Chapter – 3

PROFILE OF TOURISM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

3.1 ABOUT HIMACHAL PRADESH

Himachal Pradesh, like other hilly states of the country, has beautiful towns/cities, high snow clad mountains, mighty rivers, serene mountain ranges and vast forest areas. The state has appropriately termed as Dev-Bhumi (land of gods). It has a number of religious sites that attract people from different parts of the country. A perfect blend of natural, climatic, vegetative and cultural resources of the state makes Himachal an appropriate area for harnessing tourism potential for its development.

Himachal Pradesh lies in the heart of the western Himalayas. It is the supreme mountain range on the earth. It is spread over an area of 55,673 sq. kms and inhibited by about 60,7000 (census 2001) people. The region is almost wholly mountainous with altitudes ranging between 350 and 6,975 metres above the sea level. Topographically, the Himalayas are divided horizontally into three parallel zones: Outer Himalayas or the Shivaliks; inner Himalayas or the mid mountains; and the greater Himalayas or the alpine zone. The alpine zone remains under snow for about five to six months in the year which compels the inhabitants to become migratory. The eastern-most peak is Ruldang or Kinner Kailash (6,500 metres high) and in between the western highest peak lie many beautiful
silver peaks in Kangra, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti and Shimla districts, the prominent among them are Dhauladhar (5,000 metres) of Kangra valley, Deo Tiba (6,000 metres) of Kullu valley, Manerang (6,597 metres) in Spiti and in the lower ranges Chaur Chandni (4,000 metres) or the ‘mountain of the silver bangles’ are the highest peaks. The green hills are studded with beautiful lakes.

The mountain state of Himachal Pradesh is incredibly beautiful with its lush secret valleys, fierce rocky ravines, flowering meadows and the mysterious snow-clad Himalayan peaks that rise majestically in the morning mist. Five mountain ranges cut across the state the low lying Shivalik rising from the plains off Punjab, the Dhauladhar, the Pir Panjal, the Great, Himalayan and the Zanskar ranges. The lower valleys of Kullu, Chamba and Kangra are luxuriant and green and the heady mountain air is filled with the perfume of thousands of Flowering fruit trees in spring. In marked contrast is the splendid barren beauty of the high Lahaul and Spiti valleys with their imposing Buddhist monasteries and forts. Life moves at a serene pace in the state, far from the travails of the modern age. The simple life, revolving around the tending of fields, flocks and orchards, is punctuated by the celebration of festivals and fairs that bring alive colourful traditions of music and dance. For the visitor there are exquisite locations for a relaxing holiday and marvelous opportunities for trekking, mountaineering, white
water rafting, para sailing and angling.

### 3.1.1 Formation of Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh came into existence on 15th April, 1948 as a centrally administered territory and had at that time four districts viz; Chamba, Mandi, Mahasu and Sirmaur with total area of 25,839 sq.kms. In 1951 it became a part 'C' state under a Lt. Governor with a 36 Member Legislative Assembly and a three member Cabinet. In 1954 another part 'C' state Bilaspur having an area of 1168 sq. kms was merged with Himachal and assembly strength was raised to 41. In 1956 Assembly was abolished and it became a Union Territory. In 1960 a new border district of Kinnaur was carved out of Mahasu district. In 1963 the Assembly was revived and a popular ministry was formed. It had total six districts with an area of 27007 sq. kms and population of 13,51,144 at that time.

On 1st November, 1966 it was enlarged by merging the district of Kangra, Shimla, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Nalagarh Tehsil of Ambala district, some parts of Una Tehsil of Hoshiarpur district and the Dalhousie of Gurdaspur district of Punjab state. After this merger, Himachal has a area of 55,673 sq kms and its population rose to 28,12,463 and comprised of 10 districts i.e. Bilaspur, Chamba, Kangra, Kinnaur, Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, Mahasu, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmaur. On 25th January, 1971, Himachal Pradesh attained statehood. On 1st September, 1972 reorganization of districts took place. Two more districts of Una and Hamirpur were created from the erstwhile Kangra district and from the existing district of Mahasu and Shimla, new districts of Shimla and Solan were formed by reorganizing the boundaries. Presently, Himachal Pradesh comprised 12 districts having an area of 55,673 sq. kms and a population of 51.7 lakhs. Decennial population growth rate during 1981-91 is 20.8 percent, sex ratio is 976 persons, density 93 persons per sq. km. and literacy rate 63.9 percent.
3.1.2 Physical Features:

Himachal Pradesh is wholly mountainous with altitude ranging from 350 meters to 6,750 meters above the mean sea level. Its location is between Latitude 30° 22' 40” N and Longitude 75° 45’ 55” E to 79° 04’ 20” E. It has a deeply dissected topography complex geological structure and a rich flora in the Sub-tropical latitudes. Physiographically the state can be divided into five zones i.e.

i. Wet Sub – Temperate zone, iv. Humid Sub – Tropical zone
iii. Dry temperate – Alpine Highlands

3.1.3 Climate

Himachal Pradesh lies in the lap of Himalayas. Its climate, is largely conditioned by the single factor. It varies from mild to cold in areas under snow in winters. The normal rainfall is 152 cm. The maximum rainfall is in Kangra district.

3.1.4 Rivers

Rivers which flow through this State are Beas in Kullu, Mandi and Kangra district, Satluj in Kinnaur, Shimla and Bilaspur districts, Yamuna has its tributaries in Shimla and Sirmaur districts, Chenab (Chander Bhaga) flows through Lahaul-Spiti and Chamba district and Ravi through Chamba district. All these rivers are snow-fed and hence perennial. Besides the natural reservoirs the large amount of water available in the river courses provide immense potential for Hydel Power generation at a low cost.

3.1.5 Population

Himachal Pradesh extends over an area of 55,673 sq. k.ms. According to 2001 Census the total population of the State is 60,77,900 with a density of 103 persons. The highest density is in Hamirpur district and the lowest is in Lahaul-Spiti district.
3.1.6 Biophysical zones of Himachal Pradesh:

The state of Himachal Pradesh has a varied topography hence the state has been divided into different zones depending the altitude.

Table 3.1 Biophysical Zones of Himachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Biomes</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Total Area (sq.km.)</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.</td>
<td>Sub Arctic, Alpine, Cold Temperate</td>
<td>Kinnaur, Lahaul &amp; spiti</td>
<td>20,236</td>
<td>1,17,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.</td>
<td>Alpine, Cold Temperate, Warm Temperate</td>
<td>Kullu, Chamba</td>
<td>12,031</td>
<td>8,40,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C.</td>
<td>Cold Temperate, Warm Temperate</td>
<td>Shimla, Kangra</td>
<td>10,870</td>
<td>20,60,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.</td>
<td>Warm temperate, Sub Tropical</td>
<td>Sirmour, Solan, Bilaspur, Una, Hamirpur, Mandi</td>
<td>12,536</td>
<td>30,59,429</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics HP, Shimla

Table 3.2 District-wise Geophysical Profile of Himachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>District/State</th>
<th>Altitude (height from MSL in mts)</th>
<th>Climate</th>
<th>Biomes/Zone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>300 to 600 and 1200 to 2100</td>
<td>Warm Temperate and Sub tropical</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>1000 to 5000</td>
<td>Alpine, Cold temperate and Warm temperate</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>300 to 600 and 1200 to 2100</td>
<td>Warm temperate and Sub tropical</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Kangra</td>
<td>500 to 1000 and 3000 to 6000</td>
<td>Cold temperate and Warm temperate</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Kinnaur</td>
<td>1800 to 4800</td>
<td>Sub Arctic, Alpine and Cold temperate</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Kullu</td>
<td>1500 to 4800</td>
<td>Alpine, Cold temperate and Warm temperate</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Lahaul &amp; Spiti</td>
<td>3000 to 4500</td>
<td>Sub Arctic and Alpine</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Mandi</td>
<td>1200 to 3000</td>
<td>Warm temperate</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Shimla</td>
<td>1500 to 3200</td>
<td>Cold temperate and Warm temperate</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Sirmour</td>
<td>300 to 450 and 3000-3300</td>
<td>Warm temperate and Sub Tropical</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Solan</td>
<td>300-2100 and 150 to 1500</td>
<td>Warm temperate and Sub Tropical</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Una</td>
<td>300 to 600 and 1200 to 2100</td>
<td>Warm temperate and Sub Tropical</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Economics and Statistics HP, Shimla

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According to S.C. Bose, altitude had been the most important factor in the development of the towns and villages of the region. He has identified six zones on the basis of their height and characteristics. The favorable or unfavorable features of each zone determined whether they could be inhabited or not. Explanations of the density of population as it has grown over the centuries may also be found in this division.

i. **350 to 1,000 meters:** This has rough topography with deep gorges and sharp water partings. The area was (and largely still is) covered by thick tropical forests. This was the area infested by wild animals - including elephants and tigers. The climate is warm and humid and this had only a few settlements.

ii. **1,000 to 2,500 meters:** Here, the river terraces are well developed and hold villages and towns. The climate is cool and comfortable. Cultivation is easily possible. There are fewer forests and the majority of the people of the Himalaya live in this belt.

iii. **2,500 to 3,000 meters:** This belt is extremely rugged. The area is also cooler and is generally covered with coniferous forests. There are some villages with cultivation in favorable places.

iv. **3,000 to 4,000 metres:** This belt is inhabited by semi-nomads, who are shepherds and traders whose flocks graze in Alpine meadows. There are some temporary dwellings. The few permanent settlements are found on glacial terraces and amphitheatres. Potato and barley are cultivated.

v. **4,000 to 5,000 metres:** This belt is cold, rocky and snowy. There may be a few pastures and there are generally no permanent settlements.

vi. **Above 5,000 metres:** These are inhospitable and have no habitation.

### 3.2 TOURISM IN HIMACHAL PRADESH:

Tourism in Himachal Pradesh is not a new concept. Its history goes back to
Hiuen T-Sang, the Chinese traveller, visited India and made important observations about Jalandra, Kuluta and Srugna. Apart from Hiuen T-Sang many more foreign travellers have left interesting account of their tours to various parts of the hilly state of Himachal. Himachal Pradesh is a delightful state for visitors particularly during the hot season when people flock to its hill stations to escape the scorching heat of the planes. In terms of tourism the State has an immense resource of natural / scenic and cultural wealth to offer. The snow peaked mountains, glistening rivers, serene environments, Ideal climate and a peaceful lifestyle, all combine to make Himachal a magnetic attraction. The state is rich in Tribal Culture, Languages, Folklore, and Dress forms, special Himachal cuisine other than off course the rich bounty of natural beauty. The State has all elements to attract various segments of tourist population. But what is still need is, better accessibility and tapping of the right potential markets (Bansal, 2006).

Himachal is one of the top five tourist destinations in the country, both for domestic as well as international visitors. Around 60 lakh tourists visit the State every year, as much as its actual population. However much of the tourism related activities are concentrated in the four major hill stations of Shimla, Manali, Dharamshala and Dalhousie. Due to this the bulk of the tourist does not visit the ‘country side’ forests and sanctuaries which are indeed a paradise for the discerning lot.

Tourism is the largest important industry in Himachal Pradesh. The serene, clean and hospitable mountain & environment along with great Heritage buildings value makes it a favorite destination for both foreign & domestic tourists. The Himachal Pradesh state has recognized its Tourism potential but the tourism contributes only about 2 per cent of the State Domestic Product (GoHP, 2000), Himachal is striving hard to develop appropriate infrastructure for the growth of tourism in the state.
Himachal Pradesh, as compared to the other states of India has a unique and strategic geographical location and many other favorable geo-environmental conditions for tourism development. The state is nestled in the Himalaya, offers a variety of attractions to domestic as well as foreign tourists. Tourism has already been declared an industry in the state. Investors looking forward to invest in tourism can expect substantial returns in this otherwise industrially backward and far-flung state that other industries avoid due to its remoteness, topography and environmental fragility.

Table 3.3 Tourist Arrivals in HP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Domestic Tourists</th>
<th>Foreign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>45,70,129</td>
<td>1,11,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>51,11,772</td>
<td>1,33,028</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>49,58,917</td>
<td>1,44,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>55,44,414</td>
<td>1,67,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>63,45,069</td>
<td>2,04,344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>69,27,742</td>
<td>2,07,790</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>76,71,902</td>
<td>2,81,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>88,21,397</td>
<td>3,39,409</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>93,72,697</td>
<td>3,76,736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Tourism, Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Figure 3.1 Tourist visiting HP: Yearwise
### Table 3.4 Purpose of visit to HP: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose of Visit</th>
<th>Indian (%)</th>
<th>Foreign (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business/Official</td>
<td>15.13</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>14.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasure Trip</td>
<td>55.81</td>
<td>68.16</td>
<td>57.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>3.91</td>
<td>7.46</td>
<td>4.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social/Religious Function</td>
<td>5.41</td>
<td>4.98</td>
<td>5.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pilgrimage</td>
<td>11.22</td>
<td>8.45</td>
<td>10.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>1.86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6.62</td>
<td>4.48</td>
<td>6.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: **HP Tourist Economic Survey 2009**

### Figure 3.2 Purpose of Visit: 2008

#### Table 3.5 Reason of visit to HP: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Indian (%)</th>
<th>Foreign (%)</th>
<th>Total (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate</td>
<td>23.42</td>
<td>17.91</td>
<td>22.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peaceful Atmosphere</td>
<td>15.19</td>
<td>19.40</td>
<td>15.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Beauty</td>
<td>40.33</td>
<td>48.26</td>
<td>41.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less Expensive</td>
<td>0.58</td>
<td>24.49</td>
<td>0.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity</td>
<td>1.67</td>
<td>1.49</td>
<td>1.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>18.81</td>
<td>10.45</td>
<td>17.95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: **HP Tourist Economic Survey 2009**
Figure 3.3 Reason of Visit to HP: 2008

Table 3.6 International Tourist visiting HP: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>9.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holland</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Others</td>
<td>40.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3.7 Foreigners Visiting Himachal Pradesh

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Year 2004</th>
<th>Year 2005</th>
<th>Year 2006</th>
<th>Year 2007</th>
<th>Year 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No. of Visitors</td>
<td>Bed Nights Spent</td>
<td>No. of Visitors</td>
<td>Bed Nights Spent</td>
<td>No. of Visitors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.K.</td>
<td>17524</td>
<td>37877</td>
<td>23881</td>
<td>43986</td>
<td>28496</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>15155</td>
<td>26910</td>
<td>16182</td>
<td>23716</td>
<td>14883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>5857</td>
<td>10574</td>
<td>11500</td>
<td>16260</td>
<td>8192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>3909</td>
<td>8357</td>
<td>4377</td>
<td>7660</td>
<td>15155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UAE</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>1089</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>8159</td>
<td>17617</td>
<td>10584</td>
<td>19935</td>
<td>13524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>17245</td>
<td>21809</td>
<td>29555</td>
<td>31385</td>
<td>11789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>2491</td>
<td>3542</td>
<td>2031</td>
<td>3171</td>
<td>1569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>4050</td>
<td>8592</td>
<td>4956</td>
<td>7700</td>
<td>4239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>1696</td>
<td>3919</td>
<td>1599</td>
<td>3012</td>
<td>890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>5099</td>
<td>10414</td>
<td>5015</td>
<td>9122</td>
<td>4457</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saud</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>674</td>
<td>1407</td>
<td>954</td>
<td>1834</td>
<td>1136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>69242</td>
<td>146334</td>
<td>74290</td>
<td>159583</td>
<td>95574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>144383</td>
<td>307884</td>
<td>167902</td>
<td>328861</td>
<td>204344</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh

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### Table 3.8 Break-Up District Wise and Year Wise of Domestic and Foreign Tourists In Himachal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Year 2004</th>
<th></th>
<th>Year 2005</th>
<th></th>
<th>Year 2006</th>
<th></th>
<th>Year 2007</th>
<th></th>
<th>Year 2008</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
<td>Indians</td>
<td>Foreigners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bilaspur</td>
<td>584706</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>634781</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>682353</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>728666</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>683761</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamba</td>
<td>450803</td>
<td>1466</td>
<td>449873</td>
<td>1617</td>
<td>493567</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>559831</td>
<td>2504</td>
<td>644309</td>
<td>3953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamirpur</td>
<td>41532</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>42670</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>47454</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>124244</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>289745</td>
<td>53</td>
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Source: Department of Tourism and Civil Aviation, Himachal Pradesh
Figure 3.4 International Tourists visiting HP 2008: Country wise

![Bar chart showing international tourists visiting HP 2008 by country.]

Table 3.9 Domestic Tourist visiting HP zonewise: 2008

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<th>Zone</th>
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*Source: HP Tourist Economic Survey 2009*

Figure 3.5 Domestic Tourist visiting HP zonewise: 2008

![Bar chart showing domestic tourists visiting HP zonewise.]

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Table 3.10 Tourist visit to HP districtwise: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Percentage of Tourists</th>
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Source: HP Tourist Economic Survey 2009

Figure 3.6 Domestic Tourist visiting HP districtwise: 2008
Table 3.11 Number of hotels, guest houses, restaurants, travel agencies, tourist guides & photographers and bed capacity/no. of rooms: 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>No. of Hotels/guest houses</th>
<th>No. of Restaurants</th>
<th>No. of Rooms</th>
<th>Bed Capacity</th>
<th>Travel Agencies</th>
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<th>Tourist Guides</th>
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Source: HP Tourist Economic Survey 2009

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The development of tourism in Himachal Pradesh began with the starting of the Second Five-Year Plan and most of the tourists visit Himachal Pradesh for its natural and scenic beauty. (Singh, Daleep 2002). Himachal Pradesh Government has appreciated the importance of Tourism as an important economic activity by announcing its New Tourism Policy in the year 2005 which has given a new mission to the Department of Tourism:

"TO MAKE TOURISM THE PRIME ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE STATE BY POSITIONING IT AS A LEADING GLOBAL DESTINATION BY THE YEAR 2020."

The State Government is aiming at promoting Eco & Sustainable Tourism, encouraging private sector to develop tourism related infrastructure in the state without disturbing the existing ecology and environment. The main thrust is employment generation and promoting new concepts of tourism in the state. In order to increase the duration of the stay of the visitors/tourists a special emphasis is being laid on the development of activities-based on tourism. (Tourism Policy, 2005). Himachal is known only for summer season, efforts are being made to break the seasonal factor and tourism products have been diversified to attract the tourists in other seasons also so that Himachal is known as "A Destination for All Seasons and All Reasons."

3.3 TOURIST CIRCUITS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

The state of Himachal Pradesh has a treasure of Heritage buildings. From the British period to the local architecture most of the buildings, which fall in Shimla, are frequently visited by all the tourist. The
architecturally important buildings outside the Shimla area are not that recognized. The state of Himachal Pradesh is divided in the five major tourist circuits namely:

- Sutlej Circuit
- Beas Circuit
- Dhauladhar Circuit
- Tribal Circuit

### 3.3.1 Dhauladhar Circuit

The study area i.e. Pragpur falls in the Dhauladhar circuit of the state, at present the Dhauladhar circuit has two sub circuits.

2. Chamba Circuit: Chamba-Khajjiar-Dalhousie.

The Dharamshala circuit itself has Heritage buildings of Architectural importance which are not part of any circuit.

The Dhauladhar Circuit derives its name from the Dhauladhar peaks of Western Himalaya. It passes in the shadow of the mighty and majestic snow clad Dhauladhar ranges, which dominates the beautiful Kangra valley, dotted by flower filled meadows, temples, tea gardens and flocks of sheep.

#### 3.3.1.1 Main Destinations

- Chintpurni
- Jwalamukhi
- Kangra
- Dalhousie
a) Chintpurni

Sati’s feet fell at Chintpurni (940m) and the devout come here to leave their worries and pray for boons. The legend goes that the temple came into being after the goddess revealed herself to Maya Dass, an ardent devotee. The temple is built around the Devi’s pindi. Her image depicts her without a head, it is said that she cut it off to assuage the blood thirst of her companions. And hence the name, Chinnimastika Devi - 'The Goddess without a Head'.

b) Jwalamukhi:

Ancient legend speak of a time when demons lorded over the Himalayan mountains and harassed the gods. Led by Lord Vishnu, the gods decided to destroy them. The gods focused their strengths in an huge flame which rose from the earth. From the fire, a young girl look birth. She is regarded as Adishakti the first 'Shakti'. Known as Sati or Parvati, she grew up in the house of Prajapati Daksha and later became the consort of Lord Shiva. Once her father insulted Lord Shiva and unable to accept this, she killed herself. When Lord Shiva heard of his wife's death his rage knew no
bounds and holding Sati's body he began stalking the three worlds.
The other gods trembled before His wrath and appealed to Lord Vishnu for help. Lord Vishnu let fly a volley of arrows which struck Sati's body and severed it to pieces. At the places where the pieces fell, the fifty-one sacred Shaktipeeths came into being. Sati's tongue fell at Jwalaji (610m) and the goddess is manifest as tiny flame that burns flawless blue through fissures in the age-old rock. Even the Pandavas are regarded to have visited this sacred place.

- **Jwalaji Shrines:**

There are nine different flames within the temple and each signifies something different. It is said that centuries ago, a shephard saw the flames for the first time and Raja Bhumi Chandra, the ruler of the area had the original temple built. The Mughal Emperor Akbar installed a gold parasol and Maharaja Ranjit Singh had the dome gilded. Across the courtyard is Devi's bed chamber and above the temple is the shrine of Baba Gorakhnath.

- **Nagini Mata (4.5km):** The site of a fair held in July / August, this is located on the hill above Jwalaji.

- **Shri Raghunathji Temple (5 Km):** Popularly known as Teda mandir, Rama, Laxman, and Sita are said to have stayed here and the first temple is supposed to have been built by the Pandavas.

- **Ashtabhuja Temple(1 Km):** This ancient temple has stone image of the eight-armed goddess.

- **Nadaun (12 Km):** Closely connected with the glory of Kangra erstwhile
rulers, there are numerous old temples and remains of a couple of old palaces.

c) Dalhousie

In western Himachal Pradesh, the hill station of Dalhousie is full of old world charm and holds lingering echoes of the Raj era. It covers an area of 14 sq. km. and is built on five hills - Kathlog, Patreyn, Tehra, Bakrota and Balun. It is named after the British governor General of the 19th century, Lord Dalhousie.

The town's average height is 2036 m, and is surrounded by varied vegetation - pines, deodars, oaks and flowering rhododendron. Dalhousie has charming colonial architecture, including some beautiful churches. Its location presents panoramic views of the plains and like a long silver line, the river Ravi twists and turns below Dalhousie.

The spectacular snow-covered Dhauladhar mountains are also visible from this

- **Churches**: There are four beautiful churches in Dalhousie. These are St. Andrew's Church and St. Patrick's Church at Balun, St. Francis church at Subhash Chowk and St. John's Church at Gandhi Chowk.

- **Subhash Baoli (1 Km)**: It was at this enchanting spot surrounded by majestic trees, that Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose spent time in 1937, contemplating and meditating.

- **Panchpula (3 Km)**: This is a picturesque spot where a stream feed a
series of pools. A monument has been built here in memory of the freedom fighter, Sardar Ajit Singh.

d) Khajjiar:
Often called India's Switzerland, the exquisite glade of Khajjiar (1960m) has a circumference of about 5 km. Along its fringes, thick forests of deodar climb the slopes, and the snow-line rests above these woods. At Khajjiar there is a 12th century temple dedicated to Khajji Nag. Within the temple are life size wooden images of the five Pandav brothers.

e) Chamba:
Chamba town (915m) stands on the right bank of the river Ravi. As a former princely State, it is one of the oldest in the century and dates back to the sixth century. It is well known for its splendid architecture and a base for numerous excursions. It is also the district headquarters.

- **Laxmi Narayan Temple Complex:** With six main Shikhara style temples and several smaller shrines, this is renowned for its finely executed classical forms.
Hari Rai Temple: This is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and dates back to the 11th Century.

The Chowgan: Chamba's wide concourse is the hub of much of towns activity and also serves as its promenade.

Rangmahal: This old palace is an interesting mix of colonial and local architectural styles.

Akhand Chandi Palace: Now a college, this imposing building once housed Chamba's ruling family. Much of the original craftsmanship can still be seen here.

Manimahesh (98 Km): This sacred lake (4183m) is associated with Lord Shiva and is a site of annual pilgrimage from mid of August to mid of September each year. Distance from Bharmaur is 28 Km.
- **Chatrari (45 Km)**: An attractive temple to Shakti Devi is located here.

- **Bhuri Singh Museum**: Named after Raja Bhuri Singh of Chamba, this is a treasure house of Chamba's rich past. The exhibits include copper plates, murals, doorways, costumes, paintings and stone carvings.

- **St. Andrew's church**: Over a century old, this is a charming dressed stone structure with lancet windows.

- **Bharmour (69 Km)**: Its 84 ancient temples at a height of 2141m are well known. It is also the summer home of the nomadic Gaddi people.

- **Dharamsala**:
The charming church of St. John in the wilderness is situated here and this is the final resting place of Lord Elgin, a British Viceroy of India during the 19th century. There is also a large
Tibetan community who have made this place their home. Numerous ancient temples like Jwalamukhi, Brijeshwari and Chamunda lie on the plains below Dharamsala.

The variety Dharamsala offers for sightseeing ranges from temples, churches and monasteries to museums, ancient towns and places of natural beauty. Every season and every spot has its own special offering.

- **Kangra Art Museum, Kotwali Bazar:** This treasure trove of the Kangra Valley displays arts, crafts and rich past, artifacts that date back to the 5th century. It includes a gallery of Kangra's famous miniature painting and a representative collection of sculptures, pottery and anthropological items. Shamianas and dresses used by local royalty, old carved doors, jails, lintels and pandals are also on display. Coins, jewelry and manuscripts are included. A section houses the work of contemporary artists, sculptures and photographers.

- **War Memorial:** At the start of town, landscaped lawns and a web of narrow paths fill a pine grove where a monument has been raised to commemorate the post independence war heroes of Himachal Pradesh.

- **Kunal Pathri:** A 3 km level walk from the Kotwali Bazaar leads up to this rock temple.

- **Meleodganj:** Often called the Little Lhasa, at 1770m is the residence of His Holiness, The Dalai Lama. The Tibetan Government in exile has been head quartered here for over three decades. The impressive monastery has larger than life...
images of the Buddha, Padmasambhava and Avaloktwshwara. The large Tibetan community and the presence of traditional architectural designs drawn from Tibet have enhanced the area. Tibetan handicrafts and garments are available on sale every Sunday. The Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts is just a km away and organises a ten day festival from the second Saturday of April.

- **Bhagsunath:** Close to fresh springs, this ancient temple is 11 km from Dharamsala. It is a popular picnic spot and the famous slate quarries are close by.

- **Chinmaya Tapovan:** 10 km from Dharamsala on the banks of the rivulet Bindusaras, is an ashram complex established by the late Swami Chinmayananda, a noted exponent of the Gita. The complex includes a 9 meter high image of Lord Hanuman, a magnificent Rama Temple, a meditation hall, a school, and a health and recreation centre.

- **Nurpur:** 66km from Dharamsala and 26 km from Pathankot, Nurpur is famous for old fort and a temple of Brijraj. Nurpur acquired its name in 1672, when Jahangir, the Mughal Emperor named it after his wife Nurjahan.

- **St. John's church:** 8 km from Dharamsala, between Forsythganj and Mcleodganj is the charming church of St. John in the Wilderness. Under
the shade of deodar branches, a memorial has been erected over the body of the British Viceroy, Lord Elgin who died at Dharamsala in 1863. There is a well tended old graveyard on these grassy sloped.

- **Adventure Activities and Sports:** Between May and October, the Dhauladhar ranges offer an enormous variety of trekking and rock climbing.

- **Fishing:** The 20 km stretch of the river Beas between Nadaun and Pong Dam offers ample opportunities in angling for Mahaseer.

- **Shopping:** For local handicrafts visit Kotwali Bazar, Tibetan handicrafts and carpets are available at Mcleodganj.

f) **Chamunda:**

Chronicled in the Durga Sapt-Shati, the story goes that on the orders of Shamb and Ni-Shamb, two demons tried to harass the goddess Ambika. Enraged, Ambika knitted her brows and from the folds a horrifying from of Kali emerged. After a great battle, the goddess Kali slew the two demons, Chand and Mund. Delighted by Kali's achievement, Ambika declared that she would now be worshipped here as Chamunda a combination of the demons names. Chamunda Devi temple is at height of 1000m.

g) **Palampur:**

In local parlance, the word for lot of water is "pulum". This is what has given Palampur (1249 m) its name and its water has given the valley so much of its Plate 3.21 Chamunda Devi Temple

Delighted by Kali's achievement, Ambika declared that she would now be worshipped here as Chamunda a combination of the demons names. Chamunda Devi temple is at height of 1000m.

Plate 3.22 Tea Garden Palampur
character. Countless streams criss-cross the landscape and in their intricate mesh, hold tea gardens and rice fields. The town came into being when tea plantation was introduced in the 19th century and Palampur became a focus for the planters. Kangra tea, with its center at Palampur, has been internationally acclaimed since then.

- **Tea Factory (15 Km):** At the very start of the town, the tea factory of the co-operative society, offers an insight to the processing of Kangra tea.

- **Gopalpur (13 Km):** It has an attractive small zoo where a variety of Himalayan birds and animals are housed.

- **Andretta (13 Km):** A scenic village that famous playwright Norah Richards and artist Shobha Singh took fancy and spent many years living in. At the small open-air theatre, plays are still performed each summer to commemorate Norah Richard's contribution to dramatics Shobha Singh's house has been converted into an art gallery where the famous artist works are on permanent display. A small pottery produces exquisite Andretta earthenware.

- **Neugal Khad:** A scenic spot with acres of tea gardens around. The wide chasm through which Bundla rivulet flows here is wondrous.

- **Baijnath (15 Km):** It harbours an exquisite specimen of temple architecture in finely chiseled stone dedicated to Lord Shiva built in circa 804 A.D.

- **Mahakal Temple (22 Km):** Considered to be only one of two temples dedicated to Lord Shiva as Mahakal in the country

**h) Joginder nagar**

In 1925, the enterprising Raja Joginder Sen of Mandi created an elaborate hydel power scheme near the village of Sukrahatti which was then renamed Joginder Nagar (1220m) after him. After tunneling and piping the water over several kilometers from the river Uhl to Joginder Nagar, the Shanan
power house was built by a team of engineers headed by Col. Batty. Later, the HP State Electricity Board added another set of turbines at nearby Bassi. Joginder Nagar has everything for a quite and relaxing holiday and leaves options open for trekking, fishing, sightseeing, picnics and enjoyable drives in the area.

- **Macchiyal Lake**: this small but enchanting lake held sacred to Machendru Devta.

- **Bassi Power House**: 6 km from the hotel is an attractive picnic spot.

- **Bir**: 16 km from Joginder Nagar, this is a Tibetan settlement with a beautiful monastery.

- **Baijnath**: 20 km from Joginder Nagar is this exquisite temple where Lord Shiva is worshipped as Vaidyanath - ‘The Lord of Physicians’. The original temple was built in 804 A.D. Here King Ravana is said to have supplicated Lord Shiva for this boon of immortality.

- **Jhatingri (2012 M)**: 12 km from Joginder Nagar is this enchanting spot at top of a hill. Surrounded by thick deodar forest, the ruins of the summer palace of the Mandi rulers is located here and the vistas it unfolds are breath-taking.

- **Barot**: 22 km by road from Joginder Nagar, and 11 km by the Haulage trolley, Barot packs an enormous range of outdoor activities. The reservoir of the power project is located here. A trout breeding centre making it a wonderful place for angling. Across the river Uhl is the Nargu Wild Life Sanctuary home to the ghoral, Himalayan black bear and a variety of pheasants.
3.3.2 Satluj Circuit:

The Sutlej Circuit derives its name from the ancient river Sutlej. It passes through snow covered majestic Himalayas, forests of pine, oak and deodar, across stone fruit and apple orchards and through the Shiwalik foot hills.

Circuit Destinations - Shimla - Naldehra - Fagu - Chail - Narkanda – Rampur- Sarahan- Rohroo - Parwanoo

Main Destinations

- Shimla
- Fagu
- Naldehra
- Chindi
- Darlaghat
- Chail
- Narkanda
- Rampur
- Sarahan
- Khara patthar
- Rohru
- Parwanoo
- Kasauli
- Barog
- Kariaghat
- Rajgarh
- Renuka ji
- Paonta sahib

a) Shimla:

Shimla is situated at 2226 m. in the lower ranges of the Himalayan mountains, and is surrounded by pine deodar, oak and rhododendron forests in the north lie the snow-covered high-ranges, while the valleys breathe whispering streams and swaying fields. The town are host of splendid colonial edifices, quaint cottages and charming walks.
• **Places of Interest**

  - St. Michael's cathedral
  - State museum
  - The ridge
  - Lakkar bazar
  - Jakhoo hill
  - Indian institute of advanced study
  - The glen
  - Annandale
  - Prospect hill and kamna devi
  - Sankat mochan, temple dedicated to lord hanuman.
  - Tara devi
  - Mashobra
  - Kufri

**b) Fagu:**

Fagu is a tiny village aside located at an altitude of 2,450 m is a saddle-like mountain along Hindustan Tibet Road. The picturesque countryside is dotted with clusters of villages, fruit gardens and nearby terraced fields.

**c) Naldehra:**

It is located at distance of 22 km from Shimla and at a height of 2044m. it houses a oldest 9 hole golf course in the country. The Nag temple is also situated here and Naldehra derives its name from it.

**d) Chindi:**

Hillsides covered with thick forests, acres filled with apple orchards, small picturesque hamlets and remarkable views in all directions combine to make Chindi (1825 m) and the area around it, one of the most beautiful places in Himachal Pradesh. The area is still off the beaten track and yet, has good
facilities in terms of roads, small markets and accommodation. Chindi is an excellent off-beat destination that holds the charms that Himachal is just famous for.

Plate 3.28 Heritage Architecture, Chindi

e) Chail:
It is surrounded by magnificent deodar forests, A beautiful Palace with ornate furniture, charming cottages, delightful log huts, thick forests, quiet walks, a 'lovers hill', an orchard of its own, elegant lawns, badminton and lawn tennis court, billiards and even a children's park. Chail has the world's highest cricket pitch and polo ground.

Places of Interest
• Sidh baba ka mandir
• Cricket ground
• Wildlife sanctuary
• Sadhupul
• Adventure and fishing

f) Narkanda
It is situated at an attitude of 2708 meters on the Hindustan Tibet road (NH - 22), Narkanda offers a spectacular view of snow ranges. It commands an unique view of the eternal snow line, the inviting apple orchards and dense forests. Narkanda is a gateway to apple country of

Plate 3.29 Terrace farming at Chail
Plate 3.30 Snowclad Mountain range as viewed from Narkanda
Himachal Pradesh. Narkanda is famous for Skiing & Winter sports.

**Places of Interest**

- Hatu peak
- Kacheri
- Kotgarh and thanedhar
- Jallori pass

**g) Rampur:**

It was once the capital of the princely State of Bushahar, Rampur is presently one of the biggest commercial town of Himachal Pradesh. It is located on the left bank of river Sutlej. Famous International Lavi Fair is held in November and Faag Mela in March every year.

**Places of Interest**

- Rampur town
- Dutt nagar
- Nirath

**h) Sarahan**

Saharan is the base for numerous treks and is the gateway to Kinnaur. It is a place of pilgrimage, a heaven for nature lovers and the temple complex attracts a variety of admirers.

**Places of Interest:**

- Bhimakali temple complex
- Bird park
- Bhaba valley

**i) Khara Patthar:**

Kharapathar is a perfect leisure destination in the heart of nature's generous blessings to the area. Lush forests, wide views, excellent walk and hike trails and the charm of apple orchards make this a perfect leisure destination that is easily accessible.

**Places of Interest**

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*Planning for the Ecotourism in the Hill Region: A Case Study Pragpur, Himachal Pradesh*
j) **Rohru**

This is small but bustling town located by the banks of river Pabbar.

**Places of Interest**

- Shikhru devta temple
- Chirgaon
- Chanshal
- Dodra kwar
- Adventure

k) **Parwanoo**

It is situated along the National Highway 22, as you cross the State border from Haryana into Himachal, Parwanoo (470 m) welcomes you.

**Places of Interest**

- Pinjore
- Dagshai
- Kasauli
- Sabathu

l) **Kasauli**

The narrow roads of Kasauli (1951m) slither up and down the hillside and offer some magnificent vistas. A mixed forest of pine, oak and huge horse-chestnut encircles the town. Its colonial ambience is reinforced by stretch of cobbled road, quaint shops, gabled houses with charming facades and scores of neat little gardens and orchards.

**Places of Interest**
• Monkey point
• Baba balak nath temple
• Shirdi sai baba mandir
• Lawrence school

m) Barog
It is situated on the Kalka - Shimla Highway, Barog (1680m) has grown from a mere stopover to a full-fledged destination. Surrounded by pine and oak forests, Barog has a commanding setting. Barog makes a conveniently accessible destination and a travel stopover to or from Shimla.

Places of Interest
- Railway station
- Dagshai
- Solan
- Solan brewery
- Jatoli
- Rajgarh

n) Kariaghat:
Situated at Kalka-Shimla National Highway, Kiarighat is a small place where tourists can stay for a while or stay overnight.

o) Rajgarh
Situated at about 5000 ft. from sea level, Rajgarh is sub-divisional head quarter of Sirmour Distt. It is situated nearby Giri river which is a tributary of river Yamuna.

p) Renuka Ji
The Renuka Lake (660 m) is regarded as the embodiment of Renukaji. Shaped like a profile of a woman, the lake has the circumference of 2.5 km and is the largest in Himachal. This placid stretch of water is fed by

Plate 3.34 Pine & Oak Tree Plantation, Barog
underground springs and the surrounding hills are padded by lush forests that support a large variety of plant and animal life. Boating and trekking are the additional attractions of Renukaji.

**Places of Interest**
- Renuka lake
- Parashurama tal and renuka temple
- Jamu peak

q) **Paonta Sahib**

The word Paonta means 'Space for a foothold'. Surrounded by sal forest and on the banks of river Yamuna, the historic town of Paonta Sahib (350m) was founded by the Tenth Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh. The historic gurudwara commemorates his stay and interestingly the water of the Yamuna fall silent below this.

**Places of Interest**
- Gurudwara paonta sahib
- Yamuna temple
- Gurudwara tirgarh sahib
- Gurudwara bhangani sahib
- Shiva temple, patlian
- Shrine of baba garib nath
- Ram temple
- Gurudwara shergarh sahib
- Simbalwara wildlife sanctuary
- Sirmour
- Nagnauna temple
- Katasan devi temple
3.3.3 TRIBAL CIRCUIT

Passing through a spectacular terrain of River Valleys, Cold Desert Mountains, High Passes, Snow Capped Peaks, Icy Lakes, Mighty Glaciers, an exotic tribal country dotted by monasteries, yaks and lamas.


Main Destinations
- Kinnaur
- Kalpa
- Kaza
- Keylong

3.3.3.1 Tour Options

3.3.3.1.1 Tribal Tour 1
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Route: Sarahan - Bhaba - Karcham - Sangla - Rakchham - Chitkul - Sangla - Sarahan.

3.3.3.1.2 Tribal Tour 2
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Route: Sarahan-Sangla-Kalpa-Pawari-Morang-Jangi-Pooh-Nako-Sarahan

3.3.3.1.3 Tribal Tour 3
- Duration: Minimum 4 days
- Route: Sarahan-Nako-Tabo-Dhankar-Kaza-Key-Kibber-Pooh-
Sangla-Sarahan.

3.3.3.1.4 Tribal Tour 4
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Route: Kaza-Dhankar-Pin Valley-Tabo-Kaza

3.3.3.1.5 Tribal Tour 5
- Duration: Minimum 3 days

3.3.3.1.6 Tribal Tour 6
- Duration: Minimum 2 days
- Route: Keylong - Udaipur - Triloknath - Kardang - Gondla - Keylong

3.3.3.1.7 Tribal Tour 7
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Route: Keylong - Darcha - Patseo - Zingzingbar - Baralacha - Sarchu - Keylong.

3.3.3.1.8 Tribal Tour 8
- Duration: Minimum 4 days
- Route: Keylong - Sarchu - Lachalangla - Pang - Tanglangla - Uphsi - Leh - Keylong

a) Kinnaur:

Kinnaur, the tribal district of Himachal Pradesh, lies 250 km away from Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh and is situated on the NH - 22 (Hindustan Tibet Road). It is a border district of Himachal Pradesh. The landscape of the area varies from lush green orchards of the scenic Sangla Valley to the stark magnificence of the Hangrang Valley. Kinnaur has a spectacular terrain of lush green valley, orchards, vineyards, snow clad peaks and cold desert mountains. Kinnaur is also rich in flora & fauna. The culture and language is different from other parts of the state.
The massive snow clad ranges that provide a regal dignity to the scene are dominated by the peak of Kinner Kailash. One can enter Kinnaur district at Village Chahora and follow a straight line road constructed in vertical rock and it is a rare treat to travel on this road which is a great engineering feat.

**Places of Interest:**
- Kothi
- Recong peo
- Sangla valley
- Puh
- Jangi
- Riba
- Tabo
- Nako
- Kibber
- Key gompa
- Kunzam pass

**b) Kalpa**

It is situated at the height of 2758 m above the sea level and 110 km from Sarahan. Kalpa is one of the biggest and beautiful villages of Kinnaur. Across the river faces the majestic mountains of the Kinner Kailash range. These are spectacular sights early in the morning as the rising sun touches the snowy peaks with crimson and golden light.

**c) Kaza**
It is situated at an altitude of 3600 meter above sea level on left bank of river Spiti, 210 km from Kalpa 47 from Tabo is presently the headquarters of Spiti sub division. Translated, 'Spiti' means the 'middle country' - a name obviously given as a result of its ties with both India and Tibet. In earlier times, it was the capital of Nono, the chief of Spiti. It has a Buddhist Monastery and Hindu Temple. It is characterised by stark beauty, narrow valleys and high mountains. Spiti is a cold desert where the monsoon rain never comes.

d) Keylong
It is situated at an altitude of 3350 m, Keylong is the headquarters of Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh. The region is strange, exciting, primitive mountainous & delightful. Rudyard Kipling said of the region "Surely the God live here this no place for men." The route to Lahaul takes a traveler over Rohtang Pass (3980 ml), Koksar (1st village of Lahaul) Sissu, Gondla and crossing the river Chandra Bhaga at Tandi

Places of Interest

• Gondla
• Sissu
• Tandi
• Triloknath
• Udaipur
• Monastery's

3.3.4 Beas Circuit
The Beas Circuit derives its name from the ancient river Beas. It passes through the highly picturesque Kullu - Mandi regions. The main attractions are the flower filled meadows, terraced fields of paddy, maize, apple
orchards and the sparkling Beas River.

This circuit covers Delhi - Swarghat - Bilaspur - Mandi - Rewalsar - Kullu - Manali - Rohtang - Naggar - Manikaran - Delhi (1335 km) (5 nights 6 days)

Main Destinations
- Manali
- Kullu
- Manikaran
- Mandi
- Rewalsar
- Bilaspur
- Keylong

TOUR OPTIONS

3.3.4.1 Parvati Valley Tour
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Distance: 292 Kms Approx.
- Route: Mandi-Rewalsar-Kullu-Manikaran-Mandi

3.3.4.2 Beas Tour
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Distance: 396 Kms Approx.

3.3.4.3 River View Tour
- Duration: Minimum 3 days

3.3.4.4 Kullu Valley Tour
- Duration: Minimum 3 days
- Route: Manali - Solang - Rohtang - Pass - Vashist - Naggar - Manikaran - Raison.
### 3.3.4.5 Chander Bhaga Tour
- **Duration**: Minimum 4 days

### 3.3.4.6 Kunzum Tour
- **Duration**: Minimum 4 days

### 3.3.4.7 Manali Leh Tour
- **Duration**: Minimum 4 days

#### a) Manali

One day, Varvasvata, the seventh incarnation of Manu found a tiny fish in his bathing water. The fish told him to look after it with devotion as one day it would do him a great service. The seventh Manu cared for the fish till the day it grew so huge that he released it into the sea. Before departing, the fish warned Manu of an impending deluge when the entire world would be submerged and bade him to build a sea worthy ark. When the flood came, Varvasvata and seven sages were towed to safety by Matsya, the fish which is regarded as first avatar of Lord Vishnu. As the water subsided the seventh Manu's ark came to the rest on a hill side and the place was named Manali (2050 m) after him. As the flood slowly dried, here arose a place of breath-taking natural beauty which was...
only appropriate at Manali that life began again.

Today this legendary cradle of all human kind is a prime holiday destination. There are high mountains surrounded by snow and deep boulder strewn gorges. There are thick forests full of cool breeze and bird songs. There are fields of wild flowers, small picturesque hamlets and fruit laden orchards.

PlACES OF INTEREST

• Monasteries
• Vashisth
• Manu temple
• Hadimba temple
• Towards the rohtang pass
• Solang valley
• Jagatsukh

b) Kullu

Kullu (1220m) was once known as Kulanthapitha - the end of the habitable world. Beyond rose the forbidding heights of the Greater Himalaya, and by the banks of the shining river Beas lay the fabled Silver Valley. Kullu got its first motorable access only after independence. The long centuries of seclusion have however allowed the area to retain a considerable measures of its traditional charm. Here is the core of an intricate web of numerous valleys, each of which is a visual delight and seems more beautiful than the other.

The Silver Valley has nature's treasures that lie carelessly scattered as flowers. This wealth nestles by every tree in the splendid forests, bursts

Plate 3.43 View of Kulanthapita, Kullu
forth in the blooms and in the fruit of every orchard. Here are riches which cannot be measured and echo down the ages with the words of every myth and ancient legend and glow in the warm smiles of its gentle people. There is pleasure in every step you take in these enchanted valleys and in every gurgle you hear in the clear mountain streams.

**Places of Interest**
- Kullu dussehra
- Raghunath temple
- Bijli mahadev temple
- Basheshwar mahadev temple bajura
- Other temples
- Kaisdhar
- Kasol

c) **Manikaran**

It is situated at 1737 m, on the right bank of river Parvati. This place is famous for hot sulphur springs revered by both Hindus and Sikhs pilgrims. The water of the spring is also said to have curative value which cures many skin diseases.

**Places of Interest**
- Pulga
- Chandrakhani pass
- Malana village
- Khirganga
- Shoja

d) **Naggar**

It is situated on the left bank of river Beas at an altitude of 1851m, Naggar - an ancient town commands extensive views, especially to the North West of the valley. Naggar was the former capital of Kullu. It was founded by Raja Visudhpal and continued as a headquarters of the State until the capital...
was transferred to Sultanpur (Kullu) by Jagat Singh in 1460 A.D.

**Places of Interest**

- Jagatipatt temple
- Tripura sundri temple
- Nicholas roerich art gallery
- Gauri shankar temple
- Fishing and adventure
- Treks

**Mandi**

The historic town of Mandi (800m) is situated along the banks of river Beas. It has long been an important commercial centre, and the sage Mandava is said to have meditated here. Mandi is renowned for its 81 temples and their enormous range of fine carving. Mandi is known as the ‘Kashi of the Hills’. The town also has remains of old palaces and notable examples of colonial architecture. Mandi is the gateway to the Kullu valley and acts as a base for several exciting excursions.

**Places of Interest**

- Bhootnath temple
- Syamakali temple
- Pandoh
- Triloknath temple
- Panchvaktra
- Ardhanarisvara temple
- The rani amrit kaur park,
- Sundernagar
- Prashar lake
- Janjheli
- Shikari devi

**Rewalsar**

Located on a mountain spur, an hour’s drive from Mandi brings you to this jewel like lake. With water, woodland and high hills, it presents a variety of natural beauty and the spot is sacred for Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs. It was here that the great Indian teacher and tantric, Padmasabhava left for Tibet. Known to the Tibetans as Guru Rimpoche - the Precious Master. It was under Padmasambhava’s influence that Mahayana Buddhism spread over Tibet. There are islands of floating reed on Rewalsar Lake and the
spirit of Padmasabhava is said to reside in them. It is here that the sage Lomas did penance in devotion to Lord Shiva, and the Sikh Guru Gobind Singh also resided here for one month.

Places of Interest

- Monasteries
- Gurudwara
- Mini zoo
- Seven lakes

**g) Bilaspur**

It is good for short excursions and picnics, once the summer capital of Raja Bilaspur, is ideally situated 40 km off Bilaspur on the Bilaspur - Chandigarh NH 21. The temple dedicated to Laxmi Narayan is located here.

**CONCLUSION:**

In this chapter tourism hotspot have been discussed. Accordingly it has been observed that state has sufficient infrastructure which is available at almost all the main tourist areas in order to cater the needs of the Eco tourists as base camps however, what is required is to control the unplanned infrastructure which may destroy the ecological balance of the area. Therefore, it calls for a better planned, regulated and environment friendly tourism approach. The carrying capacity, stakeholder's involvement, community participation etc. should be taken care for the sustainable tourism development of the destination.

It can be concluded from the above studies that Eco Tourism is the need of the hour and it is necessary for states like Himachal Pradesh to develop sustainable infrastructure for Eco Tourism. In this chapter we have gone through the tourism circuits of the state. Eco Tourism has been seen as an alternative form of tourism, a form of tourism, which can provide various benefits to community and disperse the tourist traffic out of the traditional tourist centres.