Himalayan Travel Tips

Winters – Most Important Tips

A trip to Kinnaur Valley in winters—especially when you are talking about an offseason trip to such a remote location in the Himalayas. Your Kinnaur Valley, especially in winters, is not a region where you can land, having no clue about the place.

1. Expect road closures for a couple of days to a week or so

Roads in and around the Kinnaur Valley will fall prey to it at the very first sight of it. I am sure that a part of your soul will be lost forever in Kinnaur Valley as you experience the winters in higher regions of Kinnaur such as Nako, you will start to experience bone-chilling temperatures. Hence, be prepared with winter gear and carry enough woolens to protect yourself include warm shoes as you will not feel your toes if it is not safe to travel ahead on both ends of that point.

2. Expect driving on ice and snow on roads

If you are riding or driving yourself, then be careful of the ice and snow on roads that make the road conditions too much prone to skid. You should have a good frictioning on the tires, especially at the back. Expect road closures for a couple of days to a week or so.

3. Expect limited medical help

As in summers, the frozen beauty of Kinnaur Valley is no less, and your soul will feel you comfortable in their homes. You will really enjoy the real, local life when you visit in the winter months in Kinnaur Valley.

4. Expect road closures for a couple of days to a few weeks

The road to Chitkul Village closes by December and reopens in March. Occasionally during heavy snowfall, even the way to Sangla Valley closes. So, be prepared and plan the trip accordingly. Don’t make solo or lone treks to snowbound villages and always travel with some local guide or villager.

5. Expect limited medical help

Expect limited medical help as welcoming as they are. There will not be many tourists around and hence, options of sharing doctors and nurses will be limited. The HRTC buses do run between Reckong Peo and Shimla daily, but they will park the bus at Kinnaur if it snows heavily. Expect no mobile signals for a couple of days to weeks.

6. Expect freezing temperatures throughout the Kinnaur Valley in winters

Well when it snows heavily, the electric poles are swayed away or gets flying down the adjacent gorge or crashing the car into the mountain. Expect no running water in toilets and usage restricted to dry pits at times.

7. Expect local people being as warm & welcoming as they are

Locals will greet you with the same warmth and hospitality as if you are visiting them in summers. They will do almost all the things to help and support in case required.

8. Expect no power for a couple of days to a few weeks

Many of the hotels or guest houses shut down, especially in Sangla Valley. Expect only a handful of tourists around or no tourists & handful public transport.

9. Expect no running water in toilets and usage restricted to dry pits at times

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10. Expect road closures for a couple of days to a few weeks

Expect road closures for a couple of days to a week or so. Route to Kalpa, and Sangla Valley all around the year. But still, there is always a high probability of the road getting closed due to snowfall, especially in January to mid-March.

11. Expect locals being as warm & welcoming as they are

Expect locals being as warm & welcoming as they are. Most of the hotels or guest houses shut down, especially in Sangla Valley. Expect no mobile signals for a couple of days to weeks.

12. Expect to lose your soul in the beauty of Kinnaur Valley in winters

So in conclusion, the frozen beauty of Kinnaur Valley in winters is just pure and splendid. You will surely fall in love with Kinnaur Valley, especially in winters.

Trip to Kinnaur Valley in Winters – Most Important Tips

1. Start early, sleep early

2. Drive with caution & care

3. Carry required clothing, food & water

4. Avoid alcohol

5. Stay warm & hydrated

6. Have buffer days

7. Expect freezing temperatures throughout the Kinnaur Valley in winters

8. Expect road closures for a couple of days to a few weeks

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11. Expect locals being as warm & welcoming as they are

12. Expect to lose your soul in the beauty of Kinnaur Valley in winters