

Panggi

The Hidden Gem of the Himalayas



Pangi Valley is in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, India. It's known for its large Himalayan birch forests, natural water spring, trekking trail untouched natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and adventurous terrain.

The valley is site at an elevation of 11,000 ft. It lies beyond the Pir Panjal range, offering an offbeat travel experience for those seeking tranquility and thrill in equal measure.



Key Highlights

- **Altitude:** 2,700 to 7,000 meters above sea level.
- **Accessibility:** Open only during summer months due to heavy snowfall in winter.
- **Culture:** Home to the Bhoti and Pangwal tribes, known for their vibrant traditions and festivals.
- **Adventure:** A paradise for trekkers, bikers, and 4x4 enthusiasts.



When to Visit

- **Best Time:** June to September.
- **Avoid:** October to May due to harsh winter conditions and road closures.

How to Reach

•By Road:

- From Chamba: 170 km via Sach Pass.
- From Keylong: Accessible via the Udaipur-Tindi road.
- Roads are rugged, requiring skilled driving and sturdy vehicles.

• **By Air:** Nearest airport is Gaggal Airport (240 km from Chamba).

• **By Rail:** Pathankot is the nearest railway station (120 km from Chamba).





Key Places to Visit

- 1. Sach Pass:** A thrilling high-altitude mountain pass offering panoramic views of the Himalayas.
- 2. Sural Valley:** Known for its pristine meadows, glacial streams, and breathtaking landscapes.
- 3. Hudan Bhattori:** A peaceful village surrounded by stunning natural beauty and traditional architecture.
- 4. Trilokinath Temple:** A revered Hindu and Buddhist shrine located near Udaipur.
- 5. Chask Bhattori:** One of the most remote villages in Pangri Valley, offering an authentic glimpse into local life.
- 6. Mindhal Baspa Temple:** A unique shrine dedicated to the goddess Mindhal Devi, showcasing intricate wooden carvings.
- 7. Cherry Bungalow:** A British-era rest house in Killar, perfect for history enthusiasts.
- 8. Bharmour:** Known for the Chaurasi Temple complex and ancient architecture, located en route to Pangri Valley.

What to Do

•Adventure:

- Trekking: Explore untouched trails like Sural Bhattori Trek.
- Mountain Biking: Ride through challenging and scenic routes.
- 4x4 Drives: Navigate rugged roads to Sach Pass and beyond.

•Cultural Immersion:

- Interact with local tribes to learn about their traditions.
- Attend regional festivals for a glimpse of the local culture.

•**Photography:** Capture awe-inspiring landscapes and vibrant village life.

Tips for Travelers

Do's

1.Prepare for the Altitude: Acclimatize in Chamba or Bharmour before heading higher.

2.Pack Smart: Carry warm clothing, waterproof gear, sturdy shoes, and first-aid kits.

3.Respect Local Culture: Dress modestly and be courteous.

4.Stay Informed: Check road and weather conditions before planning.

5.Fuel Up: Ensure your vehicle is refueled at Chamba as there are no petrol stations in Pangli Valley.



Tips for Travelers

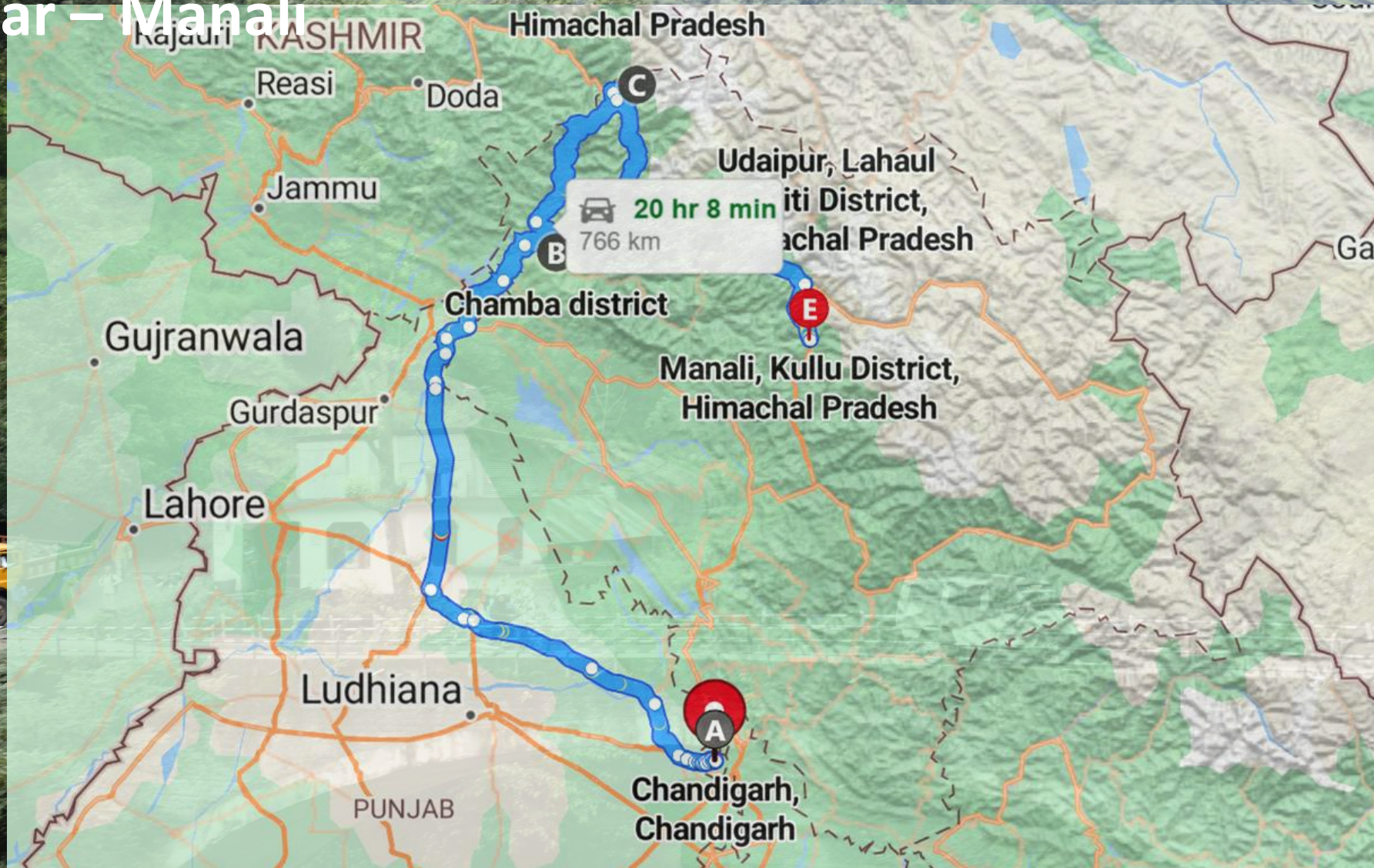
Don'ts

- 1. Avoid Night Travel:** Roads are steep, narrow, and dangerous after dark.
- 2. Litter:** Maintain the pristine environment; carry all waste back with you.
- 3. Ignore Safety:** Follow local advice regarding roadblocks or weather changes.
- 4. Disturb Wildlife:** Avoid loud noises and do not feed animals.

Route From Chandigarh – Sach Pass – Pangni – Spiti – Chandigarh



Route From Chandigarh – Chamba – Sach Pass – Killar – Manali



What to Pack

1. Clothing:

Layered clothing is essential. Include thermals, fleece, a down jacket, and waterproof gear, especially if traveling in winter.

2. Footwear: Sturdy, waterproof hiking boots for treks and snow-resistant shoes for winter visits.

3. Essentials:

1. Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a wide-brimmed hat (to protect against UV rays).
2. Lip balm and moisturizers (to combat dry air).
3. Reusable water bottles with purification tablets or a filter.

4. Medical Kit: Include AMS medication, basic first aid, and personal prescriptions.





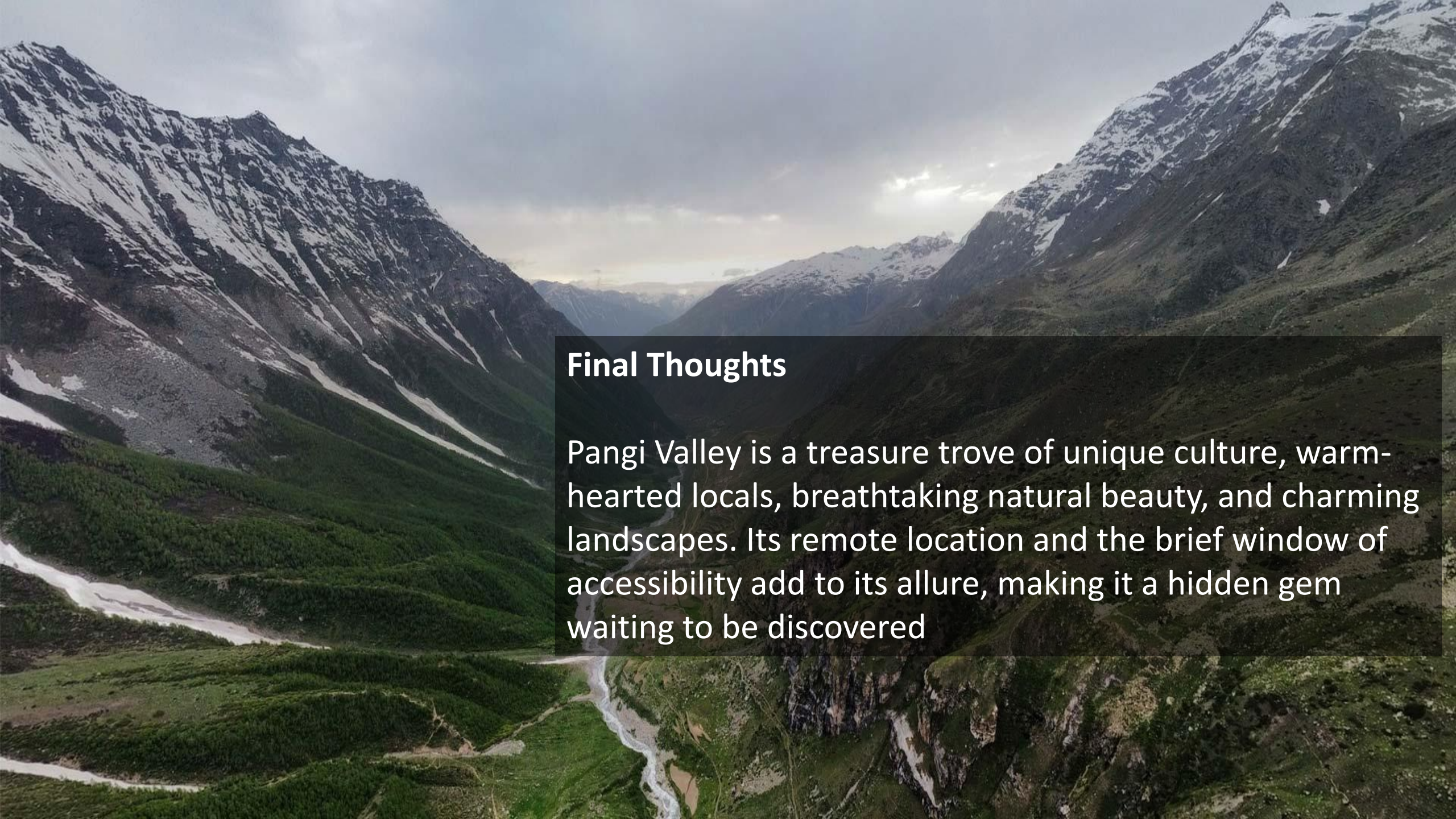
Health and Safety Tips

1. Stay Hydrated: Drink plenty of water to combat the effects of high altitude.

2. Pace Yourself: Avoid strenuous activity on your first day.

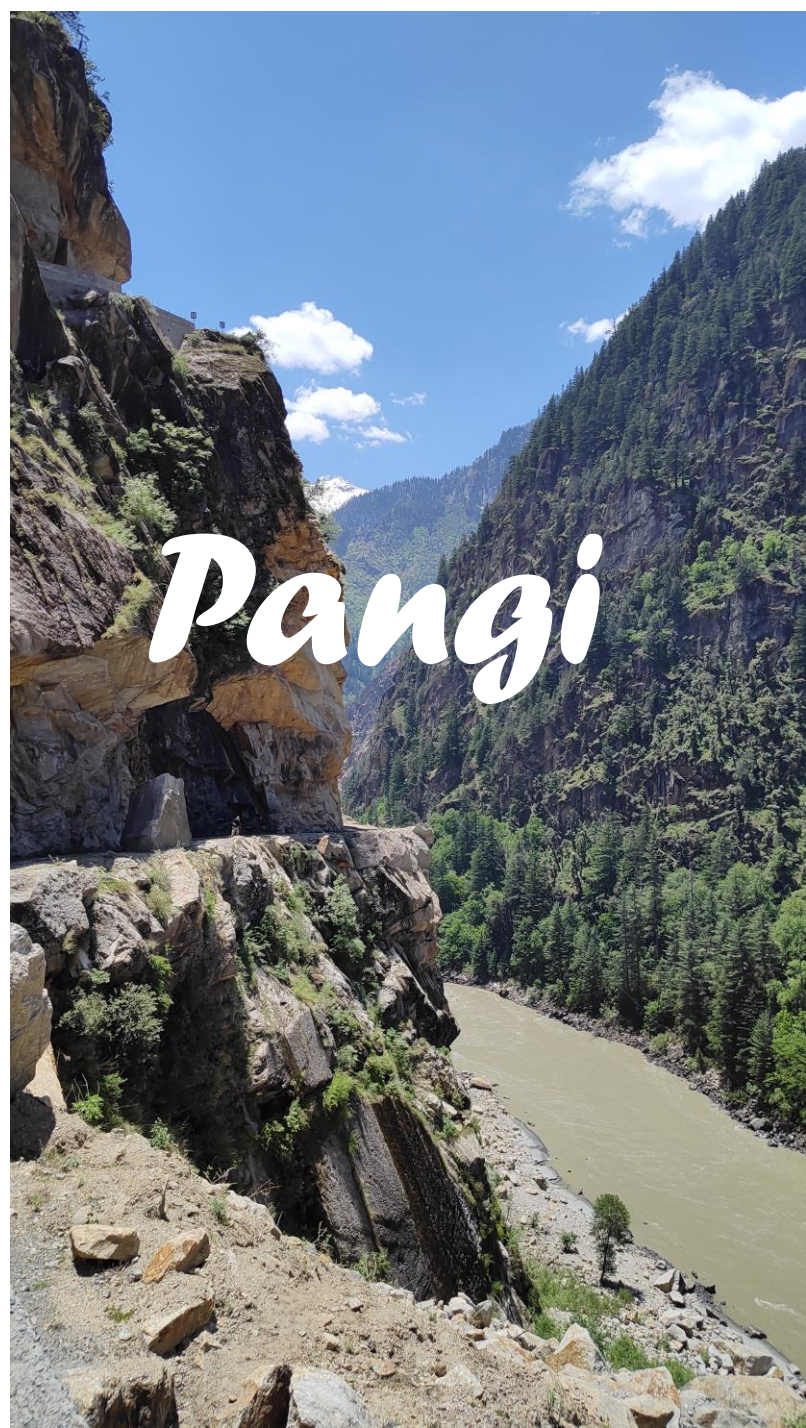
3. Local Etiquette: Respect local customs, avoid touching religious objects, and always seek permission before photographing locals.

4. Eco-Conscious Travel: Pangri is a fragile ecosystem. Avoid plastic waste, stick to designated trails, and support local businesses.

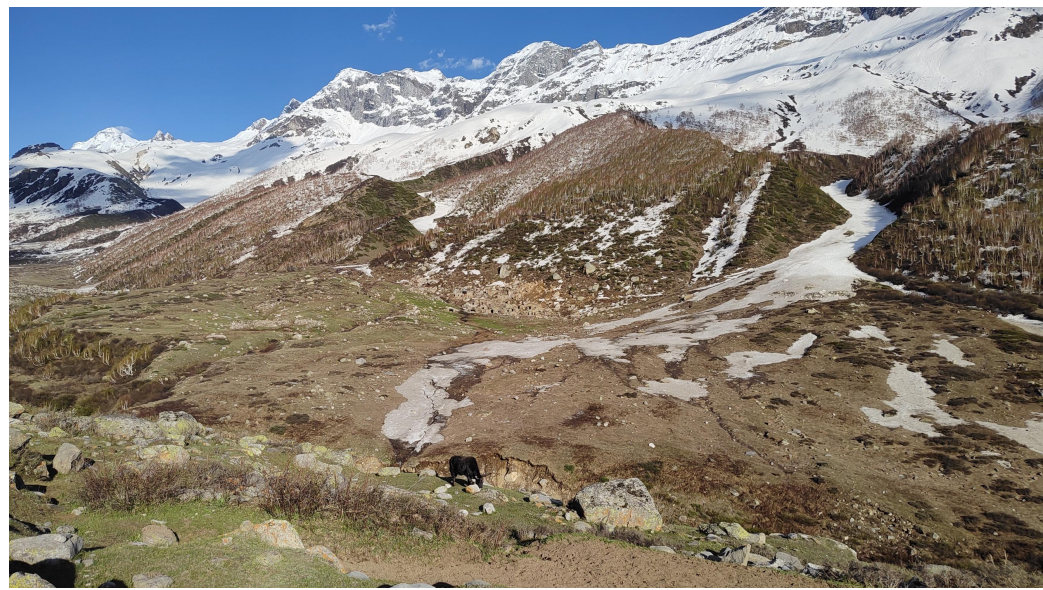
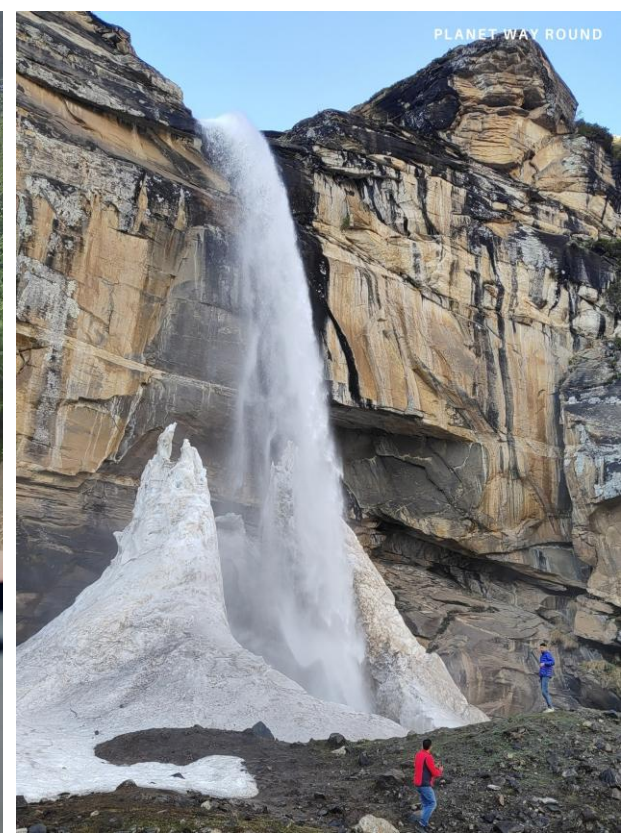


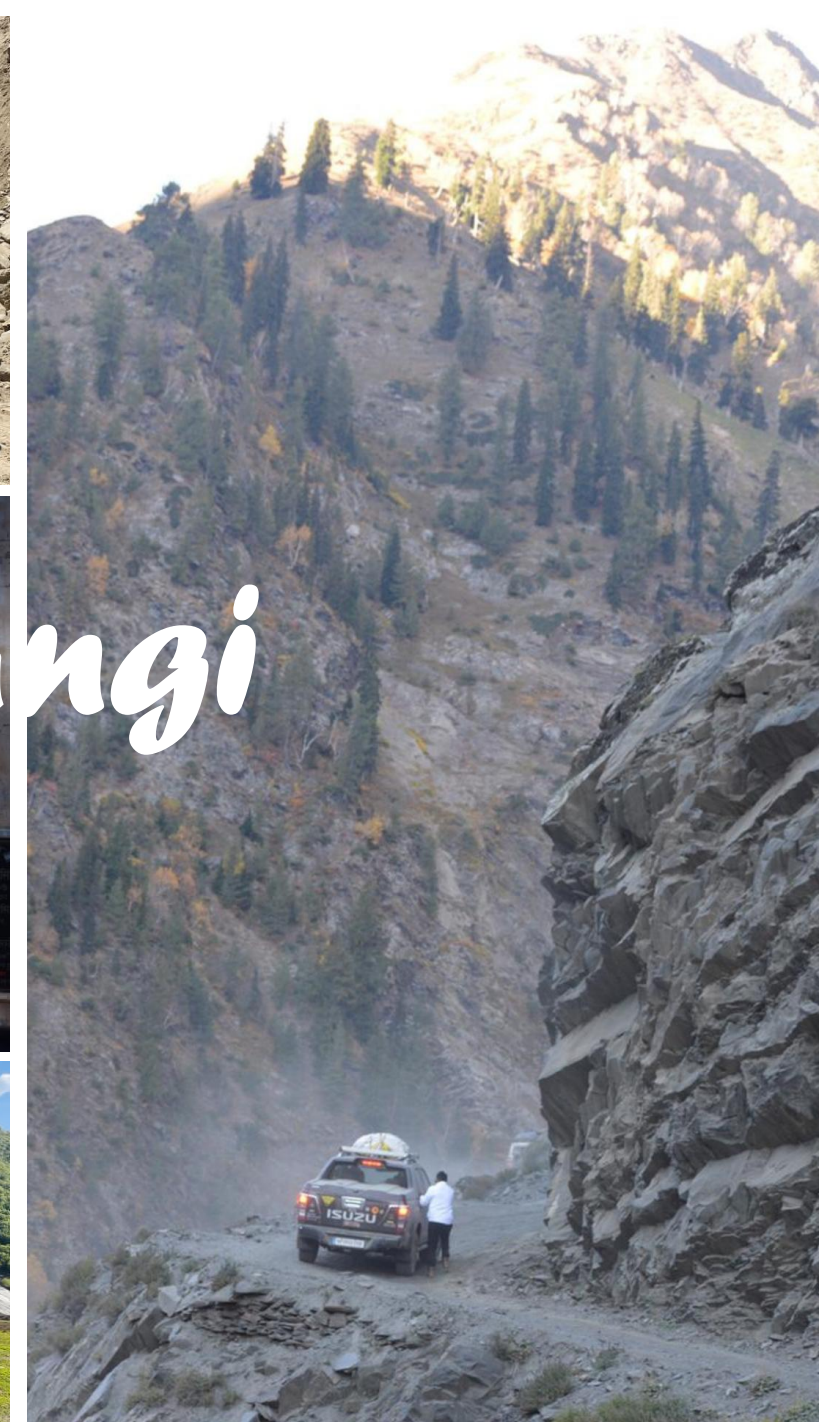
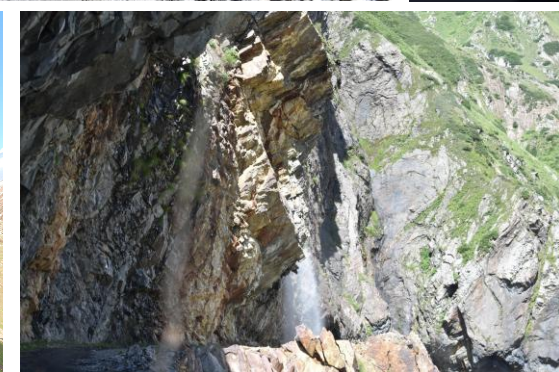
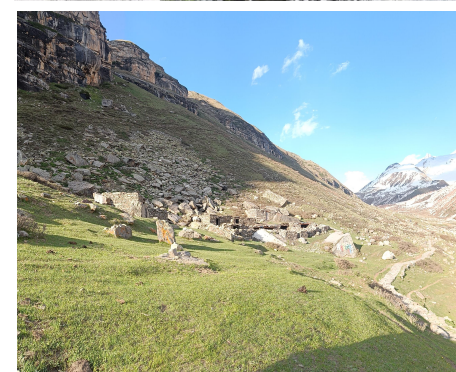
Final Thoughts

Pangi Valley is a treasure trove of unique culture, warm-hearted locals, breathtaking natural beauty, and charming landscapes. Its remote location and the brief window of accessibility add to its allure, making it a hidden gem waiting to be discovered



Pangi





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 of 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.

