Spiti Winter Expedition

Chandigarh - Shimla - Chitkul - Tabo - Kaza - Tabo - Kalpa - Shimla - Chandigarh

Tour PackagesCustomised

Tour Basics •

Duration: 09 Days 08 Nights	**Route:** Chandigarh - Shimla - Chitkul - Tabo - Kaza - Tabo - Kalpa - Shimla - Chandigarh

Chandigarh — 9D 8N

About This Trip •

- Nestled in the northeastern region of Himachal Pradesh, Spiti Valley, meaning “The Middle Land” between India and Tibet, is a pristine high-altitude desert that offers a truly surreal winter experience. Accessible via both Manali and Shimla, Spiti transforms into a serene white wonderland during the colder months, making it an unforgettable destination for those seeking peace, adventure, and the raw beauty of the Himalayas.
- While Spiti can be visited year-round, winter is the most magical season, when the valley lies under a thick blanket of snow. With crisp mountain air, panoramic views, and quiet villages untouched by modern chaos, Spiti offers the perfect setting to unplug and reconnect with nature.
- Spiti is renowned not only for its dramatic landscapes and frozen rivers but also for its rich Buddhist culture, centuries-old monasteries, snow-capped peaks, sparkling lakes, and charming Himalayan hamlets. Among its many treasures, Chandratal Lake stands out as a must-visit, its turquoise waters turning icy in winter and creating postcard-perfect reflections of the surrounding peaks.

Why Visit Spiti Valley in Winter?

- Spiti Valley, located in the trans-Himalayan region of Himachal Pradesh, transforms into a mesmerising white wonderland during winter. With temperatures dropping below freezing, the valley gets blanketed in snow, creating an ethereal and peaceful landscape. Frozen rivers, snow-covered villages, and pristine mountain vistas offer a surreal experience unlike any other time of the year. If you're someone seeking serenity, raw adventure, and untouched natural beauty, winter is the ideal season to explore Spiti.

Top Experiences to Enjoy in Spiti During Winter

From ancient monasteries to remote villages and high-altitude marvels, Spiti offers a range of unique and immersive experiences. Here's what makes Spiti truly special in the colder months:

- Key Monastery (Kye Gompa): Located at 13,668 feet, this iconic hilltop monastery offers panoramic views of snow-draped valleys and holds a deep collection of ancient Buddhist artefacts, scriptures, and traditional instruments.
- **Nako Monastery:** Situated in the quaint village of Nako, this monastery is renowned for its serene setting, intricate murals, and traditional Tibetan architecture. Nearby Nako Lake enhances the tranquillity of the location.
- **Kalpa Monastery:** Nestled in the scenic town of Kalpa, this small monastery offers stunning views of the Kinnaur Kailash range and is surrounded by apple orchards. It serves as a peaceful centre for spiritual practice and learning.
- **Tabo Monastery:** Often referred to as the "Ajanta of the Himalayas," Tabo is renowned for its rich wall paintings, ancient scriptures, and a unique fusion of Indo-Tibetan art. Visiting it in winter, with snow blanketing the complex, adds to its mystical charm.
- **Dhankar Monastery:** Perched dramatically on a cliff between Kaza and Tabo, this fort-monastery overlooks the confluence of the Spiti and Pin Rivers. The name “Dhankar” translates to “fort on a cliff,” and it offers some of the most spectacular winter views in the valley.
- **Lingti Falls:** A Frozen Marvel: In winter, Lingti Falls freezes into cascading sheets of ice, resembling a sculpture in motion. Located near a suspension bridge over the Lingti River, this site offers opportunities for ice climbing and incredible photo moments. The snow-laden surroundings create a surreal and tranquil atmosphere.
- **Nako Village & Lake:** A Peaceful Winter Retreat: Situated near the Indo-Tibet border, Nako is a secluded Himalayan village with a frozen lake that becomes a hub for ice skating in winter. The ancient monastery here showcases Tibetan art and religious heritage. Although basic amenities and food options are limited, Nako offers unique souvenirs, such as sun-dried apricots and Tibetan artefacts.
- **Reckong Peo:** Gateway to Kinnaur: Reckong Peo, the district headquarters of Kinnaur, is renowned for its vibrant local markets, lush apple orchards, and rich cultural heritage. It's a convenient stopover en route to Kalpa, Nako, or Tabo, offering easy access to nearby gems like Kinnaur Kailash and Bhabha Valley.
- **Chicham Bridge:** India’s Highest Suspension Bridge: Connecting the villages of Chicham and Kibber, this bridge sits at a dizzying 4,000 meters and offers stunning views of deep gorges and snow-capped peaks. It's a favourite among photographers and adventure lovers looking to soak in panoramic winter views of the valley.
- **Komic:** The World’s Highest Motorable Village: A visit to Komic is like stepping into another world, one of silence, snow, and spirituality. At over 15,000 ft, it’s the highest inhabited village accessible by road. Winters here are harsh, but the tranquillity and raw beauty are unmatched. Limited facilities add to the adventure.
- **Chitkul:** The Last Village on the Indo-Tibet Border: Perched along the Baspa River, Chitkul

is the final settlement on the Indian side of the border. Known for the Kinner Kailash views, Mathi temple, and traditional wooden houses, it's a peaceful and scenic hamlet perfect for winter escapades.

- **Langza:** The Land of Fossils and Buddha: Langza is divided into two hamlets, Yongma and Gongma, and is renowned for its 1,000-year-old Buddha statue overlooking the valley. It's also home to a fossil park, where remnants of ancient marine life are found, offering both spiritual calm and geological curiosity.
- **Kaza:** Cultural Capital of Spiti: Kaza serves as the central hub of Spiti, providing a gateway to the region. Located near Kibber village, this sanctuary offers a rare opportunity to spot the elusive snow leopard with access to surrounding towns, monasteries, and high passes. It's a base for trekking, stargazing, and winter camping. From here, one can visit Hikkim, home to the world's highest post office. Winter nights in Kaza are perfect for witnessing the magic of star-filled skies.
- **Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary:** Home of the Snow Leopard. Located near Kibber village, this sanctuary offers a rare opportunity to spot the elusive snow leopard, Himalayan wolves, ibex, and other high-altitude fauna. Winter trekking routes through this area are breathtaking and often reward travellers with wildlife sightings amid icy landscapes and medicinal alpine flora.

Spiti Valley Temperatures in Winter

- From November to March, Spiti Valley endures harsh winter conditions with temperatures often plunging below -20°C during the night. Even during the day, temperatures typically range between -10°C and to 5°C. The region receives significant snowfall, blanketing the entire valley in a thick layer of snow. Despite the extreme cold, the winter scenery is truly breathtaking, offering serene, snow-draped landscapes that are nothing short of magical.

Other Must-Do in Spiti Winter Expedition

- Visit Chandratal Lake (if accessible): Though usually snowed in during deep winter, witnessing the frozen beauty of this crescent-shaped lake is unforgettable.
- Camp and Trek: Experience a winter trekking or snow camping adventure for an immersive Himalayan experience.
- Explore High-Altitude Records: Visit the world's highest bridge(Chicham Bridge), the highest motorable village (Komic), and the highest post office (Hikkim).
- Discover Remote Villages: Places like Langza, with its giant Buddha statue overlooking the snowy valley, are perfect for quiet reflection and photography.

Stay Categories & Options •

Basic	Persons: 2	INR 41,500.00	~~INR 44,500.00~~	Save INR 3,000.00
Basic	Persons: 4	INR 30,500.00	~~INR 33,500.00~~	Save INR 3,000.00
Basic	Persons: 6	INR 26,500.00	~~INR 29,500.00~~	Save INR 3,000.00
Premium	Persons: 2	INR 67,500.00	~~INR 72,500.00~~	Save INR 5,000.00
Premium	Persons: 4	INR 55,750.00	~~INR 60,750.00~~	Save INR 5,000.00
Premium	Persons: 6	INR 51,999.00	~~INR 55,999.00~~	Save INR 4,000.00

Itinerary •

Day 1: Pick up at Chandigarh | Dist: 115 km | 04-06 hours

- Your journey begins as our representative greets you in Chandigarh at the designated pickup location.
- From there, you'll drive in a private cab through the scenic landscapes of Himachal to reach either Narkanda or Shimla, where your adventure officially kicks off.

Meals: Dinner

Night: Relax in the comfort of your hotel in Narkanda/Sarahan

Day 2: Shimla to Sangla | Dist: 216 km | 06-07 hours

- Post breakfast, check out and embark on a picturesque drive through valleys and winding roads via Karcham towards Sangla or Rakcham.
- After checking into your hotel, you'll head to Chitkul, the last inhabited village near the Indo-Tibetan border.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at Homestay/Hotel in Sangla/Rakcham

Day 3: Sangla to Tabo | Dist: 190km | Time: 07 to 09 hr | Altitude: 2630m to 3280m

- Today’s journey takes you deeper into Spiti as you drive toward Tabo.
- En route, we will halt for 20 minutes at Khab Sangam point (The sangam of Satluj and Spiti River).
- Midway, you'll break for lunch in Nako Village (lunch at your own expense) and explore Nako Lake and Gompa Monastery if time permits.
- Arrive in Tabo by evening.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Homestay in Tabo

Day 4: Tabo to Kaza | Dist: 50km | Time: 7 to 10 hr | Altitude: 3280m to 3800m

- After breakfast, depart for Kaza, the heart of Spiti.
- Along the way, visit the ancient Dhankar Monastery, the lush landscapes of Pin Valley, and the beautiful Lingti Waterfall.
- Arrive in Kaza by evening and settle in.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner.

Night: Stay at the Homestay in Kaza

Day 5: Kaza Sightseeing | Dist: 50km | Time: 7 to 8 hr | Altitude: 3800m to 4590m

- Spend the day visiting Spiti’s iconic villages. Begin with Langza, known for its giant Buddha statue overlooking the valley.
- Continue to Komic, one of the world’s highest villages, and conclude with Hikkim, home to the highest post office on Earth.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Homestay in Kaza

Day 6: Kaza to Tabo | Dist: 180km | Time: 7 to 10 hr | Altitude: 3800m to 3280m

- Begin your day with a visit to Key Monastery, a spiritual and architectural marvel.
- Then stop at Chicham Bridge, Asia’s highest suspension bridge.
- Later, head back to Tabo and explore the centuries-old Tabo Monastery.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Homestay in Tabo

Day 7: Tabo to Kalpa | Dist: 160 km | Time: 07 to 10 hr | Altitude: 3280m to 2960m

- After an early breakfast, depart for Kalpa, a postcard-perfect village that offers jaw-dropping views of the Kinner Kailash range.
- Visit the popular Suicide Point and enjoy some leisure time shopping or exploring the Reckong Peo Market.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Hotel in Kalpa

Day 8: Kalpa to Shimla | Dist: 236 km | Time: 7 to 10 hr | Altitude: 2960 m to 2276 m

- After soaking in the views over morning tea, begin your return journey to Shimla.
- You'll arrive by evening and stay overnight in Shimla.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner

Night: Stay at the Hotel in Shimla

Day 9: Depart for Chandigarh | Dist: 115 km | Time: 4 to 5 hr | Altitude: 2270m to 239 m

- After breakfast in the morning, depart for Chandigarh, wrapping up your unforgettable adventure through the Spiti Valley.
- You'll return home with lasting memories of majestic mountains, ancient monasteries, and star-filled skies.

Meals: Breakfast

Night: NA

Inclusions •

Stay on a double or triple sharing basis at the listed hotels or homestays as per the itinerary, ensuring a comfortable and hassle-free stay.

Daily breakfast and dinner as outlined in the travel plan.

Innova Vehicle for all transfers and sightseeing activities as scheduled.

All local tours and excursions mentioned in the itinerary.

Rest assured, all necessary permits and entry passes are included to ensure your safety and smooth travel during the trip.

Exclusions •

Lunch is not covered, providing you with the flexibility to explore local cuisine at your own pace.

5% GST (Goods and Services Tax) is extra and not included in the package cost.

Fuel and toll charges are to be borne by the traveller in case of self-driving vehicles.

Expenses for returning early if you choose to exit the trip mid-way.

Personal expenditures, such as laundry, telephone calls, tips, or similar expenses.

Any unforeseen expenses due to natural disasters like landslides or road closures.

Anything not explicitly listed in the ‘Inclusions’ section.

Charges for room heaters, if required.

Travel insurance coverage is not part of the package.

Entry fees to monasteries and other attractions are not included in the price.

FAQs •

Q: What is the best time for the Spiti Winter Expedition?

A: The best time for the Spiti Winter Expedition is from late December to early March, when the valley is covered in snow and offers an actual winter wonderland experience.

Q: How cold does it get in Spiti during winter?

A: Temperatures can drop to -20°C or even lower at night, while daytime temperatures typically range from -10°C to 5°C. Be prepared for extreme cold weather.

Q: Is Spiti Valley accessible in winter?

A: Yes, Spiti is accessible in winter via Shimla, as the Manali route remains closed due to heavy snowfall. The Shimla-Kinnaur route stays open most of the winter.

Q: What should I pack for the Spiti Winter Expedition?

A: Pack thermal wear, heavy jackets, gloves, woollen caps, warm socks, waterproof shoes, and personal medicines. Also carry sunscreen, lip balm, and a reusable water bottle.

Q: Is Spiti safe to travel in winter?

A: Yes, it's safe with a reliable tour operator, but you must be prepared for offbeat conditions, basic facilities, and possible weather delays due to snow or road closures.

Q: Can solo travellers join this expedition?

A: Absolutely! We welcome solo travellers, and you’ll be accommodated in triple/quad sharing rooms with other like-minded co-travellers.

Q: Is Chandratal Lake accessible in winter?

A: No, Chandratal is not accessible in winter as the route is blocked with snow. It can usually be visited only until early October.

Q: Will we see snowfall during the trip?

A: Yes, snowfall is quite common between January and February, and it's one of the highlights of the Spiti Winter Expedition.

Q: What kind of accommodation is provided during the expedition?

A: Stays are arranged in local homestays or guesthouses, typically on a triple/quad sharing basis, with dry toilets and limited running water in Kaza and the surrounding areas.

Q: Will we see snow leopards during the expedition?

A: While not guaranteed, spotting snow leopards is possible in Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary during the winter months with some luck and patience.

Q: Is there electricity and a mobile network in Spiti during winter?

A: Electricity and the network are unreliable, particularly in Kaza and its surrounding villages. BSNL and Jio may work sporadically. Power outages are common in heavy snow.

Q: Are there washrooms and hot water facilities available?

A: In most places, shared toilets are used. Hot water is provided in limited quantities, usually in the mornings, using buckets.

Q: Do I need to be physically fit for the trip?

A: Yes, you should have a basic level of physical fitness and be comfortable with cold, high-altitude conditions, as well as occasional off-road travel.

Q: Will oxygen issues occur in Spiti during winter?

A: Due to the high altitude and cold, some travellers may experience Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS). Carry Diamox and consult your doctor before the trip. Our guides monitor travellers regularly.

Get in Touch •

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