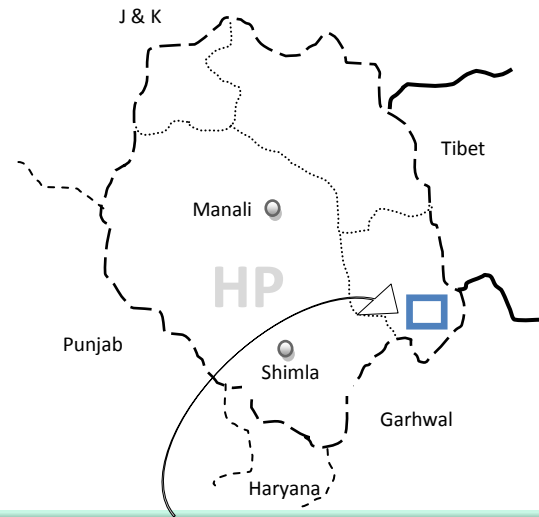


KINNAUR- MYTHOLOGY REVISITED

What is it? A group holiday to the verdant Sangla valley. 8th-15th May 10

Tucked away in the Eastern most Himachal Pradesh, bordering Garhwal and Tibet, lies Kinnaur. A land steeped in mythology. The land chosen by Pandavas to spend the last year of their 'Agyat waas', so remote and so far away it was and is. The land where Hinduism and Buddhism meet in a wonderful cultural and architectural fusion. Criss-crossed by 3 ranges of the mighty Himalaya: Srikhand Mahadev, the Kinner Kailash and the greater Himalayan range, through which flows the bravest of all Himalayan rivers- the Satluj, as it literally cuts its way through these ranges, Kinnaur is bestowed with all that is beautiful in the Himalaya. And the crowning glory of this land is the Sangla valley. This is where we head.



Sangla Valley

The Sangla river (also known as Baspa) is the biggest tributary of Satluj and flows through Kinnaur carving the Sangla valley. Often described as the most beautiful valley in the entire Himalaya, with its verdant green pastures carpeted by wild flowers, the crystal clear waters of Sangla river and the snow covered sentinel peaks of the Himalaya. We stay in a delightful camp amidst the valley and experience all it has to offer.



Chitkul

The last village in Sangla valley, just before the border of Tibet. At a height of ~3500M, Chitkul feels like the last place on Earth. The rugged greater Himalayan range lies just ahead and beyond that, Tibet. We take a short walk to the last ITBP (Indo-Tibetan border police) post in Nagasthi and say hi to the Jawans guarding our high borders, and maybe share a cup of chai with them.



Kalpa

The old capital of Kinnaur is situated on the slope of a mountain and directly faces the Kinner Kailash range. We will stay in a guesthouse (made in traditional wooden style) where Lord Dalhousie drew the blue print of Indian Railways. The peaks are only 11km as the crow flies and you feel you can almost touch them. So close infact, that you have to wear sunglasses while sitting in the café to protect your eyes from the glare from the snows. One of the most remarkable locations in the Indian Himalaya.



Itinerary

Date	Activity	Remarks	You have to...
Sat, 8th May 2010	Reach Chandigarh early in the day. Drive to Fagu. (~ 5 hours)	The journey from Chandigarh to Kinnaur is a long one and the best way is to break it in two days. Fagu is a stunning location just beyond Simla.	Book your air/train tickets to Chandigarh.
9th May	Drive from Fagu to Sangla. (~6 hours)	We are well and truly in the Himalaya now and the scenery bears testament to that. We drive by the mighty Satluj river as it cuts across the Himalayan range. We then enter Kinnaur and move along the Sangla river to our destination.	
10th May	We spend the day exploring the Sangla valley.	A 2-hour walk amongst the mighty Himalayan peaks through Batseri village takes us right up to the snout of a glacier. Can also do rappelling and rock climbing today.	
11th May	Chill out in the morning and later go to the last village before Tibet border- Chitkul. Stay overnite.	Free time in the morning as we will start after lunch. Can visit the unique nearby fort at Kamru. We will stay in a family run guesthouse in Chitkul (~3500M).	
12th May	Walk upto Nagasthi- the last outpost of ITBP. Later drive to the old capital of Kinnaur- Kalpa. (~3 hours).	The walk to Nagasthi is another must do. The HPTDC villa at Kalpa overlooks the Kinner Kailash range and is one of the most remarkable places.	
13th May	A day at Kalpa.	Walk/ drive to Roghi village on the Old Hindustan Tibet road for some unique temple and house architecture. Visit the Monastery in Kalpa and the girls orphanage.	
14th May	The return journey starts. Drive to Narkanda via the ancient temple at Sarahan. (~6 hours)	The Bhimkali temple at Sarahan is an amalgamation of Hindu and Buddhist style of architecture and marks the boundary between two religions.	
Sat, 15th May	Drive back to Chandigarh. (~5 hours)	An early start will get us to Chandigarh in a very good time to catch our flight/ train.	Book your air/ train tickets out of Chd.



Cost for the trip:

The cost of the trip = **Rs 27000/-** per person

Cost includes: Stay and food (except when in transit), transportation and all adventure activities.

Does not include travel to and back from Chandigarh.

Note: The group size for this trip will not exceed 14 and will be on first come first serve basis. Get on the advance list by making a payment of Rs 2500 before 5th March. Confirm your place by making the full payment before 1st April, 2010. Please check the cancellation policy on our website.

Payment options:

1. Cheque/ DD:

For 'Connect with Himalaya'.
403, Ram Krishna chambers
Linking Road, Khar west
Above Reebok showroom
Mumbai -400052

2. Online transfer/ Deposit to:

Account name: Connect with Himalaya
Bank: Axis bank
Branch: Springfield- Lokhandwala, Mumbai
Current A/C #: 415010200003681
IFSC: UTIB0000415, SWIFT: AXISINBB002

What to get along?

The Himalayan Summer is a delightful season with long warm days and cool nights. Temp ranges from 10 to 25 degrees. A warm sweater, light jacket, woolen cap and socks will do. Get a pair of comfortable walking shoes along too. Just note that once we are in Kinnaur there will be no 'will buy there' option for all essentials. You can get warm clothes, etc from the local handicraft shops though. Will provide a detailed list on signing up.

Making a contribution:

There is always a way of giving back to the place and people where we go for our holidays. The biggest way we can make a contribution in this trip is by making an effort to understand and respect the unique local culture, the local deities still have the final word in any village dispute, and by supporting local co-operative initiatives for alternate source of income by buying various handicrafts. (There are hardly any NGO's in Kinnaur). We have of course planned this trip involving the locals at Sarahan, Sangla, Chitkul and Kalpa.

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Last years pictures are [here](#)

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