

"The Moon Lake Trek" (Chandertal) via Hampta Pass

Region: Manali, Hamta pass, Chandertal, Lahaul valley.

Season: July to Mid September.

Max. altitude: 4280m.

No. of days: 05 days.

High passes: 'Over 02 stages Hamta pass, Rohtang

Transport: Manali / Chikka, Chatru/ Chandertal/ Manali.

Gradient: In the beginning its about three hours walk up to Hamta/ Setan and one gets acclimatized easily generally easy trek except river crossing. Difficulties are not there, of course ups and downs.

Grading: A reasonable degree of physical fitness is needed for this trek and a one-day acclimatization at Manali is recommended.

Special interest: Excellent view for photographers, ideal place for nature lovers, best spot for adventure lover and Buddhism culture in Lahaul.

Manali:

The name Manali is derived from the word 'Manulaya' meaning 'Home of Manu' (The power giver), the saint who gave the world the written laws for the first time.

Manali is located in the upper Kullu valley, at an altitude of 6000ft. (2050m.), and is one of the most popular tourist resorts in Himachal Pradesh. The place is famous center for adventure sports like Skiing, Heli-Skiing, Para-gliding, River-rafting, Trekking and Mountaineering. Manali is also a launching pad for treks and expeditions in Dhauladhar range, Pir Panjal range, Lahaul, Zaskar and Ladakh regions.

Lahaul & Spiti:

The Lahaul&Spiti valleys form a unique socio-physical unit of Himachal Pradesh. These rugged valleys lie at a height of (3000to 4800m.) above sea level.

Spiti is a cold mountain desert, located on the Tibetan border and flanked on the southeast by district of Kinnaur, north -east by Tibet, north by Ladakh, west by Lahaul and to the south by district of Kullu.

Trek:

One of the most delightful treks in the Manali region affording views of lush green valleys, towering snow clad mountains and barren hills with surrealistic forms and shapes. Excellent for the trekker who is reasonably fit. Leaving the Manali valley, the trek proceeds through evergreen cool forests of walnut, oak and the occasional alder. The views of the entire Kullu valley are excellent and are glimpsed all along the trail. Once atop the Hamta Pass (4270m.), another spectacular panorama of peaks appears. The Chandertal is a jewel of a lake so breathtaking in its beauty that one feels like spending an eternity here. Then it is into the Lahaul valley where barren towering mountains rise above lush green fields of potato and barley and the presence of Buddhist culture seems evident. An unforgettable trek, known to very few trekkers and foreigners.

Day to day description:

Day 01: Manali/Prini - Panduropa/Setan / Chikka (2700 m) 4 hours. Drive from manali to Chikka,

overnight at Chikka,(3200m) 5 hours trek through landscape to just below the Hamta Pass situated on a grassy bank sloping down from the cliffs. The impressive grandeur of immediate surroundings, the nearness of the Tokru-Shakru peaks the wonderful coloring of rock and mountainside. A river Alain Nullah follows Chikka and its snout is Hamta Pass which one has to cross it thrice a time to come across along the cliff side till one finally reaches Chikka. Panduropa means paddy fields of Pandavas. The trek from Panduropa is full of cliff cascading splashes over which attracts a lot of foreign trekkers from all over the world.

Day 02: Chikka - Balu Gera today trek lead to Balu gera base of Hamta pass, trail chances view every moment , nice landscape with thick ages of rhododendron, overnight at balugera.

Day 03Balu Gera - Shea Gahru (3200m.) 6hrs.over Hamta Pass (4270m.). The trail now begins to ascend towards the mighty Hamta Pass (4270m.) and one can have close views of Deo Tibba and fabled Indrasan peaks. After that it is all the way descend down in a zigzag right to the campsite Shea Gahru. Shea Gahro means a very cold place because it is very adjacent to the glacier snout. During summer it's a grazing pasture or halting place for the Shepard's to enter in the Kullu and Lahaul valley.

Day 04: Shea Gahru - Chhatru (3360m.) – Chandertal 5hrs.Today's walk is quite easy along the river up to the rock point, which is hard to cross in the rainy season. Some time you can find a bridge at rock point mainly during the winter bridge usually blown off by the avalanche. And at one point one has to cross the river physically at the forded place. Once you close to the crossing point and one can see the distant valleys of Lahaul and Spiti come into view. The massive mountains of the Pir Panjal and Spiti ranges dominate the entire landscape till the at Chhatru. Latre have tea and transfer by road to Chandertal, Chandratal (The Lake of moon 4270m) 4hrs. A pleasant walk along the Chandra River where green pasture and a Shepard's hut can be seen. The trail proceeds over the rubble-strewn plateau, crosses a small stream and continues traversing the upward slope. The track is almost level, with a few ups and downs and the Chandra-Tal appears. A majestic serene lake surrounded by the mighty Himalayan peaks. A vast meadows, is the camping site on the banks of the enchanting lake. During springtime, it is carpeted with hundreds of kinds of wild flowers. Overnight in camp.

Day 05: Chandertal – Manali: Today after breakfast you will transfer by road to Manali. Tour end.