

SPITI SNOW DRIVE EXPEDITION



CROSSOVER
expeditions
AD-VENTURE TO LIFE!

OVERVIEW – WINTER SPITI DRIVE

Weather – Extreme Winters

Hidden in the Trans Himalayan range between Tibet and Ladakh, Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh, attracts the peace-loving and the adventurous from around the globe.

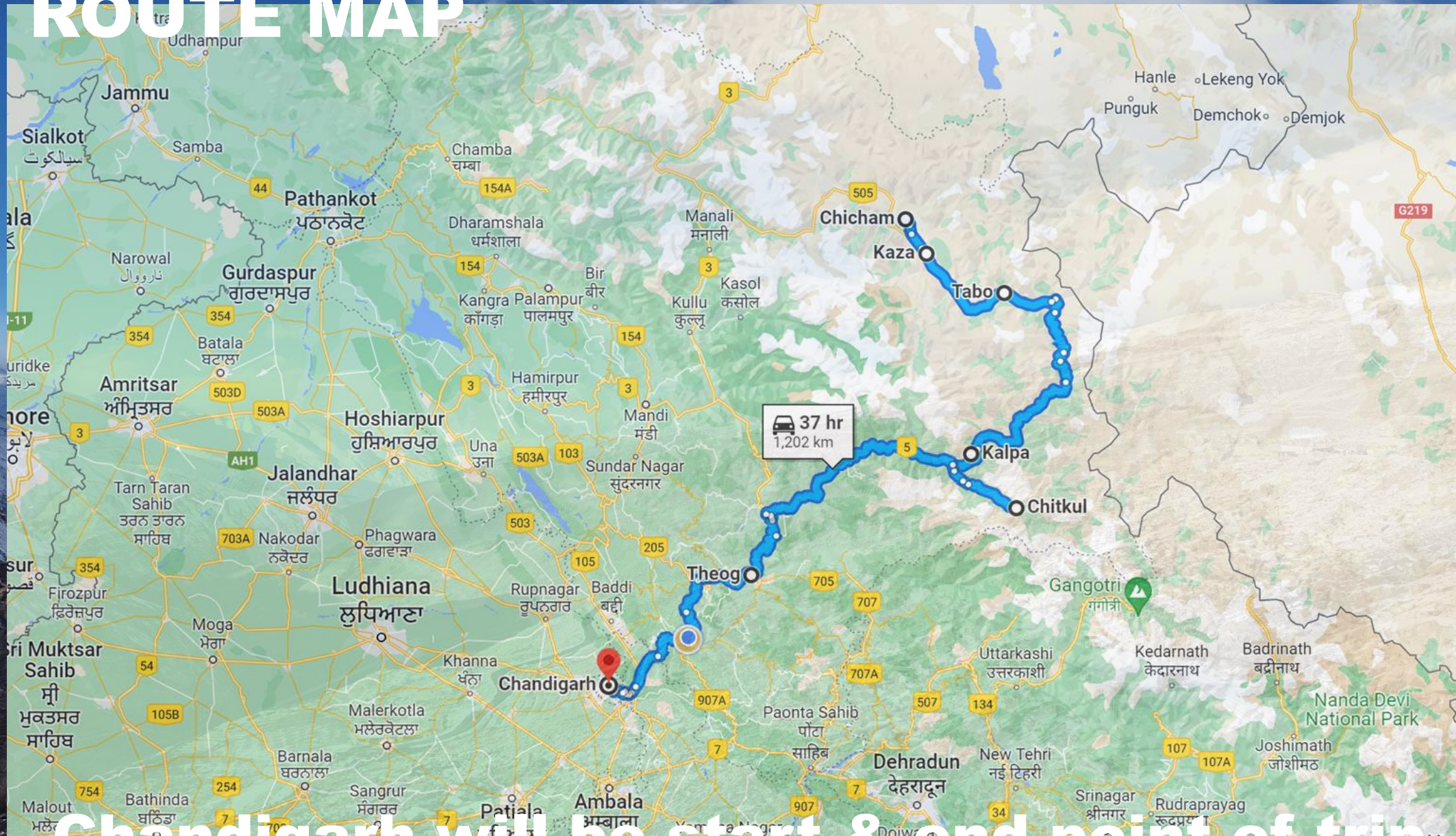
In early November, when the temperature dips down to -10°C, the hotels are closed for the tourists and the first spell of snowfall stops the government bus service from Kinnaur, leaving the people of Spiti to face the harsh winters head.

After few more spells of snowfall and another drop of 10°C in temperature, the road becomes extremely slippery and the only vehicles visible on these roads are private cars of Spiti people, local taxis, government jeeps, fuel trucks and ambulances. It is at this time that some adventurous people head out to explore the raw beauty of Spiti in winters and see places covered in Snow with drastically transformed landscapes in white.

This is what you should expect when you driving to Spiti in winters.



ROUTE MAP



Chandigarh will be start & end point of trip

Altitude of Places of Stay

- Theog – 2310 Meters
- Kalpa – 2950 Meters
- Tabo – 3280 Meters
- Kaza – 3800 meters
- Sangla – 2696 meters
- Theog – 2310 meters



Participating vehicles – 4x4 SUV Only
Weather – Winters Extreme
Minimum Temperature can go down to -30 or below



What challenges Can we face in this tour

- 1) Question in mind whether the road will be open or we have to find other way out.
- 2) We have to carry our own food and cook ourselves using stoves and burner, water we have to use from snow.

Don't worry we will take care of that.

There are lots of variables when you are planning such a trip and most major one is the itinerary. Your itinerary must be flexible and hence, you should know about places where to stop overnight in case of any changes from original plan. You must also know which places you should avoid staying overnight due to vulnerabilities such as freezing cold, acute mountain sickness or being stuck from both sides of road blocks.

Considering above points in mind we will go with common itinerary for a trip to Spiti during winters.



Day 1 | Chandigarh – Theog (141 km)

We will get together at the pre-decided place in Chandigarh and start the drive towards Theog. The route takes off the Highway and into the rural mountains roads corsing some beautiful places on our way to Theog. Overnight at Cottages.



Day 2 | Theog – Kalpa (191 Kms / 6 Hrs)

After Breakfast drive to Kalap village in Kinnoor district of Himachal, the route takes us through Narkanda / Kingal / Rampur / Zuri / Babha Nagar / Wangtoo / Rekong Peo to reach Kalpa at an altitude of 2900 meters. Kalpa is a beautiful village surrounded by apple orchards and with views overlooking the Kinner Kailash peak. Overnight at Hotel.



Day 3 | Kalpa to Tabo (170 Kms)

After Breakfast checkout from our hotel after breakfast and drive to Tabo in Spiti. The road takes us through Spello – Pooh – Khab – Nako – Sumdo. The temperature keeps decreasing as we drive towards Tabo and we may get our first patch of frozen road after crossing Khab on way to Nako. We will stop at Nako for meals & visit Nako Lake which is frozen during winter months. Reach Tabo after mid day, Tabo is famous for its Thousand year old monastery which is an ordinary mud structure from outside but on the inside it has frescoes which earned Tabo the epithet of “Ajanta of Himalayas”.

Overnight at Tabo.



Day 4 | Tabo– Pin – Kungri – Dankar – Kaza (100km)

After the breakfast drive to Kaza (3450 m), via Pin, Kungri and Dankar monasteries famous for a very old Monastery, where the Dalai Lama had lived in the past. visit every place and enjoy the relaxing drive .

Overnight at Kaza.

Day 5 | Kaza – Ki – Kibber Comic (Highest Village) – Kaza

After breakfast drive to Ki monastery (4116 m) . The monastery with rare paintings and scriptures is the oldest and biggest in Spiti. Go further to Kibber (4140m), one of the highest villages in the world and then to Chicham Bridge and to Chicham if the road permits.

Overlight at Kaza

Day 6 | Kaza to Sangla (236 Kms)

Today we start the day early as we have a long drive to Sangla. Sangla Valley receives heavy snow fall and if the road is closed we may have to change the destination for night stay to Kalap. The journey to Sangla takes us again through Tabo – Sumdo – Nako – Khab and Spillo. The temperature will rise a little compared to Kaza but will still be in minus for now.

Overnight at Sangla.

Day 7 | Sangla – Chitkul – Theog (232 Kms)

In Morning we will try to drive to Chitkul village which is the last village of Sangla Valley if the road permits. Later drive back to Theog via Narkanda.

Overnight at Theog.

Day 8 | Theog to Chandigarh (140 Kms) - End Of Trip

Drive to Chandigarh.





Living in Sub Zero Temperature

Life in winters in Spiti and Kinnaur is tuff, outside temperature are freezing and night time may go down freezing extremes at times. The rooms are kept warm with Bukharis (wood fired fireplace) and water is frozen. You will have keep yourself covered in good quality and layers of woollens to keep your body warm. And when we go outdoors don't forget to wear that extra jacket, cap, good gloves and muffler on.

The minimum temperature in Kaza goes down to -20°C and will further drop as the winter progresses. Higher villages are more colder. So you have to prepare for it. It is colder than your freezer at home. There are only few places in India that gets colder than Spiti, so be prepared with specialist clothes for the winters.

Also, when your skin is wet, it will stick to the metal. **NEVER** pull it with force. It will tear out the skin with it. Always pour hot water on the area and then gently pull it.

How to prepare for it?

Wear layers of clothes to keep yourself warm in the winters, minimize your expectations as this is not going to be a luxury trip but a Spartan Expedition. Always wear a layer of thermal with a layer of fleece and a layer of a down feather jacket with a layer of windproof jacket is more than enough for the winters. A warm cap is a must. Add a pair of gloves and double layer of warm socks with breathable shoes and you will be super comfortable even in this temperature.

Also, keep the heater on a low setting while driving. It will make you drowsy and that's not good when there is snow on the road.

Tip : If your feet gets cold and there is no way you can remove your shoes to warm them, try jumping on the same spot for sometime or even running.

Dry Toilets and how to prepare for it

In winters, when the sewage systems freeze, you have to go eco-friendly (unless you don't excrete in the open and freeze in a squatting position). You will have to use the Dry-Toilets. Its where you poop in a hole on the first floor into a room full of compost. When your waste gets mixed with the compost it will later be converted into organic fertilizer for the fields and then sold to you as overprized organic vegetable in the cities.

Dry toilets do not smell. Also, make sure you flush with a shovel full of compost after you are done. Also, make sure you don't drop any thing in that hole. No one would want to help you get any thing back from there (especially you phone)

WHAT TO EXPECT

FOOD



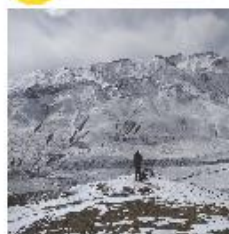
You may not get your kind of food at remote locations and logistics play a big part in this. Getting fresh food hundred's of kms up in the Himalayas is a herculean task and costs a lot, besides cooking at these altitudes mostly above 10000 Feet consumes a lot of fuel which is very precious at such places. Please accept your hosts hospitality and believe us they have gone out of their way to make the best food with their limited resources. Always try local food it is organic and more fresh than organic vegetables that you consume back at home.

VEHICLE BREAK DOWN



Your vehicle can have a break down – a flat tyre or engine troubles can happen to even a new car just out of the show room and such problems are more common in the mountains where the sharp rocks can cut your vehicles tyres or your vehicle may overheat while on a sharp climb up the mountain, your driver will have to stop for some time in such cases. We recommend you make the best use of such time and explore the surroundings you wont get many chances to see such beautiful places.

COLD



It can get cold any time in the mountains, in the higher mountains if you don't like the weather just wait a few hours it may change and it can get freezingly cold even in the peak of summers. So always be ready for cold weather and carry you woollens with you.

STAY



Accommodation in offbeat places is at best basic, neat & clean and hygienic. Do not expect urban luxuries like lifts 24x7 hotel water, central heating / cooling, lavish buffets for Breakfast & Dinner etc. The best hotels are comparable to 3* hotels from cities, but their service levels are not at par. However what these places lack in amenities and services they more than make it up with their authentic local experience, closeness to nature, locally sourced organic food, their sustainable way of work and heart warming hospitality.

DRIVING TIME



Vehicles move at as lower speed in the hills due to narrow zig-zag roads. So always start early if you want to reach your destination on time as it may take you twice the time to cover the same distance in the mountains as compared to the plains. Ans also remember roads in the Mounatins can get blocked due to a small land slide / road widening work so always keep some extra time for such un-expected events.

ALCOHOL DOES NOT HELP



There is a perception that alcohol helps in coping with cold, believe us it does not! Alcohol just lowers you body's ability to feel the cold and not the cold it self which may cause a false sense of felling better and actually cause more harm. remember Alcohol always dehydrates your body!!

HOT WATER



If you want hot water for bath you will have to switch on the geyser and wait for some time (30 to 40 mins) depending on how cold the places is, and don't expect more then one bucket of hot water at a time. After you have used a bucket you will have to wait again for water to heat up. Cursing the hotels staff will not help!!! At some places they may not have a geyser so just be patient

and ask the staff for hot water they will get it but it will take some time again.

WATER



Drink lots of water – you can easily get dehydrated in the cold weather as we don't feel the urge to drink water due to the pleasant / cold weather. Consume twice the water that you normally do,



OFFBEAT HOLIDAYS WHAT TO EXPECT

We all love watching people enjoying their holidays in offbeat destinations in far corners of the world high in the mountains, in tropical jungles or in the little known places tucked far away from our urban centres. Ladakh & Spiti are two such remote high altitude and offbeat places in the Himalayas.

As beautiful as these places are they are also remote and far away from major cities and have very basis facilities as compared to the places which we call our home. So if you are planning to go on a offbeat holiday be ready for some basic things.

Spiti Snow Drive Expedition – SELF DRIVE ROAD TRIP

Costing	Per Pax
With Own SUV	Rs 57500 Per Pax on twin / Double share basis of room
Single Room Supplement	Rs 28500 per Single Room
Seat Share in SUV	Rs 71500 Per Person
GST (5%) extra on billing	

CITY	TYPE OF STAY
THEOG	HOTEL
KALPA	HOTEL
TABO	HOMESTAY
KAZA	HOMESTAY
SANGLA	COTTAGES
THEOG	HOTEL

Includes

1. 7 Nights accommodation on Twin / Double sharing basis.
2. All meals Breakfast / Lunch / Dinner for duration of trip .
3. Guidance to best places for Meals at Pay N Eat (if any).
4. Backup vehicle with mechanical Support throughout the trip . (Lead vehicle for group above 08 cars).
5. Accompanying Professional & Experienced Guide throughout the tour.
6. Walkie-Talkie sets for communication between cars
7. Mid way Tea / Snacks during the tour.
8. First Air with Medical backup with oxygen (O2) & AMS pack.
09. Things to carry for 4x4 Snow drive(For Vehicle)
10. Carry Emergency Survivor kit.
11. All trip photos.
12. P.W.R goody Bag & car stickers
13. Things to carry list with Map.
14. Vehicle assistance / towing where ever required

Excludes

1. Stay for extra days if any (we can make bookings for you)
2. Flights to the destination.
3. Bike /Jeep/Cab rent (if any)
4. Fuel of Bike/Jeep.
5. Any damage/fine/ cost.
6. Any kind of personal expenses or optional tours, extra meals, starters (Alcoholic, Mineral, Soft Drinks, Aerated) etc.
7. Extra guide fee, Camera & Video fee ,Tips, Insurance, Laundry, Phone
8. Any activity apart from mentioned ones.
9. Any cost arising out of unforeseen circumstances like damage accruing from land blocks, bad weather etc.
10. Any medical expenses incurred during the trip or travel insurance
11. Anything not mentioned in inclusions
12. GST on billing

BOOKING POLICY

- 30 % advance deposits to confirm the Booking
- Balance to be deposited 7 days prior to start of tour

BANK DETAILS

Account name –

Account no –

Account type –

RTGS/NEFT – IFSC code –

Bank Branch code –

Swift Code –

Branch –

CANCELLATION POLICY

In case of cancellation of tour/travel services due to any avoidable/ unavoidable reasons we must be informed in written. Cancellation charges would be effective from the date we receive mail in written and cancellation charges would be as follows:

- Once the booking is confirmed – 25% of the tour/service cost.
- 15 days prior to arrival – 50% of the tour/service cost.
- 07 days prior to arrival – 75% of the tour/service cost.
- Less than 72 hours or no show – NO REFUNDS

NOTE

All rates are non commissionable and Services are subject to advance payments only.

- In case on any amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to increase the tour price accordingly.
- In Trans Himalayan regions and due to unforeseen circumstances like rain, landslides etc, and the itinerary may have to be changed at last minute. In case there are any last minute changes due to operational problems, there are no refunds or compensation associated with it.
- At times due to road blockage or landslide we may to alter the itinerary at the last moment or the day of journey also. In such a case any extra running of vehicle or expenses incurred in operating the changed tour, extra cost would have to be paid by the guest.
- During a high altitude travel all places would be more than 2500m high . Kindly keep your guest informed regarding the same and please request them to come properly equipped with appropriate clothing / medicine and if possible to get themselves properly checked by a Qualified Physician before coming on a High Altitude tour or any tour of this type.
- We advise that the Indian nationals carry some identity proof along with him / her during his / her tour like driving license or voter I card or passport which required to show at Army check posts while traveling from one place to other (in rare cases Army check posts may ask for an identity proof). Foreign nationals should also have all travel documents in original
- It's recommended for guests to consult his / her doctor and have a thorough medical checkup before commencing on a high altitude trip.
- The mentioned drive time may vary in case of traffic jams, road blocks etc.
- In case of any changes in itinerary or stays on account of natural calamities, flight cancellation, ill health, road blocks or factors beyond our control, all extra costs will be borne by clients only.
- Suggest you to please inform clients to respect and follow local customs and traditions.
- The rate provided does not include any travel insurance, damages, claims etc in case of any possible occurring and mis-happenings.
- Planet Way Round and its associates (guides/ reps/ drivers/ transporters/ hotels) will not be liable to pay any kind of compensation arising because of any kind of illness, mishaps, accidents or other unavoidable factors during the trip or any adventure sports (River rafting, paragliding, skiing, high altitude travelling, trekking etc.)
- The booking will be accepted on the understanding that you have read and understood all the mentioned points.

Crossover Expeditions

For Booking

Email – crossoverexpeditions@gmail.com

Tel +91 98900 55662 Tushar



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