



Trip to Kinnaur Valley in Winters - Most Important Tips

Kinnaur Valley, especially in winters, is not a region where you can land, having no clue about the place, especially when you are talking about an offseason trip to such a remote location in the Himalayas. Your habit of unplanned trips to the Himalayas could land you in trouble. Let's look at some essential tips.

1

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

BRO/GREF/PWD tries to keep the road cleared of snow up to Reckong Peo, 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.



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 experience of riding or driving in snow as one hard brake can lead you either flying down the adjacent gorge or crashing the car into the mountain.

3

Expect Chitkul to be closed and sometimes Sangla Valley too

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.

4

Expect basic stay options and basic food to eat along with other necessary facilities

Many of the hotels or guest houses shut down, especially in Sangla Valley. Stays are available in Kalpa, and you will get good food too. Do not expect other facilities like mechanics, groceries, fruits, filter water bottles, etc. to be available readily as well.

5

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

The water in pipes freeze in high altitude places and hence, you may not find stay options having restrooms with running water. In winters, the toilets remain locked, and at times only dry pits (traditional toilets) are used where there is no water available.

6

Expect freezing temperatures throughout the Kinnaur Valley in winters

Needless to say, as soon as you enter the Kinnaur region and especially the higher regions of Kinnaur such as Nako, you will start to experience bone-freezing temperatures. Hence, be prepared with winter gear and carry enough woolens to protect yourself include warm shoes as you will not feel your toes for most of the day.

7

Expect only a handful tourists around or no tourists & handful public transport

There will not be many tourists around and hence, options of sharing vehicles or dependent on public transport will be limited. The HRTC buses do run between Reckong Peo and Shimla daily, but they will park the bus if it is not safe to travel ahead on both ends of that point.

8

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

Well when it snows heavily, the electric poles are swayed away or gets buried in a load of snow. So, carry enough spare batteries and keep them warm somewhere as cells will also freeze to exhaust. Carry enough cash as ATMs might not work as well.

9

Expect no mobile signals for a couple of days to a few weeks

You should not expect cellular signals for a few days to weeks. Hence, you should inform your safety back at home, friends, and relatives as soon as you see a possibility. Wifi in the bank, wifi in some hotel running a generator, use any opportunity you can see available.

10

Expect limited medical help and support in case required

Carry essential and any ongoing medicines in enough stock to last long for a couple of weeks at least. Do not rely on anything to be procured locally. It is not recommended to travel at all in winters in case you have some ongoing ailment or illness.

11

Expect locals being as warm & as welcoming as they are in summers

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 feel you comfortable in their homes. You will really enjoy the real, local life when you visit in the winter months in Kinnaur Valley.

12

Expect to lose your soul in frozen beauty of Kinnaur Valley in winters

As in summers, the frozen beauty of Kinnaur Valley is no less, and your soul 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 this remote part of the Himalayas.



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