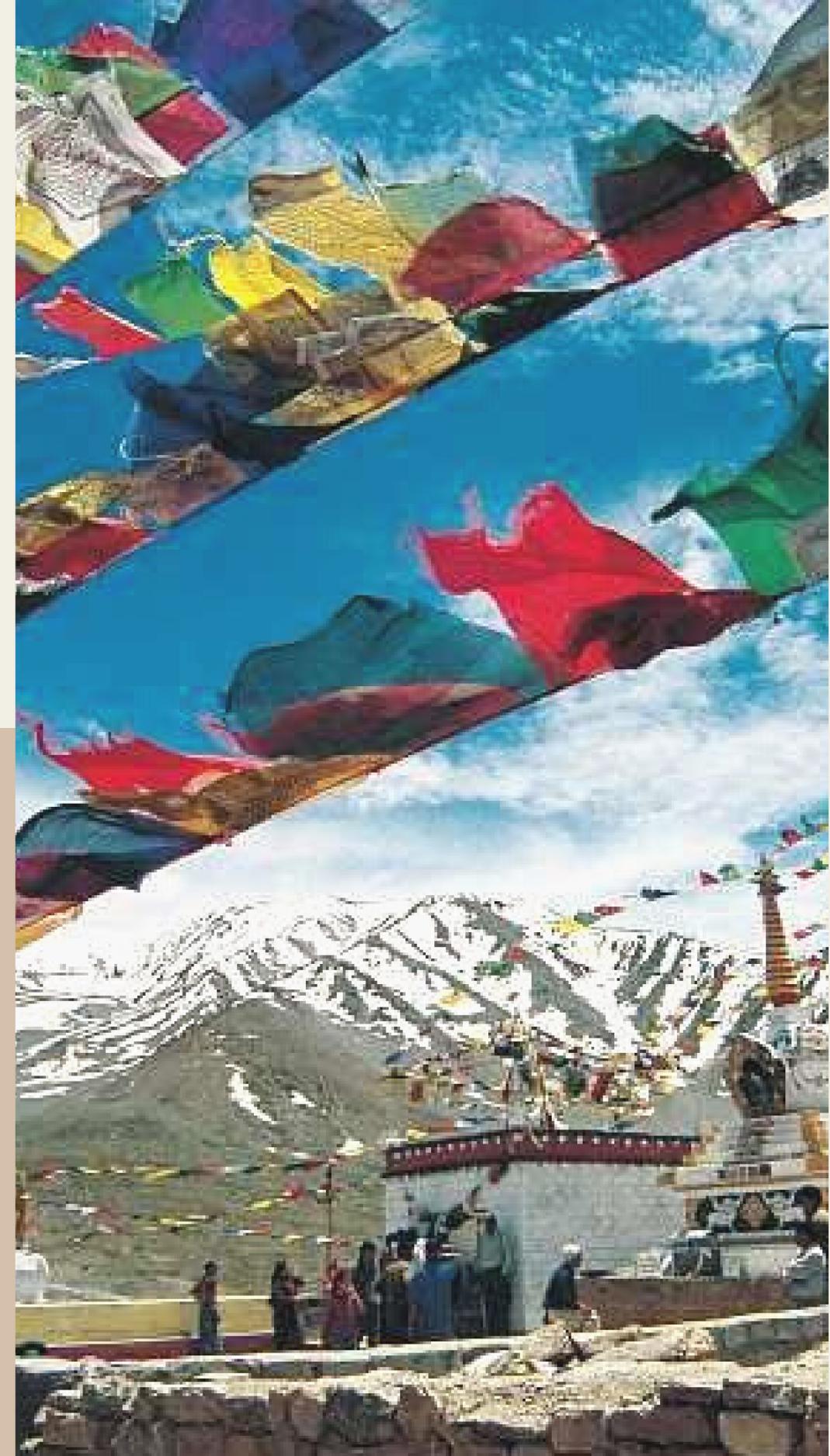


A traveller's guide



Spiti - Boutique tour

Created for those looking for something a little bit special. Accommodation is provided in the best of the best unique and charming establishments. At Deyzor we believe it is often the people you meet during your travels that make it memorable. During this tour we have you stay with some very passionate people along the way who are sure to make this a journey you will remember.



This dry and arid valley is a land of extremes. The fabric of the prayer flags frantically flutter in the strong winds, awaiting their turn to be answered. To break free from the chains of time and be liberated. From sapphire blue lakes to jade green meadows.



Day 1- Chandigarh - Shimla

Driving time -3hrs

Distance -105kms



Himachal capital and one of India's most popular hill stations, Shimla has a few secrets other than perusing a dwindling series of relics from Shimla's previous incarnation as the summer capital of British India. With plenty of forest walks to choose from or opt for a pleasant walk on the Mall. Shimla with its relaxed atmosphere, green river valleys and vistas over distant mountain ranges is the ideal place to get ready for the adventure that lies ahead

Madhavi at the quaint Sunnymeade heritage cottage would be your hostess for the first night. Situated on the edge of an Oak and Rhododendron Reserve Forest, Sunnymeade Estate is surrounded by floral gardens, with stunning views over the surrounding mountains and reserve.



Day 2- Shimla - Sangla

Driving time -7hrs

Distance -220kms

A stunning day on the Indo-Tibetian highway as you drive through the Shimla hills covered with Pine and Deodhar trees. Driving past Narkanda and Rampur you make your way to Kinnaur which like Spiti remained closed to the outside world till 1989. With its jaw dropping mountain and valley scenery, a distinctive cultural and mix that changes from Hindu to Tibetan Buddhist, this is a land of ridge-villages with slate-roofed temples and apple orchards. Proud and friendly people, Kinnauris can be recognized by their short cylindrical cap.

You can spend the evening visiting the Kamru fort known for its tower-like wooden structure. According to a folklore fort there are about 33 crore gods and goddess residing in the fort.

The night would be spent enjoying the hospitality of Captain Sood, owner of Banjara camps by the banks of the Baspa river.



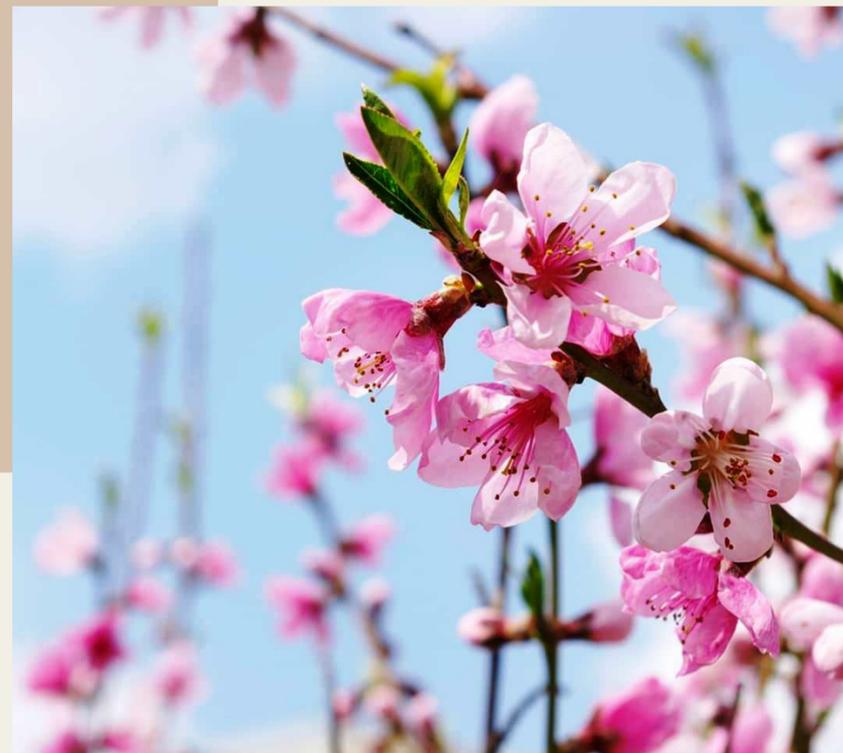


Day 3 - Sangla - Chitkul- Sangla

Driving time -2hrs

Distance -50kms

The most scenic settlement along the Sangla Valley, Chitkul is 1hr from Sangla. On your drive passing villages you can admire the slate roof and stone houses lending Kinnaur a distinct character. Among its scenic settings lie sprinkled habitations who to old Hindu beliefs, worshiping the peaks around. Once on a trade route to Tibet, it's at the junction of several trekking routes. Despite recent influx of tourism villagers maintain a pretty traditional lifestyle. If you travel during August or later you will also get to see the pink Olga blossoms in bloom. With its idyllic landscape and meadows, you could spend a few hours just admiring the village and its surrounding.





Day 4- Sangla - Nako - Gyu - Tabo

Driving time -7hrs

Distance -200kms

The change in landscape, architecture, clothes and religion is hard to miss as coniferous forest gives way to desolate mountains. While the Kinnauri hat remains, you'll see women wear jewelry using turquoise. Slate roofs give way to flat Tibetan roofs and Dhabas sell momos.

Part of the western Tibet or Guge Empire, Nako means 'the place from where one starts a pilgrimage'. Lunch will be arranged in the village overlooking the Nako lake and you can also visit the 11th century, Nako monastery. From Nako you head off 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 by highly devoted and able spiritual masters would starve themselves to death very slowly in order to reach the highest form of enlightenment. For the night you'll be staying at Tabo which has a few secrets up its sleeve.



Day 5 - Tabo - Dhankar - Lalung - Mane
Driving time - 2hrs30min
Distance -55kms

Built in 996AD, Tabo is regarded as the oldest continuously operating Buddhist enclave in the Himalayas. Built on a Bon temple, the monastery is one of the highlights of Spiti with a plethora of wall paintings and mud statues. You can also visit caves which have been used as assembly halls for monks and also as dwellings for meditation for the winters. On your way to Dhankar (means fort on a cliff) you'll pass scattered villages in this serrated moonscape while driving next to the turquoise-grey ribbon of the Spiti river. The old temple at Dhankar is over 1200 years old. Lalung monastery which like Tabo and Nako was built during the second propagation of Buddhism in Tibet is another 45min drive from Dhankar.

For the night you will be hosted by Jeet at his homestay in Mane.



Day 6 - Mane - Mane lake - Kaza
Driving time - 1hr 15min
Distance - 30kms



A tree hour trek takes you to Mane lake situated at the base of the Manerang glacier. If you're lucky you may come across the Bharal (Blue sheep) which is a mix between a goat and a sheep, the Tibetan fox and also the Stone Martyn. This area is full of Snowcorks, Vultures and Eagles. You will also notice a change in the the flora as you trek up to 4100mts. Lunch would be organized by the lake and another short stop is for to explore 1500 year year old rock carvings (petroglyphs). For the night you would head to Hotel Deyzor, to be taken care of by Karan and his team.

Day 7 - Kaza - Hikkim - Komic
Langza/Kaza
Driving time - 3hrs
Distance - 50kms



A relatively short day starts with a visit to Komic via Hikkim. Fancy sending your loved ones a postcard from the world's highest post office? If not then straight to one of the highest inhabited places in the world at 4600mts. The views are breathtaking and Komic also has a monastery from the 13th century. After Komic will lunch at a homestay at Langza and you can also try your hand at digging for marine fossils some of them being over 100million year old. You can either head back to kaza for the night or choose to stay at a homestay in Langza



Day 8 - Langza/Kaza - Ki - Kumzum pass
Losar/Chandertal lake
Driving time - 6hrs
Distance - 100kms

A fitting place to end your trip, the Chandertal lake presents mirror-perfect reflections of the surrounding white-top peaks. Though you may not see one but this is Snow Leopard, territory. The lake is also a nesting sight for migratory birds and you may also sight the now Snowcock, Kestrel, Golden Eagle, Marmots and the Red Fox. You can choose either to camp at 4270mts for the night or head lower to Losar. The day however starts with a visit to Ki

monastery. Covering a conical hillock with whitewashed monastic buildings, Ki houses nearly 300 monks, making it the largest in the area. There is a puja every morning and after Ki you would head to Chandertal lake via Kibber and Chichim. 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.



Day 9 - Chandertal lake - Rhotang pass - Manali

Driving time - 7hrs

Distance - 140kms

Last day of the trip and you can reflect on everything you saw and experienced while travelling.

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

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- Chandigarh - Shimla

Driving time -3hrs, Distance -105kms, Accommodation at - Sunnymead homestay

Day 2- Shimla - Sangla

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -220kms, Accommodation at - Banjara campsite

Day 3- Sangla -Chitkul - Sangla

Driving time -2hrs, Distance -50kms, Accommodation at - Banjara campsite

Day 4 Sangla - Nako - Gyu - Tabo

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -200kms, Accommodation at - Maitreya Regency

Day 5- Tabo - Dhankar - Lalung - Mane

Driving time -2hrs 30min, Distance -55kms, Accommodation at - Jeet homestay

Day 6 - Mane - Kaza

Driving time -1hr 15min, Distance -30kms, Accommodation at - Hotel Deyzor

Day 7- Kaza - Hikkim - Komic - Langza/Kaza

Driving time -3hrs, Distance -50kms, Accommodation at - Lara homestay/Hotel Deyzor

Day 8- Kaza/Langza - Ki - Kunzum Pass - Chandertal lake

Driving time -6hrs, Distance -100kms, Accommodation at - Parasol campsite

Day 9- Chandertal lake - Manali

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -140kms, Accommodation at - Urvashi's retreat

Day 10 - Manali - Chandigarh

Driving time - 8/9hrs