

JAN Treks & Travels

Journeys into Adventure and Nature

Highlights of Ladakh – 16 days

Tour JTT-LA-01: Leh / Nubra / Panamik / Alchi / Dha / Kargil / Padum / Leh

On this tour you'll fly to Leh, the capital of Ladakh, situated in the upper reaches of the Indus Valley. After exploring the Indus Valley and its beautiful Buddhist monasteries (called *gompas*), you'll be taken to the remote and idyllic Nubra Valley. Next on the menu is Pangong Lake, one of the biggest saltwater lakes in the world and situated in a stark and spectacular landscape right on the border with Tibet.



After this, it is time to explore Zaskar, the southern part of Ladakh that still is closed off from the outside world half of the year due to snow on the high passes. You'll travel the spectacular road along Kargil and Rangdum to Padum. Here you'll spend two days exploring the wide and beautiful valleys of Zaskar and its picturesque little villages and gompas (monasteries), before returning to Leh.

Itinerary

Day 01: Leh

Early morning you'll board the flight from Delhi to Leh in Ladakh. Although the flight takes only one hour, on a clear day it is no doubt one of the most spectacular flights in Asia.

Leh airport is situated at 3500 m altitude and your guesthouse even slightly higher. You may feel the altitude, but even if you don't, it is very wise to take the rest of the day off. Stay at the guesthouse or at best walk around Leh bazar. Only if you wake up next morning without a headache you may consider yourself fit to go for not to strenuous excursions.

Day 02: At Leh

Today you'll visit some of the finest gompas (Buddhist monasteries in the Indus Valley, not far from Ladakh.



Depending on your level of interest and knowledge you can see two, three or a whole series of gompas belonging to different sects of Buddhism.

Day 03: Leh - Nubra Valley (120 Kms)

After breakfast drive to Nubra Valley via Khardung La (one of the highest motorable roads in the world, 18,380 ft). Arrive at Deskit village by the afternoon. Rest of the day free to explore Deskit, Hunder villages and camel safari on the sand dunes between Deskit and Hunder village. Overnight at a hotel.

Day 04: Nubra Valley - Leh (120 Kms)

After breakfast visit Deskit Monastery and drive back to Leh, crossing the Khardungla Pass. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 05: Leh to Pangong Lake (160 Kms)

After early breakfast leave for Pangong Lake (14,500 ft), through Changla Pass 17,350 ft., the third highest motorable road in the world. 1200 hrs. Pangong Lake is the highest salt water lake in the world, shared by the two countries India and China. Overnight in a tented camp at Pangong Lake (decent, large tents with attached bathroom).



Day 06: Pangong Lake – Leh - Alchi (70 Kms)

After breakfast you return to Leh. On the way you'll pass some interesting and more remote gompas that most visitors don't get to see, in particular Takthok Gumpa and Chemre Gumpa.

Day 07: Leh – Alchi

You'll drive to Alchi en route visit Basgo Palace, Likier Monastery and Gurudwara Pathar Sahib. Arrive Alchi by afternoon. Alchi is the oldest and according to art historians the most important gumpa of Ladakh. It dates back approx.. thousand years. After visiting Alchi monastery you can spend the rest of the day at leisure, exploring Alchi village. Overnight hotel or camp.



Day 08: Alchi - Kargil via Dhahanu and Sanjak (Kms)

After breakfast drive to Kargil via Dha-Hanu, These are beautiful villages in a part of Ladakh that was not accessible for a long time. The inhabitants consider themselves pure Aryan people. They have a distinctly different culture from the Ladakhis. Arrive Kargil by evening. Overnight at a hotel.

Day 09: Kargil - Padum (250 Kms)

Early morning drive to Padum (Zaskar). On the way, you can have magnificent views of Nun Kun Peak and Dran Drung Glacier. Visit Rangdum Monastery. Reach Padum by evening. Overnight at a hotel.

Day 10: At Padum/Zaskar

After breakfast leave for full sightseeing exploring the wide Zaskar Valley north of Padum, visiting Karsha, Stongdey and Sani, all beautiful, still largely traditional villages with a *gompa* (monastery) that is worth seeing. Back to Padum by evening for overnight at the hotel.

Optional: 2-4 hour walk on the other side of the Zaskar River between some beautiful traditional villages.

Day 11: At Padum/Zaskar

Today you'll explore the more remote upper reaches of the Zaskar River south of Padum, driving upto Purne (road conditions permitting) and visiting the monastery of Bardan on the way. Again you'll see very picturesque villages against a



backdrop of colorful mountains. From Purne you can walk to the isolated Monastery of Phugtal, hidden in a cave high above the river. This walk takes about 4 hours but is highly recommended.

Day 12: At Padum/Zaskar

After breakfast leave for sightseeing of Karsha, Stongdey & Sani. Back to Padum by evening. Overnight at the hotel

Day 13: Padum - Kargil (250 Kms)

After breakfast leave back to Kargil by same route via Penzi La pass. Overnight at a hotel.

Day 14: Kargil - Leh (230 Kms)

After breakfast leave back to Leh by same route, reaching Leh by evening. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 15: At Leh

A last day to recover from the perhaps tiring jeep rides, buy souvenirs and sample the many good restaurants in Leh.

Day 16: Transfer to Airport

Transfer to airport and fly back to Delhi with hopefully sweet memories of Ladakh.

