**Spiti valley in the monsoons: a vacation you will never forget**

The state of Himachal boasts dreamy hills and wonderful sights of nature. Spiti valley is often called the cold desert mountain valley, among other names such as little Tibet. It gives you the feel of being in a place humans feel so small to nature. The high mountain peaks glistening the sun and the deep valleys below make you look so minute that it’s all too surreal to believe. When you plan this holiday, make it a point to go during the monsoons, as this is the time you will get to enjoy the true beauty of the place.

There are so many interesting and varied things you could do in Spiti valley. Some of the activities and places to visit don’t get found elsewhere, so pack your bags and get ready to go on an exciting adventure trove filled with fun and captures the best of nature.

*river rafting*

River rafting is fun for those who love water sports and are thrilled with a rush of adrenalin. You can enjoy a marvelous ride in the Spiti and Pin rivers, covering a distance of 36kms. You could raft for a nominal price for a lifetime of experience. When rafting, the swirling waters, you will enjoy the foam and sweat on your brow as you try to maneuver the raft against waves.

*Pin valley national park*

Unlike other parks, you will this park is situated on the higher ground of the Himalayas. You will be astonished at the varied flora and fauna at this height which you don’t get to see in the lower crowd. If you are lucky, you will sight snow leopards, Himalayan snow cocks and Siberian Ibex. Untouched by man, its serene wilderness is soothing to the eyes. You can take time to click amazing pictures at this location and take some fond memories home.

*Buddist monasteries*

These are places wherein spirituality meets tranquility. You will find that calm and peace within you when you enter a monastery as monks go about their tasks. You will one with the sublime as the chants of Lord Buddha reach your ears. The unique architecture of the monastery is compelling for anyone to take a look around and take in the breathtaking beauty of the place.

*Camping in Chandratal*

Those who love the outdoors and want to try and find out how to live in a tent will be, by the side of a campfire, visiting Chandratal is the place to go. You will be pleasantly surprised at the clean environs found here. You can set up your tent and watch the river flow by as you light your campfire. You could do some fishing for your supper as well. If you are lucky, you could catch the local trout. The freshly caught and cooked will be an amazing gastronomic experience to remember.

*Trek to Dhankar lake*

Take your hiking boots with you because there are so many incredible places to hike in the beautiful valley, one of them being a trek to Dhankar lake. Situated high up at the astounding height of 4,270 meters, it may seem challenging; however, the inherent hope to see a panoramic view of the amazing emerald lake near the Dhankar monastery will be something you will forever be in your memories. Great views to capture as well as taking in the fresh mountain air will be great for your lungs.

*Village of Giu*

It would be wonderful to check out the mountain village life. Unlike their counterparts, they would have to hike for miles to forage for food and water. Giu is a tiny village between two towns called Sumado and Tabo and no, they are not nicknames of some Bollywood actresses but actual towns in Himachal. It’s a steep climb to reach this village, but it’s well worth it. You get to see a 500-year-old mummy for which a shrine has been built. As the legend goes, the mummy belongs to a lama who happened to be meditating.

*Baralacha pass*

The pass happens to be infamous for being dangerous. Caution needs to be exercised when trekking or biking across Baralacha. This trek isn’t for the faint-hearted those who have an adventurous streak can attempt this fun and beautiful journey. You get to check out the Pir Panjal. The Great Himalayan and Zanskar Ranges can be part of your travelogue

**Things to do in Spiti valley**

*Yak safari-* People in Spiti valley use the Yak for getting them to places. Yes, you read it right. Yaks are used just like horses in villages and towns. They ferry people and goods on the mountain paths. These animals are rugged and know how to navigate the treacherous terrains of the rocky mountains. It’s an amazing ride of a lifetime because you can’t get to do this anywhere else. However, you may not gallop towards your destination. But you will definitely reach it with your sturdy friend.

*Stargazing-* Since you are at such a high altitude, almost 15000ft. above sea level. On a clear night you could just get out from your tent and have a beautiful vision of millions of bright lights shininng high above you. You could actually have a clear view of the sky and a gazillion stars that twinkle from above. You might also catch a shooting star if you happen to be lucky enough.

*Fossil hunting is one unique activity that you will not be doing in most places you travel. It could be an experience of a lifetime to check* fossils of animals and plants dead millions of years ago. It looks like they have been wrapped up in time. You will find most of them in the villages of Langza and Hikkim. Some of the local kids even sell these as souvenirs.

**Shopping in Spiti**

The beauty of nature has crept into the local handicrafts and weaves. More than shop you could get back the souvenirs of the place as they remind you of the beautiful mountain adventures of the place. Most of all, the love and hospitality of the people leave an indelible mark. Shopping in this place will be fun for you as it’s different with the market area is filled with exotic stuff. The Kaza happens to be the main market wherein all the people, including tourists, come and pick their daily wares to some exciting Tibetian and Buddist handicrafts made from various materials such as wood, glass, brass, pottery etc. Most of the time, the prices are nominal and you wouldn’t have to bargain much.

**Best places to grab a grub**

The local mountain delicacies are homely and stomach filling. With all the adventure throughout the day of climbing and trekking, you could take on the simple yet delicious fare of the place sourced from the local fields. The food is primarily influenced by the Tibetian and north Indian food preparation, but with the local spices, they are distinctly flavored. They aren’t overpowering the vegetable or the meat but give subtle flavor bombs that tingle your taste buds as you savor them. The local Spitian bread is a must-try, the dal and rice are a good combo. The dry vegetable side dish mildly tempered and spiced is a staple of the region. The local cafes are a good place to try out the region’s food and get a wholesome meal for nominal prices.

Visiting this paradise of the earth will be a dream come true for an avid traveler. It will be a lovely monsoon date that you shouldn’t miss. The Spiti valley may seem a small place on the map, but the vastness of the beauty of the place will enamor any mind. You can get your backpacks and set your sights on this amazing place in Himachal.