

Two relaxed days in Manali: temples, cafés and a taste of the snowline

Manali, Himachal Pradesh — The Valley of the Gods

A gentle, moderate-paced Manali weekend built around the town's easy walking sights on day one and a half-day out to Vashisht and Solang on day two. It suits a family that wants snow views and a little adventure without long drives to Rohtang or overnight treks, with sit-down mid-range meals and short, manageable travel hops throughout.

Suits: Mid-range families and friend groups with children or elderly parents who want culture, food and light adventure inside two unhurried days, without high-altitude excursions.

What it costs, per person

Stay: Rs 5,200 · Food: Rs 1,600 · Local transport: Rs 800 · Tickets: Rs 500 · **Total: Rs 8,100**

Day 1 · Hadimba Temple, Old Manali cafés and an evening on Mall Road

Town culture and café life

08:30 Hadimba Devi Temple

A 500-year-old pagoda-style wooden temple set inside a cedar forest, dedicated to Hidimba from the Mahabharata. Mornings are quieter and cooler, and there's no entry fee.

Hadimba Devi Temple, near Log Huts area · 60 min · Rs 0 · Short 10-minute walk from Snow Valley Resorts, free

With family: There's a short uphill walk from the parking area on stone paths; elderly members should take it slowly, especially if damp.

10:00 Old Manali village walk, cafés and Manu Temple

A slower-paced village across the river known for its café lane, backpacker shops and the wooden Manu Temple. Good for photographs, browsing small shops and a long, unhurried lunch.

Old Manali · 150 min · Rs 0 · Taxi from Hadimba Temple, approx 15 minutes, approx 100 INR per person (shared fare)

With family: Manu Temple asks visitors to cover knees and shoulders. Lanes are narrow and can get crowded with pedestrians and bikes in peak season -- keep young children close.

15:00 Mall Road evening stroll and shopping

Manali's main market for shawls, woollens and dry fruit, flat and easy underfoot, lit up nicely as evening sets in. Good for souvenir shopping and people-watching before dinner.

Mall Road · 90 min · Rs 0 · Taxi from Old Manali, approx 20 minutes, approx 100 INR per person

With family: The flattest, easiest stretch in town for elderly family members. Prices are inflated for tourists outside fixed-price shops, so bargain where expected.

Where to eat

Breakfast: Simple breakfast at the hotel before heading out — Snow Valley Resorts (Rs 150)

Lunch: Wood-fired pizza or momos at a café — Old Manali café lane (Rs 350)

Dinner: Himachali thali or North Indian sit-down meal — Restaurant on or near Mall Road (Rs 300)

Where to stay

Snow Valley Resorts, Log Huts Area, near Hadimba Temple — Rs 2,600 a night. Mountain-facing mid-range rooms within easy walking distance of Hadimba Temple and a short taxi ride from both Old Manali and Mall Road, keeping today's travel minimal.

Save a little: Skip a full sit-down dinner and instead eat a lighter meal from one of the reliable momo or thali stalls near Mall Road -- quality is good and it keeps the food budget comfortably under the daily ceiling.

Day total, per person: Rs 1,000

Day 2 · Vashisht's temple and hot springs, then snow and views at Solang

Hot springs, a short trek and the adventure valley

08:30 Vashisht Temple & Hot Springs

A village built around a temple said to be roughly 4,000 years old, alongside natural sulphur hot spring baths with separate sections for men and women. No entry fee for either.

Vashisht village · 90 min · Rs 0 · Taxi from Snow Valley Resorts to Vashisht, approx 15 minutes, approx 100 INR per person

With family: The lane up to the temple has steep stone steps that can be slippery after rain -- elderly members should go slowly and use railings where available.

10:15 Jogini Waterfall short trek (optional)

A moderately steep 4 km path from Vashisht to a waterfall, popular as a half-day walk rather than a serious hike. Carry water and wear proper shoes rather than sandals.

Trailhead near Vashisht village · 150 min · Rs 0 · Short 10-minute walk from Vashisht Temple to the trailhead, free

With family: Not suitable for toddlers, strollers or wheelchair users, and the path can be slippery when wet. Families with very young children or frail elders may prefer to skip this and rest at Vashisht instead, saving the extra time for Solang.

14:30 Solang Valley -- gondola ride and adventure zone

Manali's adventure hub, reached by taxi, with a gondola/ropeway ride for views, zorbing, and in winter, snow play and skiing. The gondola is a good way to enjoy the views without the adrenaline of paragliding.

Solang Valley, approx 14 km from Manali · 150 min · Rs 500 · Day taxi from Vashisht to Solang, approx 30-40 minutes, approx 250 INR per person (shared among the group)

With family: Expect long queues on winter weekends. Tandem paragliding (approx 2,500-3,500 INR per person, not included in today's total) is optional and unsuitable for very young children or anyone with a heart or breathing condition. Book only through official counters, not touts hanging around the parking area.

Where to eat

Breakfast: Simple breakfast at the hotel before heading out — Snow Valley Resorts (Rs 150)

Lunch: Himachali dham-style thali with rajma, madra and sidu — Local dhaba in Vashisht (Rs 300)

Dinner: Sit-down continental or North Indian dinner on return to town — Restaurant near Mall Road or Old Manali (Rs 350)

Where to stay

Snow Valley Resorts, Log Huts Area, near Hadimba Temple — Rs 2,600 a night. Same base as night one, keeping the return trip from Solang short and avoiding the hassle of changing hotels mid-trip.

Save a little: Agree the full day taxi price (Manali-Vashisht-Solang-Manali) upfront per vehicle rather than paying for each leg separately -- this usually works out cheaper than hailing individual taxis at each stop, and stick to the gondola instead of paragliding to keep the day well within a mid-range budget.

Day total, per person: Rs 1,900

Pack for this trip

- Layered woollens even outside peak winter, since Solang and Vashisht mornings can be cold
- Sturdy walking shoes for the Jogini trek and the stone steps at Hadimba and Vashisht temples
- A swimsuit or change of clothes if planning to use the Vashisht hot spring baths
- Cash in small denominations for local dhabas, HRTC buses and market shopping on Mall Road

Stay safe

- The stone steps up to Hadimba Temple and the lane at Vashisht can be slippery after rain or in winter -- elderly members should take them slowly
- Avoid unofficial taxis and touts at Solang pushing overpriced pony rides, snow gear rental or GoPro add-ons; use official counters and the fixed fare chart at the taxi stand
- Old Manali's café lanes get loud and drink-heavy after dark, which some families with young children prefer to avoid
- Avoid this itinerary's outdoor stops entirely during the monsoon months (July-September), when landslides and road blocks are common

Local courtesies

- Cover knees and shoulders when visiting Manu Temple in Old Manali and Vashisht Temple
- Hindi works everywhere for directions and bargaining; English is reliable in cafés and hotels but less so with

bus staff or in outlying villages

Assisted with an online software so you get this quickly — validate timings and prices before you travel. Plan ID 63fc463b28 · saved to your account · <https://files.india-production.upd.com/app/itinerary/63fc463b28>

- Bargaining is expected on Mall Road outside fixed-price shops, but taxi fares follow a fixed union chart and

are not negotiable

- At hot springs and temple baths, respect the separate sections for men and women
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If it rains

- Swap the Jogini Waterfall trek for extra time at Vashisht's hot springs and temple, since the trail gets slippery when wet
- Spend more time in Old Manali's covered cafés and shops instead of open-air stops
- Mall Road's restaurants and covered shopping arcades make for an easy rainy-day alternative to outdoor sightseeing
- Check road conditions before heading to Solang, since the route can be affected by heavy rain -- reschedule if the taxi union or hotel advises against it