

Himachal Pradesh (Shimla & Manali) Packing List

Everything to pack for Shimla and Manali's cool hill-station climate, winding mountain roads, and seasonal snow — built to pair with Indroam's Himachal itinerary templates.

WHY HIMACHAL PACKING IS DIFFERENT

Shimla and Manali sit at moderate Himalayan elevation, which means cooler weather than most of India year-round and genuinely cold winters (December–February) that bring snowfall, especially around Manali and higher points like Rohtang Pass and Solang Valley. Summer (April–June) is the most popular season precisely because it offers a cool escape from the plains, while monsoon (July–September) brings landslide risk on mountain roads. The terrain itself — winding hill roads, forest walks, and snow in winter — calls for sturdier gear than a typical city itinerary.

CLOTHING

- Layered clothing: a base layer, a warm fleece or sweater, and a windproof jacket
- A heavier down jacket and thermals if traveling November–February or heading to snow points
- Light rain jacket for the July–September monsoon
- Comfortable trousers or joggers that allow easy movement on uneven hill paths
- Warm gloves, a beanie, and a scarf for snow-season visits
- A light cotton layer for warmer summer afternoons in the valleys

FOOTWEAR & ACCESSORIES

- Sturdy, grippy walking or trekking shoes for hill trails and cobbled mall-road streets
- Waterproof boots if visiting snow points or traveling in winter
- Sunglasses — snow glare is strong at higher altitudes
- A daypack for short treks or walks around Old Manali and Shimla's ridge
- Reusable water bottle
- Motion-sickness aids for winding mountain road travel

HEALTH, DOCUMENTS & TECH

- Personal medication and a basic first-aid kit — pharmacy access thins out past the main towns
- Sunscreen and lip balm with SPF, especially for snow or high-altitude days
- Hand sanitizer and wet wipes
- Motion-sickness tablets for the winding ascent from the plains
- ID copy and hotel/permit confirmations if continuing toward Spiti or other restricted areas
- Portable charger and a universal plug adapter (India: Type C/D/M)

