

Travel Itinerary

Okay, a 3-day trip from Manali to Rourkela with a budget of Rs. 6777 and a preference for mountains is? challenging, to say the least. The distance is significant, and with such a limited budget, flying is out of the question. This will be an adventure focused on basic transportation, potentially shared accommodations, and frugal eating. It prioritizes getting you there and squeezing in whatever mountain views are accessible along the way.

****Important Considerations:****

- * ****Safety:**** Solo travel on a very tight budget requires heightened awareness. Share your itinerary with someone, and keep them updated. Travel at night on buses can be tiring and less secure; try to prioritize daytime travel.
- * ****Flexibility:**** This is a *very* tight budget. Be prepared to adjust your plans based on real-time costs and availability.
- * ****Comfort:**** Don't expect luxury. This is about getting from point A to point B as affordably as possible. Pack light!

****Itinerary:****

****Day 1: Manali to Delhi (Mountain Views Along the Way)****

- * ****Budget Allocation:**** ~Rs. 1200-1500

- * ****Morning (7:00 AM):****

- * Start early! Check out of your accommodation in Manali. (Assuming you already have accommodation booked for the previous night).

- * ****Breakfast:**** Grab a cheap and quick breakfast from a local stall (Rs. 50-80).

Travel Itinerary

- * **Manali to Kullu:** Local bus or shared jeep from Manali to Kullu (Rs. 100-150). Enjoy the mountain views along the Beas River.

- * **Afternoon (12:00 PM):**

- * **Kullu to Delhi:** Find a Himachal Pradesh Transport Corporation (HPTC) or other state transport bus from Kullu to Delhi. These are usually the cheapest options. Look for a direct bus to minimize travel time. Aim for a non-AC sleeper bus if your budget allows slightly more comfort. (Rs. 900-1200).

- * **Lunch:** Pack some snacks and a water bottle to save money. If you need to buy lunch, opt for a basic meal at a roadside Dhaba (Rs. 100).

- * **Evening/Night (8:00 PM onward):**

- * The bus journey to Delhi is approximately 12-14 hours. Enjoy the scenery wherever possible.

- * **Dinner:** Another frugal meal at a bus stop dhaba (Rs. 100).

- * **Night:** Sleep on the bus.

Day 2: Delhi to Rourkela (Long Train Journey)

- * **Budget Allocation:** ~Rs. 2000 - 2500

- * **Morning (6:00 AM):**

- * Arrive in Delhi (ISBT Kashmere Gate or similar).

- * **Breakfast:** Quick and cheap breakfast near the bus station (Rs. 50-80).

- * **Delhi to Rourkela Train:** This is the key part. Immediately head to a railway station (New Delhi, Old Delhi, or Anand Vihar) to find a train to Rourkela. You need to find the cheapest available class.

- * **Target:** Try to get a Sleeper Class ticket (if available within your budget). If not, consider a General Class ticket (very crowded and uncomfortable but the cheapest). Check for trains leaving in

Travel Itinerary

the morning or early afternoon.

- * **Train Ticket Cost:** This will be the bulk of your budget for the day. Expect Rs. 1500-2200 for Sleeper Class (if you get lucky with availability and advance booking ? **highly recommended**) or around Rs. 500-800 for General Class.

- * **Afternoon/Evening:**

- * **Lunch & Dinner:** Pack some food from Delhi (cheaper) or buy very basic meals from vendors on the train (Rs. 200-300 for the day).

- * **Train Journey:** The train journey from Delhi to Rourkela is approximately 18-24 hours.

Day 3: Arrival in Rourkela

- * **Budget Allocation:** ~Rs. 1577-3077

- * **Morning/Afternoon:**

- * Arrive in Rourkela.

- * **Breakfast/Lunch:** Depending on the arrival time, have a simple meal at a local eatery near the railway station (Rs. 100-150).

- * **Local Transportation:** Auto-rickshaw or shared transport to your destination in Rourkela (Rs. 50-100).

- * **Accommodation:** Look for the cheapest possible accommodation - a very basic guesthouse, dorm, or even negotiate a deal at a budget hotel. (Rs. 500-1500). Consider hostels if available.

- * **Explore:** If you have any budget left, explore a little of Rourkela.

Budget Breakdown Summary (Approximate):

Travel Itinerary

- * **Manali to Delhi Bus:** Rs. 1200
- * **Delhi to Rourkela Train:** Rs. 1500-2200 (Highly variable)
- * **Food:** Rs. 600 (Very frugal)
- * **Local Transport:** Rs. 200
- * **Accommodation in Rourkela (Day 3):** Rs. 500-1500
- * **Buffer/Contingency:** Rs. 577-1777 (Essential for unforeseen expenses)

Important Notes and Tips for such a low budget:

- * **Book Train Tickets in Advance:** This is *crucial*. Try booking train tickets through the IRCTC website or app as far in advance as possible to secure a seat and potentially a lower fare. Tatkal tickets are more expensive and not guaranteed.
- * **Pack Light:** A heavy backpack will make travel even more tiring.
- * **Water Bottle:** Carry a reusable water bottle and refill it whenever possible to avoid buying bottled water.
- * **Safety First:** Be aware of your surroundings, especially in crowded areas like bus and train stations. Keep your belongings secure.
- * **Bargaining:** Bargain respectfully with auto-rickshaw drivers and at local markets.
- * **Food:** Pack snacks like biscuits, nuts, and dried fruit. Opt for simple, vegetarian meals.
- * **Flexibility:** Be prepared to change your plans if necessary.
- * **Check for Discounts:** Students can sometimes get discounts on bus and train fares (check the rules).
- * **Overnight buses:** Consider overnight buses to save money on accommodation.
- * **Consider a travel partner:** If possible, travelling with a friend would halve the accommodation cost.

Travel Itinerary

****Mountain Views:****

The mountain views will be primarily on Day 1, during the Manali to Kullu and Kullu to Delhi journey. The route passes through the Himalayan foothills, so enjoy what you can see from the bus window.

****Disclaimer:**** This is a highly ambitious itinerary on a very limited budget. Prices can vary, and unforeseen expenses are always possible. Be prepared for a challenging but potentially rewarding travel experience. Good luck!