

Chandigarh – Manali – Leh: Itinerary

(06.06.09) Day 1 – Howrah to Chandigarh by 2311 Kalka Mail

(07.06.09) Day 2 – In train

(08.06.09) Day 3 – Arrive Chandigarh 03:15AM Leave for Manali by Bus – Arrive Manali in the evening. Riders leave in the afternoon and halt for the night at Mandi or Bilaspur.

(09.06.09) Day 4 – Riders arrive at Manali and meet with the rest of the group

(10.06.09) Day 5 - MANALI - KEYLONG / JISPA :

From	To	Distance(Kms)	Special Interest
Manali	Rohtang pass	45	70 m high Rohalla waterfalls, which can be seen 9 kms before Marhi, 17Kms before Rohtang Pass
Rohtang pass	Khoksar	20	Peace & tranquility reign after crossing the touristy Rohtang La & the descent & drive to Keylong is a beautiful one along the River Chandra. There is a checkpoint at Khoksar , 20 kms ahead , a lovely waterfall just after you cross the bridge at Sissu. A tea & snack break point ! Gandia village lies 8 kms ahead & we stopover at the amazing Seventeenth Century house of the Local Thakur.
Khoksar	Tandi	16	Tandi is at the confluence of the Chandra & Bhaga rivers & more importantly the point where the last petrol pump station till Leh
Tandi	Keylong	8	Keylong (8 kms ahead) where we stop to have our lunch & sightseeing of the Khardong Monastery perched on a hillock. This is one of the monasteries where nuns & monks are treated at par & married lamas spend summers at home tending their fields & return only in winters.
Keylong	Jispa	21	We head further to Jispa(21 kms) & set camp here for our overnight stay. Evening tea, Dinner & Overnight at Camp.
	Total for Day 2	110	

(11.06.09) Day 6: JISPA: Morning after a leisurely breakfast look out for the mountain opposite the township , called the Lady of Keylong the rocky , bare part of this completely snow covered mountain resembles a lady with her hand stretched out & locals will tell you that the snow never shrouds her. The day is at leisure today. However for those who want to do some driving can head back to Tandii , cross the Bhaga river & embark on a lovely 49 kms drive up the Pattan valley to the Triloknath Temple & Udaipur with its Markala Devi Temple or take a short 7 kms ride to the meadows along the river till Darcha Or even further till Deepak Tal, just 10 kms ahead for a picnic lunch besides this picture postcard lake. Dinner, Overnight at Jispa Camp.

(12.06.09) Day 7 - : JISPA TO SARCHU VIA BARALACHA LA

From	To	Distance(Kms)	Special Interest
Jispa	Darcha	11	Post breakfast , an early start with packed lunch.

Darcha	Barlacha La	41	We cross Darcha & Deepak Tal & just 3 kms ahead of Baralacha La (16,000 ft/4880 m) stop by for coffee at the Suraj Tal. At an altitude close to 16,000 ft, this is the highest lake you will come across on this journey. The Bhaga river originates from here
Barlacha La	Sarchu	36	After cresting a hilltop, an expansive green valley unfolds below you & the drive down to Sarchu is extremely scenic. Early supper at the Sarchu Camp. Overnight at Sarchu
Total for Day 4		88	

(13.06.09) Day 8 - : SARCHU TO LEH

From	To	Distance(Kms)	Special Interest
Sarchu	Pang	79	Post breakfast depart towards Pang. The journey should not take more than 4 hours , depending on the number of photo halts you make , and believe me, it's difficult to be disciplined about this in such an enthralling environment! Immediately after Sarchu we cross the Himachal Pradesh border, before arriving at the base of the climb upto Nakii La pass (16,250 ft/4950 m) . The pass is approx 40 kms from Sarchu & the ascent to the top is along 21 hairpin bends called the Gata Loops. From here it's a short drive to the slightly higher Lachung La pass (16,600 ft/5060m). The 23 kms descent to Pang is quite spectacular , particularly for the last 5 kms , when the road passes through a series of dramatic gorges. Lunch & refreshments at Pang.

Pang	Upshi	125	The road from Pang will take you to the famous Moore Plains; situated in a plateau, you will be hard-pressed to believe this relatively flat piece of land is located at an altitude of 15,400ft. Road here are relatively straight and in good condition, inviting you to indulge in speeding. But don't! Road is quite bumpy and it will be a good workout for your vehicles suspension and your stomach. After the fast paced journey on the Moore plains, you will find yourself on the ascent to the third highest pass you will encounter in Ladakh, Tanglang La (17,582ft). Final few kms to the summit of the pass are in bad condition and the steepness coupled with lack of air takes a toll on vehicles performance. But once you reach the top you will be greeted with spectacular views, in fact from Tanglang La you can clearly spot the road to the pass for miles on both directions. Descent from Tanglang La for first few kms is in bad condition, however after that you will be greeted with spectacular roads and with the altitude decreasing gradually, your spirits will start picking up and you will feel rejuvenated by the time you reach Upshi.
Upshi	Leh	55	A small break for a cup of tea/coffee at Upshi to unwind is recommended before you continue your journey on the Manali Leh highway to reach Leh, less than an hours drive from Upshi. You can also spend the night in Upshi in case you are too tired to continue with the journey.
	Total for Day 5	259	

(14.06.09) Day 9 – Leh – Khardungla Pass – Leh

(15.06.09)Day 10 – Leh – Pangong Tse
(16.06.09)Day 11 – Pangong Tse – Leh
(17.06.09)Day 12 – Leh – Sarchu
(18.06.09)Day 13 – Sarchu – Jispa
(19.06.09)Day 14 – Jispa – Manali
(20.06.09)Day 15 – Manali – Chandigarh
(21.06.09)Day 16 – Leave Chandigarh for Kolkata at midnight by Kalka Mail
(22.06.09)Day 17 – In train
(23.06.09)Day 18 – Arrive Kolkata