

Banjara Camp & Retreat, Sangla, 8700Ft. Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh



Your discovery of the lesser-known Himalayas can begin at the Banjara Camp in the Sangla Valley. At a height of 2,700 mts, the Banjara Camp & Retreat 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, angling for trout, 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. There are now a couple of river facing huts as well. A well-equipped kitchen serves multi-cuisine meals and evening bonfires keep the chill away. Hammocks swaying in the breeze, the gurgling of the river, the crisp crackling of the bonfire and the delicious aromas of barbecued food wafting over you – that’s what we have to offer you at Sangla.

Best time to visit and temperature:

The Banjara Camp & Retreat is open from Mid-March to October. However, temperatures vary with the seasons. May to September have pleasant days and cold nights while March,- mid- April & October have pleasant cold days and night temperature may dip to 2-3 degrees.

Special times to visit:

March: there is a lot of snow everywhere.
April: Apple blossoms start coming up. Valley is full of flowers towards end April. You can hike up to glacier point and play with snow.
May: Those of you who wish to play in snow, this is another good month. You can hike up to glacier point.
Sep 3-7: Phulaich festival (festival of flowers). Exact dates may vary each year by a day or two.
End- Aug- Sep: The valley is full of colors of pink flowers of Millet and there are apples on trees.
Oct: Fall colors

How to get there:

By Air: Daily flight from Delhi to Chandigarh.
By Train: Daily morning and evening Shatabdi from Delhi to Chandigarh. Onwards by road via Shimla & Thanedar. There are trains to Shimla too, for details visit indiarailinfo.com
By Road: Delhi- Sangla: 600 kms: 17-18 hrs (best to break journey en route at Thanedar or Shimla).

Accommodation

Classic swiss cottage tents	5 units	Luxury swiss cottage tents	5 units
Retreat rooms	14 units	River facing huts	2 units

All the tents and rooms are fully furnished and have attached baths with 24 hr hot/cold water supply.

Walks and places to visit around the Retreat:

- Chitkul: Last border village on Indo- Tibet border and only 3 kms short of last border outpost civilians are allowed to (you could walk up to outpost if you wish). This is on Hindustan-Tibet trade route which is no longer used.
- Sangla Meadows: Full day walk to the green pastures at 12000 ft. A lovely long hike for serious hikers.
- Rakcham: A beautiful 3- 4 hr walk along the Baspa River to Rakcham village. The signature-walk of the valley.
- Baspa River: This River flowing along the valley and next to the camp is great for trout fishing.
- Batseri village: Just across the camp, this village is an excellent example of the great hill architecture. The local devta temple here is a must see.
- Glacier: The glacier is just above Batseri village. If you visit us in March, April and May, you will be able hike up to glacier point and even play in snow.
- Mastrang forest: This is a lovely little stretch of woods where we sometimes camp overnight (for the more adventurous ones) and at other times, we stop here next to a small stream on the way back from Chitkul for picnic lunch.

- Early morning walks: There are several early morning refreshing walks in the hills surrounding the camp.
- Kalpa: Day excursion to Kalpa (50 kms/ 2 hrs drive on way). Kalpa offer an unparalleled view of Kinner Kailash peak and is known for its apple and chilgoza plantation.
- Sangla village walk: This is another refreshing 2-3 hrs walk along Baspa river and through the woods to Sangla village. While in village, you must see local Bering nag temple.
- Bonfire: We have a bonfire pretty much every day (except when it rains).

Activities:

- River crossing over Baspa River
- Rappelling
- Rock climbing
- Hiking/ trekking
- Burma bridge
- Angling (fly fishing only and you will need to get your own gear but inform us in advance so that permits can be organized).



List of things to bring:

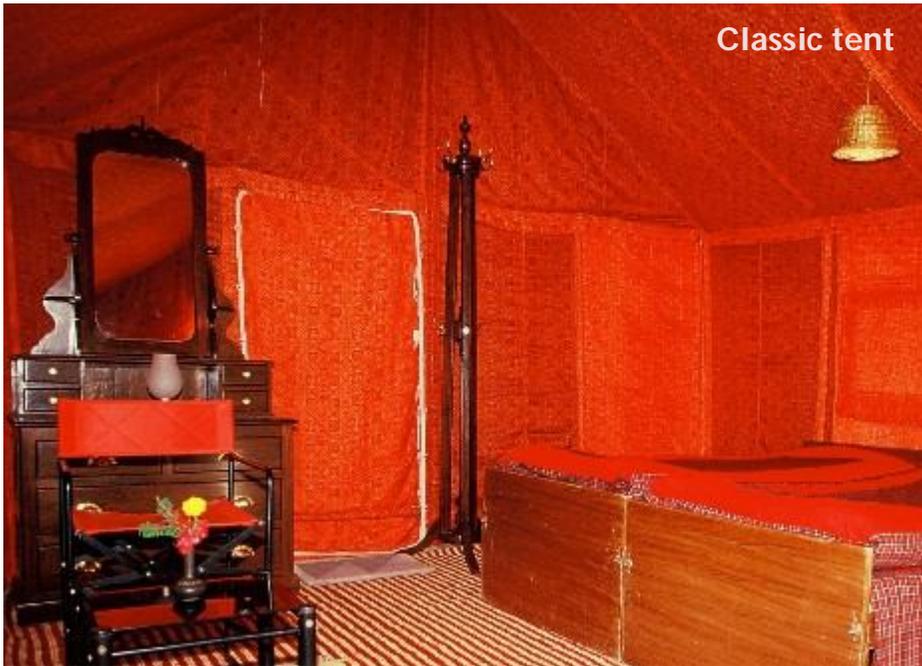
T-Shirts/ Shirts (Prefer Long Sleeved)	Trousers/ Jeans/ Track Pants	Pullover	Wind Cheater	Flashlight
Jacket	Thermal Wear (For April and October)	Gloves, Muffler, Woolen Socks (For Apr n Oct)		
Cap	Well Worn Sports Shoes	Personal Toilet Requisite		Personal Medication
Sun Glasses/ Sun Block	Rain gear (just in case)	Knapsack/ Daypack (to carry water, camera)		Camera/ Writing Material

General and important information:

1. We are located next to River Baspa with a small, nice and open sandy beach stretch. If you are travelling with children, please always keep an eye on them.
2. We cater to different food needs including strictly vegetarian or even Jain food. Inform us in advance and consider it catered to. All meals are served buffet style. We usually serve Indian, Chinese and Continental. Let us know in advance about any food related allergies. **Water** served comes from RO purification system. **There is no room service.**
3. We expect the weather to listen to us or at least to Mets department ☺ but a lot of times, it throws tantrums and becomes cranky. Since you are traveling to high altitude, irrespective of the month you are travelling in, please carry good woolens to cater to at least 5-6 degrees centigrade. There is a good chance, you may not use it but in case you have to, you will be really glad you carried them.
4. We have a couple of cupboards/ racks full of books and there are books and magazines lying all over for those of you who wish to read. We also have a lot of open as well as shaded corners away from all. If you wish to carry a packed lunch and spend a day reading in your own corner, under a tree or close to river, feel free to do so.
5. If you wish to teach your children how to pitch a small tent and maybe even stay in a tent for a night, let us know. We will organize the same.
6. In the tents and river facing huts, for extra bed, we put mattress on the floor. In dlx and sup dlx rooms, for extra bed, we use a sofa cum bed (turns into full double bed). In rooms with attic, we put extra bed in the attic.
7. There are charging points for mobile, cameras in your rooms and in common areas for tents.
8. There is good mobile connection. BSNL, Airtel and Reliance work best. Internet connectivity is rather slow. (Please bring your data card/ dongel).
9. Sangla village (8 kms from our base) has a small hospital. There is also a doctor on call for any emergencies.
10. Transport to and fro Sangla can be organized.
11. **There are several outdoor games. We have a basket ball court (half), table tennis, cricket, dart board, swings for kids (or even adults if it comes to that), small sandy play area for kids. There are also indoor games with some of the usual suspects like ludo, carrom etc.**

Banjara Retreat in March/ April





Classic tent



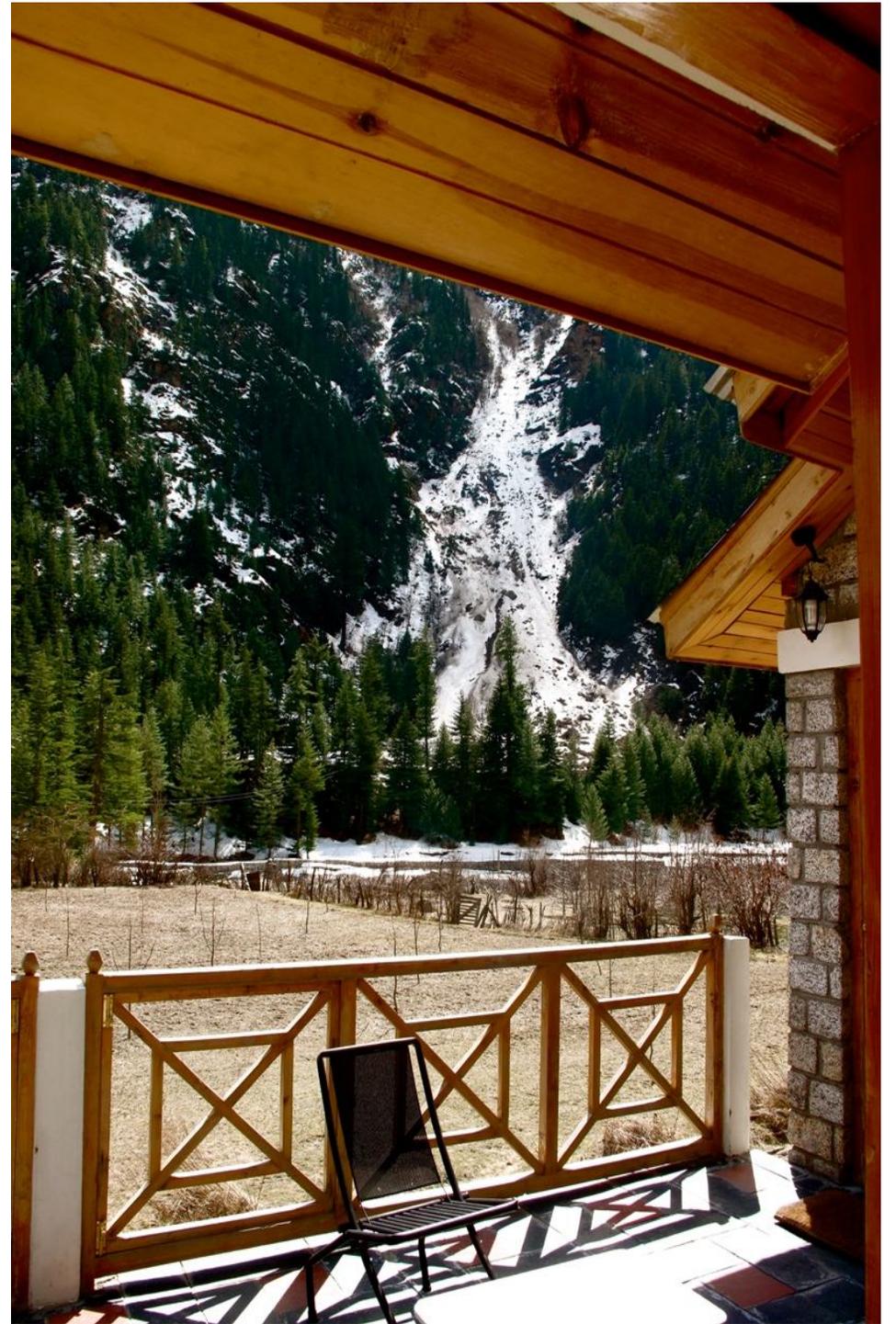
Luxury tent



River- facing hut



Retreat room



DETAILS ON HIKES AND & SIGHT SEEING

BATSERI – RAKCHAM WALK

Duration: 4-5 hours

Grade: Medium

A signature walk of the valley, this route was once used regularly by the villagers from Batseri to go to Rakcham. It is a fascinating walk through a wide variety of flora. If the trek is done before June, one also gets to cross two tails of glaciers coming from the top to meet the frisky Baspa. On this walk, one gets to see most of the tree and plant varieties 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'.



GLACIER POINT HIKE*Duration: 3 hrs round trip**Grade: Easy to Medium*

This is a walk through Batseri village, then a beautiful Pine forest & across a fast flowing rivulet with a makeshift bridge to reach this avalanche site. Making snow-balls and snow-houses and sliding are sure to be a hit with the kids- usually there is snow here in April, May and may be early June.

SANGLA MEADOWS WALK*Duration: 5-6 hours to a full day**Grade: Difficult*

Sangla Meadows or Sangla Kanda (as it is referred to locally) is the place where the locals have their fields. This exquisitely beautiful spot also has a picture perfect glacial lake and offers a 180 degree panoramic view of the snow-clad Kinner Kailash Massif in its full glory- a just reward for all the huffing and puffing one needs to do to reach here. One can either walk from the camp all the way and walk back (full day) or else drive up to Sangla and then start the walk.

CHITKUL VISIT & NAGASTHI WALK*Duration: 20 kms/1hr drive & 6 kms/ 2 hr walk**Grade: Easy*

There is not a better conception of a day picnic than a short drive to Chitkul, walk to Nagasthi and opening the lunch hamper under the pine trees next to a rivulet on green grass looking at the beautiful expanse of the valley. The drive is a fascinating one through pine forest that slowly gives way to 'Bhojpatra'/Birch trees and then the tree line disappears as you reach Chitkul village. Nagasthi is the last border outpost (bordering Tibet) and a short walk from Chitkul.

SANGLA VILLAGE WALK*Duration: 12 kms/ 4 hrs**Grade: Easy*

The trail runs across Batseri village and then a dense Cedar forest all the way up to Sangla Village. En route, the fisheries farm is an interesting diversion where one can buy fresh trout, which we will bar-be-cue for you in the evening around the bonfire. Your vehicle can pick you up from Sangla & drive you back to camp.

FULL DAY VISIT TO KALPA

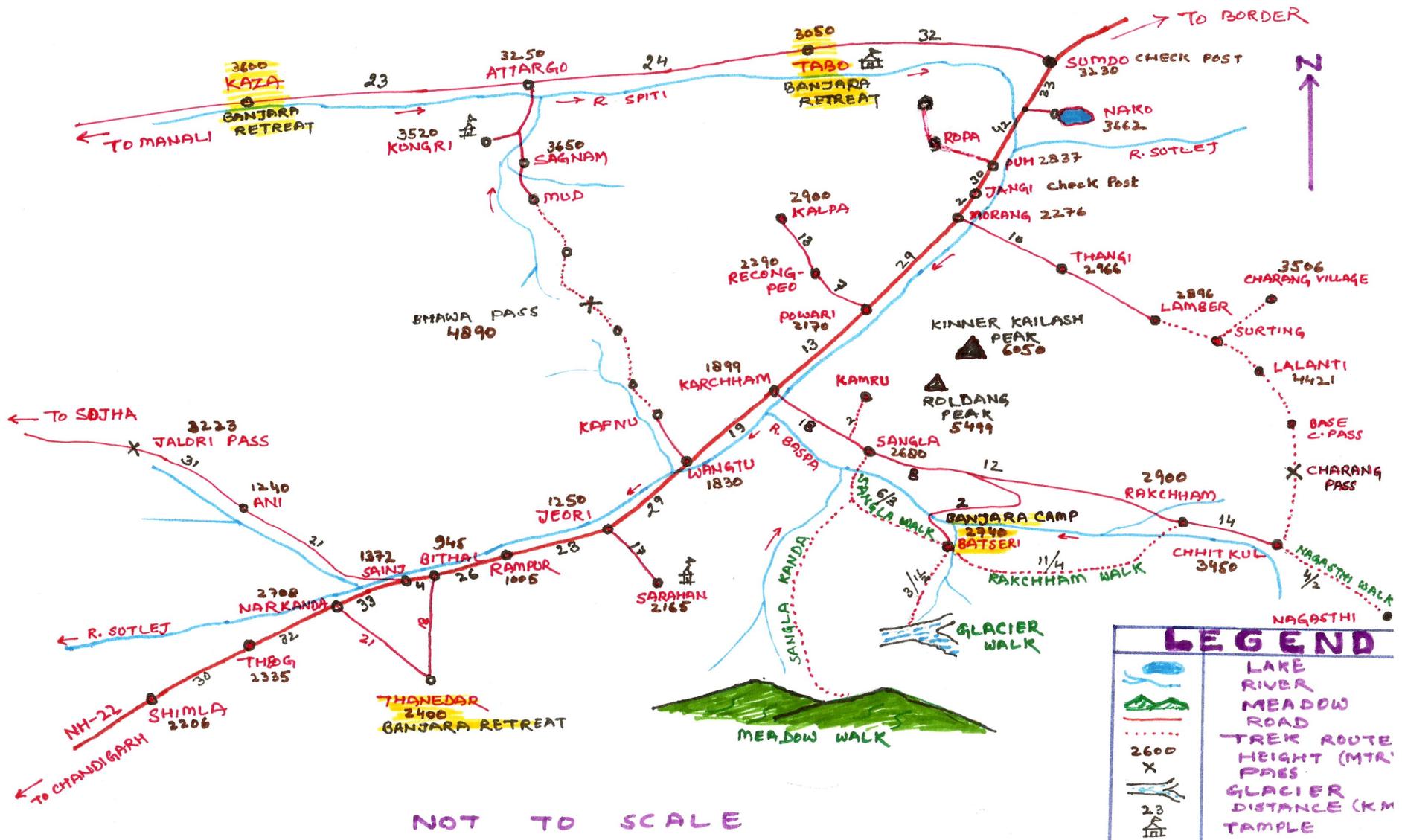
Once the favourite haunt of Lord Dalhousie, Kalpa is just 56 kms from the camp but it can take over two hours to reach. Besides the amazing close-up view of the Kinner Kailash range, Kalpa also offers a wonderful walk to Rogi – just four kms. One can also shop here or in Recong Peo for the famous Kinnauri shawl or dry fruits. The visit also gives you a chance to tank up with fuel in case you are running short.

IMPROMPTU EARLY MORNING WALKS

If you step out at the crack of dawn Mother Nature always welcomes you with invaluable rewards & even more so in the mountainous wilderness of the Baspa Valley- the region surrounding our Camp & Retreat.







NOT TO SCALE

OUR PARTNERS

