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Lonely Planet India  
By Joe Bindloss, Mar...

**TOP TIP**

You can get Protected Area Permits in Rekong Peo with the help of local tour agencies such as **The Monk Travels** (9805530056). For a few hundred rupees, agents will sort out your paperwork before sending you to the nearby Deputy Commissioner's Office.

**Alpine Adventures**

[On the trail to Chaka Meadows](#)

If you're training for longer treks or just want better views of the snow-clad Chaka Peak to the west of town, it's worth making the 2½-hour hike (each way) up to **Chaka Meadows**. A trail leads from Kalpa–Roghi Rd and up along a stream fed by Mt Chaka, through coniferous forests and meadows that fill with wildflowers in summer. Overnight camping is available during the summer season. You can arrange a local guide and book accommodation in advance through Raacho Trekkers ([raachotrekkers.com](http://raachotrekkers.com)).

**Double Your Prayers**

[Interfaith explorations](#)

Tibetan Buddhism and Hinduism coexist side by side in Kinnaur, and there are few places this is more apparent than in Kalpa. A five-minute walk from the town centre takes you to the **Kalpa Monastery**, a small complex that has been the site of a monastery for three millennia (though the current structure dates to the 20th century). The colourful interiors are often closed to visitors, but you can stop to admire the white chorten at the entrance before circumambulating the main structure clockwise, spinning its brass prayer wheels along the way. Even if you don't get to see the interior, it's worth coming for the architecture alone, which includes intricately carved wooden doors and archways crowned by sloping pagoda-esque roofs. A mere two-minute walk from the gompa, the wooden **Narayan-Nagini Temple** has a similar aesthetic, blending intricate Kinnauri carving and pagoda-style roofs more commonly found at Tibetan temples and monasteries.

raacho trekkers

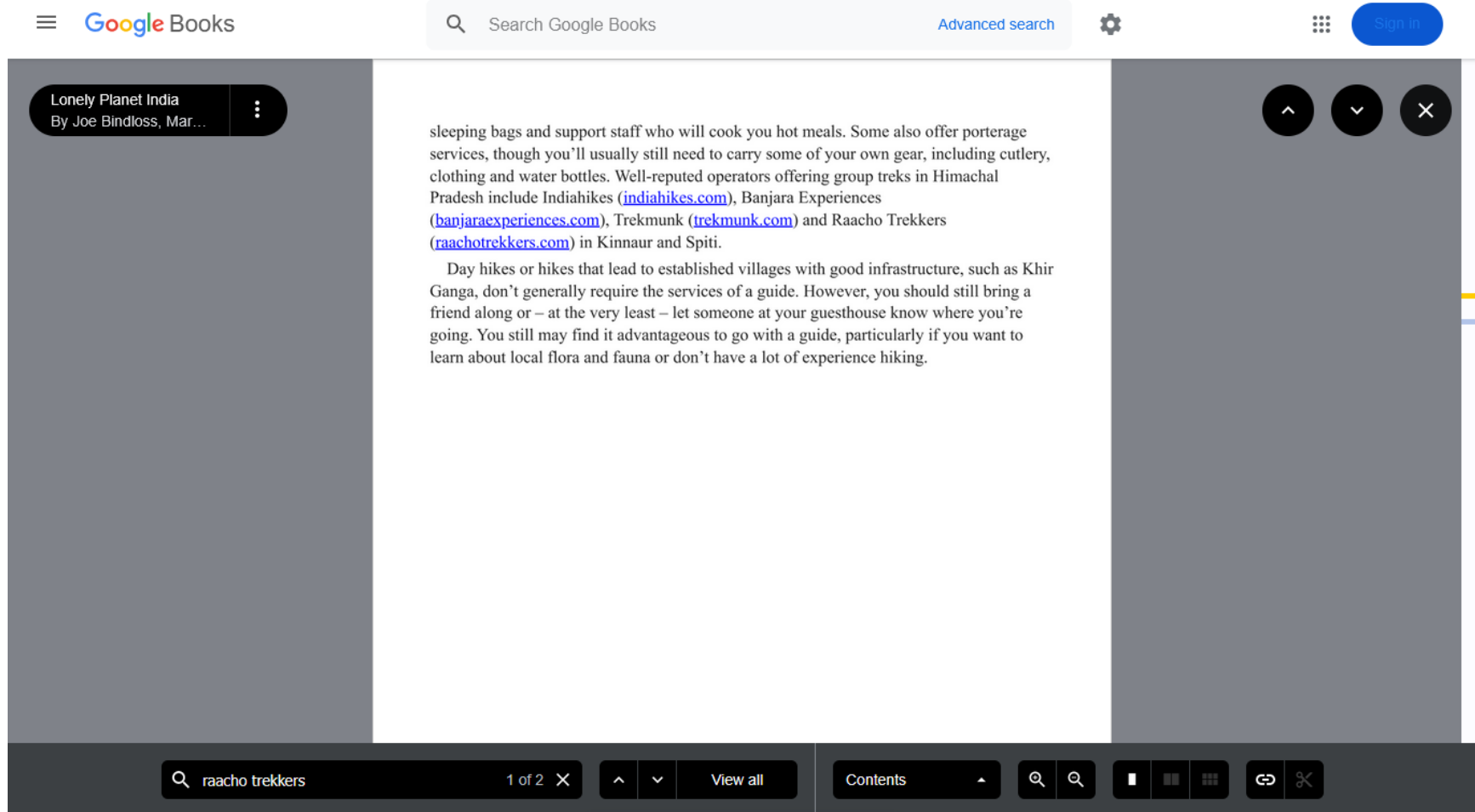
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