



Kunzum Route K12

Ladakh

From	To	KMs	Miles	Time	Cum Kms	Cum Miles	Cum Time	Comments
Delhi (Rajghat)	Delhi / Haryana Border	33	21	0:26	33	21	0:26	
Delhi / Haryana Border	Barista Coffee	23	14	0:17	56	35	0:43	Located on left side of highway. If you prefer, there is a Café Coffee Day just 2 kms down and a very nice multi cuisine restaurant Haveli soon after; I think the latter is open 24 hours.
Barista Coffee	Samalkha	23	14	0:12	79	49	0:55	
Samalkha	Panipat	17	11	0:10	96	60	1:05	Stick to the central lanes as you approach Panipat so you can take the flyover over the city – if you go through the city below the flyover, it could take you upto 30 minutes or longer.
Panipat	Barista Coffee	31	19	0:26	127	79	1:31	Located on opposite side of highway. Open 24 Hours.
Barista Coffee	Savoy Greens Food Court (next to Karni Lake in Karnal)	13	8	0:13	140	88	1:44	The Savoy Greens is one of the better places to eat on the highway. The food court offers a selection of McDonalds, Costa Coffee, Subway, Domino's Pizza, Kwality (North Indian dishes), a South Indian counter besides others.
Savoy Greens Food Court (next to Karni Lake in Karnal)	Karnal Toll Plaza	16	10	0:14	156	98	1:58	Paid Rs. 81
Karnal Toll Plaza	Kurukshetra	13	8	0:11	169	106	2:09	This is the same as Pipli it seems – Kurukshetra is a little inside from the highway

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Kurukshetra	Ambala	43	27	0:36	212	133	2:45	Just after the town there is a Saagar Ratna restaurant (serving south and north Indian cuisines, and usually do a good job – except the last time I was there) – a good option for a meal. It is also a good idea to tank up at or a before Ambala. Fuel is much more expensive in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.
Ambala	Right Turn for Kharar / Roopnagar just before Toll Plaza	14	9	0:15	226	141	3:00	When you exit Ambala, don't take the road to Chandigarh but the one to Jalandhar along NH1. Shortly after you will come to a toll plaza – don't cross it. There is a right turn just before that, take that.
Right Turn for Kharar / Roopnagar just before Toll Plaza	Kharar	42	26	0:41	268	168	3:41	You hit NH21 after this that goes all the way to Manali
Kharar	Kurali Toll Plaza	13	8	0:17	281	176	3:58	Paid Rs. 11
Kurali Toll Plaza	Roopnagar (formerly Ropar)	16	10	0:18	297	186	4:16	
Roopnagar (formerly Ropar)	Right Turn for Manali	31	19	0:42	328	205	4:58	Be careful here – it is easy to miss this turn. I did and overshot by 8kms. There is a flyover under construction next to a railway crossing and a fuel station. You have to turn right here over the tracks. Traffic sometimes tends to get jammed here.
Right Turn for Manali	Swarghat	22	14	0:35	350	219	5:33	

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Swarghat	Bilaspur	42	26	1:25	392	245	6:58	The road become mountainous from here. It was generally a good road but has deteriorated lately especially after the unexceptionally heavy rains of 2010.
Bilaspur	Sundernagar	44	28	1:09	436	273	8:07	
Sundernagar	Mandi	24	15	0:29	460	288	8:36	
Mandi	Aut Tunnel	39	24	0:51	499	312	9:27	
Aut Tunnel	Kullu	31	19	0:39	530	331	10:06	
Kullu	Naggar	26	16	0:55	556	348	11:01	After you cross Kullu town, you will see a bridge going across the river. Slow down, take a U-turn to the left and go onto the bridge to cross over. This will take you on the right bank – I took this as my hotel is located on that side. The drive is along a narrower road that takes you through villages and Naggar – all along, you will see fruit orchards, a delightful sight at all time especially when they bear fruits or flowers. You may choose not to cross the river and continue straight – that gets you to the centre of Manali town quicker.
Naggar	Manali	22	14	0:37	578	361	11:38	A good idea to tank up in Kullu or Manali – the next fuel station will be in Kaza. And supplies there can be erratic – and you will have to wait to get to Powari to find the next station. Driving Distance / Time from Delhi - Manali: 578 kms (361 miles) / 11:38 Hrs

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								This is the better part of the road – and you will generally have a smooth run. Of course, there will be rough patches – and all it takes is one stuck vehicle to throw all traffic out of gear. At Marhi, you can take a break for tea / snacks / meal at one of the many roadside Dhabas (restaurants). Most restrooms belong to the Dhabas and they only allow paying customers to use it. Buy a tea or cola if need be to use it – there are not too many opportunities to go behind rocks for a long time after this.
Manali	Marhi	36	23	1:30	614	384	13:08	
								This is a bad stretch, getting worse with every monsoon rains and winter snow. You will make only slow progress when you go off season with limited traffic, and it will be a snarl during holiday season. Marked Altitude for Rohtang Pass: 3,980 m (13,057 ft)
Marhi	Rohtang Pass	16	10	1:30	630	394	14:38	
								Turn Right for Kaza /Spiti. Be careful not to miss the turn. If you go straight and drive for two days, you will reach Ladakh. Distance marked from here in kms: Kaza 137, Tabo 177, Keylong 51
Rohtang Pass	Gramphoo	16	10	1:19	646	404	15:57	
								<i>You need to enter your personal information at the Police Post here. Non-Indians may need to show passports / travel permits if required.</i>
Gramphoo	Koksar	6	4	0:10	652	408	16:07	
Koksar	Sissu	14	9	0:15	666	416	16:22	

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Sissu	Tandi	24	15	0:50	690	431	17:12	Last fuel station before Leh. A good idea to tank up here even if you think you have enough fuel. You never know when you may have to take unplanned diversions. But don't depend on this place to get fuel - it may be closed or out of stock sometimes. Best to be sure you have enough from Manali onwards.
Tandi	Keylong	9	6	0:20	699	437	17:32	<i>You can enter the town here to grab a bite - but it will be basic at best. Keylong is also known for some monasteries and other religious establishments should you be interested. I did not explore these.</i>
Keylong	Jispa	23	14	0:50	722	451	18:22	Stop here for a night halt. If you have made good progress, you can continue to Sarchu - not recommended as you like to go slow and steady after Jispa to admire the many attractions on the way. Driving Distance / Time from Manali - Jispa: 144 kms (90 miles) / 6:44 hrs

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Jispa	Deepak Tal (Lake)	23	14	0:50	745	466	19:12	Be prepared for a rough ride from here. The quality of roads (where they exist) changes every year depending on damaging the winters were and the extent of repairs that follow. You will get long stretches of broken roads, or just dust tracks. Deepak Tal is a small but beautiful lake. Have a snack, meal or tea at Hozer's shack if you like.
Deepak Tal (Lake)	Suraj Tal	30	19	1:00	775	484	20:12	<i>A bigger lake, makes for great pictures if it is partially or fully frozen. This is usually so during early summers when snow has not fully melted.</i>
Suraj Tal	Baralach La (Pass)	3	2	0:05	778	486	20:17	<i>This is one of the higher passes in Ladakh, and prone to unseasonal snowfalls and late melting of winter ice. Ice walls can reduce the road to a single lane, or block it altogether. Provision for delays here - but stop for pictures too.</i>
Baralach La (Pass)	Blue Poppy Camp near Sarchu	19	12	0:50	797	498	21:07	Stay at Sarchu only if you must - the high altitude and cold winds here can give you altitude sickness. Leave Jispa early and make a straight run for Leh.

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Blue Poppy Camp near Sarchu	Sarchu	15	9	0:25	812	508	21:32	<i>This is the point where the state of Himachal Pradesh ends and you enter Ladakh, a part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. You need to enter your personal particulars at a check post here, and non-Indians may be required to show their passports and other travel permits.</i>
Sarchu	Gata Loops Start	26	16	0:40	838	524	22:12	<i>The road literally loops up here for about 10 kms, hence the name. They make for great pictures with the right equipment when you look down at these from the top.</i>
Gata Loops Start	Gata Loops End	10	6	0:20	848	530	22:32	
Gata Loops End	NakeeLa (Pass)	11	7	0:25	859	537	22:57	
NakeeLa (Pass)	Lachung La (Pass)	12	8	0:30	871	544	23:27	
Lachung La (Pass)	Pang	23	14	1:05	894	559	24:32	<i>This is where you may want a meal break, with a wide choice of dhabas (roadside shacks) to choose from. You will not get anything till you are close to Leh after this. And if you are short of breath or are developing symptoms of altitude sickness, the Army base here offers medical care to travelers.</i>
Pang	More Plains	7	4	0:20	901	563	24:52	<i>These start at approximately this point and stretch for about 45 kms. This is a high altitude plateau where you drive on a flat road for about 50 kms. You can expect to see the nomadic Changpas and their herds of livestock in this region.</i>

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More Plains	Taglang La (Pass)	70	44	1:55	971	607	26:47	<i>This is the highest point on the road to Leh. Enjoy the views but don't hang around too long lest the high altitude and cold winds affect you. A few miles from Taglangla, and you will hit the best road since you left Manali. Get ready to step on the accelerator - but don't throw caution to the winds.</i>
Taglang La (Pass)	Gya	37	23	1:15	1008	630	28:02	<i>You will finally hit civilization - and start greenery along the Indus river and its tributaies. Leh is within striking distance from here.</i>
Gya	Upshi	27	17	0:35	1035	647	28:37	<i>A little before Gya you will pick up speed and make up for all lost time :)</i>
Upshi	Karu	15	0	0:15	1050	647	28:52	
Karu	Shey	23	14	0:25	1073	661	29:17	
Shey	Leh	15	9	0:20	1088	671	29:37	<i>Driving Distance / Time from Jispa - Leh: 366 kms (219 miles) / 11:15 hrs</i>
Leh	Shey	15	9	0:15	1103	680	29:52	<i>To Pangong Tso (Lake) and back:</i> The road from Leh to Pangong Tso is mostly a smooth one, with some rough patches. On the way, you will have to cross the Pagal Nala though. This is a mountain stream that has come onto the road - and you need to negotiate it carefully lest the heavy water flow and the rocky bed cause an accident. You will get basic restaurants at town along the way to order snacks, meals and tea.
Shey	Karu	23	14	0:20	1126	694	30:12	

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Karu	Sakti	11	7	0:20	1137	701	30:32	
Sakti	Chang La (Pass)	34	21	1:10	1171	723	31:42	<i>Take a brief halt here for pictures. The Army also serves great tea and coffee - have some, it's refreshing.</i>
Chang La (Pass)	Pangong Tso (start of lake)	77	48	2:30	1248	771	34:12	Driving Distance / Time from Leh - Pangong Tso: 160 kms (100 miles) / 4:35 hrs
Pangong Tso (start of lake)	Chang La (Pass)	77	48	2:30	1325	819	36:42	
Chang La (Pass)	Sakti	34	21	1:10	1359	840	37:52	
Sakti	Karu	11	7	0:20	1370	847	38:12	
Karu	Shey	23	14	0:20	1393	861	38:32	
Shey	Leh	15	9	0:15	1408	871	38:47	Driving Distance / Time from Pangong Tso - Leh: 160 kms (100 miles) / 4:35 hrs
Leh	Shey	15	9	0:15	1423	880	39:02	To Tso Moriri (Lake) with detour to Tso Kar and back: The road to Tso Moriri is mostly a good one. Exceptions are (1) when you take the detour to Tso Kar and (b) the stretch between the small lake before Tso Moriri to Tso Moriri itself.
Shey	Karu	23	14	0:20	1446	894	39:22	
Karu	Upshi	15	9	0:15	1461	904	39:37	
Upshi	Chumathang	95	59	2:00	1556	963	41:37	
Chumathang	Mahe Bridge	23	14	0:30	1579	978	42:07	<i>Your permits will be checked here.</i>

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								Diversion here for Tso Kar. Take a detour from here, visit Tso Kar and come back the same way. Make a mental note of some landmarks - since much of the road is a dirt track, you do not want to take the wrong fork on the way back.
Mahe Bridge	Sumdo Village	12	8	0:15	1591	985	42:22	
Sumdo Village	Tso Kar	40	25	1:10	1631	1010	43:32	
Tso Kar	Sumdo Village	40	25	1:10	1671	1035	44:42	
Sumdo Village	Small Lake before Tso Mori	23	14	0:35	1694	1049	45:17	<i>The road disappears at this point - you are just driving over a desert. Follow the tracks made by other vehicles. And watch out for soft sand pits - my car got stuck here and had to be pulled out by an Army truck.</i>
Small Lake before Tso Mori	Tso Moriri	15	9	0:30	1709	1059	45:47	Driving Distance / Time from Leh - Tso Moriri with detour to Tso Kar: 301 kms (188 miles) / 7:00 hrs
Tso Moriri	Small Lake before Tso Mori	15	9	0:30	1724	1068	46:17	
Small Lake before Tso Mori	Sumdo Village	23	14	0:35	1747	1083	46:52	
Sumdo Village	Mahe Bridge	12	8	0:15	1759	1090	47:07	
Mahe Bridge	Chumathang	23	14	0:30	1782	1104	47:37	
Chumathang	Upshi	95	59	2:00	1877	1164	49:37	
Upshi	Karu	15	9	0:15	1892	1173	49:52	
Karu	Shey	23	14	0:20	1915	1188	50:12	
Shey	Leh	15	9	0:15	1930	1197	50:27	Driving Distance / Time from Tso Moriri - Leh direct: 221 kms (138 miles) / 4:40 hrs

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Leh	South Pullu	40	25	1:15	1970	1222	51:42	To Kyagar in Nubra Valley and Siachen Glacier and back: For Siachen Glacier, you will need special permission else you will have to turn back from a little beyond Kyagar.
South Pullu	Khardung La	11	7	1:00	1981	1229	52:42	<i>Welcome to the highest motorable road in the world - or so the Army claims. Even in summers, don't be surprised if you find snowflakes falling on your head.</i>
Khardung La	North Pullu	21	13	1:15	2002	1242	53:57	
North Pullu	Yarab Tso Hotel, Kyagar, Nubra Valley	80	50	2:30	2082	1292	56:27	Driving Distance / Time from Leh - Nubra (Kyagar): 152 kms (95 miles) / 6:00 hrs
Yarab Tso Hotel, Kyagar, Nubra Valley	Siachen Glacier	100	63	3:00	2182	1354	59:27	Driving Distance / Time from Nubra (Kyagar) - Siachen: 100 kms (63 miles) / 3:00 hrs
Siachen Glacier	Yarab Tso Hotel, Kyagar, Nubra Valley	100	63	3:00	2282	1417	62:27	Driving Distance / Time from Siachen - Nubra (Kyagar): 100 kms (63 miles) / 3:00 hrs
Yarab Tso Hotel, Kyagar, Nubra Valley	North Pullu	80	50	2:30	2362	1467	64:57	
North Pullu	Khardung La	21	13	1:15	2383	1480	66:12	
Khardung La	South Pullu	11	7	1:00	2394	1487	67:12	
South Pullu	Leh	40	25	1:15	2434	1512	68:27	Driving Distance / Time from Nubra (Kyagar) - Leh: 152 kms (95 miles) / 6:00 hrs

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Leh	Kargil	230	144	7:30	2664	1656	75:57	<p>Take the road via Magnetic Hill, Likir Monastery, Khalsi (also spelled Khaltsi or Khaltse on different signboards), Lamayuru and Mulbeck. You can also visit Alchi for a night halt on the way, a short diversion off the highway. Leh to Alchi is 67 kms / 1:30 hrs. It is mostly a good highway - it has to be considering it is the lifeline for the Indian Army in protecting the borders from Pakistan. This highway runs along the borders of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK as it is commonly called) - and Pakistani armed forces can target traffic on this highway from behind the mountains. Driving Distance / Time from Leh - Kargil direct: 230 kms (144 miles) / 7:30 hrs</p>
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Kargil	Zanskar (Padum)	240	150	12:00	2904	1806	87:57	<p>Kargil to Zanskar (Padum) and back: The distance is an approximation as my car's odometer stopped working - it could not take the bumpy drive. What you get here is not a road - just a rocky, bumpy path where you are lucky to average 20 km/hr. I pride in my stamina for long drives - but this one left me exhausted. Approximately half way is Rangdum, with some camp sites and a monastery. You also have some shacks serving hot meals - eaten only to address hunger pangs. If you are finicky, pack your lunch in Kargil. Unfortunately, the accommodation and food waiting at the end of the ordeal does not provide any solace to the body. But wake up the following morning and your spirits will soar when you meet the people of Zanskar and look at its beauty. The only way back though is the same way to Kargil.</p> <p><i>Driving Distance / Time from Kargil - Zanskar: 240 kms (150 miles) / 12:00 hrs approx</i></p>
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								From here, you can either (a) drive back to Leh and catch a flight; (b) drive back to Leh and onward to Manali and Delhi ; (c) go to Srinagar and catch a flight; (d) go to Srinagar and continue driving all the way back. Driving Distance / Time from Zaskar - Kargil: 240 kms (150 miles) / 12:00 hrs approx
Zaskar (Padum)	Kargil	240	150	12:00	3144	1956	99:57	
Kargil	Sonamarg	120	75	5:30	3264	2031	105:27	
								Driving Distance / Time from Kargil - Srinagar: 206 kms (129 miles) / 8:00 hrs
Sonamarg	Srinagar	86	54	2:30	3350	2084	107:57	
Srinagar	Jammu	302	189	7:53	3652	2273	115:50	
Jammu	Delhi	643	402	11:52	4295	2675	127:42	
Please Note:								
* This route last updated in July 2009.								
* The times / distances mentioned do not cover stops. In other words, you are only reading actual driving times above except where mentioned.								
* The actual distance readings can vary in different cars. Treat these as approximations only.								
* Time taken can vary with traffic and time of the day – always a good idea to leave early morning to beat at least some of the rush.								
* One rule when driving in India: Keep asking for directions even when you know you are going correctly. With highways constantly being upgraded, you may be directed to some more efficient routes including bypassing towns, or being told about new roads. And locals always know when a road or a bridge has gone under, and may suggest alternate routes.								
* The best people to ask for directions are drivers of taxis, buses and trucks. They ply the roads all the time.								
* Milestones give distances to centres of town – and the above may not necessarily be measured from / to point. They could be a few miles off the centre.								
* SH: State Highway; NH: National Highway								
* Distances given in Kms unless otherwise mentioned.								
* Divide all distances mentioned in kms by 1.6 to convert to miles.								
* Keep toll receipts safe. At some places you are asked to show the earlier one and not charged again.								
* Unless mentioned, you will get fuel within 50 - 70 miles. Always a good idea to always have enough fuel for at least 100 - 150 kms.								

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* Spellings of locations mentioned can vary. And sometimes two places can be spelt the same or similar too.	
* Distances marked and mentioned above may not be correct - highway agencies make mistakes commonly.	
* We are only trying to help here - don't sue us if you end up at the wrong place!	
* Route charted may not be the most efficient - it may have been chosen to make for a better driving experience or any other reason.	
* For any clarification / additional information, contact us at ajay@ajayjain.com or +91.9910044476 / +91.9650702777. Happy driving!	

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