Kashmir & Ladakh: A Himalayan Adventure

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Day 1

Day 01|| Arrival Delhi

Arrive Delhi and met at airport by representative who will assist with luggage and escort you to car and transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 2

Day 02|| Delhi

After breakfast full day tour of Delhi covering Red Fort (from outside), Jama Masjid, Rajghat, India Gate, President House & Gurudwara Bangla Sahib (Sikh Temple), Humayun's Tomb & Qutub Minar. Water show at Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple in the evening. Overnight at hotel.

Day 3

Day 03|| Delhi - Srinagar|| By Flight

After breakfast transfer to Airport to board flight to Srinagar. On arrival, you will be met by our representative at the airport and transfer to Deluxe Houseboat (Mahjong Group of Houseboats). Afternoon free for personal activities. Evening Shikara ride on Dal Lake to enjoy the sunset on the Lake. Overnight at Houseboat.

Day 4

Day 4|| Srinagar – Local sightseeing

Half day tour of world famous Mughal Gardens visiting the Nishat Bagh (The garden of pleasure) and Shalimar Bagh (Abode of love). Return to houseboat for hot lunch. In the afternoon Shikara ride on The Dal Lake to enjoy the beauty that God has graced this city with which is often compared to Venice. You will get a view of some very interesting places around the Lake. Overnight at Houseboat.

Day 5

Day 5|| Srinagar – Gulmarg – Srinagar ||75 Kms/2 hrs

Full day tour of Gulmarg which is one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the valley. It is also popular for its golf course (in summer), the highest in the world and skiing during the winter season. Enjoy the splendor of nature and the snowy mountains. One can have Gondola ride (cable car) from Gulmarg to Khalinmarg. In the evening return to Houseboat. Overnight at Houseboat.

Day 6

Day 6|| Srinagar – Sonmarg – Kargil ||205 Kms / 5.5 hrs

Leave in the morning and drive to Kargil by car/coach and road passes through the panoramic village reach Sonmarg (2740 Mtrs) After Sonmarg most rough road and wet Zojila pass 3527 Mtrs (Gateway of Ladakh). Continue drive towards Drass (The second coldest inhibited place in the world) we stop here for tea and passport check. Another two and half hours drive will take us to Kargil (2710 Mtrs) which has got its importance after opening of Ladakh for tourists in 1974. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 7

Day 7|| Kargil – Lamayuru - Uleytokpo || 160 Kms/4 hrs

Leave in the morning drive to Uleytokpo today we have to ascend three passes this day will be tiresome but panoramic too. First Buddhist village will be Mulbek. We have to cross the highest pass (Fotula 13749 ft.) on Srinagar Leh route. At lunch time we will be at Lamayuru oldest Monastery. Continue drive to next village Nimu a view of Zanskar River following into Indus. Finally we reach Uleytokpo. Overnight at Hotel. LAMAYURU: The oldest and spectacularly set Lamayuru monastery is about 125 kms. West of Leh, founded in the 10th century . in 11th century the Mahasiddha Naropa came to this place. Then Rinchen Zangpo translator came and built many temples and stupas and then teaching of the Kadampa school came to flourish. Later Jamyang Namgyal offered it to Chosje Danma and Digung Kargyut school were introduced and named Yungdrung Therpalling. The Yundrung Kabgyad festival is held on the 28th and 29th days of the 2nd Tibetan month.

Day 8

Day 8|| Uleytokpo

After breakfast drive full day tour of Alchi, Likir and Ridzong monastery. Overnight at Camp.ALCHI: Alchi Choskor is the only monastery in the Ladakh on flat ground, around 69 Kms west of Leh. Largest and most famous of all of the temples and built by the great translator Ringchem Zangpo. The temple was founded in 11th century which accounts for the Indian and particularly Kashmiri influences. LIKIR: Located around 52 Kms from Leh, know as Klu-Kkhjil (water spirits) founded in the 14th century by Lama Dhwang Chosje a great champion of meditation. The site of the monastery was encircled by the bodies of two great spent spirits. Therefore, name became widely renowned as Lekir. In the 15th century the disciple of Khasdubje know a lhawang Lodos Sangphu caused the monastery to flourish. This monastery also belongs to Gaylukpa school. Every year from the 17th to 19th of the 12th month the Lekir festival is held. RIDZONG: Rizong is also known as Yuma Changchubling about 73 Kms from Leh and around 6 Kms from main road, founded about 138 years ago by the great Lama Tsultim Nima. Gompa belong to Gelukpa order. Dress and food provisions are provided for all member of the community by the Governing body of the monastery. The monastery is sited in a most solitary positions and there is a nunnery place called chulichan down the monastery. The work of spinning wool, milking, extracting oil for the temple lamps has to be performed by all the nuns.

Day 9

Day 09|| Uleytokpo – Leh || 70 kms/ 2 hrs

After breakfast drive back to Leh. On arrival check in at Hotel. Later Time free at leisure. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 10

Day 10| Leh - Hemis – Shey- Thikshey- Leh (100 Kms. / 4-5 Hrs around)

After breakfast, full day excursion to visit Hemis, Shey and Thikshey. Hemis : 40 kms from Leh, it is the wealthiest, best known and biggest gompa of Ladakh. Its popularity stems from the major annual festival held here in summer. The festival is in honour of Guru Padma Sambhav's birth anniversary. It also has the largest thanka in Ladakh whish is unfirled once in 12 years. On these days hundreds of pilgrims will gather at Hemis to pay their tribute and homage. Hemis was built in 1630 during the reign of Sengge Namgyal, an illustrious ruler of Ladakh. It flourished under the Namgyal dynasty for the royalty favoured the Drugkpa Sect which managed the monastery. It is divided into two, the Assembly Hall on the right and the main temple on the left. The Hall, Dukhang, is also used as a 'green room' by the dancers during the festival. The temple is known as Tshogkhang. The verandahs have a surfeit of frescoes, among them the Buddhist 'wheel of life' (Kalachakra) and the 'Lords of the Four Quarters', besides rows of prayer wheels.Shey - Until the 16th century it was the royal residence, Kings of Leh were supposed to be born in the monasteries. This Palace Monastery has the largest statue of Maitreya Buddha (Buddha to come) in Ladakh. Erected in the mid 17th century, worked out of gold and gilded copper sheets with blue hair, it stands 17.5 metres high.Thikshey:-19 Kms from Leh, spectacularly most impressive gompas. There are several temples in the gompa containing images, stupas and wall paintings of Buddha which are exquisite. Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 11

Day 11|| Leh -Nubra || 120 Kms. / 5 Hrs

After breakfast, drive to Leh, Via Khardongla pass which is the highest motorable pass in the world 5600 mtrs and has been recorded in the Gunnies Book of World Records. At the top enjoy the nature beauty of snow capped mountains. Upon arrival check in at Camp. Afternoon visit The Nubra Valley lies in the North of Leh and The valley is on the trade route from leh to Khangar via Samsar and Karakoram pass, Apart from unparallel trekking opportunities. The valley have several Buddhist Gompas Diskit Gompa is 350 years old and is situated on the highest point near the village in which there are about 120 Resident Buddhist Monks. Overnight at Camp.

Day 12

Day 12|| Nubra Valley

After breakfast, full day visit Nubra Valley : The Nubra Valley means Ldumra (the valley of flowers), situated in the north of Leh. The average altitude of the valley is about 10,000 ft. above the sea level. The main attraction in this area is Bactarian Camels (Shaggy double hump Camel) around sand dunes, to Hunder Monastery. Later drive to Panoramic hot sulpher spring and on the way back visit and Panamic Gompa :30 km from Sumur, Panamic is a small village with a hot spring and a gompa, Ensa gompa, as its main attractions. Reaching the gompa, covered by poplar trees, is quiet exhausting since the journey takes three hours each way. Moreover, the gompa usually remains locked, but, if you come across a semi resident monk, you can very well see the interiors preserving some old wall paintings and the footprints of Tsong-kha-pa. The footprints, it is believed, date back to the fourteenth century, when Tsong-kha-pa returned from his

journey to Tibet. Even if you do not get an opportunity to explore the monastery from inside, the views from dilapidated chortens nearby turns your effort into a success. Overnight at Camp.

Day 13

Day 13|| Nubra / Leh || 120 Kms. / 5 Hrs

After breakfast, check out from hotel and drive to Leh. Upon arrival check in at Hotel. Later time for own activities. Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 14

Day 14 || Leh – Delhi – Departure || By Flight

After breakfast time free at leisure. In time transfer to Airport to board flight to Delhi. Upon arrival connect flight to onward destination.
