

DALHOUSIE ADVENTURE

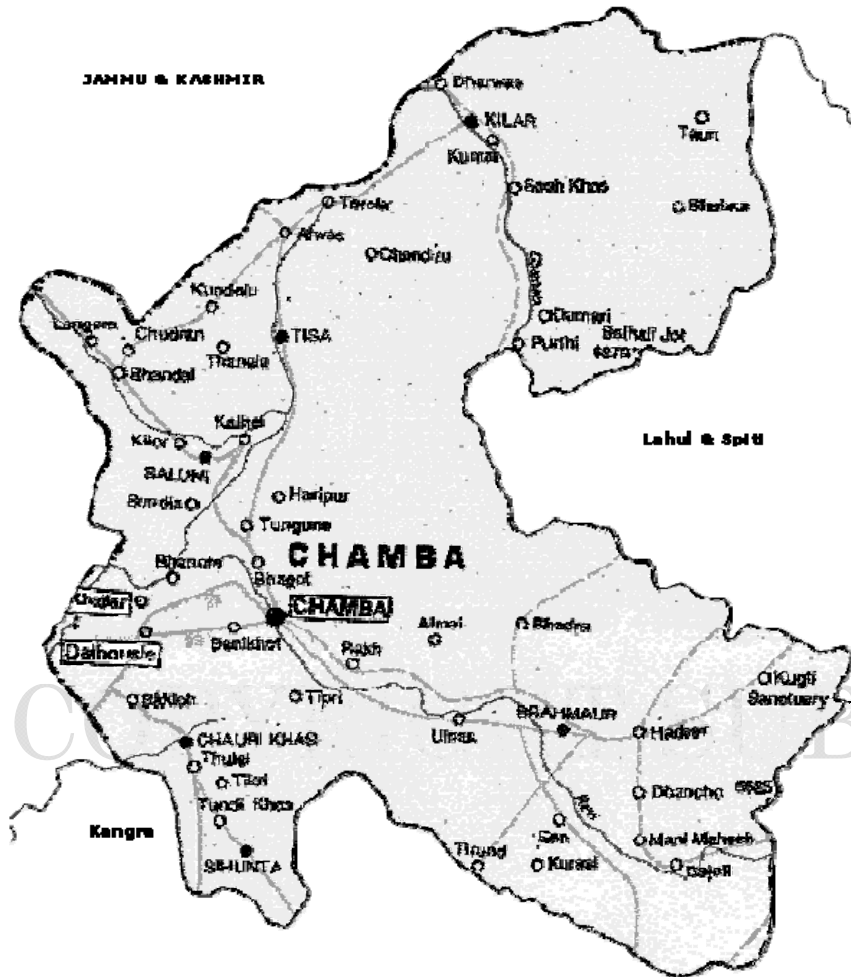
HOTEL MONAL



# TREKKING, HIKING & CAMPING

## PACKAGE

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## WELCOME

Hotel Monal ([www.hotelmonal.com](http://www.hotelmonal.com)) and Dalhousie Adventure ([www.dalhousieadventure.com](http://www.dalhousieadventure.com)), are pioneer trekking, hiking and outdoor adventure organizers in Chamba District. We have successfully organized several treks through the Chamba region and have a deep understanding of the rich cultural heritage of the local peoples.

Chamba District offers a unique combination of spectacular views, splendid walks, adventure treks and rich cultural heritage. The region is home of Gaddis, Gujjars, Bhot and Panwal tribes who preserve a traditional life style till date. Lord Shiva is a way of life here. Remote Chamba regions like Pangti, Killar are places where myth is history and

mystery, these places echoes with the tales of wonders and the supernatural's, here mythical demons and witches are as alive as human beings.

## WHY US

Safe, Secure and ecologically responsible  
Best guides / accommodation in the business  
Excellent value for money  
Experience the local culture  
Unforgettable outdoor experience  
Perfect group size

## Our essential directives for your pioneer trek:

1. The “Pack it in, Pack it Out” policy requires trek groups to carry their garbage offsite. Please do not use the forest as a rubbish bin.
2. Respect the natural environment at all times. Do not litter, burn wood, play loud music, pluck plants or disturb wildlife. Take nothing away but memories, leave nothing behind but footprints.
3. Respect local sentiments, culture and practices. Trekking is not about getting to a place, but the experiences involved – so enjoy them

## ROUTE PROFILE

### CHAMBA – KANGRA VIA BARA BANGAL ACROSS THAMSAR PASS

Highest altitude – 4665 m  
Duration – 7 days  
Grade – Difficult  
Inclusion – Meals, Stay, Transportation, Guide, Porters,

## TREK ITINERARY

The people of Bara Banghal prefer to cross the high Thamsar Pass (4624 m) and go Baijnath for their daily needs rather than go towards Holi and Chamba. Though a part of Chamba Valley, Bara Banghal is administratively linked with Kangra Valley. Many

streams rising on slopes of the Bara Banghal Range unite here to form the Ravi River. This trail provides an insight into the life of Gaddi People living in the valley.

From Bara Banghal to Thamsar Pass is one of the most pleasant and scenic treks in the Dhauladhar region, and because of the gradual, graded slopes on the northern side of the Dhauladhar no great exertion is needed. Rock shelters can also be found all along the way.

### **DAY 1 : ARRIVAL AT HOLI AND TRANSFER TO REST HOUSE (2250m)**

You will be received from the Pathankot Railway station. Pathankot to Holi is about 180 K.M. The road is mostly fine, however from Chamba to Holi owing to the terrain the road condition is not very good. Holi is a separate valley within Bharmour. Located south of Bharmour on the bank of river Ravi, Holi is more open and picturesque. There is a small bazaar and couple of shops. The trout farm located slightly away from the main town is worth a visit. Rainbow trout is also available for very nominal prices. Another attraction is the Rock-garden adjoining the Rest House. Holi is the starting point for many trek routes.

### **DAY 2 : HOLI-NAYAGRAM-DHARADI (2550M) 13KM, 6-8 hrs.**

After dropping at Nayagram, the trail continuous over rocks and boulders for 2Km, then turns left to cross the gushing Ravi river by a bridge. After that it traverses round a ridge and goes up and down for 5Km. The Ravi River lies below to the right in a deep george. There are no trees and no high rocks to provide shade for rest. Suddenly, after 5Km, the trail disappears completely and the way is blocked by a cliff some 350m wide at an angle of 60 degree, descending 400m into the river. At first sight it looks impassable but careful examination reveals cracks, stances, foot and hand holds. With care and protection of a rope one can cross the cliff without much difficulty. The trail then descends to the Manimahesh Nala whose stream roars down with great ferocity. During the Manimahesh fair, people living on this side follow a steep path upstream along the Nallah and cross two passes to reach the Manimahesh Lake. After crossing the Nallah by a log bridge (called Trandi) the path climbs steeply for 1Km over a spur to reach the remote village of Dharadi, Dharadi is a small village with enough camping space along the water source.

### **DAY 3 : DHARADI-KHANAR-LAKE CAMP (2410M) 15KM, 6-8 hrs.**

It is a long, tiring stretch from Dhardi to Khanar, the last village of Bharmour and Chamba district. The trail crosses precipitous rock faces high above the North side of the river, many tricky sections that need care. You may also have to descend using rappelling techniques. While cliffs dominate this side of the river, the other (South) side is covered with thick forest. In 4-5 hrs the hamlet of Khanar is reached. Then following a 2-3Km stretch, the path climbs steeply through wooded slopes to reach the crest of a spur where huge conifer trees are seen, a traditional resting place for travelers. The path is now well-defined and leads down through the trees to a small lake surrounded by green slopes, this is a Gaddi shepherds' encampment, a soothing place after two days of tough trekking through this rocky defile. Though Bara Banghal is only about 7-8Km from here, it is advisable to camp overnight beside the lake.

### **DAY 4 : LAKE CAMP – BARA BHANGAL (2541M) 8KM, 6-8 hrs.**

The wooded area ends here. From the lake the path climbs for some time and heads over grassy meadows. Continuing North East along the Ravi river, an almost level walk ensues to Bara Banghal which comes into view after 7 Km. The old village is situated a little above the river while the newer one is seen on the right bank. A few forest contractors, employees stay in the new part and are engaged in wood logging. The logs are thrown in the river and are collected near Kharamukh, 75 Km downstream.

Bara Bangahal lies in a bowl at the base of three high ranges, and many glacier torrents join near the village to form the Ravi river. Bara Bangahal is located The confluence of Ravi river and Kalihini nallah. Beautifully located Shepherds' trails wind upwards in all directions. Nikora Pass (4745m) crosses the Manimahesh to Kugti in Budhil Valley, Ash Jot (5033m) and Laluni Pass (5438m) cross the Bara Bangahal to Tindi in Lahaul Valley. Two passes lead to the Kullu Valley. The Dhauladhar can be crossed to Kangra Valley by Makori Pass (4605m), Gairu Jot (4664m) and Thamsar Pass (4624m). A forest rest house is situated a short distance from the village and tents can be pitched comfortably outside the village along the Ravi river.

**DAY 5 : BARA BHANGAL – MARH, BASE OF PASS (3860 M)  
8KM, 4-5 hrs.**

An easy, well-defined mule path starts from Bara-Bhangal village starts to the pass. Ravi and Kalihini nallah are crossed over the wooden bridges before path starts climbing up at a moderate grade. On the way to Marh, a flat land near the snout of the glacier, is Udeg. There are few campsites with rock shelters and seasonal dhaba at Marh, but the camp will be pitched at Marh, as it becomes more easier the next day.

**DAY 6 : MARH, BASE OF PASS - THAMSAR PASS - PANIHARDU  
(3250M) 19KM (3860 M), 7-8 hrs.**

An early start from Marh around 4.30 A.M is more suitable. It is 3-4 hrs climb to the pass. Form Marh to the pass is a gradual climb with some steep portions. It is taxing but not difficult. Thamsar is the most beautiful pass to cross Dhauladhar range. The pass appears much easier when compared with the tough and the dangerous portions between Khanar and Bara Banghal however the snow conditions higher up will make progress quite hard. Large rocks and boulders litter the top of the pass, and a cairn with many trinkets symbolizes the goddess of Thamsar Jot.

There are beautiful glacial lakes below the pass. Two other small lakes are formed because of the glacial depression. Two small peaks, Lantern (5067m) and Thamsar (5078m) can be seen on either side of the pass. The South side is steeper than the North, head down usually on soft snow and work across to a ridge on the right, with the glacier on the left. Descend the ridge steeply for about 3Km to where the path crosses the glacier to its left and goes up to a huge rock shelter called Bharpal Got (4050m). A halt can also be made here for the night. From here a rocky path makes a steep descent for 3Km to where the path crosses the glacier to its left and goes up to a huge rock shelter called Bharpal Got (4050m) and from here a rocky path makes a steep descent for another 3Km to Panihadru, few tea shops in a rock shelter and a campsite among the rocks mark the end of this adventurous evening.

**DAY 7 : PANIHARDU – PALCHAKA - BILLING - BIR KHAS  
(1525M) 30KM**

The trek is easy and well defined. It is pleasure to walk down from Panihardu to Billing. Palchaka is the base camp just like Udeg is Bara Bangal. Uhl river originates from the

glacier above Palachak. There is proper mule trek from Palchaka to Rajgundha (2625m) village and take around 2-3 hrs to reach Rajgundha village, this small town has a school, a Buddhist Monastery and many eating shops Further walk of 2-3 hrs takes to the world famous hand- gliding site in the world. From Billing there is a 14KM jeepable road to Bir and there is metal road of 9KM from Bir Khas to Baijnath.

Baijnath, 56 KM from Dharamshala, in on the Pathankot-Mandi National Highway and has an ancient Shiva temple. The old shiva temple is said to be built by the pandvas. From Baijnath Pathankot is 145Km and Kullu 150Km.

### **ACCOMMODATION:**

Staying arrangements will be made in Rest houses, where possible and tents in other places.

### **MEAL PLAN:**

Bed, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner. Full board on Trek.

### **NOT INCLUDED:**

Air travel / Train travel. Alcohol, bottled water or soft drinks.

### **TRANSPORT:**

Transport is by private car/coach/tempo with safe and responsible drivers.

### **EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST TO BE ARRANGED INDIVIDUALLY:**

- ✓ Comfortable walking boots with good grip on ankles
- ✓ Rucksack / Daypack
- ✓ Waterproof warm jacket
- ✓ Woollen/tennis socks and stockings
- ✓ Personal toiletries and clothes
- ✓ Sunglasses, Headgear
- ✓ Water bottle, Swiss army knife
- ✓ Personal Identification
- ✓ Sunscreen and Insect Repellent

## EQUIPMENT PROVIDED.

We provide 'A' frame tents which have room for two / four people plus all of your equipment along with the sleeping bags and mats. A toilet tent exclusively for your use, and a kitchen and staff tent, a kerosene/gas lamp or candles for reading in the dining tent at night, stainless steel crockery and tableware and foam sleeping mats. The staff complements of cooks and assistants are always in attendance. They put up and take down the tents, make the tea, cook the food, wash the dishes, load the porters and carry a load of their own. They work extremely hard and are always willing to help. If you want to join in putting up tents and taking them down, you are free to do so, but it is not expected.

## INSURANCE

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you hold adequate insurance cover. This must include medical and personal accident insurance.

## CAMPING AND SITE USAGE

- ✓ Do not leave any trash on the Campgrounds or anywhere along trail. This includes orange peels, apple cores, etc. PACK IT IN; PACK IT OUT! There are no trash facilities at the site therefore DO NOT leave any trash. Please leave the area cleaner than you found it.
- ✓ Please do not start fires except in the rings provided; do not move them; do not burn your trash in the fire rings.
- ✓ Do not take benches from other areas.
- ✓ Do not feed the wildlife; they need to be kept wild.
- ✓ Panning for gold or any other type of prospecting is not permitted.
- ✓ Be courteous of others at the campground.
- ✓ Please keep trekkers and children from climbing on the cliffs and hills. The rocks are very unstable and can dislodge, causing a serious fall.
- ✓ Preference for the campground will be given to those with a reservation. Day visitors are always welcomed and other campers are welcome provided there is room. Please be very respectful to all those visiting and staying at campsites

## SANITATION

- ✓ Please keep all restroom facilities clean with provided supplies; do not throw in debris as it will clog the cleaning hose of the vacuum truck.
- ✓ Leave all areas as you found them or better.

- ✓ Remove all trash; no dumpster is provided; pick up all litter you find; be good campers.
- ✓ Water pumps are for obtaining water only. No washing or brushing teeth near the pump area because the drainage from such activities will seep back into and contaminate the drinking water

### Please always bear the following points in your mind

- ✓ Stay on the trail—walk in groups of approximately 5 pax.
- ✓ Stopping is permitted but make sure that you inform your team leader
- ✓ Absolutely no climbing on the cliffs and hills.
- ✓ Take your time, walk quietly, use common sense, feel the spirit.
- ✓ Do not drink the water from Rock Creek. There are many cattle in the creek upstream.
- ✓ Please keep children away from climbing on the cliffs and hills. The rocks are very unstable and can dislodge, causing a serious fall.
- ✓ There are no trash facilities at the site therefore DO NOT leave any trash.
- ✓ DO NOT hike alone. DO NOT climb on rocks. Both can be very dangerous.
- ✓ Always let your leaders know where you are. Develop a buddy or family system

**SAFETY** COPYRIGHT SUBSIST

We believe Safety is basically preventative preparation. Please help us

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Whilst every effort is made to keep to the above itinerary, clients will hopefully appreciate that this is adventure travel. Weather conditions, road conditions and vehicle breakdowns can contribute to the need for changes. Your driver/guide will do everything in his power to see that you are inconvenienced as little as possible in such events.

**Please help us in conserving our environment:** We believe that the preservation of ecology is preservation of human spirit. We would appreciate if you act or conduct is not aimed at disturbing the ecology and natural habitat, no matter how minor it is. Please respect the local tradition and culture of the residents.

**All itineraries are subject to change without prior notice.**