Walking holiday in the Himalayas | December 6-13 (07 Nights & 08 Days)

Banjara Camps & Retreats

Banjara Camps & Retreats A26 First Floor, Nangal Dewat Behind Spinal Injury Hospital Vasant Kunj New Delhi 110070
Himachal is such a spectacular destination that any time of the year would offer you beauty and peace. Travel to offbeat destinations and cover lesser known places of Himachal. Our program provides one of the best opportunities to experience most if not all of the Himachali life style in all its glory. Kullu (Sonaugi) nestled in the lap of the majestic Himalayas; where people all over have come in the last 2000 years and settled. The breathtaking beauty of its marvelous landscapes, the hospitality of its people, their distinctive lifestyle and rich culture have enthralled travelers for aeons. We will also travel to a small village (Sojha which is surrounded by tall Silver oak trees, filling the roadside with Blue Iris, are a sight to behold. It also provides breathtaking sceneries and walks to nearby meadow and forts. Driving from Shoja we drive past deep gorges of Gandah Nallah and Anni towards one of the most beautiful village Thanedhar, the birthplace of apples in India and an orchard town. The Banjara retreat amidst the orchards is a serene place perfect for unwinding.

Trip dates: Year 2018
Start from: Delhi
End at: Delhi
Meals: Dinner on day 01 to breakfast on day 08
Total distance covered by road: 450-550 kms
Maximum altitude reached: 3352m (Hatu Peak)
Min/ Max group size: 5/10
Permits required No

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Accommodation:</th>
<th>Type SGL/Twin</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thanedhar</td>
<td>Banjara Orchard Retreat:</td>
<td>We have total 10 Rooms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sojha</td>
<td>Banjara Retreat &amp; Cottage:</td>
<td>We have total 06 Rooms and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sonaugi</td>
<td>Sonaugi Homestead:</td>
<td>We have total 05 Rooms</td>
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Flight Information:
December 6, 2018 – Fly Bhopal (BHO) to Delhi (DEL), arriving in Delhi by 9:30am
December 13, 2018 – Fly Kullu (KUU) to Delhi (DEL) [11:00am – 12:25pm]; Depart Delhi for home any time after 4:00pm.
December 6 - Day 1 | Bhopal (MP) – Delhi Airport |

On 06th Dec. 2018, Arrive Delhi airport and get transferred to hotel; spend the day doing local sightseeing including famous The Qutub Minar, Lotus Temple and Red Fort. Enjoy a lunch at Café Lota and later get transfer to hotel and rest as you will take morning train to Chandigarh.

Meals Included: Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner

December 7 - Day 2 | Delhi to Chandigarh by Train - (Transfered to Thanedhar Retreat)

Take a Morning Shatabadi from New Delhi Station at 0740 hrs and reach Chandigarh By 1115 hrs. Pick up from the Chandigarh Railway station and drive to Thanedhar via Barog, Shimla and Narkanda. Reach Thanedhar in the evening, enjoy your sneaks & tea. Evening around bonfire. Night stay in Banjara Orchards and Retreat.

Note: We will arrange a packed lunch from Chandigarh and guests will have the same while travelling to Thanedhar. We will share the lunch location closer to travelling dates.

Meals Included: Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner

December 8 - Day 3 | Thanedar – Drive and hike to Lake and Hatu peak

Post breakfast we take you to one of the beautiful apple Orchard Retreat called Thanedar. On the way we visit the Hatu Peak at 3352m which offers a panoramic view of the snowline and it is an hour trek from the retreat. Reach there and check into your pre-booked rooms and enjoy hot lunch. Spend the evening at leisure around the bonfire. Stay overnight at hotel.

Saroga forest- This is one of the more popular walks with people who stay with us in our Thanedhar Retreat. The trail through the forest introduces you to the rich flora of the inner Himalayas. The forest is full of Blue pine, Silver Spur, Christmas tree, Spruce, Oaks, Rhododendron and Taxus Himalayana (the tree from which Taxol is derived and used for curing cancer)
Walking holiday in the Himalayas

December 9 - Day 4 | Thanedhar - Sojha (2735m) | 85 kms - 3.5 hrs

After Breakfast Checkout to Sojha and drive via Senj and Anni drive uphill to Jalori Pass (3120M). Our Sojha host will join you here with packed picnic lunch. Return to retreat for evening tea. Check in to your Rooms and spend time on bonfire.

Hike to Raghupur fort:-
After small break start hiking to Raghupur fort. Raghupur Fort Meadows overlooking the Tirthan Valley, Kullu district in the West and Shimla district in the East. From Jalori, it is a level walk in the open for about hundred meters towards valley before it heads straight into the forest on a well-defined trail. Half a kilometer later, a steep climb takes one to a small meadow that offers a photo-op. A short rest and off you go into the Oaks and Rhododendrons forest slowly climbing up and then shifting gear for a final steep climb of 15 to 20 minutes. Here the tree line finishes and we move into a meadow. A little up and we are rewarded with a 360 degrees view of The Himalayas, Dhauladhar and Kinnaur ranges, all of them in one sweeping glance.

Meals Included: Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner

December 10 - Day 5 | Sojha | Jalori pass- Serolser Lake- 05 kms drive/ 05 kms hike one way

The hike to Serolser Lake is a beautiful one offering different vistas of Himalayas. A well-defined trail takes one to the lake. Few hundred meters on the trail and then you get in to the Oak forest. The sun rays filtering through the tree cover, the blue of the sky through the foliage, the up and down of the trail, an occasional sight of a bird, a clearing showing the huge green vistas cascading down to the Sutluj valley, all of this and more will keep you an enchanting company all the way to the lake. The lake makes up in crystal clear clarity what it lacks in size. The local belief is that no one has ever found a leaf floating in the lake though leafy trees surround the lake itself. Lunch near the crystal clear waters of the Lake. Hike back to Jalori pass and drive back to retreat. Evening around a bonfire in retreat. Night stay in retreat.
After breakfast we drive to the beautiful valley of Kullu to reach your next gorgeous destination at Sonaugi. Reach there for late lunch and check into your cottage room. Take rest for the day; enjoy some small walks in surroundings. Have some freshly prepared dinner and stay overnight at the retreat.

Meals Included: Breakfast + Picnic Lunch + Dinner

After some rich breakfast, we take you to some of our nature trails like Beas river walk or Jamma Village walk, where you will get to see not only the green jungle, but the beauty of traditional local villages. Return back to the home stay and get fresh with a nice cup of tea. Have the freshly prepared delicious dinner and stay overnight at the Homestead.

Meals Included: Breakfast + Picnic Lunch + Dinner

In Morning get transferred to the airport to board the flight for Delhi and also board a flight for your onward journey. The guests with late flights out of Delhi, we will check in to their hotel and later they will be transferred to Airport.

Meals Included: Breakfast
Cost includes:

1. Accommodation on DBL/Twin share basis. Single rooms based on availability.
2. Ground transportation.
3. Local guide - Trekking/walks arrangements for the group in various Retreats.
4. Meals as per above itinerary.
5. Govt. Taxes.

Cost does not include:

1. Any En route/personal expenses.
2. Any insurance.
4. Any expenses incurred due to any factors beyond our control like a natural calamity/ man-made calamity.
Packing List:

- Duffel bag (avoid hard suitcases)
- A small day backpack to carry water, lunch, jacket and camera
- Hiking shoes - you need good traction in shoes and these should be at least water resistant. (Example: Scarpa Forclaz 500) Your shoes should be well broken-in and not new.
- 2 pairs of pants
- 2-3 long sleeve shirts (no cotton)
- A fleece jacket
- Insulating jacket (down or synthetic fill)
- Underclothing
- 1 pairs of thermal inners
- 3 pairs of hiking socks (wool or synthetic)
- Woolen cap/ balaclava that covers the ears
- Gloves/mittens
- Sun glasses
- Lip balm
- Sunblock and sun screen lotion (SPF 40+).
- Water bottle (2 Liters) or hydration bladder
- Headlamp
- Personal toilet kit (Toilet paper in Ziploc; a second Ziploc bag for used TP – no littering along trail; hand sanitizer)
- Personal medicine
- Small repair kit consisting of safety pins, needle, thread.
- Camera, memory-cards, batteries etc (carry enough spare batteries. Electricity is not available on the slopes.

Please note that you may not have to use a lot of woolens listed above but, weather in the Himalayas can be rather unpredictable hence, better safe than sorry.
**Important considerations:**

**Food & Hygiene:**
Food is a mix range from Indian vegetarian/ non-vegetarian meals to some choices of Continental & Chinese food. All meals are buffet meals. There is no room service.

**Fitness:**
You should be in decent health if you wish to hike. We advise jogging and breathing exercise. Fitter you are more you will enjoy.

**Photography:**
Post monsoon in early winter’s sky is absolutely blue. Please ask your guide before taking photographs inside any temple and if you plan to photograph any locals, please take their permission before doing so. You could charge your camera at the retreat.

**Medicine:**
It would be anyway a great idea to bring your own medicines kit. Please carry sun block and chapstick. Keep your face, feet and hands well protected. Although Retreat also have their medicines boxes.