



Spiti - Active in Spiti

In Spiti towering white peaks touch the sky, monks peacefully meditate in ancient mountainside monasteries and lumbering yaks haul goods to quaint villages largely disconnected from the outside world. With its grandeur and immensity, the way to explore the area is on foot. This itinerary is designed for you to get to know the valley and some of its secrets more closely. On foot and by mountain bike.



Life in Spiti provides everything the soul needs to thrive.

The fragrance of the mountains to the flow of clear springs. The rhythmic chants of the monks, the whirl of the wind across the river valley. The golden rays of the morning sun and the gentle warmth of the crimson orb at the end of the day.

In Spiti you'll learn that there is more than one path into the future – a path based on the co-evolution between humans and earth. At first the outsider will see the hard life, but give yourself time and you'll see the rare kind of purity the people live by.





DAY 1

Day 1- Chandigarh - Narkanda

Driving time -6hrs

Distance -175kms

You'll meet our driver in Chandigarh who would drive you up to Narkanda. Your day begins with a gradual ascend through the Shivalik range driving through pine forest to spend the night at the charming Tethey's resort where a bonfire awaits you.

As we ease you into the adventure that awaits, allow yourself to take in the smells and sights of the mountains. The drive close to Narkanda is along dense deodar forests and apple orchards.

A night at 2700mts will acclimatize you well before the higher Himalayas and on route you can enjoy a lunch in one of the many Dhabas. Your driver will know the best one.

We recommend you fly into Chandigarh before noon to make the most of the property and so that you can walk around the forest in the area as well.



Day 2- Narkanda -Nako

Driving time -7hrs

Distance -175kms



The day starts with a drive on the Indo-Tibetian highway through the Shimla hills covered with Pine and Deodhar trees. As you enter Kinnaur with its jaw dropping mountain and valley scenery, a distinctive cultural change and mix emerges from Hindu to Tibetan Buddhist. Proud and friendly, Kinnauris can be recognized by their short cylindrical cap.



As you approach Nako slate roofs give way to flat Tibetan roofs. A local guide will take you for a short trek around Nako if you are up for it. Walking at high altitude is challenging and a short walk in the evening will prepare you for some of the longer trails that lay ahead.



Day 3 - Nako - Tabo - Mane

Driving time - 3hrs 30 min

Distance 75kms

You can start the day with another guided walk from your campsite. Lording over Nako is the Reo Purgil mountain, Himachal highest peak. If the weather is clear you'll get stunning views of the mountain. From Nako you head to Gyu to see the mummy of a 15th-century Buddhist monk. Recent research papers suggest that the monk underwent self-mummification. A ritual undertaken to reach enlightenment.

From Gyu passing scattered villages while driving next to the turquoise-grey ribbon of the Spiti river you would reach Tabo monastery. Built in 996AD, Tabo is noted for being the oldest continuously operating monastery in the Himalayas. The monastery is one of the highlights of Spiti. A short drive from Tabo is Mane where the next day will present the most challenging and rewarding trek of the trip to the glacier fed Mane lake.





Day 4- Mane - Mane lake - Mane
Trekking time -5hrs

A 5 hours trek from Lobzang's house will take you to the glacier fed lake. If the hike up does not take your breath away, the view from the top will. You will be mesmerized by the sweeping views of Mane village and the valley beyond. If the timing is right, you will be walking amidst colorful wild flowers and fragrant herbs. And if luck is by your side, you may spot the red fox, mountain goats, woolly hare, stone martins, raptors and maybe even come across snow leopard markings.

If the hike leaves you wanting more you can continue for another couple of hours to the high summer pastures. The trek is a part of the longer Manerang pass trek which connects Spiti to Rupa valley in Kinnaur.

As you climb over a 1000mts you will notice a change in the plants that inhabit this harsh area and also the diversity that is present amidst them.



Day 5 - Mane - Gangchumik or Dhankar lake- Sagnam

Driving time -3hrs

Distance -45kms

Dhankar is less than an hour from Mane where the highlight is a 1200 years old crag-top temple and fort, creating one of the most spectacular sights in Spiti. A couple of treks are on offer this day and you can choose between either a 2hour trek to Dhankar lake or a harder 3hour trek to the gangchumik meditation cave.

With beautiful views of the confluence of Pin and Spiti river, to the Dhankar lake trek you can also add 2hrs of mountain biking from Dhankar to Lalung. The gangchumik trek is longer and slightly harder but also more rewarding providing views of glaciers in the area. The trek leads you to a cave which has been used by different dharma practitioners for over a 100yrs. For the night you head to Sagnam to be with the incredible Soni and Karma at their homestay.

Day 6 - Sagnam - Pin valley national park- Sagnam

Trekking time - 3/4hrs



With your hosts you can start the day a three hour hike towards the Pin valley national park. Home to the snow leopard, also referred to as the grey ghost, the trek is along the Pin river in an area regarded to be the most scenic by many Spitians. For anyone interested in geology the stupendous views of different strata tilted at all conceivable angles tell us the story of the earth.

Depending on the time of the year, the area is full of wild flowers and you will also come across a few shepherds from different parts of the state with their livestock grazing on the medicinal plants of Spiti. Compared to first two hikes, this is relatively simpler and you also have a choice to trek longer along the river, deeper into the national park.



Day 7 - Sagnam -Demul - Komic- Hikkim - Langza - Kaza

Driving time -4hrs 30min

Distance -80kms

This will be your day off from trekking as you hop on to a mountain bike. The road from Demul to Komic is a mix of downhill and short sections of uphill. The road is along the ridge with spectacular views to the valley. If this sounds challenging then you can choose to ride downhill to Kaza from Komic via Hikkim and Langza. Lunch will be arranged at a homestay and you can also send your loved ones a postcard from the world's highest post office at Hikkim.

The stunning ride to Demul to Komic leads you to one of the highest inhabited places in the world at 4600mts. At Langza and you can also try your hand at digging for marine fossils. Some of them being over a 100million years old.

For the night you'll head to Kaza where Simba and Karan will welcome you at Deyzor. At our hotel you will find carefully picked pieces from Spiti which gives the guest a feel of the region's culture and history.



Day 8 - Kaza - Ki - Gete - Tashi gang - Kaza
Driving time - 4hrs
Distance - 70kms

A relaxed day with a short hike starts with a visit to Ki monastery. Covering a conical hillock with whitewashed monastic buildings, Ki gompa is one of the most photographed sights of Himachal and houses nearly 300 monks.

From Ki you head to Tashi gang, a hamlet of 30. An hour walk from Tashi gang is a meditation cave with carvings of Buddhist deities. The trek to the cave is easy and you'll probably have the company of a Griffon hovering above you. Views while heading to Tashi gang (around Gete) are amongst the most stunning in the area. You'll notice for yourself that the giant rock mountains around could not have been carved by any mortal hand but only by the force of wind and water over millennia. This area gets few visitors and is still not on the popular blogs.



Day 9 - Kaza - Sumlling
Driving time - 1hr
Distance - 25kms

A short drive to Sumlling holds another surprise from Spiti. A 4hr trek will reveal 1000yr old pre Buddhist rock paintings. The walk is challenging as you gain altitude in a short time. The views however make the effort worth the struggle. The cave paintings are rarely visited and points to a time when animistic and Bon beliefs had not yet been replaced by Buddhism. Shering, your host in Sumlling is a local teacher. Like his father, Shering is driven to conserve the traditions of his area and is a natural story teller. He is attempting to make Sumlling and the villages around plastic free and is working closely with the community to ensure the benefits of tourism are spread evenly.



Day 10 - Sumlling - Chandertal lake

Driving time -6hrs 30min

Distance -120kms

A fitting place to end your trip, the Chandertal lake presents mirror-perfect reflections of the surrounding white-top peaks.

Before reaching the lake you will drive past the soaring 4551mts Kunzum Pass with the Spiti River as your near constant companion, although sometimes way below in precipitous gorges.

Though you may not see one, this is Snow Leopard territory. The lake is also a nesting sight for migratory birds and you may sight the Snowcock, Kestrel, Golden Eagle, Marmots and the Red Fox.

A walk around the lake is sure to get you breathless, but it's well worth the effort. If you want a longer trek around the lake, that too is possible.





Day 11 - Chandertal lake - Manali

Driving time - 6hrs

Distance - 140kms

Large mountains come to your mind when you think of Spiti. And there is no better way of getting to know these mountains than by trekking. Trekking in the trans Himalayan range is both engaging and ambitious. Time spent amongst these mountains represents measureless freedom. It is a place to connect with nature in these days of Google Maps and 4G connections.

Your legs will reveal to you places where your car cannot reach.

On your drive back you can reflect on everything you saw and experienced.

As you exist this spectacular landscape with jagged peaks, arid mountains, fluttering prayer flags and whitewashed stupas, you can excuse yourself for feeling overwhelmed.

Day 1- Chandigarh - Narkanda

Driving time -6hrs, Distance -175kms, Accommodation at - Tethey's resort

Day 2- Narkanda - Nako

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -175kms, Accommodation at - Kinner camps

Day 3- Nako - Gyu - Tabo - Mane

Driving time -3hrs 30min, Distance -75kms, Accommodation at - Lobzang homestay

Day 4 Mane lake trek

Trekking time -5hrs, Accommodation at - Lobzang homestay

Day 5- Mane - Dhankar/Gangchumick - Sagnam

Driving time -3hrs, Distance -55kms, Accommodation at - Soni & karma homestay

Day 6 - Pin valley trek

Trekking time -3/4hrs, Accommodation at - Soni & Karma homestay

Day 7- Sagnam - Demul - Hikkim - Komic - Langza - Kaza

Driving time -4hrs 30min, Distance -80kms, Accommodation at - Hotel Deyzor

Day 8- Kaza - Ki - Gete - Tashi gang - Kaza

Driving time -4hrs, Distance -70kms, Accommodation at - Hotel Deyzor

Day 9- Kaza- Sumlling

Driving time -1hr, Distance -25kms, Accommodation at - Tendel homestay

Day 10 - Sumlling - Chandertal lake

Driving time - 6hrs 30min, Distance 120kms, Accommodation at Parasol campsite

Day 11 - Chandertal lake - Manali

Driving time - , Distance 120kms, Accommodation at Parasol campsite

Day 12- Manali - Chandigarh

Driving time - 8/9hrs, Distance - 300kms