



# 11 Tips on Mobile Phone Connectivity in Spiti Valley

In today's lifestyle, it is tough to accept that you will not be able to connect with your family or friends on social media. However, while visiting places like Spiti Valley (or Ladakh or Zaskar Valley) in the Himalayas, you must be prepared to stay disconnected with the world. Let's look at some of these tips for a trip to Spiti Valley.



## Both Pre-paid & post-paid connections work in Spiti Valley & Kinnaur Valley, unlike Ladakh

Spiti Valley lies in Himachal Pradesh. Hence, the communication rules applied are also as per state law regulations. Unlike in Leh - Ladakh, there is no restriction of usage of pre-paid mobile connections of other states in Himachal Pradesh.



## Only BSNL works in Spiti Valley

Only BSNL/MTNL connections work in Spiti valley and have the most comprehensive coverage of connectivity. The quality may not be that good always. So, carry a BSNL or MTNL connection with you. Other networks remain dead, and Airtel and Jio work only in Kinnaur Valley up to Spillo, just ahead of Kalpa/Reckong Peo in Kinnaur Valley.



## Intermittent phone connectivity on routes to Spiti Valley

Both Airtel and BSNL connectivity is available in Sangla, Kalpa, Chitkul and Reckong Peo. If you are traveling to Spiti Valley from Manali side, you will get phone connectivity up to Manali & Gramphu. There is no phone connectivity on the route from Gramphu to Batal - Chandratol to Losar.



## Only a few routes/places have phone connectivity in Spiti Valley

Tabo does have BSNL connectivity, but as soon as you cross it; there is an intermittent network up to Kaza. Pin Valley also have intermittent connectivity. Once you reach Kaza, you get better and quite stable connectivity. There is not much network connectivity at Kibber or Komic and up to Losar. Key Monastery has a decent network connection.



## Winters have erratic phone connectivity in Spiti Valley

There may not be any phone connectivity in Spiti Valley during the winter months. It all depends upon the damage caused by the snow as at times the connectivity poles are blown away by snow or gets buried under snow. At times, there is no electricity as well in winters.



## Use satellite phones only in an emergency

Batal and Mudh villages have satellite phones available at Rs 2/minute for STD/ISD to make a call in case of emergency. Use judiciously. Avoid using for personal use.



## Well inform your family and friends

It's always better to notify the family of your plans before starting your day and the end of your day. In places like Ladakh, Spiti Valley, and Zaskar Valley, sharing more information is always possible than less information.



## Internet or Data connectivity in Spiti Valley

Data connectivity in Spiti Valley is mostly limited to 2G/GPRS. You will rarely experience 3G connectivity. You can use (slow) WIFI available in hotels or cyber cafes or guest houses in Kaza. Whatsapp messages are the most effective in such a case.



## Plan for no connectivity in Spiti Valley

You should not plan a trip to Spiti Valley or Kinnaur valley and rely on mobile connectivity. Be it office calls or to plan the next day or to get connected with the hotel or taxi guy. If you have something important, then complete that work before the trip to Spiti Valley.



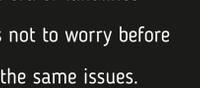
## Be proactive and disciplined

Be ready to be dynamic & disciplined because, at times in remote places, the mobile connectivity tower will work just in the morning working hours or when there is electricity available.



## Above all, have some patience

Have patience in yourself and consider you are back in an era of landlines with poor connections. Hence, tell your family and friends not to worry before leaving for a Spiti Valley trip because they may also face the same issues.



### 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