



MOUNTAINS, MONASTERIES & MONKS

In a country of a billion and half and still counting, Ladakh is one of those rare places where people are few and far between. While high passes and spectacular mountains dominate the region, it is also a place that speaks of the thousands of years that travellers, craftsmen, religious dignitaries and nomads have come upon. A jewel in the crown of India, Ladakh not just amazes with its landscape and people, but also hides unique Wildlife. While many passes make up for what it is and what it means grammatically, yet experiencing a place like this is bound to leave every traveller breathless both spiritually and by altitude.

While Buddhism is Central to this part of the world, and uniformity of barren high-altitude mountains are constant, yet subtle differences between landscapes, people, history and wildlife in niches can throw up many surprises. From High passes, to border villages, secretive wildlife, to ancient monasteries and ruins, this journey takes you not just into Ladakh and its remoteness but also into insights of how fragile it still is environmentally and geographically. Yet, every step and every drive add to experiences unmatched and in comparable.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

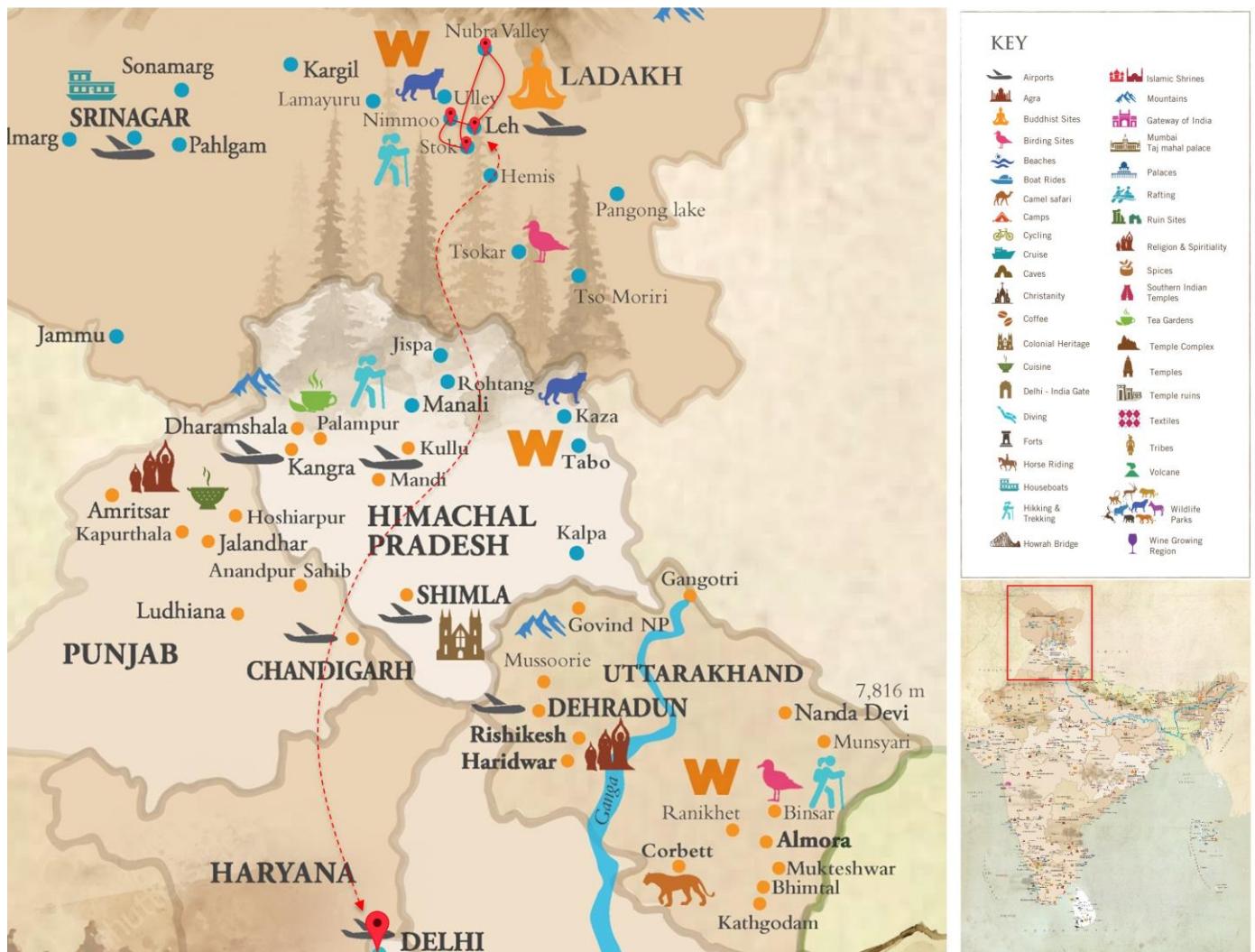
Take in glacial rivers, fruit orchards, Buddhist monasteries and festivals at your own pace

- ⦿ Drive through some of the most stunning mountain passes of the Karakoram, Zanskar & Indus ranges
- ⦿ Visit ancient monasteries, ruins and forts that speak of beliefs and lives of yesteryears
- ⦿ Glimpse rare wildlife in the trans Himalayan region such as marmots, pikas, woolly hare, blue sheep and golden eagles
- ⦿ Walk through the modern bazaars of Leh which was once a bustling stopover on ancient trade routes
- ⦿ Attend a prayer ceremony followed by a traditional breakfast with monks at a colorful Buddhist monastery

JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

DAY OF TRAVEL	DESTINATION	HOTEL	ROOM CATEGORY	DURATION OF STAY
Day 01 & 02	Delhi	The Oberoi Maidens	Heritage room	2 nights
Day 03, 04 & 05	Leh	Saboo Resorts	Cottage Suites	3 nights
Day 06 & 07	Nubra Valley	Lchang Nang	Cottage	2 nights
Day 08 & 09	Stok	Stok Palace	Suite	2 nights
Day 10 & 11	Nimmo	Nimmo House	Heritage room	2 nights
Day 12	Departure from Delhi			

MAP



PERIOD OF OPERATION

The pricing for this itinerary has been worked out on the basis of rates for the period of operation from 01 OCT'2020 Till 31 Mar'2021

GROUND TRANSPORT

Ground transportation will be provided using a Deluxe Air-Conditioned Toyota Innova for 02 paying participants and an Air-Conditioned Tempo Traveller for 04 -06 Paying Participants
Our vehicles are equipped with cold water and soft drinks, wet and dry tissues, hand-sanitizers.

DAY TO DAY ITINERARY

DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI

Meal Inclusion: None

Arrive at Delhi International airport, where you would be met by our representative and transferred to your hotel.

Your stay in Delhi:

The Oberoi Maidens is one of Delhi's oldest – originally built in 1903. Its simple white exteriors open into beautiful, traditionally decorated interiors with a touch of regal influences from the British Raj. The eight-acre property has beautiful gardens and trees, making it the perfect setting for an escape from the city noise, yet its central location works to its advantage.

Website: The Oberoi Maidens

DAY 02: DELHI

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast & Lunch

The legacy of 7 capitals, with a history as a capital, looted, plundered, and resurrected over the years, Delhi emerges from the ashes of her past to take her place in the world as a global capital – politically, culturally and commercially.

Included activities:

Order in chaos – Explore the lanes of Old Delhi partly on walk and partly on cycle rickshaw

Colonial Delhi - Trail past the India Gate and older British buildings that house today's Parliament and Secretariat.

Bangla Sahib Gurudwara – In a holy place for Sikhs partake its community kitchen where traditional Langar style meal is cooked everyday by the disciples.

Humayun's Tomb - architecture walk of the 16th Century tomb of the second Mughal Emperor

DAY 03: LEH

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Early morning transfer to Delhi Airport to board your flight to Leh with Vistara Airlines UK601 departing at 07:00 / arriving at 08:30

On a clear day, a window seat on the flight to Leh is the best place to view the rugged peaks of Ladakh and experience a spectacular landing.

On arrival in Leh you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

As we have flown to a height of more than 10,000 feet, it is highly advisable to take complete rest and utilise this day to acclimatise yourself before venturing out.

Your stay in Leh

Saboo Resort is nestled in the Zanskar valley, a short distance away from the Leh town bustle, is the quiet village of Saboo. Cozy wood-and-stone cottages inspired by the local Ladakhi architecture, each with private verandahs offering spectacular views of the Stok Kangri range and willow and poplar fringed hamlets.

Website: [Saboo Resort](#)

DAY 04: LEH

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Once an important stopover on the trade routes between India, Tibet and China, Leh was the capital of the Himalayan kingdom of Ladakh. Leh is a fascinating labyrinth of winding streets, quaint bazaars and charming villages dotted around it along with ancient monasteries and old palaces in and around the town makes a great start to the tour.

Included activities:

Leh Palace – built between 16th and 17th century, the nine storey palace marks as one of the tallest buildings of that era.

Leh old town - Walk through the old city area ending in the Leh Bazaar

LAMO Centre - Ladakh Arts & Media Organisation, a public charitable trust established to articulate an alternative vision for the arts and media in Ladakh.

Central Asian Museum - housed in an artistic stone tower whose courtyard hides Leh's oldest mosque, exhibits photo essays of Ladakh, and a Ladakhi-style kitchen.

Shanti stupa – A Peace Pagoda, built in the 1990s to enshrine the relics of Lord Buddha and to resurrect Buddhism in India.

DAY 05: LEH

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Included activities:

Thiksey Monastery - At 3,600 metres (11,800 ft), architecturally grand and also one of the largest monasteries in the region, Thiksey gompa stands atop a hill overlooking the Thiksey village.

We recommended morning prayers with The Monks - Thiksey Monastery is the perfect place to commune with the gods and also a perfect vantage point for sunrise views over the Indus Valley.

Hemis Monastery - the biggest, one of the oldest and perhaps the richest monasteries of Ladakh, host to one of the most famous monastic festivals

Shey Palace - Once a summer palace, mostly in ruins today

Optional activities:

Saboo ruins - A short hike from the village to the nearby ridge, leads one past a small, quiet monastery to the ruins of Saboo Fort - among Ladakh's lesser known structures.

DAY 06: NUBRA VALLEY via KHARDUNG LA

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Journey time: 5-hour drive

Across the Khardung-la (the world's highest motorable pass), Nubra is India's only bit of the Karakoram range. As you get closer to Nubra, you will meet with the Shyok River running along the route. The landscape is breath taking while we get closer to our destination.

Check-Into your accommodations followed by Lunch.

Afternoon at leisure.

Optional activities:

Cycling or Hiking Trails: Cycle or hike to the village of Tegar; or hike to nearby gorges

Sumur Sand Dunes: Walk to Sumur sand Dunes and enjoy Hi- Tea

Your stay in Nubra Valley:

Lchang Nang is peaceful little retreat set amidst an orchard of elm, apricot, and apple trees, with the perennial Siachen river running along its western boundary. Open from May to mid-October, this property in Sumur village is a short distance from the town of Diskit - and can be a great vantage point to take in Nubra valley's monasteries, wildlife and culture!

Website: [Lchang Nang Resort](#)

DAY 07: NUBRA VALLEY

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Once known in local parlance as the 'valley of flowers', Nubra is a high-altitude cold desert with silver sand dunes and Bactrian camels. Nubra's orchards blossom with apples, walnuts, apricots, almonds, and wheat, barley and mustard.

Included activities:

Diskit monastery - dramatically perched monastery built in 1420 AD, the oldest in the region, with a longstanding modern day made Buddha and a stunning view of the sunset.

Optional activities:

Birding trails: Walk around Sumur finding or by the banks of Nubra River Larks, Pipits, Bearded Vultures, Golden Eagles and other avian fauna

Heritage Walk - along Maney Ringmo - a 300 year old stone wall; Zanskharg Palace, the historic house of Zimskang added with Samstanling Gompa, if you feel a bit more adventurous.

Yarab Tso - Hike to the sacred lake, that holds crystal clear holy water, secluded within a rocky terrain, a lesser known lake in the Nubra Valley

Ensa gompa - The legend of a monk with the ability to fly who refused to build the "Lhasa Gompa" at Ensa, instead flew to Tibet to build it. No "Lhasa Gompa" is known neither in Tibet nor in Ladakh!

Turtuk (Full day): Drive by the Shyok River to the only village in India to represent the Baltistani culture, that once a part of Pakistan before 1971.

DAY 08: STOK via WARI LA

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Journey time: 5-hours drive

Wari La is a beautiful valley where high barren mountains meet green pastures for a brief moment. It is rugged and remote and there is seldom any other vehicle you would meet on the way. Use this pass and spend some slow time to have your first encounters with high altitude Wildlife including multiple Marmots, Woolly Hare, Pikas, Bearded Vultures and Golden Eagles.

Included activities:

Stok Palace Tour - A detailed look at the Palace proves it to be a good example of family heritage kept well. The museum houses artefacts of Stok and around dating back to over 200 years and also itself.

Optional activities:

Royal Table - Enjoy traditional Ladakhi meal at the royal kitchen

Your stay in Stok:

Stok Palace, built by King Tsespal Tondup Namgyal in 1825, is the present-day residential palace of the royal descendants of King Sengge Namgyal. The architecture of this palace is a perfect mix of the traditional and the contemporary architectural styles. This palatial property consists of a number of beautiful gardens as well as a library that has around 108 volumes of the Kangyur (a collection of teachings of Lord Buddha). The current heir of the Namgyal dynasty has opened up his palace for guests from far and wide. Interact with royalty, as you experience regal living at the Stok Palace.

Website: [Stok Palace](#)

DAY 09: STOK

A charming town dominated by the Stok Palace and the golden Stok Bodhi statue. With a rich history ruled by the Namgyal dynasty, Stok's legacy is evident in the Ladakhi craftsmanship of its residential structures. Overlooking a valley of pastoral hamlets, Buddhist shrines and sparse vegetation, Stok welcomes travellers to experience its unspoilt beauty and timeless charm. Stok is a sleepy hamlet that portrays the typical everyday life of a quiet Ladakh.

Included activities:

Like a local – Walk around Stok's sleepy hamlet that portrays the typical everyday life of a quiet Ladakh.

Optional activities:

Meander to Matho – Ride to Matho Monastery on bicycle or Royal Enfield motorbikes and enjoy a picnic lunch

DAY 10: LAMAYURU / NIMMU

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After breakfast this morning, you will drive about 3 hour to Lamayuru. Driving along the river Indus, you will briefly stop for photo opportunities at the confluence of Indus and Zanskar rivers.

Spend time in Lamayuru, for its stark similarities often referred to as moonland, is one of the ancient and largest monasteries of this region. *It hosts the lesser known but very interesting Yuru Kabgyat festival every year during June.*

Drive back towards Nimmu. En-route stop at Nurla for Lunch at Apricot Tree.

Optional activities:

Nimmu village - a walk in the traditional village of Nimmu along the river

Your stay in Nimmu

Nimmu House is the biggest house in the village, has rooms that stretch out towards two Buddhist temples. The property includes a stable with yaks, dzos, cows and goats, terraces and an orchard with hundreds of fruit trees like apricot, apple, walnut, making for a charming accommodation blending rustic with luxury!

Website: [Nimmu House](#)

DAY 11: NIMMU

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Nimmu House, a tastefully renovated old house set in an orchard in the middle of a quaint little village. Nimmu is situated in the Zanskar valley of Ladakh and is a short drive from Stok. It serves as a great base for ancient monasteries old and remote villages, apricot gardens and provides great views of the zanskar river.

Included activities:

Turning back in time - In the old village of Tia, walk through with narrow alleys and traditional old houses as old as four hundred years Lamayuru - one of the ancient and largest monasteries of this region

Tea in Thingmosgang - Into the lives of nuns and the system of nunneries in Tibetan Buddhism, while in conversation with some of the oldest nuns over a cup of tea

Alchi monastery - Very distinct in architecture with beautifully carved wooden façade, fine wall paintings

Basgo - the ruins of an ancient city and a monastery with murals on walls, a large Buddha on the inside and a dramatic view from atop

Optional activities:

Yoga & meditation session - Relax and reconnect your mind and body with an inhouse yoga teacher

Day 13: LEH - DELHI - DEPARTURE

Meal Inclusion: Breakfast,

Journey time: 45- minutes drive

Pack your suitcases with the souvenirs you picked up along the way.

Fly from Leh to Delhi by Air Vistara UK 602 departing at 0905 Hrs / arrival 1030.

The memories of the trip will keep you company on the long flight back home.

This itinerary has been put together by Travel Scope India for Blue Dot Travel. You must read Blue Dot Travel's terms and conditions before making a decision to travel. You must complete a Blue Dot Travel booking form before we can accept any booking.

TABLE OF PRICES

Tour Cost	Price in Australian Dollars Per Person
Land Cost on Sharing Twin or Double	
02 Paying Participants	AUD 4990 Per Person
04 Paying Participants	AUD 4500 Per Person
Supplement for staying in Single Occupancy	AUD 1700 Per Person
Domestic Air (Delhi-Leh-Delhi) in Economy Class (Subject to Change)	TBA

All costs exclude international & domestic airfares as these are highly variable depending on the timing of flight bookings

Inclusions to Land Cost:

1. Accommodation for a total of 11 Nights as per hotel list and room category given below.
2. Meal plan as per itinerary.
3. Ground Transportation by Air Conditioned vehicle as specified.
4. Services of English Speaking Local City Guide's for Delhi visits & Accompanying Local guide for Ladakh part as per itinerary.

5. Entrance Fees as per itinerary.
6. Rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk market at Delhi
7. Mineral Water and Soft Drinks in the vehicles.
8. Still Camera Fee
9. Tip for baggage at hotel, Airport, Local Guide's, Accompanying guide, Driver & paid meals.

Exclusions to the Land Cost

- 1) International & Domestic Air Fare.
- 2) Personal nature like Laundry, Telephone, Internet, and Drinks etc.
- 3) All alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages.
- 4) Travel and medical Insurance.
- 5) Any optional activities mention in the itinerary
- 6) All expenses arising out of voluntary or involuntary re-routing of the program.
- 7) Video Camera fees at Monuments.

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