



Spiti Snow Drive

FAQ



Q1. Why should I be part of the Spiti Snow Drive (SSD)?

There is so much you can see, experience, and learn while being part of our SSD. From driving across high passes and treacherous Himalayan roads in winters and experiencing snowflakes fall on your face. Seeing the entire Spiti valley covered in a white blanket of snow and tracking the grey ghost of the Himalayas (snow leopard), this expedition has so much to offer. Not to mention, religion, rich local culture, food and top-notch hospitality that teaches you powerful life lessons and makes you humble for life.

Q2. Is it a good idea to travel to Spiti in winters?

It's absolutely a good idea if you are part of the group. However, travelling solo to such high altitudes is not at all recommended. This is an extreme adventure and one needs to be prepared for any kind of situation like sleeping in the car, carrying your own ration, etc.

Q3. Are roads to Spiti open in winters?

Yes, however, you may see roads blocked by snow at places while snow driving to Spiti. Our skilled team ensures smooth movement (with a tinge of adventure) of the convoy. There may be avalanches during the expedition, as a result we might have to change the itinerary or stay at completely isolated places.

Q4. What is the minimum temperature Spiti sees in winter?

The minimum temperature in Spiti can drop as low as -30°C, usually at night or during the day at high mountain passes such as Kunzum Pass, which is part of the itinerary. This is the reason we advise all our guests to carefully tick the items of the checklist that we share with you post your booking confirmation.

Q5. Are usual homestays/hotels open in Spiti in winters?

Not really, but we have made special arrangements/tie-ups for our entire convoy well in advance so that we can offer the best hospitality and services even in extreme weather conditions.

Q6. What is AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness)?

AMS is the result of sudden exposure to reduced air pressure and lower oxygen level at high altitude. General symptoms are headache, fatigue, nausea, and loss of appetite, sleeplessness, heavy breathing. Descending down and inhaling oxygen can cure it faster.

Q7. Is there some trekking involved in this?

There is no trekking involved, as all the places we have chosen are reachable by 4X4 vehicles

Q8. I have a medical history related to breathing, blood pressure or anything significant. Can I travel at such heights and low temperatures?

It purely depends on the acuteness of the problem. There have been instances where guests having problems such as blood pressure and asthma have travelled with us and were absolutely fine. However, as mentioned this is purely depend on case to case basis. Thus we advise you to consult your doctor for the same.

Q9. How is network connectivity in Spiti? Which mobile network carrier works best in the valley?

Only BSNL and JIO networks work in Spiti valley. We advise you to go with Jio connection as the internet speed of Jio is relatively better, that what we feel. However, you can choose depending upon your comfort with the service provider.

Q10. What is the level of fitness expected from the participant. Should I start doing exercises to prevent high altitude sickness?

High Altitude Sickness generally happens if you are involved in physical activity at high altitude. Being in vehicle usually does not lead to this sickness. However, staying fit and in shape is of no harm 😊!

Q11. What about the medical facility and doctor while on the expedition?

We carry a basic first Aid kit and Oxygen Cylinder with us and we are aware about the Doctors around all the places. However, there is no dedicated doctor that travels with the group.

Q12. What kind of clothing is needed for the sub-zero temperatures of Spiti Valley?

To manage cold layering of clothes is of significance. While in Spiti Valley 4 -5 layers is advisable depending upon your capability to manage cold. However, we feel 4-5 layers are more than enough. Thermals are a Must and Wind Proof Jackets are of Great Help. Rest you can refer to our Checklist

Q13. What support or backup do you have if my vehicle gets stuck or broken down?

We know the Mechanics around the terrain and can get help from them, We can also do basic Towing for a few Kms, In case of Major damage we can get the Recovery Van anywhere in Himalayas

Q14. What to expect when driving on National Highway 5 and Spiti National Highway 505?

National Highway in that region are not as wide as what we usually see in plain terrain. However, they are wide enough for two vehicles to cross comfortably. Most of the roads there are maintained by BRO thus quality is good. However, at various areas roads are being constructed.

Q15. How to prepare for the SSD?

There is no preparation required. Most of the preparation is done by us as far as elements related to drive are concerned. You need to be ready with right mental attitude and enthusiasm.

Q16. What skills are needed to drive on the snowy roads?

You need to have basic knowledge of engaging 4x4 in your car. Other than that we do daily briefings before departure, so don't worry our team will guide you at each and every step. In case you feel uncomfortable and insecure, one of our team members can also drive for you till the time you don't feel comfortable.

Q17. What are my chances of spotting a snow leopard during the Winter Spiti Expedition?

Snow leopard is one of the most elusive animals with territory spanning across Tibet and some parts of China. Spotting snow leopard purely depends on your luck. In case you are wanting to come on the drive only for this specific purpose of Spotting Snow Leopard, you may exclusively contact us and we shall put together a custom trip for you.

Q18. What is the group size?

Group size is usually somewhere between 15-25 Pax

Q19. How many guides will there be in a convoy?

Min 1 guide will always be there irrespective of the group size and if group size is relatively bigger then maximum of 3 guides

Q20. Are the Winter Spiti itinerary days fixed? Is there any other route to reach Spiti Valley?

Yes, the dates are fixed as we launch our itineraries a year in advance and people start booking them in advance. However, we also do custom made itineraries with group of 10 pax and upwards.

Q21. Apart from snow leopards, what wildlife can I spot during the drive?

Apart from the Leopard there are Red Fox, Blue Sheep and Himalayan Ibex

Q22. What about accommodations and hygiene during the drive?

Accommodation and hygiene at any of the places will not be compromised and that is something that we pay special attention to. Places may not be luxurious (Taj/JW Marriott) but they shall adhere to hygiene and comfort standards of all our guests. If you are still curious we would advise you to read our tripadvisor reviews which shall give you a fair idea of what's on offer.

Q23. I am the only girl in the group, is it safe?

Absolutely, just that being a single girl you may want to opt for single room and may not want to share with fellow single girl traveller. If that's the case then we will have to charge extra for accommodation on single sharing basis