

LADAKH AND THE NUBRA VALLEY

14 days/13 nights

This journey takes you high into Ladakh, a region bound by two of the world's mightiest mountain ranges — the Karakoram in the north and the great Himalaya in the south. Explore the impressive mediaeval Buddhist monasteries and Gompas, witness colourful dances, visit the rugged landscapes of the mythical Nubra Valley and view the blue waters of the Indus Valley.

ITINERARY

Day 1

Delhi

Welcome at Delhi Airport followed by transfer to your hotel.

Day 2

Delhi

A full-day tour of Delhi introduces you to New and Old Delhi. B

Day 3

Delhi-Leh

Take an early morning flight to Leh, a town located high in the foothills of the Himalayas and dominated by the ruins of Leh Palace. A day to acclimatise to the change in altitude is essential. B

Day 4

Leh

A full-day guided tour includes the major tourist sites of Leh. B

Day 5

Leh-Ulleytokpo

This morning drive to Ulleytokpo (3½ hours), one of the well known trekking bases of the region. En route visit the great statue of Maitreya Buddha at Likir; the 11th century Likir Monastery; and the thousand-year-old murals of Alchi Monastery. B

Day 6

Ulleytokpo

A full-day excursion today includes a visit to the Lamayuru village, famous for lunar-like landscapes and the 1st century Yundrung Monastery. You will also visit the Chulichan Nunnery and Rizong Monastery. B

Day 7

Ulleytokpo-Stok

Drive to the village of Stok (4½ hours). En route visit Basgo Castle; Spituk Monastery; the 555-year-old Shey Palace, a summer palace of the Kings of Ladhak; and Stok Palace, the museum of the Royal family. B

Day 8

Stok-Tso Moriri

Today enjoy the scenic drive to Tso Moriri Lake (7 hours). At an altitude of 4520 metres this is one of the most amazing high altitude lakes in the Ruspshu Nomadic belt. This crystal clear lake is a protected bird sanctuary and home to thousands of migratory birds including the endangered black necked crane. B

Day 9

Tso Moriri-Tsokar

Drive to Tsokar (4 hours). En route visit Polokongka where you will find tents made of Yak hair. The Tsokar lake belt has many salt-producing lakes and amazing birdlife. In the evening visit the tiny Thukje Village Monastery. B

Day 10

Tsokar- Saboo

Drive on the Leh – Manali Highway via the Tanglangu Pass to the beautiful village of Saboo. B

Day 11**Saboo-Nubra Valley**

This morning drive to Nubra Valley (5 hours) via the world famous Kardongla Pass. At 5600 metres it is the world's highest motorable pass. In the afternoon explore the village of Panamic, once an important settlement for traders crossing the Karakoram Range, and enjoy a visit to local hot springs reputed to have therapeutic qualities. B

Day 12**Nubra Valley**

A full day to explore the vast Nubra Valley, one of the most luxuriant and fertile valleys in Ladakh. You will visit the 16th century Diskit Gompa followed by a visit to Hunder Village to see two-humped Bactrian camels. B

Day 13**Nubra Valley-Leh**

This morning visit the small Yarabtso Lake followed by a drive to Leh. The rest of your day is free to explore the markets of Leh on your own. B

Day 14**Leh-Delhi**

Take the morning flight to Delhi; the day is yours to explore or shop. Stay overnight in Delhi. B

Day 15**Delhi**

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your flight home. B