KULLU MANALI

**Manali** is a [resort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resort_town) and tourist town nestled in the mountains of the [Indian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India) state of [Himachal Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himachal_Pradesh) near the northern end of the [Kullu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kullu) Valley in the [Beas River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beas_River) [Valley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valley). It is located in the [Kullu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kullu) district, about 270 km (168 mi) north of the state capital, [Shimla](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shimla), 309 km (192 miles) northeast of [Chandigarh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chandigarh), and 544 km (338 miles) northeast of [Delhi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Delhi), the national capital. A small town, with a population of 8,096, is the beginning of an ancient [trade route](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_route) to [Ladakh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakh) and from over there , the [Karakoram Pass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karakoram_Pass) on to [Yarkand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yarkant_County) and [Khotan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khotan) in the [Tarim Basin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tarim_Basin). It is a popular tourist destination and serves as the gateway to [Lahaul and Spiti district](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lahaul_and_Spiti_district) as well as [Leh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leh).

Manali is named after the Sanatan Hindu lawgiver Manu. The name Manali is regarded as the derivative of 'Manu-Alaya' which means 'the abode of Manu'. Legend has it that sage Manu stepped off his ark in Manali to recreate human life after a great flood had deluged the world. Manali lies in the North of Kullu Valley. The valley is often referred to as the 'Valley of the Gods'. Old Manali village has an ancient temple dedicated to sage Manu.

The British introduced apple trees in the area. The first apple orchard was set up by the British near Patlikuhal, before this, no Apple trees grew in the area. To this day, apples— along with plum and pear— remain the best source of income for the majority of inhabitants. Both Rainbow and Brown Trout were also introduced into the rivers and streams of the area by the colonizers.

With the increase in disposable incomes and somewhat owing to the rise of disturbances in Kashmir in the late 1980s, Manali witnessed a surge in tourist traffic. This once quiet village was transformed into a bustling town with numerous homestays as well as the occasional boutique hotel. During the warmer summer months, cafes and restaurants can be seen doing brisk business.