

Bhaba Pass Trek & Jeep Safari – 13 days

Himalayan traverse on foot from Kinnaur to Spiti

Trekking tour JTT-HPT-01: Delhi - Shimla - Kaffnu – Bhaba Pass trek - Mud - Tabo - Kaza - Manali - Delhi

On this tour you'll travel up into the Himalayas along the Satluj River, one of the five big rivers that originate from the holy mountain of Kailash in Tibet. You'll follow the gorge through the relatively unexplored region of Kinnaur, a place where two of the biggest religions of the world meet (Buddhism and Hinduism), as well as two of Asia's most fascinating cultures: the Indian and Tibetan culture. At the tiny hamlet of



Kaffnu nestled on the lush green forested slopes of the Himalayan Range, you'll pull on your mountain boots and head out on shepherds trails into the mountains.

The trek takes only five days, but in this short period of time you'll witness a total metamorphosis of your surroundings. After crossing the glaciated Bhaba Pass at 4800 m you'll descent into the 'moonscape' of the Tibetan borderlands. Vegetation is scarce here and agriculture, based on a hardy strand of barley, is only possible through irrigation. When you reach the strikingly remote village of Mud you'll know your in the Tibetan realm. Sturdy fortress-like houses of whitewashed sun-dried mud bricks, prayer flags flapping in the wind from roofs, chortens and bridges, and of course the readily smiling faces of the Spitians.

After exploring the vast valleys and gorges of Spiti and some of its picturesque villages, you climb out again, this time by car, crossing the Kunzum La to Manali.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival Delhi

After arrival at Delhi International Airport you'll be transferred to a pleasant guesthouse in a quiet neighbourhood of Gurgaon (not far from the airport).

Day 02: Delhi – Shimla by Shatabdi Express train

After a very early breakfast you'll be transferred to the Railway Station for boarding the train for Chandigarh (departure 7:40 AM). Arrival at Kalka Railway station is at 11.45 AM. From Kalka you can board the so-called Toy Train to Shimla. This narrow-gauge train ride is deservedly popular ride as it climbs the foothills of the Himalayas in an endless row of loops and switchbacks, offering magnificent views on a clear day. After reaching Shimla RWS you'll be transferred to your hotel.

Day 03: Shimla – Local sightseeing.

Shimla (2205 mts) once was the summer capital of the British rulers. It offers, the mall (bustling bazar), Jakhu Hill, with Hanuman Temple, old historical buildings, a golf course at Naldehra. Apples of Kotgarh, in Shimla district are world famous, so they say in Shimla.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 04: Shimla – Kaffnu drive (231km) 8-9 hrs.

Leaving the crowd we drive into the dense forest of Cider. Slowly the landscape changes and temperature gets warmer as we descend to the base of the Satluj Valley. On the way, one can see the huge apple orchards on the adjoining hills of Kotgarh; the whole area has a massive income out of the apple and its population is one of the richest in Himachal. We drive along the Sutlej River via many small towns, such as Nirth, which has an ancient temple dedicated to the Sun God and another town of Dutt Nagar is known for its archaeological importance. The biggest town of the Journey is Rampur, once the capital of the princely state of Bushehar. Presently, Rampur is one of the biggest commercial town of Himachal Pradesh. Located on the left bank of River Satluj, the town was once a major center on the old trade routes to Kinnaur, Tibet, Ladakh and China. Even today the tradition is as vibrant as ever. The International Lavi Fair is held in November and Fag Mela in March every year.

Sarahan is another charming place, situated near the historical Bhima Kali Temple, known for its wooden architecture. This temple is believed to be 1500 years old. One can enjoy the view of the Shrikhand range of mountains in the background.

From Wangtu we take a link road taking us to Kaffnu, the starting point of the trek. Overnight at camp.

Day 05: Kaffnu – Mulling (3,350 Mts) (5 hrs)

There will be many villagers around while our staff organises the luggage and packs the horses or donkeys, as this trek is not very well known. We pass the reservoir lake and head up a small track along the Bhaba River. Slowly the trail climbs through the beautiful mixed cedar forests. On the way we pass old wooden houses in the middle of the forest and we get introduced to an amazing variety of Himalayan



Flora. Slowly the valley opens into a beautiful meadow located at the bank of River Bhaba, carpeted with an amazing variety of alpine flowers amidst prime cedar trees. Overnight at camp.

Day 06: Mulling – Base of the Bhaba Pass (4000 mts.) (6Hrs.)

We start on a flat meadow, with alpine flowers all around. The trail narrows as we reach the junction of two streams, with rare Himalayan Blue Poppy flowering amidst the rocks. Climbing up through open pasture grounds we reach Kara Sheep Farm. The vast grass pastures attracts the shepherds from Kinnaur, who bring their flocks of sheep and goats here during the spring (July – September). From Kara we veer north into a glacial valley with alpine flowers and waterfalls on the adjoining hills. Today we camp at the foot of the Pass.

Day 07: Base of the Bhaba Pass – Phaldar (4000 Mts.)

Climbing steeply, the going is rugged for most the day, there is no defined trail. We'll be walking over moraine, scree, boulders and a push through the snowfields to the top. The views from the top of the pass show a great contrast to both sides. Towards Spiti, the mountains are barren and chocolate and maroon coloured, to the Kinnaur side it is all green. Few passes on earth show such a marked difference in vegetation towards different sides as the Bhaba Pass (4800 m).

We descend through the moraine till we get to the valley bottom. The valley here expands to all sides with amazingly coloured mountains surrounding it on all sides. Camp at Phaldar, a grazing ground for the shepards of Kinnaur.



Day 08: Phaldar – Mud Pharka (3,700 Mts.) trek (4 hrs)

Today's trek is all the way through the Pin Valley. We might initially encounter some Shepard's from Kinnaur. After hours of walking through a colourful, barren landscape, suddenly catch the sight of a green patch right in the front. Coming closer, we discover houses above the greens. Set in the completely barren surroundings the Village of Mud is like an

oasis in the desert. After fixing the tent, we can take some time to explore the Village of Mud. The village also houses a monastery. People of this valley in Spiti practice the tantric sect of Buddhism, founded by the great Master Padmasambhava of the Nyigmapa sect.

Day 09: Mud to Pin valley visit Kungri gompa; drive to Tabo by jeep (3 hrs)

Transport will be waiting at Mud. We leave the valley over an unpaved road. On the way we visit the famous Nyigmapa Monastery of Kungari. Another two and a half hours of drive would get us to the famous thousand years old Monastery of Tabo.

Tabo Monastery (3050 ms) is the seat of Buddhist learning, the Gompa is regarded as next in significance only to the Tholing Gompa in Tibet. It was established about 1000 years ago and was a part of the Western Tibet School, which originally designed different Mandalas in the form of the statues hanging on the walls of the monasteries. Now Tabo is the only living monastery outside Tibet that depicts similar Mandalas on the walls of the Dukhang. Overnight at Tabo homestay.



Day 10: Tabo–Shego via Dhankar, Lhalung

We explore more of the wide, open Spiti Valley. Landscape and culture really make you feel that Tibet is close, if not around the corner. On the way we make a side trip to Kye Monastery, perched on a rock high above the valley. Overnight at camp.

Day 11: Drive Shego – Manali over Kunzum Pass (4,551 mts) – 210 km (7-8 hrs)

Today we leave the Spiti Valley for Manali. We cross the Himalayan Range at the 4500 m high Kunzum Pass. We descending through a valley surrounded by huge glaciers. After reaching the Manali - Leh road at we climb up again to the Pass, which give access to the densely forested Kullu Valley. Overnight at hotel in Manali.

Day 12: Manali–Full day sightseeing

Manali is a busy tourist town with lots of nice little restaurants and a lively bazaar. We spend part of the day visiting the hamlet of Naggar, the Hadimba Temple, Old Manali and the village of Vashisht. Overnight at hotel.



Day 13: Manali – Chandigarh drive (9-10 hrs); train to Delhi

Drop-off at Chandigarh RWS to board the evening train (Shatabdi Express) to Delhi, reaching Delhi around 10:00 PM.

Tour Price

For 2 & 3 people INR XXX per person

For 3 & 4 people INR XXX per person

For 5 & 6 people INR XXX per person

Price Includes:

- One overnight at Gurgaon/Delhi guesthouse.
- Transfers from Indira Gandhi Int. Airport to Gurgaon guesthouse (day1); from Gurgaon guesthouse to RW Station (day2); from RWS to International Airport (day13).
- Transportation by train from Delhi to Chandigarh and back by Shatabdi Express (2nd tier sleeper), without guide.
- Guide services from Chandigarh (day 2) to Chandigarh (day15)
- Transportation by Toyota Qualis or Chevrolet Tavera. Pick-up and drop-off at Chandigarh Railway Station and drive to Shimla, Kaffnu drop. Again pick up from Mud and drive to Tabo, Shego and Manali, Chandigarh drop at Railway station as per the itinerary.
- Hotel accommodation at Shimla CP basis (breakfast and dinner) for two nights, and Manali CP basis (breakfast and dinner) for two nights.
- Insurance of the trekking staff, accommodation in two-person tents (high altitude alpine tents of good quality), heavy foam pad mattresses, breakfast/tea, all meals, services of experienced guide and cook, assistants, all camping equipment, utensils and crockery, kitchen cum dining tent, toilet tent, horses or donkeys for luggage transport. Good quality high altitude sleeping bags available for hire.
- All monastery fees and all camping charges.

Price excludes: tips, laundry, alcohol, insurance and any other expenses of personal nature.