

HIMALAYAN GOLDEN TRIANGLE, HIMACHAL PRADESH



TRIP DATE:

TRIP 1: APR 11 - 18, 2015

TRIP 2: SEP 19 - 26, 2015

DURATION:

7 NIGHTS 8 DAYS

PLACES COVERED:

CHANDIGARH – THANEDAR – SANGLA - SOJHA - CHANDIGARH

Travel deep into the unknown territory where we show you the most wonderful side of our country known only to very few. Your journey starts from Thanedar, the birthplace of apples in India and an orchard town. The Banjara retreat amidst the orchards is a serene place perfect for unwinding. Driving from Thanedar, we reach one of the most beautiful valleys of Kinnaur; Sangla, known for its massive towering mountains (remains of a moraine) on all sides and the beautiful Baspa River with good opportunities for trout fishing. From one amazing destination to another, we drive past deep gorges of Gandah Nallah to reach Sojha, ahead of Jalori Pass. Tall Silver oak trees, filling the roadside with Blue Iris, are a sight to behold. It also provides breathtaking sceneries and walks to nearby lakes and forts.

Trip dates:	Apr 11 - 18, 2015 Sep 19 -26, 2015
Start from:	Chandigarh
End at:	Chandigarh
Meals:	Lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 8
Total distance covered:	950 kms
Maximum altitude reached:	3450M (Chitkul)
Min/ Max group size:	12
Permits required	No

ITINERARY:



Day 01: Chandigarh- Thanedar- 195 kms- 6 hrs

Meet at Chandigarh airport/railway station at 1130 hrs. Drive to Thanedar via Barog, Shimla and Narkanda. Reach Thanedar in the evening. Depending on your travel time, you will be able to see either apple blossoms or apples. Evening around bonfire. Night stay in Banjara Retreat.

Thanedar (7700 ft.) is slightly higher than and the road linking the two runs almost near the crest of the mountain with a gradual ascent. One is constantly treated to a bird's-eye view of the different valleys as the road twists and turns from one spur to another. Below Thanedar, to the north is the Sutlej Valley and beyond it is the snowy massif. Thanedar is where history of apples in India began. Discover the town which is full of apple Orchard everywhere you see.



Day 02:

Thanedar- Tani Jubbar Lake and Hatu peak visit/ hike

Visit the Tani-Jubbar Lake (2400M) which is famous for the Nag-Devta temple. There on drive to the Hatu Peak which, at 3352m offers a panoramic view of the snowline of Shrikhand Mahadev mountain. You could also hike up to Hatu peak instead of driving. Picnic lunch at Hatu peak. Evening around a bonfire. Nights stay in retreat.



Day 03:

Thanedar - Sangla- 165 kms/ 6 hrs

We leave for Sangla after a leisurely breakfast. We drive down towards Sutlej River. We drive along the river till Karcham from where once again, we start climbing up the mountains to reach Sangla. Reach Banjara camps ahead of Sangla, early in the evening. After a cup of tea, we could go for a short 1 km walk to the lovely little Batseri village. Evening around a bonfire. Overnight stay at the camp.

Sangla - At a height of 2,700 mts, Sangla town is surrounded by towering mountains on all sides and is set on the banks of the Baspa River that surges through the valley. Walks to discover the amazing fauna and flora of the valley, treks to view snow covered Himalayan peaks, experiencing some of the local culture and traditions, rock climbing, rappelling and river crossing are only some of the delights that are on offer. Surrounded by apple orchards, the campsite has cosy tents and rooms with attached, tiled bathrooms and running hot water. The Retreat (situated right beside the campsite & opened to guests in May 2009) - a two storied stone & wood house in rustic style has large, comfortably furnished and tastefully decorated rooms.



Day 04:**Sangla Visit Chitkul (3,450M) - 20kms**

A day visit to the Chitkul village. This is the last village on the old Indo-Tibetan trade route. From here, we can hike up to Nagasthi, the last border outpost that civilians are allowed to. It is a lovely 2.5 kms walk along a stream. Lunch along the glacier fed mountain stream. Drive back to Camp in the afternoon. Rest of the day at leisure. You could also try your hand at rappelling, rock climbing or river crossing. Evening around a bonfire. Night stay in tents.

**Day 05:****Sangla-Hike to Rakcham**

Today, we go for the signature walk of the valley. Drive to Rakcham village where we cross the river and begin our hike back to the camp. This is a 6-7 kms long hike through thick forests, open skies, streams and walk by the river. Reach back early afternoon. Lunch at camp. Rest after lunch else, try your hand at Rock climbing, rappelling or river crossing. You could also go for a short walk in the surrounding hills. Night stay at Banjara camp and retreat.

Rakcham Walk - A level-cum-gradually climbing path first takes one to Batseri Village across the Baspa River. A 'dekko' at the temple and one is quickly out of the village into the forest. After about half an hour the path takes a sharp climb and goes on for thirty minutes where one hits the first 'glacier'. That can be the first 'chota' halt. Across the glacier one quickly melts into the forest and here the path goes gradually up. Half an hour and many fascinating views later the path takes a sudden descent and opens out into the valley. Lo and behold! Another small glacier walk (only till early June) and a balance walking across a few streams later one comes to a plain flat ground. This is generally the mid way break point where we stop briefly for refreshments. Resume the walk after a short break. A big tract of Poplar forest welcomes you as you walk on. The path from here takes a gradual ascent and goes on for 30-40 minutes to level in a forest which gives way to the fields of Rakcham village. The Valley opens up here revealing the snow-clad mountains across which lies Uttaranchal and Tibet depending on which direction one is looking at. Here one has the option to either take the vehicle back to the camp or else walk back on the road to the camp (7 kms/1.5 hrs). On this walk, one gets to see most of the tree and plant variety the valley has to offer. For a regular walker it is a 'long walk' and for the uninitiated it can be termed as a 'good hike'. So at the end of the walk, one is glad to see the vehicles waiting to drive you back to camp and yet many a 5-6 years old have done this without a whimper of protest.



Day 06:

Sangla - Shoja 194kms/ 7hr

After breakfast, leave for Shoja. We drive back to Rampur Bushehr (along Sutlej river) and then cross over the river to start climb to Kullu hills. This is one of the most picturesque and lesser known routes of Himachal. The drive is along the Kandah Nallah gorge (more like a river than Nallah). In summer, the Silver Oak forest along the road is full of blue Iris. Cross over the Jalori pass and into Sojha village (2700M). Spend the evening around a bonfire. Night stay in Banjara Retreat.



Day 07:

Sojha- Serolsar lake- Sojha- 10 kms drive and 12 kms hike total

The hike to Serolsar Lake is a beautiful one offering different vistas of Himalayas. A well-defined trail takes one to the lake. Few hundred meters on the trail and then you get in to the Oak forest. The sun rays filtering

through the tree cover, the blue of the sky through the foliage, the up and down of the trail, an occasional sight of a bird, a clearing showing the huge green vistas cascading down to the Sutluj valley, all of this and more will keep you an enchanting company all the way to the lake. The lake makes up in crystal clear clarity what it lacks in size. The local belief is that no one has ever found a leaf floating in the lake though leafy trees surround the lake itself. Lunch near the crystal clear waters of the Lake. Hike back to Jalori pass and drive back to retreat. Evening around a bonfire in retreat. Night stay in retreat.

Day 08: **Shoja- Chandigarh- 240 kms - 8 hrs**
Drive back to Chandigarh via Mandi and Bilaspur.

Drop off points:

Chandigarh Railway station- 1700 hrs
Chandigarh airport- 1730 hrs

Cost per person on twin share: INR 33300/-

Single Room Supplement: INR 11300/-

Cost includes:

1. Stay at Banjara retreats with meals (morning tea, breakfast, lunch, evening tea and dinner)
2. Transport from Chandigarh - Chandigarh in Innova or similar.
3. Services of a guide for walks as per itinerary.
4. Wall climbing/ River Crossing/ Burma bridge.
5. A Banjara escort to accompany the group.
6. Service charge/ Tipping.
7. All applicable taxes.

Cost does not include:

1. Any beverages except those served on buffet table.
2. Any En route/ personal expenses.
3. Any expenses incurred due to factors beyond our control like a natural calamity/ man-made calamity.
4. Any air/rail fares.
5. Bottled mineral water (Aquaguard purified water is served free of cost at all our properties).

TOUR NOTES

Accommodation:

Thanedar: Retreat/Classic room at Banjara Orchard Retreat
Sangla: Classic/Luxury tents at Banjara Camps & Retreat
Sojha: Cottage room at Banjara Retreat & Cottage

Food & Hygiene:

Food is a mix range of vegetarian/ non- vegetarian with a choice of Indian, Continental & Chinese food. All meals are buffet meals. There is no room service at most places.

Fitness:

You should be in good health if you wish to hike. Please take your doctor's advise if you are a heart patient, asthmatic, pregnant or suffer from epilepsy. Please note that you will have to climb down about 90 odd steps to reach the retreat.

Tipping & Portage:

We charge a service charge of 5% for the rooms. Tipping/ service charge is already taken care of in this trip. Our staff will carry your bags down to retreat and back up to car on day of departure.

Photography:

The retreat is at 7500 ft. and we will travel up to about 11000 ft. If you plan to take photos then please keep sunlight according to this altitude in mind. Please ask your guide before taking photographs inside any temple and if you plan to photograph any locals, please take their permission before doing so. You could charge your camera at the retreat.

Altitude Sickness:

Acclimatization to altitude above 3000 meters takes time. The body undergoes a number of physiological changes some of which are immediate like increased pulse rate & respiratory rate. These changes plus the effect of intense sunlight, walking & dehydration may cause loss of appetite, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, sleeplessness, mild shortness of breath etc.

The best treatment is prevention! Avoid rapid ascents; take acclimatization symptoms seriously using rest days/Diamox tablets. If symptoms are severe, DESCEND IMMEDIATELY.

Medicine:

We keep a first aid kit. It would be anyway a good idea to bring your own basic first aid kit with medicines for motion sickness, nausea, some painkillers etc. Please carry sun block and chapstick. Keep your face, feet and hands well protected. Request your doctor to prescribe effective medicines to cover the following: Fever, Body and joint pains, Cold, Cough, Sore throat, Headache, Acidity, Stomach cramps, Vomiting, Dysentery, Loose motion, Constipation, Diarrhea, Swelling, Muscle Pulls & Sore eyes. We do carry a first aid box though. In case you have any illness of any sort, please do inform us in advance so that we can take necessary precaution. You could also carry vaseline, Band Aid, Cotton, Badge roll, Dettol, Mouth freshener, Nose inhaler, Cough drops, Lip balm, Vicks, Elastoplasts, Adhesive tape, 4" crepe bandage.

List of things to bring:

1. Duffel bag (avoid suitcases if you can)
2. A small day backpack to carry water, food, jacket and camera
3. Hiking shoes- you need good traction in shoes and these should be at least water resistant. Forclaz 500 is a good. Your shoes should be well broken-in and not new. Otherwise, your regular sports shoes will also do.
4. 2 pairs of lowers.
5. 4-5 full sleeves T-shirts
6. A fleece jacket
7. A full sleeve thick jacket
8. Underclothing
9. 1 pairs of thermal inners
10. 2-3 pairs of sports socks. 2 pairs of woolen socks
11. Woolen cap/ balaclava that covers the ears
12. Gloves
13. Sun glasses
14. Lip balm
15. Cold cream and sun screen lotion (SPF 40+).
16. Water bottle.
17. Flash light
18. Personal toilet kit.
19. Personal medicine
20. Small repair kit consisting of safety pins, needle, thread and string.
21. Camera, memory-cards, batteries etc (carry enough spare batteries. Electricity is not available on the slopes.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO USE A LOT OF WOOLENS LISTED ABOVE BUT, WEATHER IN THE HIMALAYAS CAN BE RATHER UNPREDICTABLE HENCE, BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.

BOOKING, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

CONFIRMATION:

100% advance to confirm booking.

CANCELLATION CHARGE:

Minimum : 20% of full amount.
Less than two weeks of arrival date (or tour start date) : 50% of full amount.
Less than one week of arrival date (or tour start date) : Full amount.

PAYMENT MODES & METHODS:

1. ONLINE TRANSFER into our **current** accounts in Axis Bank or Standard Chartered Bank
2. DIRECT CHEQUE DEPOSIT into our **current** accounts in Axis Bank or Standard Chartered Bank at any branch/ ATM in India
3. DIRECT **CASH** DEPOSIT, into our **current** account at any branch in India
4. By CASH or CHEQUE handed over personally (or by your rep) AT OUR DELHI OFFICE
5. OUTSTATION CHEQUE payments are acceptable **only if** they are delivered (or we get a scan of the bank deposit slip) at least 4 working days before the payment due date.
6. OUTSTATION PAYMENTS by a **Payable at Delhi** DD sent to our Delhi Office by courier/post.

IMP: CHEQUE / DD to be made in favour of "Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd."

AXIS BANK:

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : 015010200017806
- Branch address : K-12; Green Park Main; New Delhi – 110016
- Branch Code : UTIB0000015 (for direct cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code : UTIB0000015 (for online transfer)

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK:

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : 525-0-509-319-3
- Branch address : 10 Sansad Marg; New Delhi – 110 001
- Branch Code : SCBL0036027 (for direct cash/ cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code: : SCBL0036027 (for online transfer)

DETAILS BY CURRENCY FOR O.T.T. /WIRE TRANSFER & DIRECT DEPOSIT:

In Favour of: "Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd. "

1) USD

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank
Branch: 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001
IFSC Code: SCBL0036027
Swift code: SCB-LINBDEL
EEFC A/c No. : 525-0-509421-1

2) GBP

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank
Branch: 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001
IFSC Code: SCBL0036027
Swift code: SCB-LINBBDEL
EEFC A/c No. : 525-0-509430-0
IBAN NO: GB42SCBL60910451997017

3) EURO

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank
Branch: 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001
IFSC Code: SCBL0036027
Swift code: SCB-LINBBDEL
EEFC A/c No. : 525-0-509426-2
IBAN NO: GB41SCBL60910457083521

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