

A Guide to Himachal

This 5-day circuit is a gentle yet scenic loop through Himachal's lesser-known ridges and forested belts. From the sacred meadows of Deorighat to the panoramic summit of Hatu Peak, this route blends temple heritage, orchard landscapes, and quiet village life — perfect for slow travel and immersive storytelling.

Trip Overview

Duration: 5 Days

Best Season: March to November (*Hatu Peak accessible; Deorighat meadows open*)

Total Distance: ~400–450 km

Vehicle Type: SUV / High Clearance (*small cars possible but not ideal for Deorighat stretch*)

Difficulty: Easy to Moderate (*steep climbs, forest roads, remote stretches*)

Permits: No permits required

Mobile Network: Jio/BSNL in Solan, Narkanda, Mashobra; patchy or no signal in Deorighat and Kharapathar

Fuel Planning: Reliable pumps in Solan and Narkanda; top up before Deorighat leg

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Solan → Kharapathar

- **Distance/Time:** ~90 km | 4–5 hrs
 - **Highlights:**
 - Forested ascent via Kotkhai
 - Visit **Giri Ganga Temple** and nearby meadows
 - **Adventure:** Short hike to **Giri Ganga viewpoint**
 - **Stay:** Kharapathar guesthouse
 - **Tip:** Carry snacks; limited food options en route
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Day 2: Kharapathar → Deorighat

- **Distance/Time:** ~50 km | 3–4 hrs
- **Highlights:**
 - Remote ridge drive to **Deorighat** — sacred meadow and temple cluster

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- Explore **Deorighat Temple** and forest trails
 - **Adventure:** Sunset walk across Deorighat meadow
 - **Stay:** Deorighat homestay or camp
 - **Tip:** Respect local customs — meadows are sacred
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Day 3: Deorighat → Narkanda

- **Distance/Time:** ~60 km | 3–4 hrs
 - **Highlights:**
 - Scenic descent into **Narkanda** — apple orchards and ridge views
 - Visit **Stokes Farm** (*seasonal*)
 - **Adventure:** Orchard walk and photography
 - **Stay:** Narkanda
 - **Tip:** Try Himachali thali at a local dhaba
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Day 4: Narkanda → Hatu Peak → Mashobra

- **Distance/Time:** ~80 km | 4–5 hrs
 - **Pass:** Hatu Peak (3,400 m)
 - **Highlights:**
 - Drive or trek to **Hatu Temple**
 - Panoramic views of snow-capped ranges and cedar forests
 - **Adventure:** Hatu Peak trek (*7 km one way*)
 - **Stay:** Mashobra boutique stay
 - **Tip:** Book sunset dinner with valley view
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Day 5: Mashobra → Solan

- **Distance/Time:** ~60 km | 2–3 hrs
- **Highlights:**
 - Forested descent through pine ridges

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- Return to Solan (*trip end*)
 - **Tip:** Stop at **Barog station** for heritage photo
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Essentials to Carry

- **Documents:** DL, RC, insurance, ID proofs
 - **Clothing:** Warm layers, rain jacket, trekking gear
 - **Footwear:** Hiking shoes, sandals for temple visits
 - **Health:** Basic meds, ORS, insect repellent
 - **Gear:** Power banks, torch, offline maps, camera
 - **Misc:** Sunglasses, SPF 50+, lip balm, reusable water bottle
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Permits, Fuel & Checkpoints

- **Permits:**
 - No permits required for Indian or foreign nationals
 - **Fuel:**
 - Reliable pumps: Solan, Narkanda
 - Top up before Deorighat leg
 - **Checkpoints:**
 - Occasional forest check near Deorighat and Hatu
 - **Timing Tips:**
 - Hatu Peak best trekked before noon
 - Temple visits close by 6 pm
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Insider Tips

- **Best season:** March–June for bloom; Sept–Oct for apple harvest
- **Photography:** Hatu Peak panoramas, Deorighat meadows, Giri Ganga temple cluster
- **Local eats:** Try siddu, red rice, and apple chutney in Narkanda and Mashobra

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- **Eco-ethic:** No littering; respect temple zones and sacred meadows
 - **Road caution:** Deorighat and Hatu stretches require slow, careful driving
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Route Map Overview (Text)

Solan → Kharapathar → Deorighat → Narkanda → Hatu Peak → Mashobra → Solan