

Road Journeys from Delhi to Spiti Valley

06 Nights and 08 Days

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY ONE: Drive from Manali to Kaza (11,980 feet / 8-10 hours)

Meals: Dinner

On arrival at Manali bus station you will be met and drive towards Spiti Valley tour by burning the road from Manali. We pass through the popular adventure-haven Rohtang Pass and have breakfast at Maddi. We begin to drive into the desolate and stunning brown-badland landscape and approach Batal for lunch. At 14,931 feet, we catch our first chill at the august Kunzum Pass and then descend into Losar Village, the first in Spiti valley.

Having warmed up with a chai, we continue driving through the stunning landscape and reach Kaza where we spend the night at a comfortable hotel.

DAY 2: Drive from Kaza to Tabo to Dhankar. Trek to Dhankar Lake. Drive to Kaza. Overnight in a Kaza Hotel.(12,800 feet / 4-6 hours)

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

After a delicious breakfast, we continue our Spiti Valley tour and drive towards the only other town of Spiti Valley – Tabo. Also known as the ‘Ajanta of the Himalayas’, Tabo houses the 1010 year-old Tabo Monastery – which is a UNESCO world heritage site and is famous for its ancient paintings that depict the life of The Buddha, and intricate portraits of gods and demons along with life-size statues of bodhisattvas, in a fusion of western Tibetan, Indian and Kashmiri styles.

After spending a couple of hours at Tabo, we drive towards Dhankar. Perched high above the confluence of the Spiti and Pin River, in a hidden bowl, is the tiny hamlet of Dhankar. The former capital of the Royals of Spiti Valley, also known as the Nono, who ruled the dust-coloured badlands of Spiti Valley, go back in time as you explore the 1200-year-old Dhankar Gompa which perches precariously between eroded rocky pinnacles on the edge of a cliff. If time permits, do take an hour’s climb above the village to visit the stunning turquoise Dhankar Tso or Dhankar Lake which offers views over the valley and towards the twin peaks of Mane Rang (6593 meters).

After that drive back to Kaza in the evening and spend the night in a comfortable and warm Kaza hotel.

DAY 3: Drive from Kaza to Komik to Langza to Kaza. Overnight in a Kaza hotel. (14,806 feet / 3-4 hours)

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Today, we drive to some of the highest inhabited regions of the world. The highest village in Asia, Komik, which literally translates to 'eye of a snow cock', is situated at a height of 4513 metres. This farming village has a population of 84 people, living in utter isolation, cut-off from the rest of the world for most parts of the year. This little hamlet ensures to bring you thousands of miles away from your familiar settings to a place of soft brown pastures and snow-white mountain peaks. Some of the common animals of the region are the Tibetan wolf, blue sheep, red fox, hare, snow cock, Himalayan griffin, rock pigeon etc.

After spending a few hours at Langza, we drive to Langza. Langza village is situated at an altitude of 4400 meters and belongs to the Sakyapa sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Langza houses a population of 137 in 33 households. Once you are here, you can walk about the village and visit the ancient Lang (Temple) which is estimated to be around 1000 years old. At Langza, walk back to the prehistoric era when Spiti was submerged by the Tethys Sea, as you explore a land very rich with fossils of Marine animals and plants which were here millions of years ago.

We drive back to Kaza in the evening and spend the night in a comfortable and warm Kaza hotel.

DAY 4: Drive from Kaza to Ki Monastery to Kibber. Overnight in a Kibber Homestay. (13,779 feet / 3-4 hours)

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

We hit the road again for a short drive today. Today, we visit the world famous Ki Monastery. The car will first stop at the base of the monastery hill for the ultimate photo opportunity of this remarkable structure. With over 1000 years' worth stories to tell, the Ki Monastery situated at a height of 13,668 feet was founded by a disciple of the famous Atisha, in the 11th century CE. Belonging to the Yellow Hat or Gelugpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism, this monastery is famous as a prominent centre of learning as well as refuge for Tibetans. Being remotely located atop a hill overlooking endless plains, the Ki Monastery is an obvious choice for those seeking peace and calm.

Then we will move farther down the valley to the picturesque village of Kibber. Located at a height of 4205 metres and 18 km from Kaza, this formerly highest permanently inhabited village of this region, is also a popular base camp to embark on adventure and treks to adjoining mountains of high altitude. The expanses of beautiful landscapes and immeasurable beauty of

the snow-tipped mountains makes the place a haven for nature-lovers and photographers alike. From Kibber you can trek to Chicham Village, located across a sharp and precipitous canyon traversable only by a suspended wire cable basket system known as a Jula.

We spend the night at an authentic local homestay with a local family, listening to stories of life at 14,000 feet.

Overnight at a homestay in Kibber.

DAY 5: Drive from Kibber to Chandratul Lake.

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

Today, we commence our journey back home **and** trace our steps back on the Kaza – Manali road. However, we take one last stop at another Spitian wonder – Chandratul Lake. The mystical and beautiful Chandratul Lake, which translates to Moon Lake, is located at a height of 14,100 feet. The Chandra Bhaga mountain range forms a striking backdrop for the lake, which changes appearance according to the pictures painted in the sky.

After capturing the colours of the beautiful Chandratul Lake, we drive to our camping site where a hot supper under the gaze of a million stars and the Milky Way awaits us.

Our camps at Chandratul Lake are equipped with state of the art camping equipment including Swiss tents, high altitude sleeping bags and a comfortable mattress.

DAY 6: Drive from Chandratul Lake to Manali. Overnight in a Manali hotel (6,726 feet / 5-7 hours)

Meals: Breakfast & Dinner

With visuals of the stunning Chandratul Lake captured in minds and cameras, we continue tracing our steps back, driving on the Kaza – Manali road and after a few hours of driving and some more stunning landscape, we pass through the famous Rohtang Pass and reach Manali.

You can choose to explore Manali's markets in the evening if you are up for it or you can rest in the comforts of your Manali hotel.

DAY 7: Depart from Manali / Take an overnight bus to New Delhi.

Meals: Breakfast

Today morning wake up to some hot chai, a sumptuous breakfast and some brilliant views of the Himalayas from your hotel in Manali. You are free to explore Manali on foot today. You can

choose to take an overnight bus to New Delhi / we can help you arrange a private taxi from Manali to Chandigarh / New Delhi.