



10 Tips for a Trip to Spiti Valley in Monsoons

We all know that Spiti Valley is a rain shadow region. But, with recent change in global climate, even the definition of rain shadow region has gone for a toss. Rains and drizzles have started reaching Spiti Valley as well nowadays. At minimum you will see plenty of overcast days during monsoons in Spiti Valley which used to be a rarity earlier in this cold desert in the Himalayas. Still, it does not pour heavily like it happens in plains or lower hills.

1

Be prepared for monsoon hassles in lower hills

In monsoon time, you will face common monsoon hassles in foothills of the Himalayas like landslides, roadblocks, and slush on roads being common in most parts. But once you get closer to Spiti Valley, then being a rain shadow region you will be least affected by monsoon rains.



2

Be prepared for driving in slush on roads to Spiti Valley in Monsoons

There will be slush on the roads especially from Rohtang Pass to Gramphu and most parts of Kinnaur Valley. Be prepared, to drive with care in slush and do know the whereabouts of the engine chamber of your car if you are making self-driving road trip to Spiti in August.

3

Be prepared for tackling furious water crossings on Manali – Kaza road

Since most of the rivers in the entire Himalayan range will be flowing in spate and so does the water crossings will be swollen too. Some water crossings have been passed through water pipes on Manali – Kaza road but you never know which one emerges the given year.

4

Be alert for shooting stones

The shooting stones along with small landslides are very common during rains or monsoons in the mountains. When driving or riding or even sitting in the car, you must always be alert to see over a shooting stone from the side of the mountains.

5

Carry water resistant clothes and boots

Always carry a rain cut jacket, waterproof shoes or sandals/crocs at least along with a water repellant lower or lower with the quick dry material. This will help you in many ways when there is rain. It may end up saving your electronic equipment too.

6

Carry tarpaulins & few waterproof bags

Apart from the rainproof clothing, carrying small tarpaulins or waterproof bags which will protect your clothes, luggage or electronic gear if the need arises especially when riding the bikes.



7

Carry an extra pair of car windshield wipers

Well, it sounds to be too much planning but seriously speaking I have seen plenty of people getting stuck just because they did not have that pair of wipers for their cars that fit in. Hence, I cannot avoid putting this tip in this article.

8

Always follow Sleep Early and Leave Early principle in monsoons

As always in the Himalayas, “Sleep Early and Leave Early” shall be the mantra of your entire trip. It becomes more important in rainy season as you are already expecting delays due to a landslide, roadblocks, slow speed of cars in rain.

9

Always have couple of buffer days

It is not at all wise to run from point A to point B in all sought of tensions of missing the flight or train if you can't make it. You should expect rains in monsoons, which may delay your daily plans or make you stuck behind a landslide for a day or two sometimes.

10

Protect your camera from moisture

Needless to say, in monsoon time, both rain and moisture will be all around. You should protect your camera from the moisture or water. Also, if you use CPLs on lenses, make sure you are making the right use of it in right light conditions.



Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



#SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles