inclusions.

Cost includes everything mentioned above except air /train /bus tickets.

All permits wherever needed are included.

Note:

- The group size will be limited to 10. Bookings are done on a first come first serve basis. Kindly call before registering to check for availability.
- Anything related to the trip, kindly contact the number provided at the end of the document.
- We can help you book suitable buses. We can also book your tickets from Delhi to Shimla and Shimla to Delhi on an AC Volvo bus for a total price of Rs.3,000.
- Please reach Shimla by 6.30 AM on the arrival day. We will be starting our drive to Sangla by 7 AM.
- Your bus to Shimla should depart from Delhi by a maximum of 8 pm the day before the start date.
- Your return bus from Shimla to Delhi can depart anytime post 6 PM on the final day.
- The trip does not include any cost arisen due to any unforeseen circumstances such as natural disaster like landslides, roadblocks, heavy snowfall etc

Payment Options:

Online Transfer/ Deposit to: A/C name: SOUL TRAILS

Bank: Abhyudaya Co-op. Bank Ltd.

Branch: Mulund (West)

A/C number: 039021100000667

IFSC: ABHY0065039

• Never take pictures of the army <u>camps</u> or bases.

Note:

We are organizing this trip with a group of guides, drivers and locals of this area. This is their only source of income apart from farming period of 5-6 months.

We will be staying in local run homestays, which plays a significant part in responsible sustainable tourism.

You can buy woollens, organic homemade jams, juices directly from the locals to support the local.

Contact On:

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