

# Leh - Ladakh

## 8 Nights/ 9 Days

### Day 01: Arrival in Leh

Upon arrival at Leh Airport you will be met by our representative and welcomed in traditional Ladakhi style and transferred to hotel, rest of the day at leisure to acclimatize.

### Overnight stay at hotel Kaal

**Leh City:** The capital of Ladakh, at one time was a major stop on the Asian "Silk Route". A stroll along the main bazaar, observing the varied crowd and peering into the curio shops, is an entrancing experience. Chang Gali, behind the main bazaar is less bustling but has intriguing little shops selling curios and jewelry like pearls, turquoise, coral, malachite, lapis and many other kinds of semi-precious stones, as well as curiously carved Yak-horn boxes, quaint brass locks, china or metal bowls etc.

### Day 02: Leh

Post breakfast we depart for sightseeing tour to Spituk. **Spituk** monastery was founded by Old Lade, in the 11th century AD. In those days the Gompa belonged to the Kadampa School but Gelukpa order was introduced during the region of King Dragspa Bum idle, when Lama Lhawang Lotus restored the monastery & Hall of Fame (war museum).

### Later we drive back to hotel on time for lunch

Later in the afternoon, guided sightseeing tour visiting the **Sanker Gompa**, which is towards the north of the Town. Later visit **Shanti Stupa**, The Japanese for World Peace built the Shanti Stupa, at Changsha, on the hilltop; foundation stone was laid by previous Kushok bakula was inaugurated by Dalai Lama in 1992. Its state of the art work attracts a lot of tourists to Ladakh and is spectacular to watch. From there one can see the nice spectacular view of Leh town.

### Overnight stay at hotel Kaal

### **Day 03:     Leh - Excursion to Shey, Thiksey, Hemis**

Today we proceed for Indus Valley monastery tour. We start with a visit to **Shey** the ancient capital of Ladakh. The monastery here has a huge gold-gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni with a large silver lamp burning in front of the statue.

Then we visit **Thiksey Gompa** an impressive complex rising tier upon tier on a hill above the village. The monastery has a beautiful 30 m high gold-plated statue of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future. Drive further to visit the famous **Hemis Gompa** founded in 1630's by Stag-tsang-ras-pa under the royal patronage of Sengge Namgyal.

Hemis is one of the largest and richest Gompas of Ladakh. The two-day festival of monastic dance in June-July has raised the reputation of Hemis particularly high. The festival is dedicated to Guru Padmasambhava, popularly known as second Buddha and responsible for spreading Buddhism in the Tibetan world.

Later in the evening we drive back to hotel.

### **Dinner and overnight at the hotel Kaal**

### **Day 04:     Leh - Nubra (126 km) (4200m/ 5-6hrs. Drive)**

After breakfast drive to Nubra Valley the road to the Nubra Valley goes through the highest motorable pass in the world at **Khardungla La (5602m)** The Pass is almost permanently covered in fog and snow,

Nubra means green, used to be on the trading route connecting Tibet with Turkistan, and was the navy of Turkistan which invaded it several times. Also known as the Valley of flowers, Nubra has always been well cultivated and fertile, with the best climate in Ladakh, so grains and fruit, such as apples and apricots, have always been plentiful. Ninety per cent of Nubra's population is Buddhist.

Nubra's much known monastery, Samstaling is situated on the mountainside just above Sumur. This was the route taken by the trade caravans, and Panamik, the last village on this circuit, was at that time a busy centre, the last major settlement before the caravans plunged into the mountains of the Karakoram and the Kun-Lu. Here they invariably halted for a few days to make final preparations for getting over the mountains, or to recuperate afterwards. There would be no supplies, not even grazing for the animals, for about 12 days after Panamik, so they had to carry all their provisions for that time.

The Government maintained a granary to sell food grains for the men, and even for the horses. **Overnight stay at the Camp**

### **Day 05: Nubra - Leh**

After breakfast drive to Leh over the Khardungla pass.

On arrival check in hotel. Rest of the evening at leisure or one can explore the beauty of Leh on their own.

### **Overnight stay at hotel the Kaal**

### **Day 06 Leh – Alchi (Via Basgo & Likir)**

After breakfast we drive to Likir and visit Likir Gompa situated atop a windy cliff top overlooking the beautiful village of Likir. It was founded in the 12th Century although the present construction dates back to the 18th century as the original one was destroyed by fire. In its courtyard is a yellow-colored 3 storey high mammoth statue of the Lord Buddha, which was constructed by a resident monk. The top floor has an impressive museum containing old tangkhas and weapons used many centuries back.

Basgo, The seat of power of a branch of the Namgyal family. It is here in 1680 A.D. that invading Mongol and Tibetan armies were held in check over a three year long siege. Original 16th century murals and other parts of Basgo are well worth a visit.

Then we drive and cross the River Indus and reach Alchi, Ladakh's most loved monastery. Over a century old, its wall paintings are very similar to those of the Tabo Gompa in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Unlike other monasteries, which are usually on a cliff top or cling to a mountainside, Alchi is at ground level and is nestled in the shade of a garden.

After Alchi, we have an option to visit the impressive Ridzong Gompa, reached from the road head after a 30-minute uphill walk. It's an impressive monastery well hidden in the lap of the mountains until you're face to face with it. It is situated on the mountainside wedged in between 2 ends of a ridge. It is about 100 years old and the name means 'mountain fort' aptly describing this isolated Gompa. It also has a nunnery of female monks.

### **Overnight stay at Alchi camp / Uley camp**

### **Day 07: Alchi – Lamayuru – Leh**

Post breakfast we check out from Camp and drive to. **Lamayuru Gompa:** The oldest holy site in Ladakh, it was a bon shrine prior to the advent of Buddhism. Also known as Yung Drung (Swastika) it is sited on a high promontory overlooking the village and valley. For sheer spectacle value no other Gompa can match Lamayuru

Overnight at hotel Kaal.

### **Day 08: Leh – Pangong Tso – Leh**

An early start to the day for our visit to **Pangong Lake** at a distance of 155 kilometers. This beautiful turquoise colored is worth its drive and time. Its value for your effort and money. Half of this beautiful lake is in under the Chinese occupation. The visit to the lake involves crossing of Changla pass. Picnic lunch. Drive back to Leh evening free time in Leh market and back to the hotel for dinner.

**Overnight in hotel the Kaal**

### **Day 09: Depart Leh**

In the morning transfer to the airport to board the flight for your onward destination

