DAY 2

Whoopee​! it feels like a dream come true as our day begins.​ ​After talking to Singey, ​me and Sheetal got​ ​ready​ ​to munch on some​ ​breakfast prior to ​​heading​ ​for​ ​local​ ​sight​ -seeing​. We planned to cover various places such as ​Hadimba​ ​temple,​a ​local​ ​monastery​ ​and​ the infamous ​mall​ ​road. On​ our​ ​way​ ​to​ ​Hadimba​ ​temple​ ​situated ​around​ ​6-7 kms​ ​from​ ​our​ ​hotel,​ ​we​ were stunned by an aesthetic sight. The beautiful Baes River which is said to​ ​originate​ ​from​ ​Rohtang​ ​Valley flows ​along​ ​the​ ​pine​ ​clad​ ​mountain​ ​ranges.​ ​An entirely different aura resonates from this place bringing a wanderlust soul closer to the benevolent mother nature. However, it was only the beginning of our journey and we were yet to visit Hadimba temple, Van Vihar and a Tibetan monastery.

Hadimba temple too offered us with anything but a visual feast. Engulfed amidst a canopy of pine trees and majestic mountains, the temple was a major tourist crowd puller. Many tourists in order seek blessings from Hadimba Devi visited this temple. The history of the temple stretches back as far as 1573 AD. Another appeasing detail about Hadimba temple was the yaks and the wooly sheep, with whom you could easily be photographed with for a meager 20 Rs. Much to our dismay, the animals were sedated, not a good sign definitely. We even bought some cherries, corns and a decent variety of dry fruits from some of the vendors in order to relish the local flavor. Added with a soothing music, played by some of the local musicians, the place offered more than one could ask for. Later on me, Sunny, Sheetal, Mitesh and Robin even got ourselves clicked in some candid moments.

As the clock struck 1.40 PM we headed towards the crowded Mall road to reach next destination, the Tibetan monastery. We reached the Himalayan Nyinmapa Buddhist Monastery by 2 PM. Although, quaint and small, the monastery was ethereal and beautiful. It breathed serenity amidst mountains, something every one craves for. The constant sound of the bells was a bliss to our ears. Mantras were carved on the bells, which needed to be recited by ringing them. It even had a Buddha statue so as to pray and seek blessings of the almighty. The fragrance of the agarbattis and the colorfully crafted paintings hung on the wall added to the beauty of this already amazing place. Many rolls of scriptures belonging to the beliefs of the region written in Tibetan language could also be found for one's interest. Artifacts such as peacock feathers and drums were also situated inside the monastery. A dragon was kept at the entrance of the monastery under the belief that it kept the evil from entering. We learned that all the monasteries have a flag tied atop the spire written with messages in Tibetan language for spreading good and positive vibes.

As we left the monastery, we hogged voraciously on the delicious parathas and Thupka, the popular dish of Ladakh along with curd and pakoras. Post a hectic shooting day we finally felt a bit relaxed. Before heading to Van Vihar for our next shoot we decided to shop for oxygen cylinder. The sight of some vendors selling piping hot mini gulab jamuns, served in a katori was enchanting and we couldn't help ourselves from trying.

As we entered this scenic place, our only focus was to get as many shots as we could. Walking among woods, we trudged down a pathway and ended up at a riverside. After trekking for almost 30 minutes we witnessed a breathtaking camouflage of mountains, river, lush green forest and an outstretched sky. Undoubtedly this was the best place I came across in Manali. No words seemed to measure up to its beauty. While exploring the forest, Mitesh found meruana leaf, whose scent was quite amazing. The place was crawling with many families who might have come to spend some quality time. Van Vihar also offered a diverse variety of flora and fauna.

It was evening as we went shopping at mall road and the crowd here was unimaginable. It seemed as if flocks of tourists from various parts of the continent had decided to arrange a meet up today. Amidst such a huge crowd we ending up buying few dream catchers, bubbles and souvenirs. While roaming through the market we came across a Mela, where we sighted the cultural dance of Manali. Clad in colorful costumes, it was a delight to watch the dancers move and groove.

On reaching hotel at 9 PM, we were greeted with a loud cacophony of music coming from the disco lounge. We went with the flow and headed to the lounge. After a long and tiring day, we danced to our heart's content on some bollywood numbers. Later we retired to our rooms and went to bed post a mesmerizing hot bath as we needed to leave early the next day.