

KINNER KAILASH CIRCUIT (Parikrama) TREK

INTERESTING FACTS/INFORMATION ABOUT THE PLACE

Kinner Kailash range

The Kinner Kailash (or Kinnaur Kailash) range is the main range of peaks fronting the Kinnaur region and rise up in stark, snow clad spires. The Jorkanden peak (6473 metres) is the tallest peak of the range and along with the neighboring Sarong Peak, it has not yet been climbed from the Kalpa side owing to its technically daunting nature. The peaks are best viewed from Kalpa where they stand majestically across the gorge, virtually an arm's length away! From Kalpa in the morning, you can also see the rocky free standing Shivling of the Kinner Kailash peak that is considered sacred as being one of the five abodes of Lord Shiva as he sought to escape the rampaging Bhasmasur.

Sangla (the end region of our trek)

Sangla lies in the Baspa valley of Himachal's Kinnaur district, bordering Tibet to the East and Garhwal to the South. It lies along the Baspa river and is famous for its golden Kinnauri apples and high quality potatoes. It is also famous for its incredible wooden architecture, of which the Kamru Fort is a must-see as also the intricately carved Devi temple at Chhitkul, the last village on the Indo-Tibetan border. The old Indo-Tibetan highway also passes through Sangla and connects to the main National highway 22 at Karcham.

Culture and Myths

The beautiful green coloured patterned cap is the identity of the Kinnauri people and its design indicates the wearer's social standing. The most interesting aspect of the Kinnauris is their origin with one of the theories linking them as descendants of Alexander, while a second theory suggests that they are ancient Iranians who crossed over and decided to carry on living here. There is also another myth that believes they are descendants of the Pandavas (Mahabharat) who are attributed with supernatural powers.

Kamru Fort and Kamakhya Temple

The Kamakhya Temple is a spectacular multistoried wooden temple at the topmost point of the Kamru Fort complex. The fort complex is a living (still inhabited) medieval village that is enclosed within the fort walls and has the typical Kinnauri architecture. You will find the streets paved with cobblestones leading onto quaint houses and ancient temples.

Kalpa

Kalpa is a small but pretty town that lies 3 kms above Reckong Peo. The town is famous for its spectacular view of the snow capped Kinner Kailash range that stands across the river gorge and looks close enough to touch! The Shiva temple in the town is constructed in the traditional Kinnauri architecture style with stone walls and peaked roofs and stands against the backdrop of the mighty Kailash range. On the other side of the road, a short distance away lies the small Hu-Bu-Lan-Kar Buddhist monastery that also has intricate carvings and slate roofs and has a wonderful uninterrupted panoramic view of the mountains all around, owing to its elevation above the town.