

A Guide to Himachal

This 6-day circuit is a deep dive into Himachal's tribal heartland — where wooden temples meet pine ridges, and the ascent to Sach Pass unfolds through remote hamlets and sacred meadows. From the 8th-century temple at Chattrari to the snow walls of Satrundi, this loop blends heritage, altitude, and offbeat immersion.

Trip Overview

Duration: 6 Days

Best Season: Mid-June to early October (*Sach Pass open; meadows accessible*)

Total Distance: ~450–550 km

Vehicle Type: SUV / High Clearance (*essential for Tundi–Satrundi–Sach stretch*)

Difficulty: Moderate to Challenging (*steep climbs, remote terrain, cliff roads*)

Permits: No permits required for Indian nationals

Mobile Network: BSNL in Chamba, Tissa; no signal in Chattrari, Rajpura, Tundi, Bhanjraru, Satrundi

Fuel Planning: Reliable pumps in Chamba and Tissa; carry 20–30 L spare for Sach Pass leg

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Chamba → Chattrari

- **Distance/Time:** ~70 km | 3–4 hrs
 - **Highlights:**
 - Visit **Chattrari Temple** — 8th-century Shakti shrine with exquisite woodwork
 - Explore **village architecture** and pine ridges
 - **Adventure:** Sunset walk to **Chattrari ridge viewpoint**
 - **Stay:** Chattrari homestay
 - **Tip:** Photography restricted inside temple sanctum
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Day 2: Chattrari → Rajpura → Tundi

- **Distance/Time:** ~80 km | 4–5 hrs
- **Highlights:**
 - Drive through **Rajpura** — slate-roofed tribal village

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- Arrival in **Tundi** — gateway to Bhanjraru ascent
 - **Adventure:** Walk to **Tundi meadow** and local shrines
 - **Stay:** Tundi guesthouse or camp
 - **Tip:** Carry snacks and cash — no ATMs or shops beyond Churah
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Day 3: Tundi → Bhanjraru → Satrundi → Sach Pass → Bairagarh

- **Distance/Time:** ~100 km | 6–8 hrs
 - **Pass:** **Sach Pass (4,420 m)** via Satrundi
 - **Highlights:**
 - Snow walls, waterfalls, and cliff-hugging roads
 - Stop at **Satrundi Helipad** for panoramic views
 - **Adventure:** Controlled-speed drive with frequent photo stops
 - **Stay:** Bairagarh
 - **Caution:** Landslide-prone; drive slow and avoid late crossings
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Day 4: Bairagarh → Tissa

- **Distance/Time:** ~60 km | 3–4 hrs
 - **Highlights:**
 - Forested descent into **Tissa Valley**
 - Visit **Tissa Fort, local temples,** and **apple orchards**
 - **Adventure:** Walk to **Tissa ridge viewpoint**
 - **Stay:** Tissa homestay
 - **Tip:** Fuel up here for return leg
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Day 5: Tissa → Chamba

- **Distance/Time:** ~80 km | 3–4 hrs
- **Highlights:**
 - Scenic drive along Ravi River

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- Return to **Chamba town**
 - **Adventure:** Visit **Lakshmi Narayan Temple, Bhuri Singh Museum**
 - **Stay:** Chamba
 - **Tip:** Explore old bazaar for handicrafts
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Day 6: Buffer / Return

- **Options:**
 - Rest day, shopping, or buffer for weather delays
 - **Finish:** Chamba (*trip end*)
 - **Tip:** Optional detour to **Bharmour** or **Chamera Lake**
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Essentials to Carry

- **Documents:** DL, RC, insurance, ID proofs
 - **Clothing:** Warm layers, gloves, rain jacket
 - **Footwear:** Waterproof trekking shoes
 - **Health:** Diamox (if advised), ORS, basic meds
 - **Gear:** Tyre inflator, puncture kit, tow strap, jerrycans (20–30 L), headlamps, power banks
 - **Navigation:** Offline maps, paper backup of routes
 - **Misc:** Sunglasses, SPF 50+, lip balm, snacks, thermos
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Permits, Fuel & Checkpoints

- **Permits:**
 - No permits required for Indian nationals
- **Fuel:**
 - Reliable pumps: Chamba, Tissa
 - Carry 20–30 L spare for Sach Pass leg
- **Checkpoints:**

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- Police checks near Satrundi and Bairagarh
 - **Timing Tips:**
 - Sach Pass best crossed before noon
 - Avoid driving after dark in cliff zones
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Insider Tips

- **Best season:** Mid-June to early October
 - **Photography:** Sach Pass snow walls, Chattrari temple woodwork, Tundi meadows
 - **Local eats:** Try rajma-chawal in Tissa, siddu in Bhanjraru, and chukh in Chamba
 - **Eco-ethic:** No littering; respect temple zones and village customs
 - **Road caution:** Sach Pass and Tundi–Satrundi stretches require slow, careful driving
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Route Map Overview (Text)

Chamba → Chattrari → Rajpura → Tundi → Bhanjraru → Satrundi → Sach Pass → Bairagarh → Tissa → Chamba