

JAN Treks & Travels

Journeys into Adventure and Nature

Manali to Dharamsla - 16 days/12 days trekking

Chandigarh to Spiti Valley via Kullu Valley

Tour JTT-HPT03: Chandigarh - Manali - Lamadugh - Riali Thach - Lambapad – Bara Bangal – Billing - Dharamsala – Chakki Bank

On this tour you'll traverse the high meadows where the semi-nomadic Gaddis live. You'll cross the mountain passes of the Pir Panjal, a mountain range running southwest of the main Himalayan Range. The Pir Panjal is known for its contrasts of lush green valleys, idyllic pastoral scenes and extensive forests with steep, high rising mountain faces of slate and granite, extensive glaciers and breathtaking views from the passes. On the trek you'll walk from Manali, situated at 2000 m in the Kullu Valley to Dharamsala in The latter is a pleasant 'hill station', situated at an elevation of 1450 m in Kangra Valley. For most, it will be known as the seat of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile, the epicentre of Tibetan culture outside the homeland.

Itinerary

Day 01: Pick up From Chandigarh Railway Station transfer to Hotel in Manali

Our tour guide will receive you at Chandigarh Railway station and accompany you to your hotel in Manali.

Most of the day will be spent driving up through the lush green Himalayan foot hills of Himachal Pradesh till we reach the green hill station of Manali. Situated among pine forests at an elevation of almost 2000m, the snow-covered peaks of the Pir Panjal looming in the north, Manali is a pleasant, bustling market and tourist town. In the afternoon there will be some time to explore the market or even walk to the Hadimba Temple in the forest above the town. Your hotel is situated just outside the town for diner and overnight stay.



Day 02: Manali

Day at leisure, doing sight seeing in and around Manali.

Day 03: Manali to Lamadugh (3,000 m, 4 hrs walking)

The first day of the trek goes through cool forests of giant deodar (cedar), alder and oak. The trail climbs gently at first through the Manalsu valley along the Manalsu torrent. Extensive views of the Kullu Valley appear and slowly fade into the distance as the degree of the gradient decreases; the gentle slope of the first campsite in the lush green meadows of Lamadugh is reached (9,840 ft/3,000 m). From here beautiful views of the surrounding peaks open up. Overnight in tents.

Day 04: Lamadugh to Riali Thach (3415m, 5 hrs. walking)

The trail now begins to ascend steeply through woodland and meadow, with wild alpine flowers strewn all around. On the way brilliant shrubs of rhododendron and birch pave the way to the ridge, looking out across spectacular peaks, after which a descent leads to the campsite at Dohra Nallah (11,200 ft/3,415 m). Overnight in tents.



Day 05: Riali Thach to base of Kalihani Pass (4725 m, 5 hrs walking)

A lovely walk through lush green forests to the campsite at the base of the Kalihani Pass (15,500 ft/4,725 m). The campsite itself is at an elevation of 13,200 ft (4,023 m). The mountain peaks of the Kullu and Lahaul valleys are visible throughout.

Day 06: base of Kalihani Pass - Kalihani Pass – Meadow Camp (4050 m, 8-9 hrs walking)

The landscape slowly begins to change as forests and meadows give way to rocky outcrops with patches of snow starting to appear. A rather steep climb through glacial debris and snow leads to the top of the pass, from where breathtaking views are available. After a brief halt a descent through glacier and moraine leads to the campsite on the banks of a sparkling mountain stream (13,285 ft/4050 m).

Day 07: Meadow Camp to Gaddi Thach (3,575 m, 4 hrs walking)

The trail now leads down into the Sunni River Valley and up to the buff overlooking the river. Camp is set at Gaddi Thach (11,730 ft/3575 m).

Day 08: Gaddi Thach to Lambapad (3,780 m, 4-5 hrs walking)

Leaving this lovely campsite, the path winds through rocky terrain soon replaced by meadows again. The river rushes through spectacular gorges and is crossed via a snow bridge. Forests begin to appear and soon the campsite, with an abundance of dry wood next to a sparkling stream is reached (12,400 ft/3,780 m).

Day 09: Lambapad to Bara Bangal (2285 m, 5-6 hrs walking)

The trail now winds its way down towards the valley floor, after which an almost level walk leads to the camp just before the tiny ancient village of Bara Bangal.

Day10: Bara Bangal - Halt

A remote and isolated village, Bara Bangal is open only for four or five months of the year. The inhabitants are the legendary Himalayan shepherds - the *Gaddis* - who lead a nomadic life, herding their flocks of sheep into high mountain pastures once the snow melts and then returning to their isolated existence in the village. Today we'll have all day to explore the village and its surroundings and enjoy the mountain scenery around us.

Day11: Bara Bangal to Udag (4000 m, 6-7 hr walking)

A steady climb, with the scenery changing quite dramatically and the air gets cooler, leads to the campsite at Marhi, at the base of the Thamsar Pass. The evening chill is replaced by the comfortable warmth of a lively campfire.



Day12: Udag To Panhartu (4000 mts) over Thamsar Pass (15,750 ft/4,800 m) 7-8 hr walking)

A long walk today. The trail slowly emerges from the rocky terrain into the softer landscape of lakes, meadows and forests. Numerous lakes dot the countryside, interspersed by cascading waterfalls. A descent through green wooded slopes leads to a tiny tea shop and a while later, to the tiny village of Palchak. Camp nearby.



Day13: Panhartu To Rajgunda (2500 m) (6 Hr Walking)

A very pleasant day's walk through a leafy bridal path and soon tiny villages, seemingly hanging on the shoulders of the hillsides, make their appearance. Camp is set near the small village.

Day14: Rajgunda To Billing (3 hr walking)

The bridal path leads to Billing. On the way extensive views of the lush green Kangra Valley open up. From Billing drive to Dharamshala (about 3 hrs and 30 minutes).

Day15: Dharamshala – Halt

The whole can be spent exploring this pleasant hill station. Most will be drawn to McLeodganj where the Tibetan community lives.

Day16: Dharamshala to Delhi (drive to Chakki Bank drive, then train to Delhi)

A taxi will take you from Dharamsal to Chakki Bank Railway Station (2 hours drive). Here you can board the train to Delhi (approx. 8 hr).

