

Spiti

The Land of The Lamas



Spiti

Is an high altitude cold desert in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh at an average altitude of 12500 feet. It is also known as the middle land between Indian & Tibet and is one of the most sparsely populated regions of India. It is a paradise for adventure seekers and remains one of India's most remote places that a tourist can visit freely.

Also known as the land of the Lamas the landscape is dotted with majestic monasteries with some being over a thousand years old along with is breathtaking scenery snow covered peaks and a barren landscape spiti is a must visit for those looking for an Offbeat Holiday with a stint of adventure & culture.



Best Time To Visit

Spiti can be visited through out the year but for different prepose

Best Time for Leisure

- Summer months from May to October are the best time to visit Spiti for Families & leisure groups, at this time the roads are open and valley is easily accessible to the rest of the country.

For Motorcycle / Cycling & Trekking Tours

- Again for these tours summer months from May to October are the best time to visit Spiti.

Snow Drive & Winter Photography

- The winter months from December to March are the best time to experience Snow Drive in Spiti and for Snow Leopard Photography.

Temperature

- Summer – May to October – 10 to 25 degrees
- Winters – November to April Note – 0 to -30

Spiti experiences extreme winters in the months of December to March with temperature rarely going above 0 and night time can be as cold as -30 at some times.



What to Expect

Spiti is an offbeat destination, it is a remote mountainous area that is inaccessible at times during the winter months and limited hotels are available over here. The best hotels can be compared with a decent 3* boutique hotels at best and service levels are very average.

Cold

– It can get cold anytime of the year in Spiti, it rarely rains over here and the area only gets snowfall.

High Altitude Sickness

– Spiti is as high as Ladakh, Kaza the main town in Spiti is at an altitude of 3800 Meters that is nearly 300 meters above Leh which is at 3500 meters. So some people may experience mild symptoms of HAS. Drink plenty of water to avoid it.

Food

- You may not get your kind of food at remote locations and logistics play a big part in this. Getting fresh food hundred's of kms up in the Himalayas is a herculean task and costs a lot, besides cooking at these altitudes mostly above 10000 Feet consumes a lot of fuel.

Driving Time

– In High mountains new roads are being constructed and at times there are small landslides that block the road for a few hours at a time. In such cases listen to your drivers or local people advise. Roads are generally cleared in a few hours so make the most of such time and enjoy the views.



How To Reach

By Air

- By air Bhuntar Airport or Kullu Airport is the nearest airstrip from Spiti. Cover the remaining 231 Kms by Road which can be done by Cab
- Shimla Airport is 492 Kms and it will take minimum of two days to reach Kaza from Shimla by road.

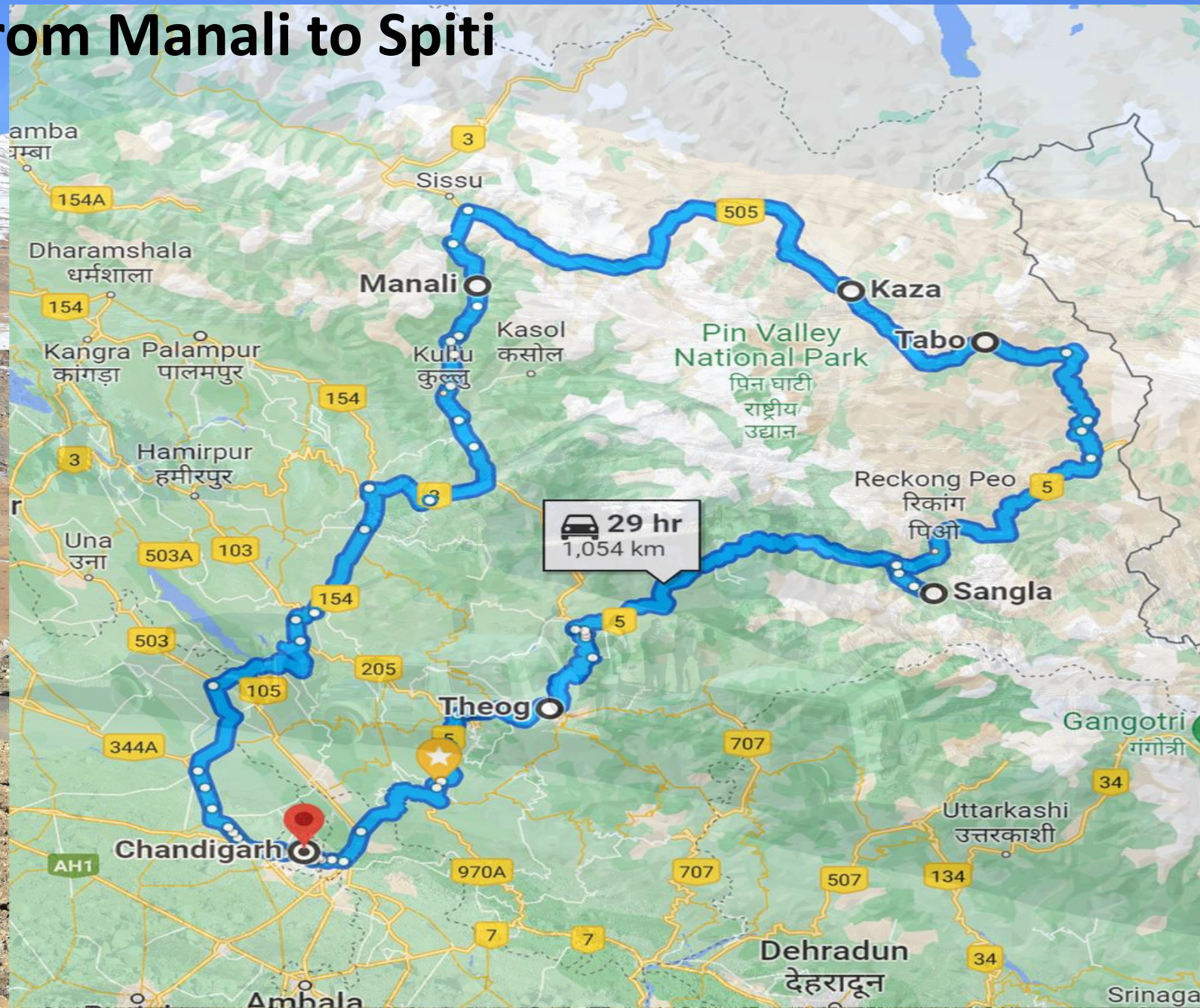
Train

- Theil The nearest major railhead to Spiti is Shimla Railway Station. Again at 429 Kms it takes two days to reach Kaza from here.

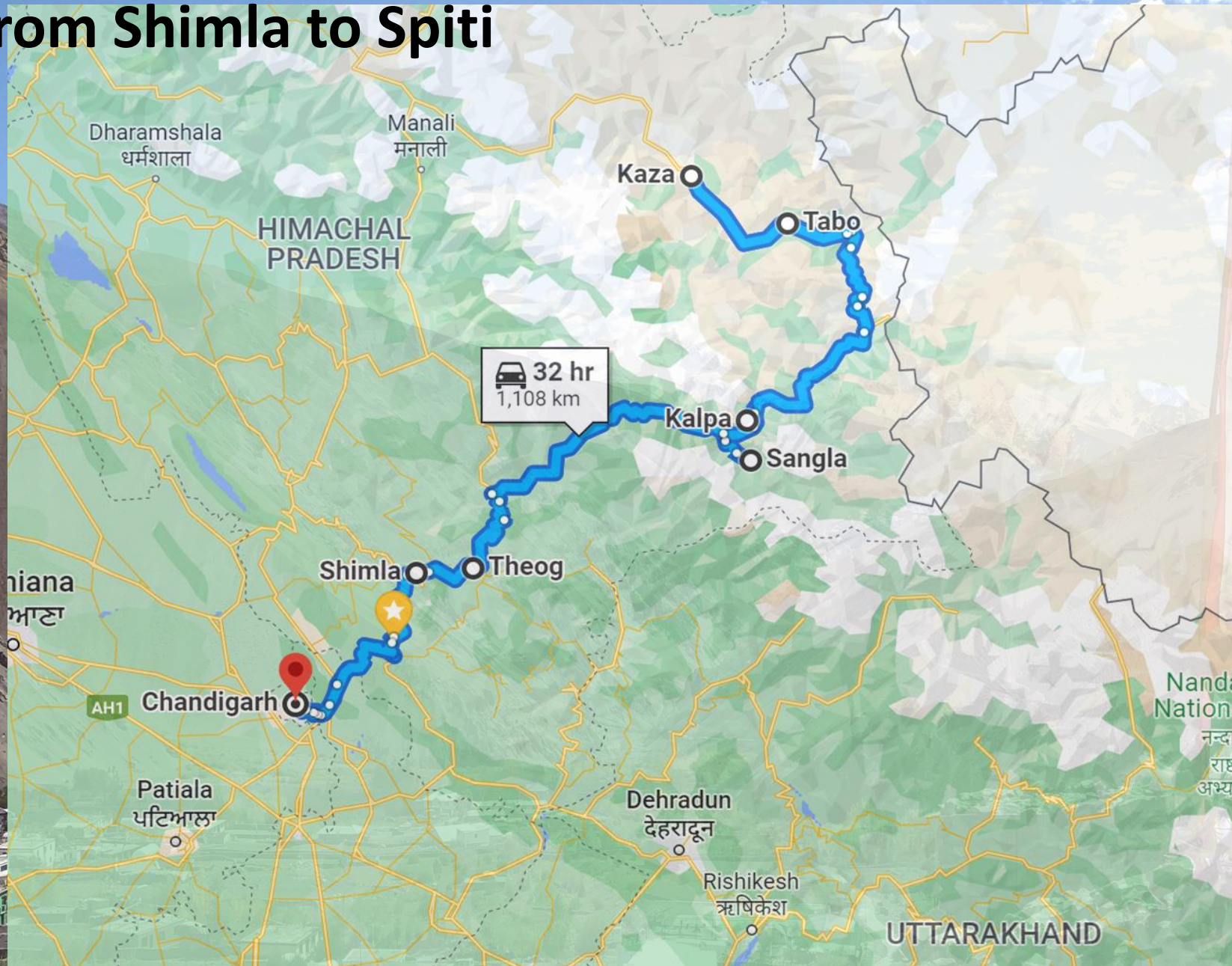
Road

- Spiti is connected by road from Shimla & Manali side, the road from Manali to Spiti opens my Mid May when Kunzum Pass opens for traffic. The road from Shimla is open nearly through out the year, but it also get closed at times due to Avalanches in winters or when there is very heavy snow fall

Route From Manali to Spiti



Route From Shimla to Spiti



How To Reach In Winters

In Winters the road from Shimla side is the only option to reach Spiti as Kunzum Pass on the Manali / Kaza Road gets closed in November.

The roads can have a good amount of snow and Ice so only 4x4 vehicles with Snow chains can make this journey from Pooh onwards to Kaza in Spiti. Its is advisable to travel in an convoy as more hands can be of utmost help encase you get stuck on the road.

Local traffic is minimum in winters and at time you may just come across one or two cars on road in the entire day.



Places to Visit

- Gue Monastery
- Tabo Monastery
- Dhankar
- Kaza
- Komic
- Hikkim
- Kibber
- Chiham Bridge
- Key Monastery
- Chandratol Lake

Experience

Spiti is a place for nature and adventure lovers, if you are looking for an luxury holiday avoid Spiti there is no luxury in the materialistic sense over here.

This is a place for people who love

- Fresh mountain air
- Hiking
- Local Food
- Cultural experience
- Photography
- Cycling
- Walking in villages & fields
- Early morning sunrise
- Enjoy the weather
- Spending time by the river side doing nothing
- Drinking water from mountain stream
- Yoga lovers
- If you love the quiet life



Local Food

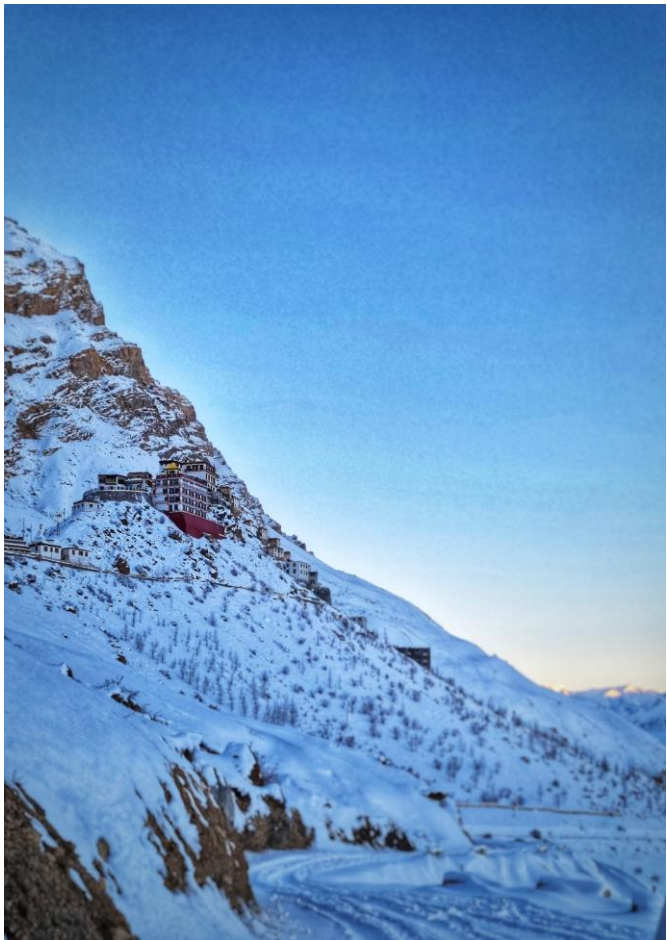
- Thupka
- Momos
- Noodles
- Sintuk
- And Our Favourite Maggi is available every where
- Dal Chawal at most rode side Dhabas
- There are no restaurants in Spiti***





Summer





Winters

WHAT TO EXPECT

FOOD



You may not get your kind of food at remote locations and logistics play a big part in this. Getting fresh food hundred's of kms up in the Himalayas is a herculean task and costs a lot, besides cooking at these altitudes mostly above 10000 Feet consumes a lot of fuel which is very precious at such places. Please accept your hosts hospitality and believe us they have gone out of their way to make the best food with their limited resources. Always try local food it is organic and more fresh than organic vegetables that you consume back at home.

VEHICLE BREAK DOWN



Your vehicle can have a break down - a flat tyre or engine troubles can happen to even a new car just out of the show room and such problems are more common in the mountains where the sharp rocks can cut your vehicles tyres or your vehicle may

overheat while on a sharp climb up the mountain, your driver will have to stop for some time in such cases. We recommend you make the best use of such time and explore the surroundings you wont get many chances to see such beautiful places.

COLD



It can get cold any time in the mountains, in the higher mountains if you don't like the weather just wait a few hours it may change and it can get freezingly cold even in the peak of summers. So always be ready for cold weather and carry you woollens with you.

STAY



Accommodation in offbeat places is at best basic, neat & clean and hygienic. Do not expect urban luxuries like lifts 24x7 hotel water, central heating / cooling, lavish buffets for Breakfast & Dinner etc. The best hotels are comparable to 3* hotels from cities, but their service levels are not at par. However what these places lack in amenities and services they more than make it up with their authentic local experience, closeness to nature, locally sourced organic food, their sustainable way of work and heart warming hospitality.

DRIVING TIME



Vehicles move at a lower speed in the hills due to narrow zig-zag roads. So always start early if you want to reach your destination on time as it may take you twice the time to cover the same distance in the mountains as compared to the plains. Ans also remember roads in the Mounatins can get blocked due to a small land slide / road widening work so always keep some extra time for such un-expected events.

ALCOHOL DOES NOT HELP



There is a perception that alcohol helps in coping with cold, believe us it does not! Alcohol just lowers you body's ability to feel the cold and not the cold it self which may cause a false sense of felling better and actually cause more harm. remember Alcohol always dehydrates your body!!

HOT WATER



If you want hot water for bath you will have to switch on the geyser and wait for some time (30 to 40 mins) depending on how cold the places is, and don't expect more then one bucket of hot water at a time. After you have used a bucket you will have to wait again for water to heat up. Cursing the hotels staff will not help!!! At some places they may not have a geyser so just be patient

and ask the staff for hot water they will get it but it will take some time again.

WATER



Drink lots of water - you can easily get dehydrated in the cold weather as we don't feel the urge to drink water due to the pleasant / cold weather. Consume twice the water that you normally do,



OFFBEAT HOLIDAYS WHAT TO EXPECT

We all love watching people enjoying their holidays in offbeat destinations in far corners of the world high in the mountains, in tropical jungles or in the little known places tucked far away from our urban centres. Ladakh & Spiti are two such remote high altitude and offbeat places in the Himalayas.

As beautiful as these places are they are also remote and far away from major cities and have very basis facilities as compared to the places which we call our home. So if you are planning to go on a offbeat holiday be ready for some basic things.

