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## Enchanting Ladakh – 7 Nights & 8 Days

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### Day 1: Arrival at Leh

After your early morning flight has brought you to the beautiful city of Leh, our representatives will escort you out of the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (KBR) Airport transfer to your hotel. Once you have checked into your room you have the remainder of the day at your own leisure. We recommend you use this time to get acclimatized to the high altitude and low air pressure in Ladakh. Evening can be utilized for a short walk to local markets. Return to your hotel for overnight stay.

### Day 2: Leh to Sham Valley

After breakfast you will drive towards bank of Indus river till Sangam. Where the conflicts of Zaskar river and Indus River. Drive along the Indus river visiting, Pathar Sahib Gurdwara and Magnetic Hill (where the cars defy gravity), and further on to Leh Hall of Fame (which has a museum of the Kargil War memorabilia). Drive to Uleytokpo enroute visiting Likir Monastery. Likir was built during the reign of Lachen Gyalpo who installed 600 monks here, headed by Lhawang Chosje. The Gompas was invested with a collection of fine images, Tangkhas and murals to vie with those at Alchi. The present buildings date mainly from the 18th century since the original were destroyed by fire. Likir was converted to the Gelugpa sect in the 15th century. The head lama, the younger brother of the Dalai Lama, has his apartments here, which were extended in the mid 1990s. Later drive to your hotel for overnight stay. After lunch visit Alchi monastery. Founded in the 11th century by Rinchen Zangpo the Great Translator, it was richly decorated by artist from Kashmir and Tibet. Paintings of the Mandala's which have deep Tantrik significances are particularly fine; some decorations are reminiscent of Byzantine art. The monastery is maintained by monks from Likir and is no longer a place for active worship. Return to the camp. Dinner and overnight at Camp / Resort.

### **Day 3: Sham Valley to Leh**

Drive to Lamayuru at 70 Kms from Uleytokpo. On arrival enjoy Hot Lunch at Lamayuru Restaurant on direct cost basis. After Lunch, visit Gompa. Lamayuru also referred as "Yangdrung Gompa" is the oldest monastery of Ladakh perched on hill top with its village at the foot of the hill. Most of the monastery is now in ruins. It was partially resorted in 1975. The oldest holy side in Ladakh. Lamayuru was once a lake. It was blessed by a lama after which, as legend goes the water of the lake receded upto the mountains leaving place for the monastery to be built. It is also the "free zone" of Ladakh since not even a criminal can be apprehended in this place. Now mostly in ruins only the main hall exists today and houses numerous "Tangkhas". Return to Leh & enroute stop at Khalsi Village for Tea & Snacks. Dinner and overnight at Leh.

### **Day 4: Leh to Nubra Valley**

After breakfast, we drive towards Nubra Valley and enroute we traverse the highest motorable road on earth (Khardungla Pass, 18384 feet). From the pass, one can see all the way south over the Indus valley to seemingly endless peaks and ridges of the Zaskar range, and north to the giants of the Saser massif. Nubra Valley is popularly known as Ldumra or the valley of flowers. Visit Deskit, the HQ town of Nubra Valley. Driving for 30 Kms takes to Khalsar Bridge. Deskit can be approached by driving parallel to Shyok River for 20 Kms. From the Historical & Tourist point of view, Deskit is famous for 515 years old Buddhist Monastery, lying magnificently situated on a hilltop, facing the entire Valley. Further drive from Deskit to Hunder, another 15 – 20 Kms drive. At Hunder, you may see a few Double Humped, Hairy and Bactrian Camels. Night Stay in Nubra at Camp.

### **Day 5: Nubra Valley to Pangong Lake**

Breakfast at the Camp. Drive to Pangong Lake via Shayok, situated at 14,000 feet (4,267 m). This famous blue brackish Lake of Pangong is 5/6 Kms wide and over 133 Kms long with half of its running the other side of the "INDO CHINA BORDER". One rarely feels so close to nature and environment and the scenery is unforgettable. Arrival at Camp, later

free time at Leisure and enjoy the color changing lake and the sun set on the banks of lake. Overnight at camp in Pangong.

## **Day 6: Pangong Lake to Leh**

Wake up calls by the migratory birds this morning. Indulge in the walk beside the lake or go for a photography splurge. Later depart for Leh. Rest of the day free on own. Overnight in Leh.

## **Day 7: In Leh**

Today after breakfast visit Leh Palace, Shanti Stupa and Leh Market. Leh Palace, which overlooks the Ladakhi Himalayan town of Leh, modeled on the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. The palace was built by King Singe Namgyal in the 17th Century, but was later abandoned when Dogra forces took control of Ladakh in the mid-19th century. The royal family moved to Stok Palace. Leh Palace is nine storey's high; the upper floors accommodated the royal family, the stables and store rooms were in the lower floors. The palace, a ruin, is currently being restored by the Archaeological Survey of India. Later visit Shanti Stupa built by the Japanese Artists, few years ago on a hilltop. Later afternoon free for shopping. Overnight in Hotel.

## **Day 8: Departure from Leh**

After breakfast leave from hotel & drive to Leh Airport for onwards destination.