



Roof of India

Itinerary

DAY 1 : ARRIVE AT MANALI

Arrive at Manali by late afternoon and check into a luxurious resort/hotel. In the evening, the convoy meets for the first ice-breaking session over a barbeque and sumptuous dinner.

DAY 2 : – MANALI TO JISPA

This is the day when we leave the green valleys and enter the Trans Himalayas. After breakfast, we will have a detailed briefing with a round of introduction. Then we start towards the famous Atal Tunnel from where we enter the Lahaul Valley at Sissu. We then cross through beautiful landscapes to reach Tandi which is known for the confluence of rivers Chandra and Bhaga which join at Tandi to form the mighty Chenab. From there we reach Keylong and then Jispa. Jispa is a small settlement on Manali-Leh highway known for its natural beauty. We check in to a premium hotel/resort with a bonfire and barbeque where we dance to the local Himachali tunes.

DAY 3 : JISPA TO PADUM VIA SHINKULA

This day is going to be one of the most adventurous days of the trip. After breakfast, we leave on Manali-Leh highway and from Darcha we take a diversion to Shinkula and then Zaskar Valley. The road is freshly tarred until a few kms short of Shinkula. The last few kms get challenging. Finally, we reach Shinkula which is a high mountain pass situated at ~5091mts which can be called the highest mountain pass of Himachal which opened. As we descend the pass, we drive on the treacherous roads with caution. We may have to cross a couple of River/Water crossings. We also get to witness the beautiful Gonbo Rongjon peak and cross through the villages of Zaskar to reach Padum. Night stay at Hotel/Homestay at Padum

DAY 4: PADUM LOCAL

Exploring Treasures of Zaskar valley

After a long journey on the previous day, we made a relaxed start after our breakfast, where we set out to explore the beauty of Zaskar around Padum. We may choose to visit places like Karsha monastery, Stongdey Monastery, Zangla Fort, the primitive villages of Zaskar Valley. Finally, we end the day at the same hotel/homestay at Padum.

DAY 5 : PADUM TO LEH VIA LINDHED, SIRSILA & SINGELA

As it is a long journey, we start the day early for another adventurous day. We take the same route towards Zangla which is freshly built. Post that, we get on off-road trails towards Lingshed. Post-Zangla on the route towards Lingshed, it is majorly offroading with the river flowing by your side. From Lingshed, we start the climb towards Singela pass. This route ahead will take you through small settlements of Fotoksar, after which we climb another mighty pass Sirsila. Finally we hit tarred roads at Wanla and then head towards Leh through Khaltse. We may take a small diversion towards Lamayuru if the time permits. Finally we check into a luxury resort in Leh and end the day with a comfortable bonfire, barbeque, and dinner.

DAY 6 : LEH AROUND

As the previous day was challenging, we took it easy on this day. We may explore places like Namgyal Tsemo Monastery, Shanti Stupa, Leh Palace, Thiksey Monastery, and Rancho (3 Idiots) School. We may also visit Sham valley.

We may spend the latter half of the day in the Leh market where they can enjoy the café culture.

After completing the day, we head back to our resort in Leh.

DAY 7 : LEH TO NUBRA VIA KHARDUNGLA

After an early breakfast, we start our travel towards the Khardungla pass which is situated at ~ 5359 mts/18390 feet is the Khardungla Pass, which also happens to be the highest point of our trip. After halting for a while on Khardungla we entered Nubra Valley.

We explore Diskit village, the headquarter village of Nubra Valley. And the Gompa on the hilltop there. Then we head to Hunder to enjoy a walk or a 2 hour Camel Safari from Hunder.

Or if time permits, we may do a drive towards Turtuk which is a border village that was recaptured by the Indian Army in 197. This village is inhabited by Balti Muslims. Night stay at a luxury resort at Hunder where we enjoy bonfire and barbeque.

DAY 8 : NUBRA VALLEY

A clutch of beautiful hideaways and warmth and generosity of the people of Nubra valley makes it a place where spending at least two days become a necessity. This will be our second day in Nubra valley, and we'll be visiting the hideaways of Nubra valley like:

Maitreya Buddha, Diskit: 32 feet high statute of future Buddha.

Overlooking the Shyok river, it is located about 115 km north of Leh city.

Along with the Maitreya Buddha Statue, we'll visit Diskit Monastery — the largest and the oldest monastery.

Turtuk village: the second last village on India-Pakistan border. Located about 92 kms north-west of Diskit, this village is hailed as the second northernmost village (after Thang) of India.

DAY 9 : PANGONG TSO

After having our breakfast, we leave for Tsomoriri via Chushul village and Merak village. This is a beautiful drive alongside beautiful Pangong lake. Then we reach Chushul and then cross through Tsaga-La (Pass) and Loma and further towards Maha Bridge and finally reach Tsomoriri. This lake is perched at an altitude of ~4,522 m (14,836 ft) and is the largest of the high altitude lakes entirely within India. After spending some time on the shore, we retire to our campsie at Korzok.

DAY 10 : HANLE

Hanle village is located about 260 kilometres south-east of Leh and a little over 310 kilometres – via Tsaga-La and Rezang-La War Memorial – from Pangong Lake. This found a place in travel itineraries of astrophotographers and space-enthusiasts since Indian Institute of Astrophysics opened astro observatory here in 2001. Hanle is also a part of 1073 square kilometres area designated as “India’s first Dark Sky Reserve”.

In Hanle, we’ll be visiting 17th century built Hanle monastery. After the monastery visit, we drive to Photi-La – 5524 meters high pass offering panoramic views of the valley.

DAY 11 : LEH

On Day 11, we’ll be returning to Leh city. En route, we’ll pay a visit to fabled Buddhist monasteries like Hemis, Shey, Thiksey and Stakna.

DAY 12 : MANALI

We set off early today for the most challenging drive of the trip. On a previous trip on this route, we sighted three Tibetan wolves running alongside us for over a kilometer. We might have rare sightings this time as well if we are lucky.

We can view some of the longest glaciers today as we drive over the mountain passes — Kunzum and Rohtang. We will stop and have lunch at a very famous Dhaba situated in the middle of nowhere that serves the best noodles and rice you have ever tasted. Watch out for the chilly winds and the harsh sun. We have a stunning drive as we cross Rohtang Tunnel into the alpine region of the Kullu Valley.

Today we check in into a premium hotel for an overnight halt. Tonight, we all put our feet up, have an elaborate dinner, a few drinks and discuss our favorite moments from the Roof Of India trip.

DAY 13 : DEPARTURE

The next morning, we pack our bags to return to our homes, taking with us all the beautiful memories...