



## Keylong Travel Guide – Best Time, Attractions & How to Reach

### Description

**Keylong**, located in the Lahaul region of Himachal Pradesh, is one of North India's most underrated travel destinations. In this article, Getaway Experiences shares a complete Keylong Travel Guide, which is helpful for users who are planning to explore hidden gems in Manali. So Keylong is surrounded by the majestic **Pir Panjal**, **Zaskar**, and **Dhauladhar** ranges, Keylong offers a rare blend of spirituality, raw Himalayan landscapes, and peaceful local life.

Whether you're planning a Ladakh road trip, a bike expedition, or just craving offbeat mountain charm, this **comprehensive Keylong travel guide** has you covered — including when to visit, what to see, and how to get there. For more details, you can visit [Manali Tour Packages](#).

### ? Complete Keylong Travel Guide: Where is Keylong?

Keylong is the **administrative capital of the Lahaul and Spiti district** in Himachal Pradesh. Located at an altitude of approximately **3,080 meters (10,105 ft)**, it lies on the **Manali-Leh Highway (NH3)** — making it a key halt between Manali and Leh.

Despite its strategic location, Keylong retains its small-town charm, making it perfect for those looking to escape the tourist crowds.

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### ?? Best Time to Visit Keylong

Keylong has a **short travel season**, but each month offers a different kind of magic. Here's how to plan your visit:

#### May to September – Peak Travel Season

- **Why Go?** Clear skies, blooming valleys, and motorable roads via the Atal Tunnel.
- **Temperature:** 10°C to 25°C

- **Activities:** Ideal for sightseeing, monastery visits, and trekking.

## October to April – Off-Season (Snowbound)

- **Why Avoid?** Heavy snowfall blocks roads, including the Rohtang Pass and Atal Tunnel approaches.
- **Exception:** Winter expeditions or snow photography with proper guidance.

**Pro Tip:** Visit in **June or early July** to experience greenery and pleasant weather, before the heavy monsoon or post-snowmelt crowd.

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## ? How to Reach Keylong

### ?? By Road

#### From Manali (via Atal Tunnel):

- Distance: ~70 km
- Travel Time: 2 to 3 hours
- The Atal Tunnel makes this route accessible **year-round** (subject to weather).

#### From Leh:

- Distance: ~360 km
- Travel Time: 10–12 hours
- Route: Leh ? Sarchu ? Jispa ? Keylong
- Best between **June and September** only.

#### From Shimla / Kaza (Spiti Route):

- Travel time: Long and unpredictable; not recommended unless doing a full Himachal circuit.

**Tip:** The **HRTC (Himachal Road Transport Corporation)** runs semi-deluxe and deluxe buses to Keylong from Manali and Delhi during summer months.

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### ?? By Air

- **Nearest Airport:** Bhuntar Airport (Kullu) – 125 km from Keylong
- **Connectivity:** Limited flights from Delhi; taxis or buses from Bhuntar to Keylong.

### ? By Train

- **Nearest Station:** Joginder Nagar (~250 km away)
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- This option is not very practical due to the long road travel afterwards.
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## ?? Top Attractions in and Around Keylong

### 1. ? Shashur Monastery

Located 3 km uphill from Keylong, this 17th-century **Drukpa sect monastery** is known for its **Thangka paintings**, festival dances (in July), and panoramic views of the Bhaga Valley.

Don't miss the **annual Chham (masked dance) festival** — a cultural spectacle.

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### 2. ? Gandhola Monastery

One of the **oldest monasteries in Lahaul**, Gandhola, is about 18 km from Keylong. It's less touristy, offering serene vibes and ancient wooden architecture, rare for Himalayan gompas.

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### 3. ? Suraj Tal & Baralacha La

Perfect for day trips towards Leh, these high-altitude landmarks are surreal.

- **Suraj Tal (Sun Lake)**: The third-highest lake in India, surrounded by glaciers.
- **Baralacha La**: A scenic pass connecting Lahaul to Zaskar.

**Altitude alert:** These are above 4,800m. Acclimatization is crucial!

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### 4. ?? Atal Tunnel Excursion

This engineering marvel connects **Solang Valley (Manali)** to **Sissu and Keylong**, cutting travel time dramatically.

- Enjoy a **stopover at Sissu Lake** or **Chandra River viewpoint** en route.
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### 5. ?? Jispa & Darcha Villages

Just south of Keylong:

- **Jispa** (20 km): Riverside village ideal for camping and star-gazing.
  - **Darcha** (30 km): Starting point for the famous **Darcha–Padum Trek**.
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## 6. ? Gemur & Tandi Villages

- **Gemur Monastery:** Lesser-known but historically rich.
- **Tandi:** Scenic confluence of **Chandra and Bhaga rivers**, perfect for photos.

Local legends say that when Chandra (moon) met Bhaga (sun), they united at Tandi — hence its spiritual value.

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## ?? Where to Stay in Keylong

Keylong offers limited but cosy accommodation options, including:

- **Hotel Dekyid** – Best views and central location.
- **The Chandrabhaga by HPTDC** – Government-run with decent amenities.
- **Zostel Keylong (Gemur)** – Ideal for backpackers and solo travellers.
- **Homestays** – Try family-run homestays in Jispa, Sissu, or Tandi for local food and warmth.

**Budget Tip:** Book in advance during summer. Facilities are basic but clean.

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## ? What to Eat in Keylong

Food options are simple but hearty. Don't expect fancy restaurants, but you'll find plenty of charm:

- **Thukpa & Momos:** Tibetan noodle soup is a must-try.
- **Siddu:** Steamed Himachali bread with ghee.
- **Chha Gosht:** Mutton curry with yogurt gravy (for non-vegetarians).
- **Seabuckthorn Juice:** A Lahauli specialty rich in vitamin C.

Pro Tip: Ask for **local barley beer** or butter tea if you're feeling adventurous!

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## ? Trekking & Adventure Around Keylong

Keylong is a starting point for **multiple treks** and **motorbike routes**, including:

- **Darcha–Padum Trek (Zaskar Valley)** – 8-10 days of pure adventure.
- **Keylong to Trilokinath** – A spiritual and scenic trail.
- **Motorbike Tours:** Manali ? Keylong ? Leh circuit is a dream for bikers.

Always **check weather conditions** and **acclimatize properly** before high-altitude treks.

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## ? Connectivity & Essentials

- **Mobile Network:** BSNL and Jio have limited coverage; Airtel is spotty. No 4G — expect slow internet.
- **ATMs:** Available in Keylong, but carry cash.
- **Medical Facility:** A government hospital is present but limited.
- **Petrol Pumps:** The only fuel station in Tandi (very important for bikers).

Remember: No luxury here — come for nature and simplicity.

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## ? Packing Tips for Keylong

- **Warm clothes**, even in summer (nights are cold)
  - **Good shoes** for walking and trekking
  - **Reusable water bottle** (avoid plastic)
  - **Medicines** for altitude sickness, motion sickness, and cold
  - **Power bank**, torch, and basic toiletries
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## ? Local Culture & Travel Etiquette

- Greet locals respectfully with “**Julley**” or “**Namaste**”
  - Avoid plastic waste — carry your trash
  - Respect monastery rules (no loud talking, no photos where prohibited)
  - Learn a few local words – they’ll love it!
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## Final Thoughts: Why Keylong Deserves Your Time

Keylong may not be flashy or touristy, but that’s exactly what makes it **one of [Himachal’s hidden treasures](#)**. The quiet monasteries, humble mountain villages, clean air, and raw beauty offer something truly rare — peace.

Whether you’re pausing here on your way to Ladakh or coming specifically to escape the chaos of city life, Keylong welcomes you with **humility, grace, and open skies**.

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