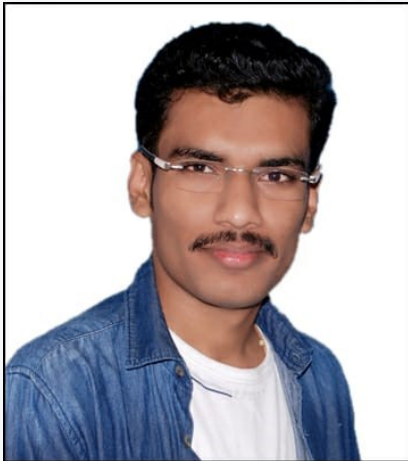


India's Beautiful and Deadliest Roads - Travel Blog



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A trip on the road to Leh was planned by the gods, I swear. If I had to pick one road in India that I would travel again to treat my eyes and senses, it would undoubtedly be the National Highway 1D or popularly known as the Manali - Leh - Shrinagar Highway. Traversing through the challenging terrain that leads up to Leh, is every road-trip enthusiast's travel dream. The virgin locales, rocky mountains, breathtaking views, tranquil gompas, bustling bazaars and delectable food scene. What's not to love! Drop the idea of roughing it out like a conventional road-trip because this once-in-a-lifetime experience is best enjoyed in the lap of luxury.

For the first time, I planned a trip out of the boundaries of my comfort zone. We faced many challenges such as an avalanche, sub-zero temperatures and a sand storm! However, it was all worth it. I did all the things mentioned in my Ladakh bucket list.



On the Manali to Leh road trip, get spectacular and panoramic views from the Rohtang Pass. Located 51km from Manali, at an altitude of 13000 feet, it is a route that leads to places such as Pangri, Lahaul Spiti and Leh. You get views of beautiful snow-capped

peaks and glaciers from here. It is in this vicinity that the Chandra River flows too. Just before getting to Rohtang Pass, there is a Snow Point. You can enjoy yourself playing in the snow at this place. Open between June and October you can enjoy sledge rides and skiing during this time. But we cancelled our halt there due to a landslide while approaching Rohtang which wasted our 3 hours. Once you are missed your planning, Everything just Pisces off.

The road takes you from the picturesque Rohtang Pass to the Jispa followed by a small village Darcha. Scenic and picturesque stretch of land, Jispa is located beside the Chandra River. Journey to this hamlet is one of the fascinating trails of the Manali Leh tour. Decorated naturally by streams, scenic peaks, picturesque valleys and lush greeneries, it gets the visitors close to the Mother Nature.



We were at a mountain pass. Forward or back, we had to go down. So we went. Climbing down into the valley we got more mud on the way but It wasn't a big deal for our beast- 'Fortuner'. A few moments later, Chandra River was revealed in all its glory. The valley shone as the clouds gave way to the sun. It was pure heaven.

Towering at over 16,000 feet, from Baralacha La located in the altitudinous sections of the Zaskar region, this is a mountain pass or the confluence point of many roads. Connecting Lahaul to Ladakh Tour, you pass through this plateau surrounded by mountain ranges such as Pir Panjal and Himalayas and it is one of the best destinations while travelling from Manali to Ladakh.

• One Hour To Sundown, 35 Kilometres From our stay Sarchu, And A Broken Tyre of Beast. But we are travellers and we know it's not a big deal.

With this achievement of success, we passed LachungLa at 16000 feet without noticing that we are passing by a mountain pass. And started approaching Pang. This is the place where the highest army transit camp exists. Traditionally a stop for the armed

forces, Pang is now a stop for tourists as well. The scenery of this place is breathtakingly different. 40km of highway between Leh and Sarchu a straight highway called More Plains with no break barriers you can just accelerate and enjoy the view. On both the side of this plain there are plain grass and beautiful scene you can enjoy.

Encountering one of the highest mountain passes in the Leh Ladakh region, the Tanglang La pass is like a jewel in the crown on the Manali – Leh stretch. Claimed to be the second-highest motorable mountain pass on the planet, your ascent from here is unceasingly upwards. It is like driving towards the clouds given that they are so close as well.



Sun was about to set and we were 90 km from Leh. We knew we can do it. It was dark. Leh was 60 km ahead and we encountered Whisky Nala. Water was flowing 2 feet above the road. Looks like a steady flow but we knew it can take any vehicle with him. With confidence in my driving, I knew I can tackle the situation but no one else was ready. Every one stepped down the vehicle and decided to cross whisky Nala with a rope and Fortuner showing path with its Lights. They passed it but now I was alone in the car. Darkness was increasing my fear. What to do? Closed eyes and prayed to god. Engaged 4 X 4 low and here I go.

Reached Leh by late night. The journey beyond includes KhardungLa - Highest motorable road in the world, Nubra Valley, Pangong Tso via mighty Changla Pass and Magnetic hill.