

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Himachal Pradesh

6-8 Days

From INR 15,000 per person

Best: Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Oct

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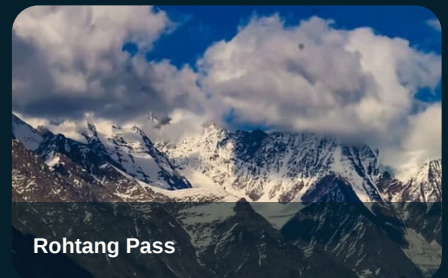
FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Shimla - Mall Road and Ridge



Manali and Solang Valley



Rohtang Pass

DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Himachal Pradesh is a versatile Himalayan holiday, usually approached through Delhi, Chandigarh or a regional hill airport before the journey continues by road. What the state offers is variety within one journey: the colonial hill towns of Shimla and Dalhousie with their Mall roads and deodar ridges; Manali and the Kullu valley for snow, rafting and paragliding; Dharamshala and McLeod Ganj, where a Tibetan community in exile has made a small Lhasa on a Dhauladhar hillside; and, over the passes, the cold desert of Spiti, which looks and feels like Ladakh. Kasol and the Parvati valley draw a younger, slower crowd. It suits honeymooners, families with children who want to see snow, and walkers, and it is comfortable to travel - good roads, plenty of choice, and hill weather that turns quickly.

PACKAGE DURATION

6-8 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 15,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Oct | Shoulder: Jan, Feb, Sep, Nov, Dec | Avoid: Jul, Aug

TRIP TYPES

hill, honeymoon

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit


Shimla - Mall Road and Ridge
HILL STATION | HALF DAY

The centre of the old summer capital: a pedestrian stretch of colonial buildings running along the ridge above the town. Visitors walk between Christ Church, the Gaiety Theatre and Scandal Point, browse the shops on the Mall and drop down to Lakkar Bazaar for wooden crafts. Vehicles are barred here.


Manali and Solang Valley
VALLEY | FULL DAY

Manali sits in the upper Kullu valley among apple orchards and deodar, with the Hadimba temple and the hot springs at Vashisht close by. Solang, further up the valley, is the activity ground - paragliding, zorbing and ropeway rides in summer, skiing and snow play once the snow settles.


Rohtang Pass
VIEWPOINT | FULL DAY

A high pass above Manali on the old road towards Lahaul, visited mainly for snow that lies well into summer. Access needs a permit booked online in advance, daily vehicle numbers are capped and the pass closes on Tuesdays for maintenance. It is shut altogether through the winter.



Kasol

VALLEY | HALF DAY

A small riverside settlement in the Parvati valley, grown from a village into a base for slow travellers and trekkers. Days here are spent walking along the river to Chahal, riding up to the Sikh shrine and hot springs at Manikaran, and setting out on the long walk to Kheerganga.



McLeod Ganj (Dharamshala)

HILL STATION | FULL DAY

The upper town above Dharamshala and home of the Tibetan government in exile. Visitors see the Tsuglagkhang complex and the Dalai Lama's temple, the Tibet Museum and the craft workshops at Norbulingka nearby, and walk the forested Bhagsu and Triund trails under the Dhauladhar wall.



Spiti Valley

VALLEY | SEVERAL DAYS

A high cold desert beyond the passes, bare and treeless, with villages and monasteries perched above the Spiti river. The usual stops are Key monastery, Kibber, the mud-walled temples at Tabo and the lake at Chandratol. The valley needs several days, acclimatisation, and a route that is snow-closed in winter.



Kufri

HILL STATION | 2-3 HOURS

A small ridge settlement above Shimla, visited on a half-day run out of town for its snow in winter and its views towards the higher ranges. There is a short pony ride or walk up to the viewpoint, a nature park with Himalayan species, and an adventure park.



Dalhousie

HILL STATION | FULL DAY

A quiet colonial-era hill town spread over several ridges in Chamba district, built around churches, deodar walks and long views towards the Pir Panjal. Most visits pair it with the meadow at Khajjiar and, for those with time, the old temples of Chamba town in the valley below.

6 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Shimla - Mall Road and Ridge and Kufri

Visit Shimla - Mall Road and Ridge, Kufri.

02

DAY 2

Manali and Solang Valley and Dalhousie

Visit Manali and Solang Valley, Dalhousie.

03

DAY 3

Rohtang Pass

Visit Rohtang Pass.

04

DAY 4

Kasol

Visit Kasol.

05

DAY 5

McLeod Ganj (Dharamshala)

Visit McLeod Ganj (Dharamshala).

06

DAY 6

Spiti Valley

Visit Spiti Valley.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. Cards and UPI work in Shimla, Manali and Dharamshala, but carry cash for Spiti, Kinnaur and remote homestays.

LANGUAGE

Hindi and local Pahari dialects are spoken everywhere, with Tibetan around McLeod Ganj. English is widely understood across the tourism belt.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

Cool clear summers from March to June, a wet and landslide-prone monsoon from July to September, and cold winters with snow across the higher hills.

CONNECTIVITY

Good mobile data in the main towns and along valley roads. Spiti, Kinnaur and the high passes have patchy or no coverage, where BSNL performs best.

Food and culture

Himachali staples include rajma-rice, steamed siddu, yoghurt-based madra and the ceremonial vegetarian dham. Traveller centres also serve trout, Tibetan, Israeli and Italian food. Culture changes by valley, from Pahari temple towns to Tibetan Buddhist communities in Dharamshala, Lahaul and Spiti.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Delhi and Chandigarh are the most flexible gateways. Limited regional flights serve airports near Shimla, Dharamshala and Kullu when weather and schedules permit.

RAIL

Kalka and Chandigarh suit Shimla, while Pathankot supports Dharamshala and Dalhousie. The final hill sectors continue by road.

ROAD

Volvo buses, private cars and state buses connect the main hill towns from north Indian gateways. Build extra time around snow, rain and mountain-road disruption.

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Rohtang Pass permits are capped daily, sold online ahead of time, and not issued on Tuesdays when the pass shuts for maintenance.
- The Atal Tunnel now carries traffic under the range to Lahaul through the year, so a Rohtang permit is only needed if you want the pass itself.
- Spiti and upper Kinnaur are high enough for altitude sickness - allow a day to acclimatise, and note the Kunzum route from Manali is snowbound for much of the year.
- Hill roads close after landslides in the monsoon, especially on the Kullu and Kinnaur stretches; July to early September is the least reliable window for the interior.
- Reliable snow in Manali and Shimla comes from late December to February; earlier or later, operators drive you higher to find it and fit chains for the climb.
- Shimla is walked as much as driven - the Mall is vehicle-free and the town is built on steep steps, which is worth thinking about if you are travelling with elders.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
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Remember

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