



Tips on Mobile Phone Connectivity in Zanskar Valley

In today's lifestyle, it is tough to accept that you will not be able to connect with your family or friends on social media. However, while visiting places like Zanskar Valley (or Ladakh or Spiti Valley) in the Himalayas, you must be prepared to stay disconnected with the world. The following tips will be most relevant for the Kargil - Suru Valley - Zanskar Valley region.



Only post-paid mobile connections work in Zanskar Valley Zanskar Valley falls under the jurisdiction of Jammu & Kashmir, hence only

postpaid connections of other states works in Zanskar or Suru Valley. Therefore, you must carry a postpaid SIM card from your home or else your phone is going to be useless in the whole trip of Zanskar Valley.



Connection works in limited areas only Once you leave Kargil, the mobile connection will die, and for the next 200

odd KMs throughout Kargil - Padum road, you will get a cellular connection back about 15-20 KMs before Padum town of Zanskar Valley. Once you reach Padum, the postpaid mobile connection will work only in the vicinity.



Keep your family and friends informed whenever possible It's always better to inform the family about your plans before leaving Kargil

and Padum. It is still better to tell them upon reaching Kargil and Padum too. Providing over information is always much better than no information in places like Ladakh, Spiti Valley, and Zanskar Valley.



Use satellite phones only in an emergency Some remote villages in Zanskar and Suru Valley do have satellite phones

available at Rs 2/minute for STD/ISD to make a call in case of emergency. Use judiciously. Avoid using for personal use.



Connection Works In Padum or nearby Padum, only BSNL or MTNL postpaid connections work. Sometimes you will find only SMSs working, and that will be your chance to

Only BSNL / MTNL

at least send your well-being messages. The connectivity and reach have improved in the last few years and growing every year.

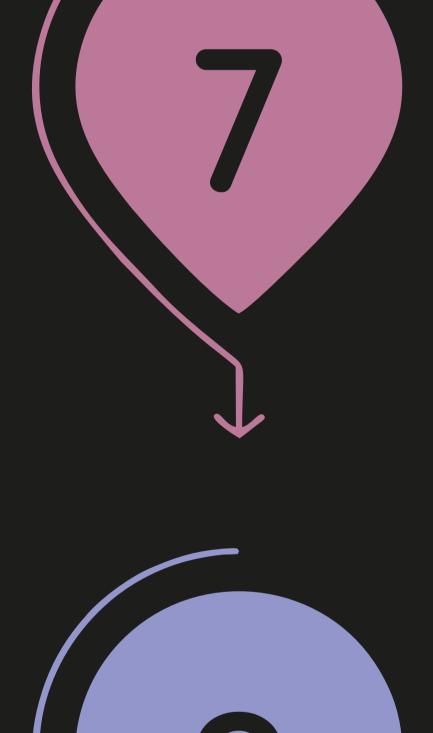


Data connectivity in Zanskar Valley is mostly limited to 2G/GPRS that too in Padum and Kargil, that also in the night only. You rarely experience the 3G connectivity. You can use (slow) WIFI available in hotels or cyber cafes or

Data connectivity in

Zanskar Valley

guest houses in Padum / Kargil. Whatsapp messages are the most effective in such a case. Always carry a couple of

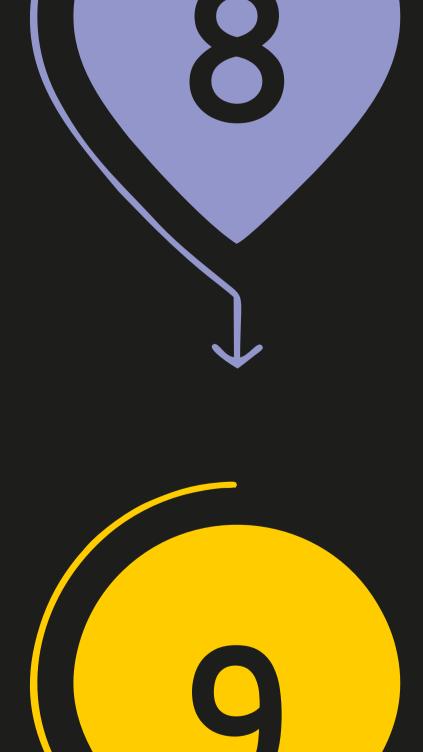


your mobile Electricity in Zanskar Valley may be erratic, and power banks may come in handy. Not just to keep the phone on, but to enable them to take more pictures and videos too. It is always wise to carry a right power bank of 20000 mAH or more.

power banks to charge

Never plan for connectivity in

Zanskar Valley



taxi guy. If you have something important, then complete that work before the trip to Zanskar Valley.

You should not plan a trip to Zanskar Valley and rely on mobile connectivity.

Be it office calls or to plan the next day or to get connected with the hotel or

Be proactive and disciplined

Be ready to be active & disciplined because, at times in remote places, the

mobile connectivity tower will work just in the morning working hours and or

when there is light. So, make the best use of connectivity you get any time in

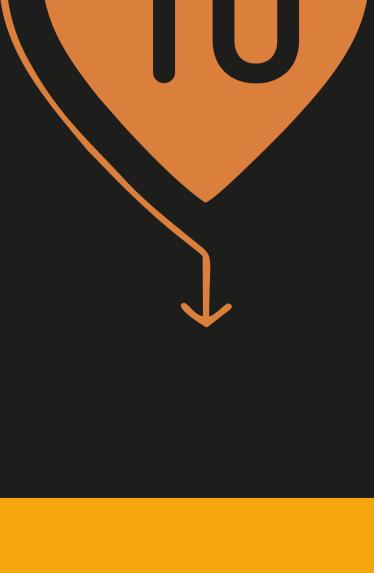
the day at any remote place to connect with your family and friends.



Be patient Last but not least, have patience in yourself and consider you are back in an era of landlines with poor connections. Hence, tell your family and

friends not to worry before leaving for a Zanskar Valley trip because they

may also face the same issues. Be ready to have some missed call alert



messages once you return.

- Himalayan Travel Tips

 - Have Buffer Days Stay Warm & Hydrated
 - Avoid Alcohol
- · Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water Drive with Caution & Care

Start Early, Sleep Early



- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles

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