

Photo Tours India Presents
'Himalayan Lifestyle Experience'

An 8 days photo-journey to the tribal areas of Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh

September 23 – 30, 2010



Objectives

The main objective of this photo-journey is to capture the lifestyle of those tribal people in your camera. More than taking pictures, this tour will teach us to know people who live their life in high-altitude from nearest angle, to know how they sustain the coldest time and how they earn their livings – all in these restricted villages of Himachal Pradesh. It's to see life under a macro lens – and all you need to have is passion to travel, passion to know the unknown and of course passion for photography!

Dates

September 23 – 30, 2010

Pre-requisites

Nothing much, all you need to have a camera (preferably a digital SLR one) and passion for photography. Be prepared for sleeping in camps, staying nights at villages, spending time with local people amidst of untouched natural beauty of Spiti Vallery. Having said that, your images will be worth taking these pains. And of course, it will be fun too!

Recommended gear & accessories

It will be cold, especially at night. Therefore, don't forget to pack your woolens, cap and a pair of gloves. A pair of snicker would be helpful. A sleeping bag would be nice to have, though not mandatory.

For your camera & lenses, make sure you have the body cover & lens cover to save your gear from dust. You can use any lens, from a ultra wide to shoot the landscape to the medium telephoto to shoot people on street or at home. A tripod will be handy if you would like to shoot the mountains at night.

Himalayan Lifestyle Experience **September 23 – 30, 2010**

Tour Itinerary

Introductory dinner on Sep. 22, 2010 at 7:30 PM at Mount View Restaurant, The Mall, Manali

Day 1: Sep 23, 2010

7:00 AM – Meet in front of Tourist Information center, Manali. Start the journey in a Toyota Qualis – breakfast on the way.

Full-day photography on the way – capture the colors of Himalaya in different lights till we reach Dadar Pul. It's a valley on the lap of the Himalaya and we will have our first night here – yes, in a camp. Capture the mountains in evening light, and then sing at your highest pitch by the camp fire.

Dinner & overnight at Dadar pul

Day 2: Sep 24, 2010

We will start the day after capturing the stunning mountains again in morning light. Now it's time to pray – so that we can see Chandra Tal – a beautiful lake on a valley of Himalayas. But if your prayer doesn't work, and road to Chandra Tal is not accessible, then we will move straight towards Losar – a small town in Himachal. But if we can reach Chandra Tal, then we can shoot the beautiful lake in our own terms and then move towards Losar.

We will stay in a guest house in Losar - dinner & overnight at Losar.

Day 3: Sep 25, 2010

Before starting from Losar, have a round of photography in & around Losar. After breakfast we will start for Kaza – an exotic valley of Spiti. You can challenge your composition skills here with the Spiti River, Buddhist Monastery (Key Gompa), temples, landscape or people – entire Kaza is for you to be shot.

Dinner & overnight in a guest house in Kaza.

Day 4: Sep 26, 2010

Today will take it slower – enjoy every bit of what this wonderful valley has to offer. We will drive to Kibber – the highest village in the world which is connected by a motorable road and also the highest village in the world which has its own polling station!

Overnight at Kaza

Day 5: Sep 27, 2010

It's time to go interior now. We will roam around the villages Hikkim & Kowmick – talk to the villagers, make fascinating environmental portraits before we hit Langza.

Langza – another small village of this region, and we are going to stay in one of the villager's home. In the language of tourists – a home-stay.

Day 6: Sep 28, 2010

Our destination for today is Tabo – an ancient village, situated on the left bank of River Spiti. Flanked on either side by hills, it is one of the most important Buddhist monasteries regarded by many as only next to the Tholing Gumpa in Tibet. It is also known as the Ajanta of the Himalayas. Tabo is the largest monastic complex of Spiti which has since been declared a protected monument under the Archaeological Survey of India.

On the way, we will stop at village Dhankar, near the Tibetan border – do photography inside the village, monastery and/or the landscape.

Dinner & overnight in a guest house

Day 7: Sep 29, 2010

Shoot at Tabo in early morning and head towards the Pin valley. It's around 2.5 hours drive from Tabo and you can hit the Pin valley national park – your chance to shoot wildlife and go wild! You can also pray for the Snow Leopard to come down and pose for you!

In the evening, we will check in to another home-stay – you can spend the entire evening knowing and documenting their life.

Dinner & overnight in home-stay at Pin valley

Day 8: Sep 30, 2010

Today we will start early – around 5 AM, so that we can reach Manali before sunset. You can give your camera little rest as we need cover a long drive which might take any time between 10 to 12 hours. We will reach Manali by sunset.

Tour ends.

Important notes:

1. This tour is strictly for 4 photographers, excluding one from Photo Tours India. We cannot accommodate more than 5 in this photo-journey and bookings will be made on first-come first-serve basis.
2. Be prepared for anything – road closed for snowing to landslides. Though September is a good time to visit this area, but weather is unpredictable in mountains.
3. This is a restricted area and we will visit these places with proper permission from respective authorities. Please respect the local people.
4. Accommodations will be on twin-sharing. Single accommodation might not be available at these places.
5. Attached toilets/bathrooms will NOT be available at home-stays and guest houses. Please do not expect any hotel-kind of stay at the home-stays. Remember, we are going to stay at villages, that also in high-altitude.
6. Sunscreen lotions & moisturisers are your best friends here (well, after the camera & tripod), take them adequate.
7. Be prepared to take food anywhere – decent restaurants or food joints might not be available at these places.
8. The cost of mineral/bottled water is not included, the entire team will share the cost at the end of the tour.
9. The last night stay at Manali is complementary from Photo Tours India in twin-sharing room.
10. Photo Tours India will take Medical insurance with emergency evacuation for all participants.

Price:

The price for this photo-journey is Rs.45,000/- (INR Forty Five Thousand only) per participant. You can book your seat by paying Rs.10,000/- (INR Ten Thousand only) by August 9, 2010 and the balance by September 10, 2010.

This price includes the followings:

- All transfer from Manali to Manali by a Toyota Qualis or a SUV
- All accommodations (hotel/camp/guest house) at all places mentioned in this itinerary
- Breakfast, lunch & dinner on all days – starting breakfast on September 23 to dinner on September 30, 2010.
- All permits & passes for the restricted areas & wildlife fees
- A medical insurance with emergency evacuation

This price does not include:

- Expenses of any personal nature (laundry, beverages, etc)
- Anything ordered from room – needs to be settled by the respective participant
- Anything which is not mentioned here

Entry form
Himalayan Lifestyle Experience

September 23 – 30, 2010

Name: _____

Complete Address: _____

PIN Code: _____

Residence telephone number: _____

Mobile number: _____

E-mail: _____

Date of birth: _____

Blood group: _____

Pre-existing illnesses: _____

Allergic to (food, vegetable, medicine, etc, if any): _____

Next to kin (name & relationship): _____

Emergency contact person: _____

Emergency contact number: _____

Food preference: Vegetarian Non-Vegetarian

Payment mode: Direct Bank Deposit (HDFC Bank) Cash Credit Card

I do hereby agree to all the terms & conditions mentioned here and the information provided here by myself are from best of my knowledge.

Date: _____

Place: _____

Signature

Instructions to fill up the entry form

- Please print the last 2 pages of this file (page 6 & 7), i.e., the entry form and this page, fill all the points in as detail as possible, paste a passport size photograph at the top-right corner of the form, then courier it to:
Anirban Biswas
301, Shiv Darshan,
Sector – 19, Plot # 90,
Kharghar, Navi Mumbai – 410210,
Maharashtra, India.
- Please write a mail to tours@phototours.in after sending the filled up form and let us know your chosen payment mode. We will send you the Bank A/C number or the link to pay by Credit Card accordingly.
- Please don't forget to sign on both the pages where it's marked as 'Signature'.

Terms & Conditions

1. The mentioned cost does not include any expense of personal nature, laundry or any beverages.
2. The tour will be originated from Manali and will end at Manali. Cost of travelling to & from Manali is not included.
3. Charges for video camera (if any) will be borne by the participants.
4. We (Photo Tours India) assume no responsibility for accidents or injury to individuals participating in this photography tour.
5. We cannot assume any liability whatsoever for injury, sickness, damage, death, loss, theft, accident or delay to person or property due to an act of negligence of or default of any travel agent, hotel, carrier, restaurant, company, airline, or person rendering any of the services included in this photography tour, or by act of God, act of war or terrorism. Further, no responsibilities are accepted for any damage, changes or delays due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or other causes beyond our personal control.
6. No responsibility is accepted for any additional expense, omissions and schedule changes, forced stopovers, rerouting or acts of any governments or authority.
7. We reserve the right to decline or accept any person as a member of any tour or to cancel or alter the tour without notice.
8. This tour is open for only 4 participants. We cannot accommodate more than 5, and seats will be booked on first come first serve basis.
9. Place in this tour can be booked by paying Rs. 10,000 (INR Ten Thousand only) by August 9, 2010. The balance amount must be paid by September 2, 2010 to get a confirmed seat.
10. All cancellation requests will be entertained till September 2, 2010 with a deduction of 20% of the booking amount. No cancellation request will be entertained after September 2, 2010 and no refund request will be entertained thereafter.

Date: _____

Place: _____

Signature