

Thanks for the update! I'll revise your 7-day Spiti Valley circuit itinerary based on a midnight departure from Chandigarh on May 11 (12:00 AM), with a return by the evening of May 17. I'll redistribute time at your existing overnight stops while making sure your Day 5 exam requirement is fully accommodated. I'll also include approximate sunrise and sunset times for each day and location to help with planning.

I'll get back to you shortly with the updated and detailed itinerary.

Spiti Valley 7-Day Bike Trip Itinerary (May 11–17, 2025)

Trip Overview: A circuit ride from Chandigarh through Spiti Valley's high Himalayas, covering Narkanda, Chitkul (detour), Tabo, Kaza, Chandratol, and Manali. Long riding days (8–10 hours) are balanced with incredible scenery and acclimatization stops. The early midnight departure on May 11 gives a head-start to include Chitkul without extra nights. Typical sunrise (~5:25 AM) and sunset (~7:10 PM) times are noted to plan daylight riding ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)). Road conditions range from smooth highways to rough high-altitude passes, with weather varying from mild in low hills to freezing at Kunzum Pass. Daily sections below detail the route, travel time, activities, road/weather notes, and connectivity.

Day 1: Chandigarh to Narkanda (Midnight Departure)

Route: Chandigarh (depart 12:00 AM) – Kiratpur – Shimla – Narkanda (approx. 180 km).

Travel Time: ~7–8 hours overnight ride. Departing at midnight avoids traffic; expect to reach Narkanda by early morning (around 6–7 AM).

Activities: Ride through the night and watch the sunrise over the hills en route (sunrise about 5:28 AM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#))). Upon reaching **Narkanda** (2,700 m) in the morning, take some rest at the hotel. Later, you can do a short ride up to **Hatu Peak** (8 km from Narkanda) for panoramic views of the Himalayas. Enjoy the crisp mountain air and vistas (on clear days you might spot distant snow peaks). Use the remainder of the day to relax, adjust to altitude, and prepare for the long ride tomorrow.

Road/Weather Notes: Highways from Chandigarh to Shimla/Narkanda are smooth but winding mountain roads. Night temperatures will drop from ~20°C in Chandigarh to around 8–10°C by dawn in Narkanda ([Things to do in Narkanda in May - Wanderlog](#)), so wear warm layers. Narkanda in May has mild days (~12–25°C) and cool nights ([Things to do in Narkanda in May - Wanderlog](#)) – pleasant for riding. Sunrise is ~5:28 AM and sunset ~7:06 PM in this region ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)). Watch for occasional fog or wildlife on the road at night. Road conditions are generally good up to Narkanda, but be alert on hairpin bends in the dark.

Connectivity: Excellent mobile network coverage until Shimla and in Narkanda (Jio and Airtel

4G signals are strong). Hotels in Narkanda often have Wi-Fi or broadband. You can easily get online in Narkanda to update family. (Enjoy this connectivity – it will get spottier in the remote valleys ahead.)

Day 2: Narkanda to Tabo (via Chitkul in Kinnaur)

Route: Narkanda – Rampur – Karcham – **Chitkul** (detour) – Karcham – Pooh – Nako – **Tabo** (approx. 380 km).

Travel Time: ~12–14 hours of riding (a very long day). Start pre-dawn (by 4:30–5:00 AM) to maximize daylight. The early start on Day 1 pays off today – you have a head start to fit in Chitkul. Expect to reach Tabo late evening.

Activities: Ride through Kinnaur's dramatic terrain at sunrise (sunrise ~5:27 AM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#))). By mid-morning, take the diversion at Karcham up the Baspa Valley to **Chitkul**, the last village before the Indo-Tibet border. Enjoy the stunning Sangla Valley scenery: gushing Baspa River, pine forests, and snow-capped peaks. In Chitkul, take a short break (late breakfast) and walk to the riverbank – the mountain views are sublime and you can spot the Kinnaur Kailash range in the distance. After soaking in Chitkul's beauty, backtrack to Karcham and continue on NH-5 into upper Kinnaur. Along the way, you'll pass scenic mountain villages and get occasional glimpses of the **Kinner Kailash** peaks (weather permitting). Stop for lunch/fuel around **Pooh** or **Nako**. If time allows, briefly visit **Nako Lake** (a tranquil high-altitude lake) in the afternoon. By evening, enter Spiti Valley via the Sumdo checkpoint and reach **Tabo** (3,050 m) at nightfall. Check into a guesthouse and rest – you've completed one of the toughest days.

Road/Weather Notes: This is an arduous ride combining long distance and a detour. Roads are paved till Karcham; the Karcham–Chitkul road is narrower but generally decent. After rejoining NH-5, expect some rough patches and famous cliff-hugging roads in Kinnaur – ride cautiously around overhangs and watch for falling rocks. The route climbs from near sea-level at Rampur to 3,800 m at Nako, then down to 3,050 m at Tabo. You'll experience varied weather: chilly dawn in Narkanda (~5°C), warmer mid-morning in lower valleys, then cold winds by Nako. Chitkul (3450 m) will be cold even mid-day (possibly 5–15°C) with snow still visible on surrounding peaks (the Sangla/Chitkul road typically opens after April ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#))). Carry rain gear for the occasional spring shower, though May is mostly dry. Sunset in Spiti is ~7:07 PM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)), but inside deep gorges it gets dark earlier – aim to clear the winding sections before dusk. Arriving in Tabo at night, temperature may drop to ~5°C, so have warm layers handy.

Connectivity: Cellular signal is available in patches. You'll have strong network in towns like Rampur. In Chitkul, **only Jio** has reliable coverage (Airtel has no signal in Chitkul) ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)) – plan accordingly if you need to coordinate. After rejoining the highway, expect intermittent connectivity; Kinnaur villages have some coverage (Jio/Airtel in Kalpa/Reckong Peo, and BSNL in remote stretches). By the time you reach Tabo, you're back in range – **Tabo has both Jio and Airtel 4G with 20–30 Mbps speeds** ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)). Internet should be usable at Tabo guesthouses (though

mostly via mobile data, as Wi-Fi is rare). This will likely be your first chance to reconnect and inform loved ones of the day's progress.

Day 3: Tabo to Kaza (Spiti Valley)

Route: Tabo – Dhankar – Kaza (approx. 50 km).

Travel Time: ~2 hours riding (short distance), plus stops. This is an easier day after yesterday's marathon. Depart Tabo at a relaxed hour (8–9 AM). Even with sightseeing at Dhankar, you'll reach Kaza by early afternoon.

Activities: In the morning, visit the **Tabo Monastery**, one of the oldest Buddhist monasteries (built in 996 AD). Explore its ancient mud structures and remarkable frescoes – often called the “Ajanta of the Himalayas.” After soaking in the history, ride towards **Dhankar**. A 8 km uphill spur road leads to **Dhankar Monastery**, perched dramatically on a cliff. The monastery offers a panoramic view of the Spiti River below – it's a great spot for photography. (If you're feeling acclimatized and adventurous, a quick hike to Dhankar Lake is possible, but it would take ~1.5–2 hours round-trip, so gauge your timing.) Post Dhankar, continue the ride to **Kaza**, the district headquarters of Spiti, reaching around 1–2 PM. Afternoon in Kaza is free: check in to your Kaza hotel for a 2-night stay. Use this time to relax, as Kaza (3,800 m) is the highest altitude stop so far – take a leisurely walk in the bazaar, fuel up the bikes (Kaza has the last petrol pump until Manali), and maybe enjoy a coffee at a local café. Crucially, use today to **test internet connectivity** and prepare for tomorrow's online exam – identify a spot (hotel Wi-Fi or a particular mobile network) that is stable for video calls.

Road/Weather Notes: Tabo to Kaza is a short ride on mostly decent roads (some paved sections and some gravel). The spur to Dhankar is narrow and steep but manageable; ride carefully on loose gravel and watch for oncoming local vehicles on blind turns. By now you are in a high-altitude desert – the landscape is stark and stunning. Weather in Spiti in mid-May is sunny but **cold**. (For instance, Kaza's average high temperature in May is only around **4°C**, with nights dropping to **-6°C** ([Kaza, India weather in May - Wanderlog](#)), so keep warm clothes handy even during the day.) Acclimatization is key: avoid over-exerting today. If anyone feels symptoms of altitude sickness, take it easy and stay hydrated. Sunrise in Tabo was ~5:27 AM and sunset in Kaza is about 7:08 PM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)) – if the sky is clear, you'll witness a long golden evening in the open Spiti valley. This evening, don't miss the view of million stars – Kaza's night sky is brilliant with minimal light pollution.

Connectivity: By Spiti standards, Tabo and Kaza are well-connected. Both **Jio and Airtel networks are present in Kaza**, but be aware the service can fluctuate (during peak hours, data speeds in Kaza ranged from 1 to 20 Mbps in one survey) ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)). Kaza also still has a BSNL 3G network (legacy but sometimes useful). Many hotels/café's in Kaza offer Wi-Fi, though reliability varies (often they are using the same cellular networks or a local broadband line). Use the lighter schedule today to sort out the best connectivity for the exam – perhaps ask locals or test both an Airtel and Jio SIM to see which provides a steadier connection. *Tip:* There is a quieter village **Rangrik** ~4 km from Kaza where networks were observed to be more stable (20 Mbps on both Jio/Airtel) ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal](#)

[Pradesh](#)) – if Kaza town’s network is overloaded, one option could be to ride a bit out of town tomorrow to get better signal, but this is usually not necessary in May (more tourists = more network congestion later in summer).

Day 4: Kaza Local Exploration (Acclimatization Day)

Route: Local circuit from Kaza – Key – Kibber – (optional Langza/Hikkim/Komic) – Kaza.

Travel Time: ~3–4 hours of riding divided throughout the day (approx. 80 km round-trip if all sites covered). This is a buffer day to enjoy Spiti and adjust to altitude before tackling Kunzum Pass. You’ll stay in Kaza again tonight, so no packing luggage – travel light on local excursions.

Activities: **Kaza** is your base for the day. In the morning (after a good rest), ride north along the Spiti River to **Key Monastery** (~14 km). Arrive in time for the morning prayer chants if possible – the ambiance in the main hall is serene. The rooftop of Key Gompa offers a fantastic view of the valley dotted with its mud villages. From Key, ride further to **Kibber** (6 km ahead), one of the highest inhabited villages (4,270 m). The ride to Kibber is short but steep; at Kibber, walk around to see the stone houses and maybe spot an ibex on the surrounding hills. Don’t miss driving another 4 km to **Chicham Bridge**, Asia’s highest gorge bridge, for an adrenaline-pumping view into the canyon below. Return to Kaza for lunch. In the afternoon (if everyone is feeling good at altitude), you have the option to explore the high plateau to the southeast of Kaza: visit **Langza** (fossil fields and a giant Buddha statue overlooking the valley), **Hikkim** (the world’s highest post office – you can send a postcard from 14,400 ft), and **Komic** (one of the highest motorable villages at 4,587 m, with a small monastery). This Langza-Hikkim-Komic circuit is roughly 35 km round-trip from Kaza and offers stunning panoramas – you’ll likely encounter snow patches by the roadside at these heights. Wrap up sightseeing by late afternoon and head back to Kaza for an early dinner. Prepare bikes (check fuel, tires) and gear for tomorrow’s high pass crossing. Ensure all devices are charged and download any offline maps or entertainment, since tomorrow night will be off-grid. Crucially, confirm the plan for the exam: have your laptop/device charged and both SIM cards (Airtel/Jio) loaded with data for the next morning.

Road/Weather Notes: All roads today are **rough, unpaved mountain roads**. The ascent to Langza/Komic involves hairpin bends on gravel – ride slowly and maintain balance. Be mindful of your body at 4,500+ m; move slowly to avoid dizziness. By spending an extra day in Kaza, you improve acclimatization for the 4,551 m Kunzum Pass tomorrow. Daytime temperatures in Kaza might reach 10–15°C, but up in Komic it can be close to 0°C even with sunshine. Wind is sharp; you’ll need your warm riding jacket and maybe a balaclava. Weather can change rapidly – a clear morning can turn into cloudy, even light snow flurries at Komic (carry rain/cold gear on the local ride). Sunrise in Kaza on May 14 is ~5:26 AM, sunset ~7:08 PM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)). Check with locals or the SDM office about **Kunzum Pass** status – as of mid-May, it’s usually just opening. (Historically, Kunzum opens in late May or early June ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)), but recent years have seen earlier clearances; get the latest update so you know what to expect.) Also, top up fuel today – you have ~200 km to cover before the next petrol pump in Manali. If needed, you can buy spare fuel from local shops in Kaza. Tonight, get to bed early so the exam-taker is fresh and everyone can depart on time tomorrow.

Connectivity: Around Kaza, mobile connectivity is **available but spotty**. Key Monastery now has a Jio tower, and Kibber had **strong Jio (around 40 Mbps) but no Airtel** coverage in 2022 ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)). The Langza–Komic circuit has very limited signal (a Jio tower was installed at Komic but during one test no network could be obtained ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#))). Essentially, once you leave Kaza town, assume you're mostly offline in the villages (which is fine for a day of exploration). Back in Kaza by evening, you'll have networks again. Use the evening to do a final connectivity test for the exam: verify which SIM is giving better upload speed for video. Perhaps arrange with your hotel to use their Wi-Fi or a quiet space in the lobby during the exam if their internet is more stable. The goal is to have a **stable video-capable connection at 9:30 AM** next day – confirm everything tonight to avoid morning stress.

Day 5: Kaza to Chandratal/Batal (Post-Exam Late Departure)

Route: **Kaza** – Losar – Kunzum Pass – Chandratal – **Batal** (approx. 100 km).

Travel Time: ~4–5 hours riding (departing around noon). The distance isn't large, but the high pass and dirt roads mean slower going. You'll leave after the morning exam, so expect to reach Chandratal by late afternoon.

Activities: Morning (Kaza): One traveler will attend the online exam at 9:30 AM. The others can help by keeping things quiet and packing up. Ensure the exam is taken from the spot identified as having stable internet (whether that's hotel Wi-Fi or a particular corner with good 4G). Once the exam finishes (say around 11:30 AM), do a quick lunch in Kaza, then hit the road by 12:00–12:30 PM. **Afternoon:** Ride northwest towards **Losar** (58 km). The road follows the Spiti River, and you'll notice the valley narrowing. Losar (4,080 m) is the last village of Spiti – stop here to register at the police/ITBP checkpoint and grab tea. After Losar, begin the ascent to **Kunzum Pass (4,551 m)**. The climb is steep with switchbacks; take it slow and steady. At **Kunzum Top**, congratulate yourselves – you're at one of India's highest motorable passes! There's a small temple (Kunzum Mata) adorned with prayer flags. It's tradition to do a clockwise round of the temple for safe travels. Enjoy the 360° views of snow-clad peaks of the CB (Chandra-Bhaga) range. By mid-May, **snow clearance operations are usually just finished** – expect tall snow walls lining the road at the summit ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)). Don't linger too long (thin air and cold winds). Begin the descent on the other side into Lahaul. A few kilometers down from the pass, a dirt track branches left toward **Chandratal Lake** (signposted). Take this spur – it's about 14 km to Chandratal parking. This section is very rough; you'll ford a couple of small streams and bounce over rocks. By around 4–5 PM, you should arrive near **Chandratal** ("Moon Lake"). From the parking area, it's a 15-minute walk to the lake itself. Enjoy the magical sight: a deep-blue lake at 4,300 m surrounded by snow peaks. In mid-May, there might even be some ice on the lake's edges. Spend the evening soaking in the beauty and peace – this is a highlight of the trip. **Sunset** at Chandratal is about 7:09 PM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)), though mountains will cast shadows earlier. As daylight fades, head to your night stop. (Camping at Chandratal is the

dream, but note: the formal campsites here **start operating only from June** due to harsh conditions ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)). By May 15, there may be very limited or no camping services yet.) Be prepared for basic accommodation. Likely, you'll ride 14 km back down to **Batal** (4,000 m, 30 min ride) and stay near the road at Batal. **Batal** has the famous **Chandra Dhaba** run by a local couple ("Chacha-Chachi") who provide simple food and have a few survival-hut style shelters or tents. It's extremely basic – essentially an emergency stop – but an adventure in itself. Enjoy a hot meal of dal-chawal at the dhaba, swap stories with any fellow travelers or BRO workers, and bundle up for a **frigid** high-altitude night. This is camping-style accommodation – an authentic Himalayan experience of roughing it!

Road/Weather Notes: The Kaza-Losar stretch is mostly gravel. From Losar onward, **road conditions deteriorate** further – expect mud, occasional snow patches, and water crossings as the snow melts through the day. **Kunzum Pass** is a challenging stretch: since it is just reopening for the season, the road will be narrow in parts (only one vehicle width cleared through snow) ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)). Be ready for possible slush and even falling snow if weather changes. Crossing Kunzum **after noon** means snowmelt could make sections slippery – proceed carefully, use engine braking on descents, and stick together as a group for safety. The weather at the pass will be harsh: likely around 0°C or below, with wind chill far lower. Oxygen levels are low, so if anyone feels light-headed, descend promptly. Once on the Lahaul side, the road to Chandratol is an ungraded trail – **ride very slowly** to avoid skidding on stones. In case the trail is blocked by snow (possible if snow clearance teams haven't finished the spur road), be prepared to trek to the lake from wherever you have to stop. Daylight will be ample until ~7 PM, but temperatures will drop quickly in the evening. **Campsite status:** According to updates, the road to Chandratol from the Kaza side opens ~May 10 each year ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)), but **tourist camps aren't set up until early June** ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)). This means you should be ready to **self-manage accommodation**: either camp on your own (only if you brought tents and high-altitude gear), or use the very spartan shelters at Batal. Night temperatures at Chandratol/Batal in mid-May can be around -5°C (or lower if windy). Wear thermal base layers, a down jacket, and woolen cap/gloves. Also, **be aware of altitude**: sleeping at ~4,000 m might cause mild AMS symptoms (headache, poor sleep). If anyone feels very uncomfortable, you could even consider descending a bit towards Chota Dhara (but that area has no facilities). Usually, one night at Batal is fine after the acclimatization in Kaza. The sky will be crystal clear – step out to see an incredible canopy of stars and the Milky Way before bed.

Connectivity: You are entering an off-grid zone. There is **no mobile network at Chandratol or Batal** – zero bars for Jio/Airtel/BSNL. (The last point of network was Losar, which luckily has strong signals on both Jio and Airtel ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)) – you might get a final WhatsApp out at Losar. After that, nothing until you're near Manali.) Let family know *ahead of time* that you'll be unreachable on Day 5 night. Batal's Chandra Dhaba does keep a *satellite phone* for emergencies, but it's not for casual use. Embrace the disconnection for a night – enjoy conversations with your friends and the pure wilderness around. (No internet also means the friend who gave the exam can truly relax now, no notifications!)

Day 6: Chandratal/Batal to Manali

Route: Batal – Chota Dhara – Gramphoo – (Atal Tunnel) – Manali (approx. 120 km).

Travel Time: ~6 hours riding. Start *early* (7:00 AM or earlier) from Batal to tackle the rough roads while water crossings are low. You should arrive in Manali by mid/late afternoon (3–4 PM) if all goes to plan.

Activities: Bid farewell to your gracious Batal hosts and hit the road at dawn (sunrise ~5:25 AM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)), try to depart not long after). The route follows the **Chandra River** downstream. This 60 km stretch to Gramphoo is one of the most challenging: a desolate road scattered with boulders and stream beds. You'll ford several **water crossings** (glacial melt streams) – early morning start means less water flow, making it easier. Still, approach each crossing carefully: stop and scout if needed, cross one bike at a time, and help each other. Notable points en route include **Chota Dhara** and **Chatru**, which in summer have temporary dhabas – by mid-May, one or two **dhabas might be operational** (if you see one open, it's a great spot for a tea break and to warm up). The scenery is raw and awe-inspiring – glaciers hang from the mountains, and you might even see marmots sunning on rocks. By late morning, reach **Gramphoo** (intersection with the Leh–Manali Highway). Congratulations – you've completed the Spiti circuit loop! At Gramphoo, decide the onward route: **Rohtang Pass vs Atal Tunnel**. By May 16, *Rohtang Pass (3,978 m) may or may not be open* – typically it opens to tourists around late May ([Spiti Valley Road Status 2024 - 2025 - Vargis Khan](#)). Even if open, it could be slushy; the safer bet is to turn toward **Atal Tunnel**. Ride ~20 km through Sissu and **Khoksar** to the **Atal Tunnel (North Portal)**. (If you prefer Rohtang and it's open, you'd ascend from Gramphoo to Rohtang top ~15 km and then descend 50 km via Marhi to Manali. That route is more scenic but would add time and require a Rohtang permit if coming from Manali side; given uncertainty, we assume you take Atal Tunnel.) At Sissu, you'll notice the drastic change in climate – greenery and easier roads. You might stop at the waterfall viewpoint in Sissu for a quick photo. Enter **Atal Tunnel**, a 9-km engineering marvel that zips you under the Pir Panjal range in about 10 minutes. You'll emerge at Solang Valley, just outside Manali. Ride down to **Manali** (2,050 m) by mid-afternoon. After days of sparse habitation, Manali's bustle will be striking. Check into your hotel and freshen up. Enjoy a relaxed evening: perhaps visit the **Hadimba Temple** set amidst deodar trees, or stroll on **Mall Road** for some café food – you all deserve a treat! This evening is a good time to celebrate the successful journey with your 5 other friends – maybe try some local Himachali cuisine or simply unwind at a cozy restaurant in Old Manali.

Road/Weather Notes: The Batal–Gramphoo road is **extremely rough** – average speeds will be 15–20 km/h. Keep an eye out for the notorious water crossing near **Chota Dhara**, often called "*Pagal Nala*" by riders for its unpredictability. By starting early, you're hitting it before peak melt; still, assess depth and current before crossing. If unsure, wait for another vehicle to accompany or assist. Once at Gramphoo, road conditions improve drastically. The highway from Gramphoo to Khoksar is paved. If taking **Atal Tunnel**, no permits are needed and it's open year-round; just be mindful of the speed limit inside (80 km/h) and that it can be chilly and damp inside the tunnel. Weather-wise, you'll feel a big change: leaving the cold desert of Spiti and entering the lush Kullu Valley. Lahaul in the morning can be cold (~5–10°C), but Manali by afternoon will be a pleasant ~20–25°C. Shed layers as needed to stay cool. In May, afternoons

in Manali can even get a bit warm in riding gear. Traffic might increase as you approach Manali – lots of tourist vehicles on the roads. Also, be prepared for policemen near Manali checking for overspeeding or documentation (have your rental papers, IDs handy). **Sunset in Manali** is around 7:10 PM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)), but you'll be comfortably settled by then. After nearly a week of tough riding, sleeping in Manali's comfortable altitude and amenities will be blissful!

Connectivity: You'll regain phone network once you near **Khoksar/Sissu**. By Sissu, both Jio and Airtel 4G will be back. Through the Atal Tunnel and onwards, connectivity is generally solid (the tunnel has telecom boosters, and south portal onwards is well-covered by networks).

Manali has excellent connectivity – all major carriers have strong signals (though networks can be a bit congested with tourists). Cellular internet should work fine, and you can finally upload some photos! Moreover, almost every hotel, café, and restaurant in Manali offers Wi-Fi (often high-speed fiber). After days of limited internet, you can comfortably video-call family from Manali and catch up on any work if needed. *(Fun fact: One traveler's online exam is long done, but if it were scheduled today instead, Manali's connectivity would have easily handled it.)*

Day 7: Manali to Chandigarh (Return Journey)

Route: Manali – Kullu – Mandi – Bilaspur – Chandigarh (approx. 300 km via NH3 & NH205).

Travel Time: ~9 hours of riding. Start around 7:00 AM to avoid hill traffic and aim for an arrival in Chandigarh by early evening (5–6 PM). This is the final leg – mostly highway riding.

Activities: Depart Manali after an early breakfast. Enjoy the scenic drive along the Beas River down to Kullu. (If you like, you could briefly stop at **Kullu** to buy some famous woolen shawls or fruits, but given the long distance, it's best to keep stops minimal). Pass through the **Aut Tunnel** and alongside **Pandoh Dam** – these roads are wide and in good condition. By late morning, reach **Mandi**, where you can take a tea break or refuel. The route then winds through Sundernagar and **Bilaspur**. It will get progressively warmer as you descend to the plains. Break for lunch around Bilaspur or Swarghat – there are many dhabas on the highway. After Bilaspur, the road straightens out. Around afternoon, cross into Punjab near Rupnagar (Ropar). From here, it's a flat run to **Chandigarh**, reaching by 5–6 PM. Congratulations – you've made it back, completing the epic Spiti circuit in 7 days! Return your rented bikes (before closing time) and perhaps celebrate with a well-deserved dinner in Chandigarh. The memories of snow passes, blue lakes, and starry nights from this past week will last a lifetime.

Road/Weather Notes: After the twists of Himachal, the highway to Chandigarh will feel relatively easy. A large part of this route is national highway with ongoing/upcoming four-laning in sections – be cautious around construction zones (particularly between Mandi and Bilaspur, watch for diversions or gravel on road). Being a weekday (May 17, Saturday actually is a weekend), traffic can be moderate to heavy near towns. By the time you approach Chandigarh, expect city traffic and follow traffic rules strictly (helmet, speed limits, etc.). Weather will be hot in the lowlands – from ~25°C in Mandi to potentially **35°C+ in Chandigarh**. Stay hydrated and use sunscreen, as you're dropping from the cool hills into summer heat. Shed the heavy riding gear if it's too uncomfortable, but continue to ride with protective clothing. Take short breaks every 1.5–2 hours to stretch and stay alert (fatigue can set in on long highway runs). **Sunrise** in Manali was ~5:24 AM and **sunset** in Chandigarh is around 7:10 PM ([Sunrise and Sunset Times](#)

[in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India](#)). You have plenty of daylight for the drive. By evening, when you roll into Chandigarh's familiar roads, you might feel strange not seeing towering mountains on the horizon. Give yourselves a pat on the back – the group's preparation (especially the early departure on Day 1) and endurance paid off to cover this challenging itinerary in 7 days.

Connectivity: The entire Manali–Chandigarh route is well-covered by mobile networks. You'll have 4G signal virtually the whole way (Jio, Airtel, etc., all present). This means navigation via Google Maps, music streaming, or calls can happen whenever needed. Near towns, you might briefly hit congested networks, but generally this is a connected highway. By late afternoon when you're back in **Chandigarh**, you're in a full urban network environment (and likely inundated with notifications once again!). In essence, Day 7 poses no connectivity challenges – a stark contrast to the Spiti interior. Enjoy the easy communication, but don't forget to also enjoy the last few hours of the ride without too many digital distractions.

Internet Connectivity Summary (Overnight Stops)

To help plan for work/communication needs, here's a summary of mobile network and internet availability at each overnight stop:

Location	Mobile Data Coverage	Wi-Fi Availability
Narkanda (Day 1)	Jio 4G, Airtel 4G – strong coverage (near Shimla, reliable).	Available at most hotels (basic broadband).
Tabo (Day 2)	Jio 4G & Airtel 4G – both reliable, ~20–30 Mbps speeds (Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh).	Limited (most guesthouses use mobile data).
Kaza (Day 3–4)	Jio 4G & Airtel 4G – present but fluctuating 1–20 Mbps (Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh). BSNL 3G also exists (backup).	A few hotels/cafés offer Wi-Fi (variable quality, often slow at peak times).
Chandratal/Batal (Day 5)	No mobile network – no signal for any provider (off-grid area).	None – completely off-grid (no Wi-Fi; only emergency satellite phone at Batal).

Manali (Day 6)

Jio 4G, Airtel 4G – strong signals, though can slow down with user load ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)).

Widely available – most hotels/cafés have fast Wi-Fi.

Note: It's advisable that at least one of you carries both Jio and Airtel SIMs to maximize chances of connectivity. In Spiti, Jio has a slight edge in some villages (e.g., Chitkul and Kibber) ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)) ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)), whereas Airtel works in others (e.g., Nako) ([Network connectivity in Sangla valley, Spiti valley and Parvati valley, Himachal Pradesh](#)) – overall, having both covers your bases. Outside of Day 5, all overnight locations have *some* internet access. The most critical location for connectivity in this itinerary is Kaza (Day 4–5) for the online exam – ensure to leverage both networks and test Wi-Fi vs mobile data to secure a stable connection. Once past Kaza, internet access becomes less of a concern (until you hit the no-network zone of Chandratal). By the time you're in Manali and certainly on the return to Chandigarh, you'll be back to full connectivity.

safe travels and enjoy the journey! ☐♂☐