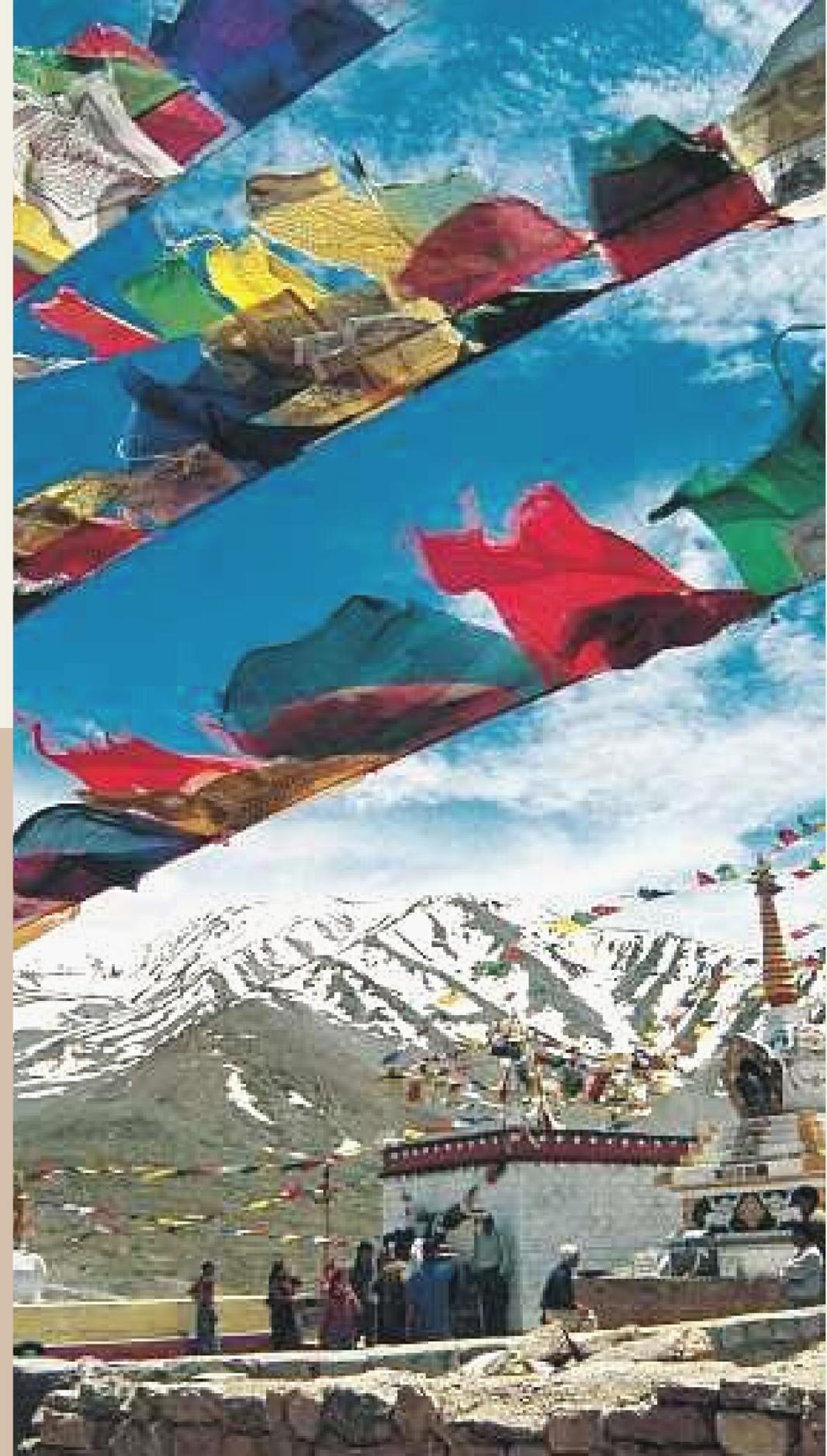


A traveller's guide



Spiti - Boutique tour

Created for those seeking something special. At Deyzor we believe it is often the people you meet during your travels that make it memorable. During this tour you will stay with passionate hosts in charming accommodation that is sure to make this a journey to remember.



This high altitude, arid valley is a land of extremes. Prayer flags frantically flutter in the bustling winds, awaiting their turn to be answered. Break free from the chains of time and find liberation amidst the sapphire blue lakes and jade green meadows.





Day 1- Chandigarh - Shimla

Driving time -3hrs

Distance -105kms

Himachal's capital and one of India's most popular hill stations, Shimla has a few secrets beyond the dwindling relics of its previous incarnation as the summer capital of British India. With plenty of forest walks to choose from or a pleasant stroll on the Mall road. With its relaxed atmosphere, green river valleys and vistas over distant mountain ranges, Shimla is the ideal place to ready yourself for the adventure that lies ahead

Madhavi is your host at the quaint Sunnymead heritage cottage for the first night. Situated on the edge of an Oak and Rhododendron Forest, the estate is surrounded by floral gardens, with stunning mountain views.



Day 2- Shimla - Sangla

Driving time -7hrs

Distance -225kms

Your journey continues along the stunning Indo-Tibetian highway, driving through the Shimla hills dotted with Pine and Deodhar trees. Passing Narkanda and Rampur you make your way to Kinnaur which like Spiti remained closed to the outside world till 1989. With jaw dropping mountain and valley scenery, a distinctive cultural mix that changes from Hindu to Tibetan Buddhist, this is a land of ridge-villages, slate-roofed temples and apple orchards. Proud and friendly people, Kinnauris can be recognized by their short colourful cylindrical cap.

Spend the evening visiting the Kamru fort, known for its tower-like wooden structure. According to local folklore there are 33 crore gods and goddess residing in the fort.

Tonight you will enjoy the hospitality of Captain Sood, owner of Banjara camps, by the banks of the Baspa river.

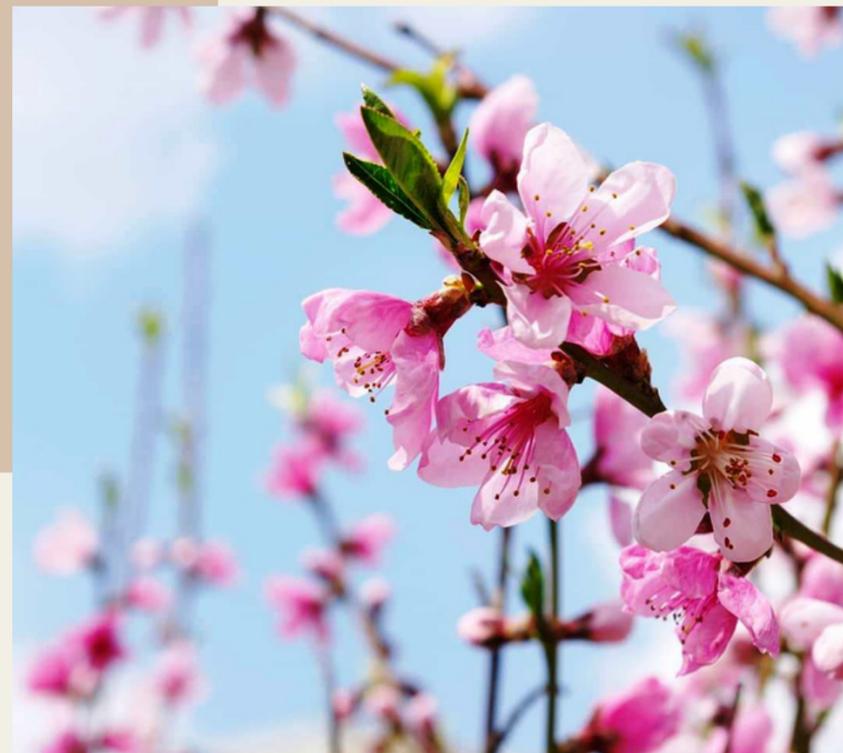




Day 3 - Sangla - Chitkul- Sangla
Driving time -2hrs
Distance -50kms

The most scenic settlement along the Sangla Valley, Chitkul is 1hr away. Passing through villages enroute you can admire the slate roofs and stone houses that lend Kinnaur its distinct character. Among its scenic setting lie sprinkled habitations who according to old Hindu beliefs, worship the peaks around.

Once on a trade route to Tibet, Chitkul lies at the junction of several trekking routes. Despite the recent influx of tourism, villagers maintain a relatively traditional lifestyle. If travelling during August or later you will also see the pink Olga blossoms in full bloom. With its idyllic landscape and green meadows, you could easily spend a few hours just admiring the village and its surroundings.





Day 4- Sangla - Nako - Gyu - Tabo

Driving time -7hrs

Distance -200kms

The change in landscape, architecture, clothes and religion is hard to miss as coniferous forests give way to desolate mountains. While the Kinnauri hat remains, you'll see women wearing turquoise jewelry. Slate roofs give way to flat Tibetan roofs and Dhabas begin selling momos.

Once a part of western Tibet or the Guge Empire, Nako means 'the place from where one begins a pilgrimage'. Lunch will be arranged in the village overlooking the Nako lake and you'll have time to visit the 11th century, Nako monastery. From Nako you head to Gyu to see the mummy of a 15th-century Buddhist monk. Recent research suggests that the monk underwent self-mummification. A ritual undertaken by highly devoted and able spiritual masters would starve themselves to death very slowly in order to reach the highest form of enlightenment. For the night you'll be staying at Tabo which has a few secrets in store.



Day 5 - Tabo - Dhankar - Lalung - Mane
Driving time - 2hrs30min
Distance -55kms

Built in 996AD, Tabo is regarded as the oldest continuously operating Buddhist enclave in the Himalayas. Built on a pre existing Bon temple, the monastery is one of the highlights of Spiti with a plethora of wall paintings and mud statues. You can visit caves which have been used as assembly halls for monks and also as dwellings for meditation during the winters.

On your way to Dhankar (meaning fort on a cliff) you'll pass scattered villages in this serrated moonscape as you drive along next to the turquoise-grey ribbon of the Spiti river. The old temple at Dhankar is over 1200 years old. Lalung monastery which like Tabo and Nako was built during the second propagation of Buddhism in Tibet is another 45min drive from here.

For the night you will be hosted by Jeet at his homestay in Mane.



Day 6 - Mane - Mane lake - Kaza

Driving time - 1hr 15min

Distance - 30kms

A three hour trek takes you to Mane lake situated at the base of the Manerang glacier. If you're lucky you may come across the Bharal (Blue sheep) which is a mix between a goat and a sheep, the Tibetan fox and also the Stone Martyn. This area is full of Snowcocks, Vultures and Eagles. You will also notice a change in



the flora as you trek up to 4100mts .Picnic lunch will be organized by the lake. Enroute to Kaza you'll make a short stop to explore 1500yr old rock carvings (petroglyphs). From there you will head to Hotel Deyzor, where you'll be taken care of by Karan and his team.

Day 7 - Kaza - Hikkim - Komic Langza/Kaza

Driving time - 3hrs

Distance - 50kms



A relatively short day starts with a visit to Komic via Hikkim. Fancy sending your loved ones a postcard from the world's highest post office? If not your thing? Then head straight to one of the highest inhabited villages in the world at 4600mts. The views are breathtaking and Komic is also home to a monastery from the 13th century.

After Komic you will have lunch at a homestay in Langza, where you can try your hand at digging for marine fossils. Some of which are over 100million years old.

You can either head back to Kaza for the night or enjoy village life with a homestay in Langza



Day 8 - Langza/Kaza - Ki - Kumzum
pass Losar/Chandertal lake

Driving time - 6hrs

Distance - 100kms

A fitting place to end your trip, the Chandertal lake presents mirror-perfect reflections of the surrounding white-top peaks. You'd be lucky to see one, but this is Snow Leopard territory. The lake is a nesting sight for migratory birds and you may even sight the Snowcock, Kestrel, Golden Eagle, Marmots or a Red Fox. You can choose either to camp at 4270mts for the night or head lower to Losar.

The day however starts with a visit to

Ki monastery. Covering a conical hillock with whitewashed monastic buildings, Ki houses nearly 300 monks, making it the largest in the area. There is a daily puja every morning. After Ki you will head to Chandertal lake via Kibber and Chichir. Before reaching the lake you will drive past the soaring 4551mts Kunzum Pass with the Spiti River as your near constant companion, although sometimes way below in precipitous gorges.



Day 9 - Chandertal lake - Rhotang pass - Manali

Driving time - 7hrs

Distance - 140kms

Last day of the trip and you can reflect on everything you saw and experienced while travelling.

As you exit this spectacular landscape with jagged peaks, arid mountains, fluttering prayer flags and whitewashed stupas, you can excuse yourself for feeling overwhelmed.

In Spiti you'll learn that there is an alternative path into the future – a path based on the co-evolution between humans and mother earth. At first the outsider will see the hard life, but give yourself time and you'll see the rare kind of purity the people live by.

Day 1- Chandigarh - Shimla

Driving time -3hrs, Distance -105kms, Accommodation at - Sunnymead homestay

Day 2- Shimla - Sangla

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -220kms, Accommodation at - Banjara campsite

Day 3- Sangla -Chitkul - Sangla

Driving time -2hrs, Distance -50kms, Accommodation at - Banjara campsite

Day 4 Sangla - Nako - Gyu - Tabo

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -200kms, Accommodation at - Maitreya Regency

Day 5- Tabo - Dhankar - Lalung - Mane

Driving time -2hrs 30min, Distance -55kms, Accommodation at - Jeet homestay

Day 6 - Mane - Kaza

Driving time -1hr 15min, Distance -30kms, Accommodation at - Hotel Deyzor

Day 7- Kaza - Hikkim - Komic - Langza/Kaza

Driving time -3hrs, Distance -50kms, Accommodation at - Lara homestay/Hotel Deyzor

Day 8- Kaza/Langza - Ki - Kunzum Pass - Chandertal lake

Driving time -6hrs, Distance -100kms, Accommodation at - Parasol campsite

Day 9- Chandertal lake - Manali

Driving time -7hrs, Distance -140kms, Accommodation at - Urvashi's retreat

Day 10 - Manali - Chandigarh

Driving time - 8/9hrs