

WELCOME BOOK

FOR OUR GUESTS

KEY VILLAGE · SPITI VALLEY · HIMACHAL PRADESH

Spiti Zomsa

A homestay facing Key Monastery, where the valley opens up on both sides and the mountains do the talking.

KEY VILLAGE

SPITI VALLEY · HIMACHAL PRADESH

Spiti Zomsa

YOUR HOSTS

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Keep this somewhere the kettle can see it.

Before anything else

Dear guest,

Welcome. We built this place for ourselves, and somewhere along the way we realised we wanted to share it. Spiti Zomsa started as a family idea: a spot in Key Village where the people we love could sit together, eat together, and look at the mountains without anywhere urgent to be. That is still what it is. We are glad you found it.

The room you are in faces Key Monastery on one side and the full drop of the valley on the other. We have watched the light change on that view more times than we can count and it does not get old. Give it a morning. Make a cup of tea, sit on the balcony, and just watch.

Spiti at this altitude (you are at roughly 14,000 feet) asks you to slow down a little, and honestly that is the point. The air is thinner, the roads are narrower, and the pace of things is its own. Let it be. Devi, our caretaker, is here to help with anything you need, and we are always reachable on the number at the back of this book.

One last thing: this valley and the people in it depend on resources that are genuinely limited, especially water. We have done our best to lay out the practical details in these pages. Reading through them will make your stay much smoother, and it means a lot to us that guests understand the place they are in. Enjoy every bit of it.

Make yourself at home, take care of it a little.

SPITI ZOMSA HOSTS · KEY VILLAGE, SPITI VALLEY

The essentials

Everything you'll reach for in the first ten minutes — written down so you don't have to text us at midnight.

ADDRESS

Key Village, Spiti Valley, Himachal Pradesh (Kalpa/Reckong Peo area, Kinnaur district, old Hindustan-Tibet Road)

Head into Key Village and look for the homestay just below Key Monastery. Devi will meet you at the door, show you to your room, and hand over your keys.

WI-FI

NETWORK

Mera Wala Wifi

PASSWORD

key123

CHECK-IN

Other

LANDMARK

Near Key Monastery

CHECK-IN INSTRUCTIONS

Devi will greet and meet you upon your arrival, she will show you your room and hand over room keys.

How the home **works**

Most things work the way you'd expect — these are the few that don't.

Check-in

ARRIVAL

Devi will greet you when you arrive and walk you through the room. Check-in is from 2:00 PM. If you are arriving earlier, just let us know in advance and we will do our best.

WiFi

CONNECTIVITY

Network: Mera Wala Wifi. Password: key123. Jio and Airtel 4G both work well here, which is a small miracle at this altitude. The connection is solid enough for video calls and remote work.

Hot water

TAP QUIRK

At 14,000 feet the pipes take a moment to warm up. Run the hot tap for about 42 seconds and it will come through properly. Worth the wait, especially on a cold morning.

Windows in the evening

FLIES

Please close your windows once the sun starts to go down. The mountain air brings in flies in the evening and an open window is an open invitation. A quick close at dusk keeps the room comfortable all night.

Kitchen burner

KITCHEN

The left burner on the kitchen stove needs two clicks to light rather than one. Press and hold, click twice, and it will catch. The right burner lights on the first click as normal.

Meals

BREAKFAST & DINNER

Breakfast and dinner are available at the homestay at an extra cost. Just let Devi know in advance. The kitchen is open from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM. Meals are not included in the booking price.

Views

THE ROOM

Your room faces Key Monastery on one side and the open valley on the other. The shared patio and balcony are yours to use. Early morning is the best time to be out there.

Bedroom lock

SECURITY

Your bedroom door has its own lock. Devi will hand you the key on arrival. Keep it with you when you head out.

Parking

CAR & BIKES

Free parking is available on the premises. Pull in and park as directed by Devi. The road into Key Village is narrow so take it slow on the way in.

**Room
configuration**

ROOMS

The booking covers one room for up to 3 guests. If your group is larger than 3, you get access to both rooms. Please confirm via message before arrival if you need the second room so we can have it ready.

House rules

There are 6. We'd rather have a short list everyone keeps than a long one nobody reads.

01 **Water is a shared resource here. Please use it carefully.**

The valley relies on tanks, not running mains. Take short showers, turn taps off fully, and please do not wash clothes in the room or use the sinks for laundry. It makes a real difference.

02 **Dry toilets are in operation from November through March.**

This is simply how things work at high altitude in winter. Devi will explain how to use them properly on arrival. It is straightforward once you know.

03 **Meals are available but need to be requested in advance.**

Breakfast and dinner can be arranged at an extra cost. Let Devi know ahead of time, ideally by the evening before. The kitchen runs from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

04 **No clothes washing on the property.**

Due to the water scarcity in the region, laundry is not permitted during your stay. Please plan ahead before you arrive.

05 **Check out by 11:00 AM.**

We often have guests arriving the same day and need the time to prepare the room properly. If you need a late check-out, ask us in advance and we will see what we can do.

06 **Book both rooms intentionally.**

The Airbnb listing price is for one room only (up to 3 guests). If your group needs both rooms, please confirm that by message before your stay so we can price and prepare accordingly.

Where we eat & drink

An honest shortlist. We've eaten everywhere on it. None of it is a paid recommendation.

FOR A PROPER SIT-DOWN MEAL

Manirang Café and Dinner

KALPA

The top-rated spot in Kalpa, and honestly it earns it. The view alone is worth going for, but the food holds its own too. Order whatever they are making that day and trust it.

The Monk Hotel Restaurant

ROGHI ROAD, KALPA

A solid hotel restaurant on Roghi Road. Good when you want something filling and unfussy without any surprises. Reliable in the best sense.

FOR A QUICK AND HONEST MEAL

Exotic Tab

KALPA

An all-rounder that locals and travellers both come back to. The kind of place that does everything reasonably well and never disappoints.

Dhaba Dinesh Bhojanalaya and Sweets (ask for Monu)

KALPA

A proper dhaba open until 10 PM. Cheap and honest food, somewhere between ₹150 and ₹300 a meal. The sweets are worth saving room for. This is where locals eat.

₹150–300

WHEN YOU NEED A CHANGE OF PACE

Norzin La's Chinese Corner

KALPA

Does Chinese food properly, which feels like a genuine treat after a few days of dal and rice. A good place to reset the palate without travelling far.

""After three days of dal, Norzin La's will feel like a small miracle.""

Things to do

If you do nothing, that's also fine. But here's what we'd point a friend towards.

PEAKS AND VIEWPOINTS

Kinnaur Kailash Sacred Peak

KALPA VIEWPOINT

A 6,500-metre peak sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists. Watch it from Kalpa at sunrise: the snow moves from grey to gold to white in about ten minutes. The 79-foot Shivling rock formation at its base changes colour through the day too. One of those things you have to see in person.

Suicide Point

3 KM FROM KALPA

The name is not an exaggeration. Steep cliffs, deep gorges, and a full drop over the Sutlej River Valley. It sounds intense because it is, in the best way. A short drive or a manageable walk from Kalpa.

TEMPLES AND MONASTERIES

Narayan-Nagini Temple, Chini Village

CHINI VILLAGE, KALPA

An ancient Hindu temple on a hill with full views of the Kinnaur Kailash range. The entrance has ornate wooden dragons coiled around the pillars and brass doors. The walk up is worth it.

Hu-Bu-Lan-Kar Monastery

KALPA

Founded somewhere between 950 and 1055 AD by Rinchen Zangpo. Classic Tibetan architecture, a white stupa, rows of prayer wheels. Genuinely peaceful. One of the oldest monasteries in the region and easy to spend an hour in.

VILLAGES WORTH THE DRIVE

Roghi Village

8 KM FROM KALPA

The road to get there has some of the best views of the Kinnaur Kailash range you will find anywhere in the area. The village itself is quiet and good for a slow wander with no particular agenda.

Getting around

KEY VILLAGE makes more sense once you know how it moves.

Local taxi

RECOMMENDED

The most practical option for day trips. Easy to arrange through Devi or from Reckong Peo, about 14 km and half an hour away. Fix the price before you set off.

HRTC State Bus

BUDGET OPTION

Buses do run through the area and they are cheap. They run on their own schedule, though, so check timings the evening before if you plan to use them.

Himachal Car Rental Service

OUTSTATION HIRE

Sedans and SUVs available for longer trips into Spiti Valley or around Kinnaur. Contact: 9805528568. Good to book ahead.

CabBazar

BOOK AHEAD

An online and app-based cab aggregator. Useful for planning transport before you arrive so you are not sorting it out on the spot.

4WD Pine Rover

OFF-ROAD JEEP SAFARI

A locally run jeep service started by people from Kinnaur who know these roads well. The right choice for anywhere off the main road.

Raacho Trekkers

TREKKING & TRANSPORT

A local operator that handles both transport and trekking and climbing trips across Kinnaur and Spiti. Good if you want to combine movement with proper exploration.

Scooters

NOT ADVISED

Rentals are not really available locally, and honestly the roads here are too high-altitude, steep, and narrow for it to be a good idea. Stick to a 4WD or SUV for anything beyond the main road.

If something goes wrong

Most things won't. If they do — here's exactly who to call, in order.

FIRST CALL · HOSTS

Host (Direct Line)

+91 98200010021 · Call or WhatsApp any time. We will pick up.

ON-SITE CARETAKER

Ravi (Caretaker)

+91 9825129122 · Ravi is based locally and is your fastest point of contact for anything at the property.

REGIONAL HQ

Reckong Peo (District HQ)

Approx. 14 km away (30 min). The nearest town with a hospital, pharmacy, and government services.

IN A REAL EMERGENCY — DIAL THESE

Police 100 · Ambulance 108 · Fire 101

All toll-free, all 24-hour.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

