**Detail -1 :**

Chandigarh to Manali  route that thousands of people travel on every year. Manali is a holiday spot for almost everybody up north and even for those down south. The route might not be as picturesque as the Chandigarh-Shimla route, but once you’re nearing Kullu, the greens and the blues become, well, greener and bluer.

Let’s say you’re starting off from Chandigarh, somewhere near sector 18, like we were. First thing to do is to switch off your GPS. I’m not saying you go all Bear Grylls. I’m just saying that, the last time we used the GPS, it took us through Nalagarh and attempted to cross over a bridge that was washed away a year ago (exact dates, I’m not so sure about, but a year is what I’ve been told).

So here’s what you do. Get on to NH 21 and stay on it. Do not use NH 21A. That’s the one that will take you via Nalagarh. NH 21 will take you to Rupnagar and then onwards to Bharatnagar and over to Kiratpur Sahib. This is the good stretch of roads. They are all dual carriageways with not a lot of traffic. So you can achieve some reasonable speeds on this stretch. But once you reach Kiratpur Sahib, you’re in for a surprise.

When you come to a split flyover with one going right and over a river, you’ll know you’re in Kiratpur Sahib. Just keep an eye out for that tiny board that points towards Manali. Once you’re across the bridge you can kiss speeds above 15kmph goodbye. For the next couple of kilometers you’ll be faced with potholes that could swallow up your whole car, craters filled with dirty brown water and truckers who appear out of nowhere to push you off the road. So be very, very careful here.

About the time when you swear to yourself not to come on this road again, you will cross a toll and from there, the roads get better. The road is then a straight run till Manali. The roads are a series of blind corners, hairpins and short straight stretches with villages all over. You really have to be on top of your game when driving here. There is a lot of truck traffic and sometimes it can get frustrating when you keep trying to get ahead of them. Just make sure you do not overtake on blind corners and you’ll do just fine.

If you left Chandigarh in the morning, by the time you clear all the bad roads you will be hungry and cranky. The second bit, I really can’t help you. But for the other one, there is a pretty good solution once you get to Swarghat. Once you take the left that will take you to Manali, you will see Hotel Hill Top. Hill Top is one of those HPTDC run places that serve you some really good food.

Past that you will come to Bilsapur. If you want to pick up water and snacks, this is a good spot. Past Bilaspur, you will come to the dam over river Beas. And that means you’re getting closer to Kullu. From here the road climbs. The surface quality is good and there are some really nice corners that make things really interesting.

Your next landmark is Mandi. And when you see a hoarding that asks you to like Mandi Police on Facebook you’ll know you’re there. A little after Mandi you will go over Pandoh Dam and come to the Mandi tunnel. Keep your windows rolled up and your AC running in recirculate because the tunnel is always filled with diesel fumes. And watch out for cars that are trying to overtake inside the tunnel too. After the Mandi tunnel you’ll be in Kullu in no time. And once you’re in Kullu its just an hour till you reach Manali.

Keep note though that you have to take the left over the bridge to enter Manali town. Keep driving with the river on your left and you will still enter Manali, but you will enter from Old Manali side. If you’ve got the river on your right, you’re going the right way. Soon, you’ll come to a check post. Here you have to pay Rs 300 as environment tax per car. If you’re planning to head up Rohtang the next day, and you’re driving a non-HP registered car, you will have to get special permits. Earlier you had to go to the registrar’s office in Manali and get the permits. Not anymore. These days you can get the passes at the same place you have to pay the environment tax. After that you’re in Manali n a matter of minutes and you’re free to explore and eat as much trout as you can.

**Detail -2 :**

MANALI: All efforts by the [Himachal Pradesh](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/Himachal-Pradesh) government to shorten distances between destinations in the hill state seem a big joke for Mandi and Kullu districts at least as due to bad condition of [the national](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/The-National) highway between Chandigarh and Manali people are being forced to take longer routes, which has increased travelling time by at least one full hour.   
  
The existing Manali-Chandigarh national highway is not worth driving due to unprecedented potholes between Mandi and Kiratpur. The helpless travelers are taking a diversion from Kiratpur to Una to avoid accident and damage to their vehicles. Therefore, traveling distance between Manali and Chandigarh, which is 310km, has now increased to over 350km. The [journey](http://timesofindia.speakingtree.in/topics/journey/journey) is consuming over one extra hour to cover the distance, which is annoying thousands of tourists visiting Himachal every day.   
  
"Using the national highway is costing us more as it damages our luxury buses. If we use the longer route, we are able to save nearly Rs 50,000 every week," said Randhir Thakur from Manali Mail Volvo Service. He explained that all Volvo owners running buses on the potholed highway have to visit repair workshops every week, which costs them around Rs 50,000, which they can save by using the Una road. "Though the fuel expenses have increased, at least our expensive vehicles are safe if we use the longer route."

**Road\_Map 1:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Head **north** toward **Udyog Path** | 80 m |
| Exit the roundabout onto **Himalaya Marg**  Pass by **World Famous Astrologer**  (on the left) | 1.2 km |
| Turn left toward **Madhya Marg** | 100 m |
| Turn left onto **Madhya Marg**  Go through 3 roundabouts  Pass by **Petrol Pump - Sector 15**  (on the left in 2.0 km) | 4.2 km |
| Continue onto **Kurali Chandigarh Rd**  Pass by **Government Model Senior Secondary School**  (on the left in 3.9 km) | 10.2 km |
| Turn right onto **Chandigarh Baddi Rd** | 13.0 km |
| Turn left onto **NH 21A**  Pass by **Image Communication System**  (on the right in 1.9 km) | 49.7 km |
| Sharp right onto **NH 21**  Pass by **Hill Top Hotel**  (on the left) | 31.5 km |
| Turn left onto **NH 154** | 4.5 km |
| Continue onto **NH 21**  Pass by **Roura Sector Police Station**  (on the left in 4.4 km) | 5.8 km |
| Turn right onto **NH 21/NH 88**  Pass by **Hotel Panchwati**  (on the left in 4.1 km) | 8.4 km |
| Turn left to stay on **NH 21/NH 88**  Continue to follow NH 21 | 6.9 km |
| Turn left to stay on **NH 21**  Pass by **Petrol Pump**  (on the right in 23.4 km) | 34.7 km |
| Turn right at **Tilak Emporium** to stay on **NH 21**  Pass by **Bharat Petroleum**  (on the left) | 8.9 km |
| Continue onto **NH 154** | 3.0 km |
| Turn right to stay on **NH 154** | 1.9 km |
| Turn right onto **NH 154/NH 3**  Continue to follow NH 3  Pass by **Hanogi Mata Temple**  (on the right in 29.2 km) | 31.5 km |
| Turn left onto **NH 21/NH 3**  Continue to follow NH 3  Pass by **Kalyehli Orphanage**  (on the left in 25.5 km) | 28.9 km |
| Turn left to stay on **NH 3**  Pass by **Primary Health Centre**  (on the left in 23.5 km) | 45.8 km |
| Continue onto **NH 21**  Pass by **Civil Hospital**  (on the left in 2.3 km) | 2.5 km |

**Road map -2**

|  |  |  |
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| 1. | Head southwest | 66 m |
|  | 2. | Turn left toward Himalaya Marg | 92 m |
|  | 3. | Take the 1st right toward Himalaya Marg | 79 m |
|  | 4. | At the roundabout, take the 3rd exit  Pass by Jain Sansthanak (on the left) | 0.3 km |
|  | 5. | Turn right onto Himalaya Marg  Pass by Aaykar Bhawan (on the left) | 0.6 km |
|  | 6. | Turn left after Bank (on the left) | 0.1 km |
|  | 7. | Turn left onto Madhya Marg  Go through 3 roundabouts  Pass by General Hospital (on the left in 1.2 km) | 4.2 km |
|  | 8. | Continue onto Kurali Chandigarh Rd  Pass by the park (on the left in 1.2 km) | 10.2 km |
|  | 9. | Turn right onto Chandigarh Baddi Rd | 12.8 km |
|  | 10. | Turn left onto Kalka-Baddi Rd/Pinjore-Swarghat Rd  Continue to follow Pinjore-Swarghat Rd  Partial toll road  Pass by Hwy Filling Station (on the left in 12.0 km) | 21.4 km |
|  | 11. | Turn right to stay on Pinjore-Swarghat Rd  Pass by Hotel River View, Nalagarh (on the right) | 28.3 km |
|  | 12. | Sharp right at Police Station Swarghat onto NH 21  Pass by H.P.P.W.D. Swarghat (on the left) | 31.5 km |
|  | 13. | Turn left onto Shimla-Ghumarwin/Shimla-Kangra Rd  Continue to follow Shimla-Kangra Rd  Pass by Petrol Pump (on the left in 8.0 km) | 18.8 km |
|  | 14. | Turn left to stay on Shimla-Kangra Rd | 71 m |
|  | 15. | Turn right at Ghaghas Chowk onto NH 21  Pass by Jai Ma Santoshi Temple (on the right) | 54.8 km |
|  | 16. | Turn right to stay on NH 21  Pass by Indian Oil Retail Outlet (on the right in 58.2 km) | 59.8 km |
|  | 17. | Turn left at Bhagasidh Stationers to stay on NH 21  Pass by Sri Harihar Hospital (on the right in 950 m) | 1.1 km |
|  | 18. | Turn left to stay on NH 21  Pass by Hanuman Temple (on the left in 8.8 km) | 10.1 km |
|  | 19. | Continue onto Kullu Bypass Rd/Natinal Highway 21 | 0.4 km |
|  | 20. | Turn left onto NH 21  Pass by Dr Behl's Hospital (on the left in 37.0 km) | 37.1 km |
|  | 21. | Turn left at Khyber onto Circuit House Rd  Pass by Trekking in Manali (on the left) |  |