Zanskar Tour

Delhi - Manali - Jispa - Purne - Padum - Jispa - Manali - Delhi

Group PackagesGroup Tour

Tour Basics •

Duration: 08 Days 07 Nights	**Route:** Delhi - Manali - Jispa - Purne - Padum - Jispa - Manali - Delhi

Delhi — 8D 7NManali — 7D 6N

About This Trip •

This 8-day journey through Zanskar leads you into the heart of one of the Himalayas' most secluded and stunning landscapes, with Manali as both the starting and finishing point. The journey begins with an overnight drive from Delhi to Manali, followed by a scenic route towards Jispa via the Atal Tunnel, the world's highest highway tunnel, located at an elevation of over 10,000 feet. As you leave the lush greenery of Manali behind, the landscape transforms into a dramatic, barren landscape of mountains.

From Jispa, the journey continues over the Shinku La Pass at 16,580 feet, one of the newest routes connecting Lahaul and Zanskar. Along the way, the impressive Gumbok Rangan peak stands tall, marking the entry into Zanskar. The day ends at the remote village of Purne.

A significant highlight of this trip is the trek to Phugtal Monastery, an ancient monastic complex built into a cliffside cave. This secluded site offers both spiritual serenity and architectural wonder.

The route then heads to Padum, the heart of Zanskar. Stops include Shila Waterfall, Karsha Gompa, the largest monastery in Zanskar, and Stongde Monastery, known for its sunset views over the valley.

Travellers also explore the Drang-Drung Glacier, one of Ladakh's largest glaciers, and the beautiful Pensi La Pass, featuring its twin alpine lakes, Lang Tso and Stak Tso. A visit to Rangdum Monastery offers a glimpse into the spiritual life of the region.

The return journey retraces the route back to Purne, visiting Bardan Monastery, Raru Lake, and the

Maitreya Buddha statue in Ichar village, before crossing back over Shinku La Pass to reach Manali.

This trip combines adventure, culture, and the pristine beauty of the Himalayas in a truly unforgettable experience.

Things to do in Zanskar

1. Visit Phugtal Monastery

Phugtal Monastery is one of the most secluded Buddhist monasteries in the world. Built into a massive cliffside cave, it can only be reached on foot. The trek is both scenic and spiritual, offering stunning views of the turquoise Tsarap River and providing a unique opportunity to experience centuries-old monastic traditions in complete serenity.

2. Explore Karsha Gompa

Karsha Gompa is Zanskar's largest and most important monastery. Perched on a hillside, it houses ancient murals, statues, and a library of sacred texts. Visiting during prayer times offers a rare chance to witness Buddhist rituals. The monastery offers breathtaking views of the Padum Valley and the surrounding peaks.

3. Witness the Drang Drung Glacier

The Drang-Drung Glacier is one of Ladakh's largest glaciers, spanning over 23 kilometres. Its massive ice formations and winding white expanse are a highlight of Zanskar. Located near Pensi La Pass, the glacier is surrounded by snow-capped peaks, making it a spectacular site for photography and peaceful reflection.

4. Cross the Shinku La Pass

At 16,580 feet, Shinku La Pass connects Lahaul with Zanskar. The drive offers thrilling high-altitude adventure through rugged mountain terrain. Snow patches, barren landscapes, and distant peaks surround the pass, making it a visual treat. It's also one of the newest motorable routes opened for Zanskar exploration.

5. Trek in Remote Valleys

Zanskar is famous for its trekking routes. Trails like the Phugtal Monastery trek or the Padum to Darcha trek lead through high mountains, across rivers, and past isolated villages. Trekkers experience untouched landscapes, ancient footpaths, and the raw beauty of the Himalayan wilderness, making trekking here a once-in-a-lifetime adventure.

6. Visit Stongde Monastery

Strongde Monastery sits atop a hill, offering stunning 360-degree views of the Zanskar valley. Founded in the 11th century, it is known for its rich history, ancient artefacts, and vibrant frescoes. The monastery's sunset views, overlooking the meandering Zanskar River, are especially memorable for visitors and photographers.

7. See the Maitreya Buddha at Ichar

Near the remote village of Ichar, the Maitreya Buddha statue is a serene sight carved into the mountainside. This giant figure symbolises the future Buddha. Surrounded by dramatic Himalayan scenery, it offers travellers a peaceful moment for reflection and a connection to Zanskar's deep-rooted Buddhist spiritual traditions.

8. Experience Local Zanskari Culture

Interact with locals in villages such as Padum, Purne, and Rangdum to experience authentic Zanskar culture. Witness daily life, try traditional butter tea, and explore their unique Buddhist customs. Visiting during festivals allows travellers to see masked dances, monastery rituals, and vibrant cultural celebrations in the heart of Zanskar.

9. Visit Rangdum Monastery

Rangdum Monastery is located in a remote alpine plain between Kargil and Padum. Its isolated setting provides a peaceful retreat for both monks and visitors. The monastery features ancient murals and relics. Surrounded by snow-capped peaks, it's a perfect place to experience spiritual tranquillity and Zanskar's stark beauty.

10. Photography & Stargazing

Zanskar is a paradise for photographers and stargazers. The clear skies, dramatic landscapes, and lack of light pollution offer incredible opportunities for astrophotography. Capture star trails, Milky Way shots, or stunning mountain panoramas. The changing light over the glaciers, monasteries, and rivers provides endless inspiration for creative photography.

Departure Dates •

JUN: 21

JUL: 26

MAY: 24

Stay Categories & Options •

Double Sharing	Persons: 2	INR 38,999.00	~~INR 45,999.00~~	Save INR 7,000.00
Triple Sharing	Persons: 3	INR 37,999.00	~~INR 42,999.00~~	Save INR 5,000.00
Double Sharing	Persons: 2	INR 36,999.00	~~INR 43,999.00~~	Save INR 7,000.00
Triple Sharing	Persons: 3	INR 35,999.00	~~INR 40,999.00~~	Save INR 5,000.00

Itinerary •

Day 1: Delhi to Manali | Dist: 501 km | Time: 12 to 13 hr | Altitude: 230 to 2050 m

- Your journey begins at night from Delhi, travelling by a Volvo bus or a cab.
- After a scenic 12 to 13-hour drive through the picturesque valleys of Himachal Pradesh, you will arrive in Manali the next day.

Meals: Nil

Night: Overnight Journey by AC Volvo Bus

Day 2: Manali to Jispa via Atal tunnel, Sissu, and Keylong | Dist: 93 km | Time: 02 to 03 hr | Altitude: 2050 to 3200 m

- We set out on the legendary Manali Leh highway, making our way toward Jispa.
- Crossing the Atal Tunnel, famously the world’s highest highway tunnel at over 10,000 feet, we watch the scenery shift dramatically.
- The dense, green hills of Manali recede behind us, giving way to the stark beauty of barren mountains and rocky plains.
- We take a break at the scenic village of Sissu, enjoying its peaceful atmosphere, before continuing to Jispaby in the afternoon.

- The day is kept deliberately easy to help our bodies adjust to the high-altitude environment.

Meals: Dinner

Night: Stay at the hotel in Jispa

Day 3: Jispa to Purne via Shinku La pass | Dist: 94 km | Time: 04 to 05 hr | Altitude: 3200 to 5091 m

- Today, we set out from Jispa towards Purne, crossing the high-altitude Shinku La Pass at an impressive 16,580 feet.
- Along the way, the majestic peak of Gumbok Rangan comes into view, standing tall like a silent sentinel, welcoming travellers into the remote valleys beyond.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the hotel in Purne

Day 4: Trek to Phugtal Monastery | Dist: 1.5 km | Time: 01 to 03 hr | Altitude: 3810 to 3850 m

- With an early start, we begin our trek to the ancient Phugtal Monastery, dramatically perched on a cliffside in the heart of Zanskar.
- This journey isn’t just about the physical adventure through rugged terrain along the riverbank, but also a rare opportunity to experience the profound serenity of one of the most secluded monasteries in the Himalayas.
- The 1.5-hour hike follows the winding course of the river, leading us through narrow trails and rocky outcrops.
- As we round a bend, the sight of Phugtal Monastery suddenly reveals itself, clinging to the cliffs like a natural extension of the mountainscape.
- The monastery itself is built inside a massive cave, making it a truly unique spiritual and architectural marvel.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the hotel in Purne

Day 5: Purne to Padum | Dist: 56 km | Time: 02 to 03 hr | Altitude: 3810 to 3669 m

- Today is a day to unwind and soak in the grandeur of the Zanskar Valley. We start with a visit to the scenic Shila Waterfall.
- In the afternoon, we explore the ancient monasteries surrounding Padum. Our first stop is Karsha Gompa..
- Our journey then takes us to Stongde Monastery, set high on a hill with breathtaking views of the valley below.
- In the evening, you can stroll through Padum market, browse for local handicrafts, or relax with a warm meal at one of the cosy cafés.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the hotel in Padum

Day 6: Padum to Rangdum | Dist: 110 km | Time: 04 to 05 hr | Altitude: 3669 to 3657 m

- Today, we set out on the Padum-Kargil road, a route that unveils some of the most awe-inspiring sights of the Zanskar region.
- Just minutes from Padum lies the sacred Sani Lake, home to a revered statue of Guru Padmasambhava, set against a serene backdrop of mountains.
- Our journey continues toward the mighty Drang Drung Glacier, one of Ladakh’s largest glaciers, stretching over 23 kilometres. Its sheer scale and beauty are breathtaking. No photograph or description can truly prepare you for the moment you first see it.
- Nearby, we reach Pensi La Pass, the gateway to Zanskar, which is adorned with the twin alpine lakes of Lang Tso and Stat Tso.
- We then proceed to the historic Rangdum Monastery, a remote and peaceful site steeped in

centuries of spiritual practice.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the hotel in Rangdum

Day 7: Rangdum to Purne | Dist: 154 km | Time: 7 to 8 hr | Altitude: 3657 to 3810 m

- Today, we begin our drive toward Purne, navigating through some of the most rugged and dramatic mountain landscapes in Zanskar.
- Along the way, we catch sight of the Bardan Monastery, gracefully perched atop a cliff beside the highway.
- We stop here to explore this ancient monastery before continuing onward to Raru village.
- From Raru, a short hike leads us to the peaceful Raru Lake, where snow-capped peaks surround the tranquil waters, offering a perfect moment of quiet reflection.
- Before reaching Purne, we make one final stop at Ichar village to visit the Maitreya Buddha statue, a serene symbol of compassion carved into the remote mountainscape.
- By evening, we arrive in Purne, where we settle in for the night, surrounded by the untouched beauty of Zanskar.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the hotel in Purne

Day 8: Purne to Manali | Dist: 186 km | Time: 07 to 08 hr | Altitude: 3810 to 3050 m

- On the final day of our journey, we drive back to Manali, retracing our route over the Shinku La Pass and passing through Darcha and Jispa once again.
- The return drive offers one final opportunity to take in the untouched beauty of the landscape and reflect on the unforgettable experiences of the past week.
- We expect to reach Manali by late afternoon.

- After reaching Manali, you will depart for Delhi.

Meals: Breakfast

Night: Overnight Journey by AC Volvo Bus

Inclusions •

Meals as per the itinerary.

Stay on dual/triple sharing.

Vehicle for sightseeing & excursions as per the itinerary.

Pick-up and drop-off services from Delhi/Manali.

Entire travel from Manali to Manali by Cab.

Driver Charges, Toll Tax, Parking Charges, etc.

Inner Line Permits (ILPs) for visiting restricted areas.

Ladakh environment fee and applicable taxes.

Exclusions •

Room Heater cost, Oxygen Cylinder, and Bonfire.

GST 5%.

Fees for any adventure activity.

Dedicated Tour Guide.

Any entrance fee to the monastery and monuments.

Any kind of personal expenses.

Any additional use of vehicles beyond the planned itinerary will incur extra charges.

Any kind of drink (alcoholic, mineral water, aerated).

Heater Charges.

In the Ladakh region, AC will not be operational in the cab.

Additional costs due to itinerary or stay changes caused by flight cancellations, bad weather, health issues, roadblocks, or

other uncontrollable factors.

Anything not mentioned under the head.

FAQs •

Q: What is Zanskar?

A: Zanskar, a remote valley in the union territory of Ladakh, India, is renowned for its rugged mountains, ancient monasteries, vast glaciers, and rich Buddhist heritage, offering travellers a rare mix of adventure and spirituality.

Q: Where is Zanskar Valley located?

A: Zanskar Valley is located in the southeastern part of Ladakh, between the Greater Himalayas and the Zanskar Range.

Q: What are the top things to do in the Zanskar Tour?

A: Visit Phugtal Monastery, Explore Karsha and Stongde Monasteries, Trek in remote valleys, See the Drang Drung Glacier, Visit Rangdum Monastery, Experience local culture and festivals, Stargazing and photography

Q: What is the Zanskar Range?

A: The Zanskar Range, part of the Trans-Himalayas, separates Zanskar from the Indus Valley and is home to peaks rising above 6,000 meters.

Q: Where is the Zanskar Range on the map?

A: The Zanskar Range lies south of the Indus River, running parallel to the Ladakh Range. It stretches between Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.

Q: The Zanskar Range is a part of which Himalaya?

A: The Zanskar Range is part of the Trans-Himalayan region, located north of the main Himalayan chain.

Q: What is the Zanskar Geothermal site?

A: The Zanskar Geothermal site is located near Puga, Ladakh (sometimes confused with Zanskar), and is known for its hot springs and geothermal activity.

Q: What is the distance from Zanskar to Leh?

A: The distance from Padum (Zanskar's main town) to Leh is about 450–470 km, depending on the route taken. The road is partly rough and only open seasonally.

Q: What is Purne in Zanskar?

A: Purne is a small village in Zanskar, popular as the base for the trek to Phugtal Monastery. It's located along the Tsarap River, offering simple homestays and scenic beauty.

Q: How far is Purne from Padum?

A: The distance from Padum to Purne is about 56 km by road. It usually takes around 2 to 3 hours due to rough mountain terrain.

Q: What is the weather like in Purne?

A: Purne has a cold desert climate. In summer (June–September), temperatures range from 5°C to 20°C. In winter, it drops well below freezing, often to -20°C or lower.

Q: What is the temperature in Purne currently?

A: For real-time weather, it's best to check online. Generally, in July and August, temperatures range between 8°C and 18°C during the day and drop at night.

Q: Is Purne in India?

A: Yes, Purne is a remote village in the Zanskar Valley, Ladakh, India.

Q: Are there homestays in Purne?

A: Yes, Purne offers basic homestay accommodations run by local families. Facilities are simple but provide authentic Zanskari hospitality and meals.

Q: What amenities does Purne have?

A: Purne has limited facilities. There are small homestays and tea houses, but no markets, ATMs, or advanced medical help. It's advisable to carry cash and essentials.

Q: How to reach Phugtal Monastery?

A: Phugtal Monastery is accessible only on foot. The nearest motorable point is Purne village. From Purne, it's a 1.5 to 2-hour trek along the Tsarap River to reach the monastery. The trail is scenic but narrow and rocky.

Q: What is the distance from Leh to Phugtal Monastery?

A: Leh to Padum: ~450–470 km (2 days by road) Padum to Purne (by road): ~56 km (2–3 hours) Purne to Phugtal Monastery (trek): ~7 km (1.5–2 hours)

Q: Can I stay at Phugtal Monastery?

A: Staying at Phugtal Monastery is not officially available for tourists, but sometimes monks allow travellers to stay in simple rooms or caves near the monastery if requested politely.

Q: What is the distance from Manali to Phugtal Monastery?

A: Manali to Jispa: 93 km Jispa to Purne via Shinku La Pass: ~94 km Purne to Phugtal (trek): ~7 km

Q: What is the trek distance to Phugtal Monastery?

A: The trek from Purne to Phugtal Monastery is around 6.5–7 km one way, following the river. It's a moderate trek, taking 1.5 to 2 hours each way depending on your pace.

Q: What is the distance from Purne to Phugtal Monastery?

A: The Purne to Phugtal Monastery trek is about 7 km (one way). The trek is the easiest and shortest route to reach

Phugtal.

Q: What is the distance from Padum to Phugtal Monastery?

A: Padum to Purne (by road): 56 km Purne to Phugtal Monastery (trek): 7 km The total distance from Padum to Phugtal is approximately 63 km.

Q: What is Padum, Zanskar, famous for?

A: Padum is renowned for its ancient monasteries, rich Buddhist culture, stunning scenic beauty, and as a base for trekking to remote areas, such as Phugtal Monastery and the Drang Drung Glacier.

Q: What is the weather like in Padum?

A: Padum has a cold desert climate. Summer (June–September): 5°C to 20°C Winter (October–April): -10°C to -30°C Snow blocks the region in winter.

Q: What is the temperature in Padum?

A: Between July and August, Padum experiences daytime temperatures ranging from 10°C to 18°C, while nights cool to between 3°C and 8°C. Winters, however, are intensely cold.

Q: How far is Padum from Leh?

A: The distance from Padum to Leh is approximately 450–470 km by road. The route is rough and usually takes two days, depending on road conditions.

Q: What are the best places to visit in Padum?

A: Karsha Monastery (the largest monastery in Zanskar), Strongde Monastery (panoramic views), Sani Lake and Monastery, Pibiting Monastery, Shila Waterfall Padum, Market for local food and handicrafts

Q: What is Drang Drung Glacier?

A: The Drang Drung Glacier, located in the Zanskar region, is one of the largest glaciers in Ladakh. It’s famous for its vast ice fields and stunning views, often compared to a frozen river winding through the mountains.

Q: Is there a Drang Drung Glacier Wikipedia page?

A: Yes, you can find Drang Drung Glacier’s details on Wikipedia, which covers its geography, significance, and environmental information. It’s a popular research subject due to its size and location in the Himalayas.

Q: What is the length of Drang Drung Glacier?

A: The glacier is approximately 23 km long, making it the second-largest glacier in Ladakh after the Siachen Glacier.

Q: Where is the Drang Drung Glacier viewpoint?

A: The most spectacular view of the Drang Drung Glacier can be enjoyed from Pensi La Pass (also known as Pensi Top). From here, you get a panoramic view of the glacier and its curving ice formation flowing between the mountains.

Q: What is the temperature at Drang Drung Glacier?

A: Summer: 5°C to -5°C Winter: -20°C to -30°C Even in summer, the glacier area remains cold due to its high altitude.

Q: Is there a trek to Drang Drung Glacier?

A: There is no formal trek onto the glacier itself due to safety reasons, but you can trek around Pensi La and nearby valleys for excellent views. Some adventure trekkers attempt guided glacier walks with proper equipment.

Q: Which river originates from Drang Drung Glacier?

A: The Stod River, a major tributary of the Zanskar River, originates from Drang Drung Glacier. The glacier melt feeds the river, which flows through the Zanskar Valley.

Q: What is the altitude of Drang Drung Glacier?

A: The glacier sits at an elevation of around 4,780 meters (15,682 feet) near its snout, with its upper reaches even higher.

Q: Can you camp at Gonbo Rangjon?

A: Yes, Gonbo Rangjon camping is popular among trekkers and photographers. The base of the mountain has flat grounds ideal for tents, offering a stunning view of the peak, especially at sunrise and sunset.

Q: Is there a trek to Gonbo Rangjon?

A: There’s no official trek route to the summit, as the mountain is considered sacred and unclimbed. However, trekkers do hike around its base or include it in multi-day routes in Zanskar.

Q: What is the altitude of Gonbo Rangjon?

A: Height of Gonbo Rangjon: Around 18,410 feet (5,610 meters) Base camp altitude: Approx. 14,000 feet (4,270 meters)

Q: How far is Gonbo Rangjon from Padum?

A: The Gonbo Rangjon to Padum distance is approximately 74 km, traversed via rough mountain roads, which usually takes 3–4 hours, depending on road conditions.

Q: . What is the distance from Manali to Gonbo Rangjon?

A: The distance from Manali to Gonbo Rangjon is approximately 220–230 km via Shinku La Pass, which can be covered in 10–12 hours, depending on the terrain.

Q: What is the temperature today at Gonbo Rangjon?

A: In the summer months, expect daytime temperatures to be around 8–12°C, with nighttime temperatures dropping to -2°C to 4°C. For real-time temperatures, local guides or satellite apps are recommended, as the weather is unpredictable.

Q: What’s the story behind Gonbo Rangjon?

A: According to Buddhist legends, Gonbo Rangjon is believed to be a self-manifested (Rangjon) peak, symbolising a sacred, divine presence. Locals believe it protects the Zanskar region and holds spiritual energy.

Q: How is the night view at Gonbo Rangjon?

A: The night view is spectacular due to clear skies and minimal light pollution. Camping at night allows you to witness stunning Milky Way views and the silhouette of Gonbo Rangjon against the stars.

Q: What is the best time to visit Gonbo Rangjon?

A: The best time to visit is from mid-June to September when the passes are open and the weather is relatively stable.

Q: How to reach Gonbo Rangjon?

A: From Manali: Drive via Atal Tunnel ? Darcha ? Shinku La Pass ? Lakhang ? Gonbo Rangjon. From Padum: Take the Padum – Shinku La route towards Purne, and then Gonbo Rangjon.

Q: What is the Rangdum to Zanskar distance?

A: Rangdum to Padum (the main Zanskar town) is about 105 km, usually taking 4–5 hours due to the rugged mountain road.

Q: What are the places to visit in Rangdum?

A: Rangdum Monastery (Gompa) Rangdum Valley (for scenic views and photography) Wildlife spotting (Marmots, Ibex, Himalayan birds) Camping sites near the monastery

Q: What are the things to do in Rangdum?

A: Visit Rangdum Monastery Trek around the valley for breathtaking landscapes Camp under the stars Photography of glaciers, peaks, and wildlife Experience local Buddhist culture

Q: What is the temperature at Shinkula Pass?

A: Summer (June–Sept): Daytime: 5°C to 12°C; Night: -5°C to 2°C Winter: Heavy snow, temperatures drop to -20°C

Q: What is the height of Shinkula Pass?

A: Altitude in meters: 5,091 m Altitude in feet: 16,700 ft

Q: How far is Shinkula Pass from Manali?

A: The distance from Manali to Shinkula Pass is approximately 130 kilometres and usually takes about 6 to 7 hours to cover, depending on road and weather conditions.

Q: Is there a tunnel at Shinku La Pass?

A: Currently, no tunnel exists at Shinku La Pass. However, a Shinku La tunnel is planned to create all-weather connectivity between Himachal and Ladakh, proposed by BRO.

Q: Where is Shinkula Pass located?

A: Shinku La Pass rests on the frontier between Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh.

Q: Is Shinkula Pass the world’s highest tunnel?

A: At present, there is no tunnel at Shinkula Pass. The Atal Tunnel (Rohtang) remains the highest functional highway tunnel in the region. The proposed Shinku La tunnel, once built, will be among the world’s highest.

Q: Do you need a permit for Shinkula Pass?

A: Currently, no special permit is needed for Indian tourists to cross Shinkula Pass. Foreign nationals may need to register

at police checkpoints.

Get in Touch •

WhatsApp: Chat Email: julley@thewanderyak.com Website: https://thewanderyak.com