



WAY BACK HOME

12x30' in HD

A HIMALAYAN TRAVELOGUE



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A person in dark winter clothing stands on a rocky ledge in the foreground, looking out over a vast, snow-covered mountain range. The mountains are bathed in a soft, golden light, suggesting sunrise or sunset. The sky is a clear, pale blue. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

A Himalayan travelogue, literally!

The first-of-its-kind series follows Rohan 'Ronnie', who leaves his city life behind to return to his roots in the Himalayas. As he travels the seven valleys of the lower Himalayan ranges, he gradually re-discovers himself.

More than a travel show, Way Back Home is an experience that overwhelms.

Episodes

Episode 1: Kullu Valley

Ronnie travels from Delhi to Manali, to find his hometown covered in a blanket of snow. He explores the narrow alleyways on his way to the streets of where children are sledging down the snowy slopes. He discovers the joys of bathing in hot Sulphur springs and revisits his favourite spots --- the local pine forest, a special picnic spot by the river and the ultimate chill spot – “Jogni Falls”.

Episode 2: Parvati Valley

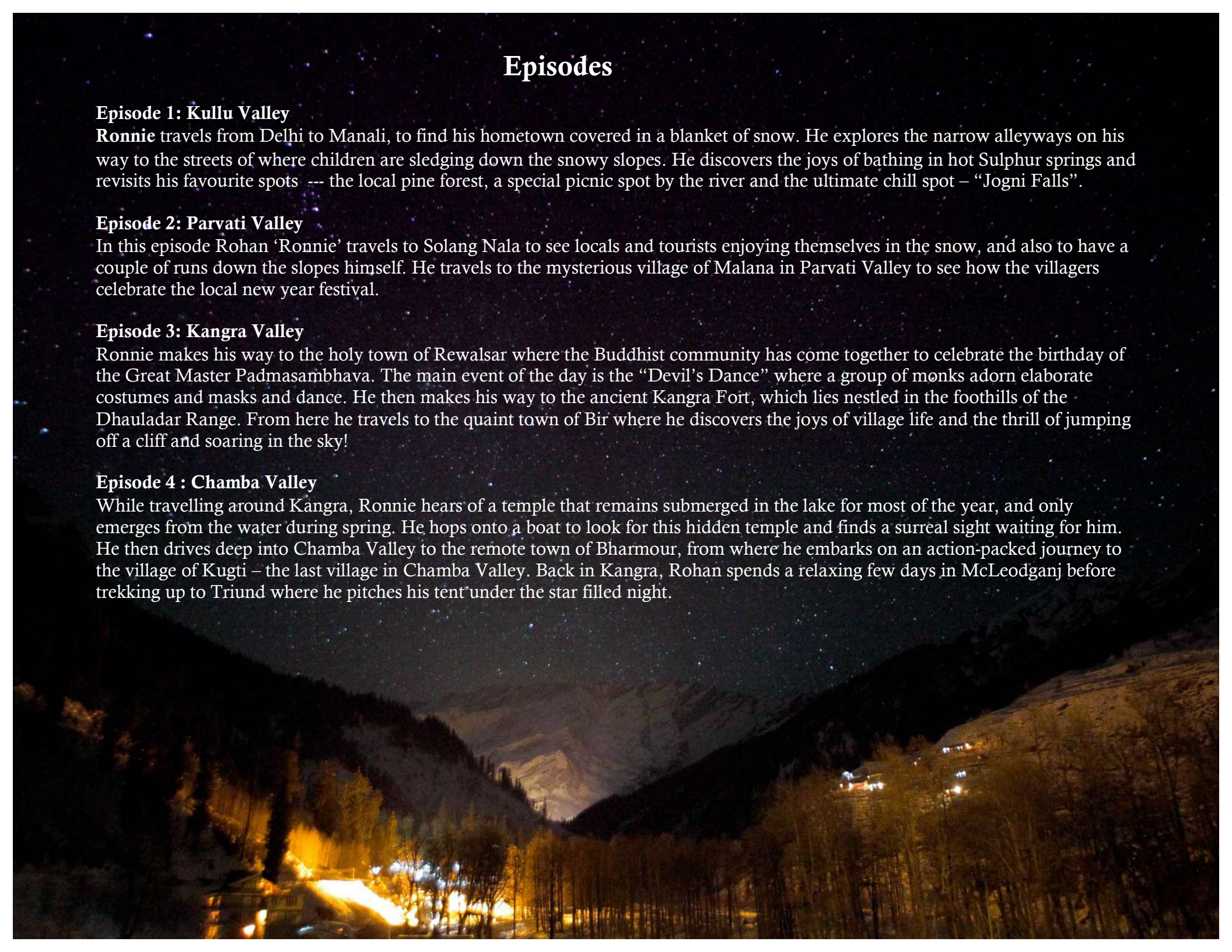
In this episode Rohan ‘Ronnie’ travels to Solang Nala to see locals and tourists enjoying themselves in the snow, and also to have a couple of runs down the slopes himself. He travels to the mysterious village of Malana in Parvati Valley to see how the villagers celebrate the local new year festival.

Episode 3: Kangra Valley

Ronnie makes his way to the holy town of Rewalsar where the Buddhist community has come together to celebrate the birthday of the Great Master Padmasambhava. The main event of the day is the “Devil’s Dance” where a group of monks adorn elaborate costumes and masks and dance. He then makes his way to the ancient Kangra Fort, which lies nestled in the foothills of the Dhauladar Range. From here he travels to the quaint town of Bir where he discovers the joys of village life and the thrill of jumping off a cliff and soaring in the sky!

Episode 4 : Chamba Valley

While travelling around Kangra, Ronnie hears of a temple that remains submerged in the lake for most of the year, and only emerges from the water during spring. He hops onto a boat to look for this hidden temple and finds a surreal sight waiting for him. He then drives deep into Chamba Valley to the remote town of Bharmour, from where he embarks on an action-packed journey to the village of Kugti – the last village in Chamba Valley. Back in Kangra, Rohan spends a relaxing few days in McLeodganj before trekking up to Triund where he pitches his tent under the star filled night.



Episode 5: Sangla Valley

Leaving the foothills of Kangra behind, Ronnie starts climbing higher towards the Sangla Valley in Kinnaur. While exploring the stone paved pathways of Kamru Village, he comes across a procession in which the local deity is visiting different households to bring in the New Year. It is a day filled with various rituals and ceremonies that ends in a party with a lot of singing, dancing and drinking! The party never ends in Sangla Valley as the New Year celebrations are followed by the festival of Holi. Rohan marches along with a parade from village to village as they perform skits and sing and dance while gathering an audience as they move along. After five whole days of making merry the villagers bring out their deity to culminate the celebrations and to pray for a good year.

Episode 6: Upper Kinnaur

In Kalpa, Ronnie yet again witnesses the celebration of the New Year, but this time around things are a bit psychedelic! Bejeweled men and women dance to trippy beats as the “Mountain Fairies” watch on. From Kalpa, he drives further up the valley to the village of Nako. Everything changes along the way. The landscape flips completely from lush, green grass covered slopes to bare, brown gigantic jagged mountains. The way the people look and talk, what they eat and wear, even the religion changes as he travels higher into the Himalayas.

Episode 7: Spiti Valley

The vast panoramic views in whitewashed Spiti give one the feeling of being a tiny, insignificant speck floating in the Universe. The majestic Kee Gompa stands proud on top of a hillock looking out at the vast valley below. Ronnie travels to the Upper Belt of Spiti to one of the highest villages – Kibber, where he stays with a retired teacher and learns a thing or two about the harsh living conditions in the region. He then moves to a village called Dhankar where he gives high altitude organic farming with yaks a shot!

Episode 8 – Spiti Valley

Spiti Valley sizzles with mystic magic! Ronnie spends a day at the magnificent Tabo monastery. The pyramid like structures enclose statues and paintings, which are in almost perfect condition and give one a glimpse into the past. He is then invited to spend a special “ladies-day-out” with the women of Lari. The last stop in Spiti takes the crown for being the most spellbinding place of them all – Langza, “the Home of the Gods”. It is one of the highest villages in the world and certainly the most mesmerizing! Out here people believe in the forgotten sect of Tantric Buddhism. Ronnie witnesses a tantric ritual that involved communication with the supernatural entities.



Episode 9: Lahaul Valley

Ronnie treks across the mighty Rohtang Pass to enter Lahaul where his family's roots truly lie. He visits the village of his grandfather, and is surprised to find that it is no longer a "village" but rather a collection of concrete blocks amidst potato fields. Even though Lahaul remains cut off from the rest of Himachal for almost half the year, it is probably one of the most affluent areas of the state. But most of the Lahauli's have left the home behind in search of better opportunities. Ronnie then heads out to the tiny little village of Teeling where his mother grew up. He meets two old aunts of his who take care of the family's home and fields. Like everyone else, his family too has left Lahaul far behind in hopes of finding a brighter future.

Episode 10: Lahaul Valley

The grand Mahakala Puja performed at the Shashur Gumpa is a treat for all the senses. Monks draped in maroon robes chant verses in Tibetan accompanied by banging cymbals and bellowing horns. Hours pass by as one sits transfixed by the sounds. In Upper Keylong, Ronnie explores an ancient Lahauli home to find out how people lived in the good old days. He ends his trip in Lahaul at the Khangsar Khar, a long forgotten castle that lies sadly dilapidated in the heart of the valley. As is the case with most of Lahaul, empty rooms and corridors lie lined with cobwebs and no one to look after them.

Episode 11: Ladakh

Ronnie is in his closure mode as he recalls and reminisces his entire journey over the past few months all, he is just lost in the vastness of the Valley and takes on a bike ride across to clear his mind. He also explores the influence of religion in the valley and the why it's become an international tourist destination. He is also intrigued by the architecture in the towns and gets inquisitive with an expert on the subject.

Episode 12: Leh

Ronnie recaptures his entire journey

