



INDO ASIA TOURS

Hemis Festival in Ladakh
Delhi - Leh – Ulley – Thiksey – Leh - Delhi
11 Nights / 12 Days





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About the Program

Marking the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, Hemis Festival is not only one of the most important Buddhist celebrations in Ladakh but is also the most famous festival amongst tourists. Held in one of the most-visited monasteries in Ladakh, Hemis Gompa, the festival is a two-day event celebrated on the 10th day of the fifth month of the Tibetan Calendar, which is the month of June/July in the Gregorian calendar.

On this famous festival in Ladakh, Cham Dance and other traditional dances are performed in Hemis Monastery on drums and cymbal and the tunes of long pipe-like Tibetan music instrument. On both days, giant thangkas (Buddhist paintings) are unfurled for the public. Every 12th year, the most enormous thangka in Ladakh is unfurled in Hemis on the first day of the festival for the public to see. Join the most exciting celebrations of the Himalayan region and discover the true colors of Ladakh.



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Program Details

Day 01

Arrive at Delhi

Arrive at Delhi. On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by our representative and transferred to the hotel.

(Room will available from 1400 Hrs onwards)

DELHI - It is a city that bridges two different worlds. Old Delhi, once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinth of narrow lanes lined with crumbling havelis and formidable mosques. In contrast, the imperial city of New Delhi created by the British Raj is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings. Delhi has been the seat of power for several rulers and many empires for about a millennium. Many a times the city was built, destroyed and then rebuilt here. Interestingly, a number of Delhi's rulers played a dual role, first as destroyers and then as creators.

On arrival, transfer to hotel.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 02

Delhi / Leh / (By flight) and Leh / Ulley (By surface approx 2hrs drive)

After breakfast, transfer to airport to board the flight to Leh.

LEH - It is a cold desert lying at an altitude on 3500 mts in the rain shadow of the Great Himalayas and other smaller ranges. Little rain and snow reaches this dry area, where natural forces have created a fantastic landscape. Surrounded by rugged mountains this land is completely different from the green landscape of many parts of the Himalayas. Bounded by two of the world's mightiest mountain ranges, the Great Himalaya and the Karokaram, it is a land which has no match. Leh was once the central meeting-point for trade caravans from Central Asia and the plains of India. Religious ceremonies and monastic festivals are regular features of the Ladakhi landscape. It is one of the only few places where one can experience Tibetan Buddhism being practiced in its original form. The town is still dominated by the now ruined Leh Palace, former mansion of the royal family of Ladakh, built in the same style and about the same time as the Potala Palace

On arrival in Leh, drive to Ulley.

Rest of the day is for acclimatization.



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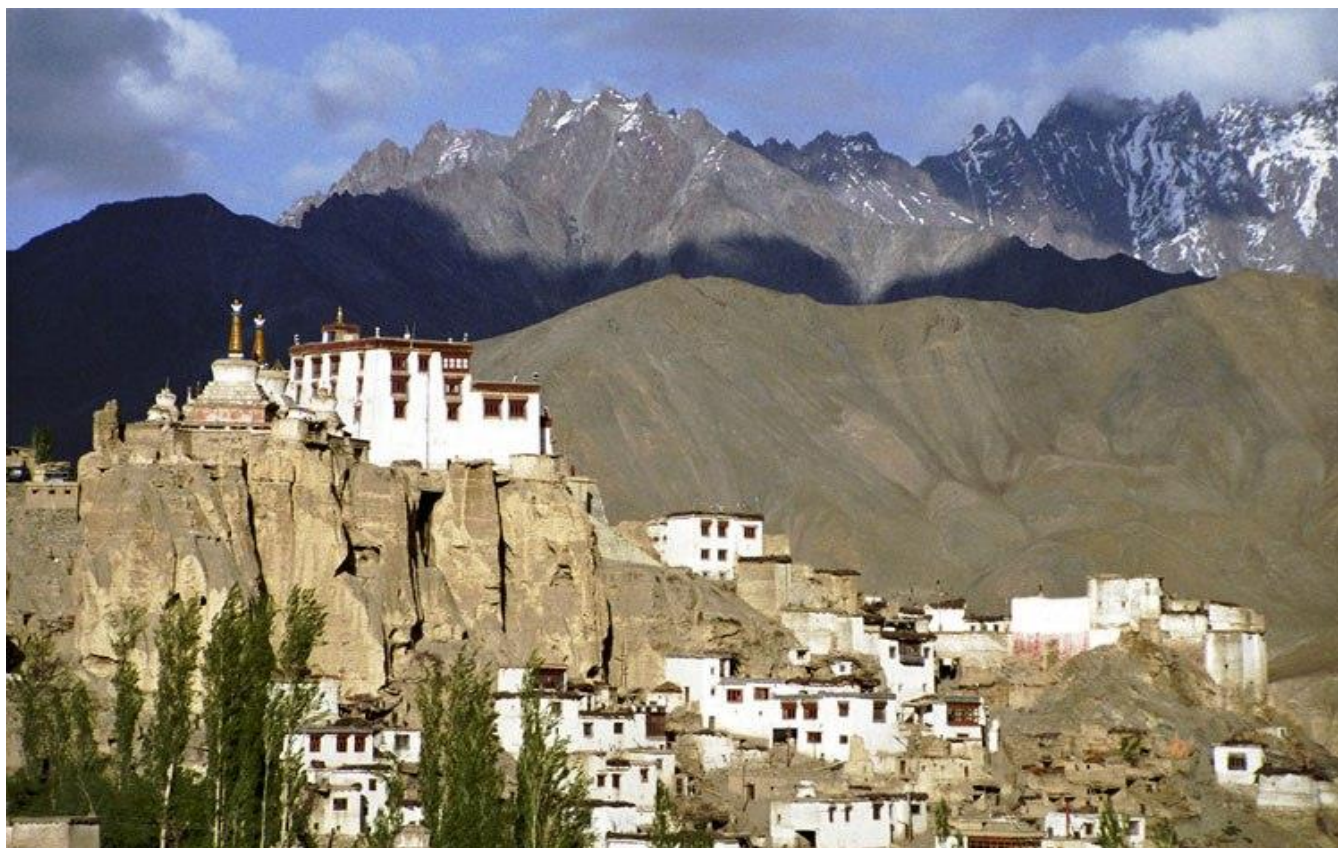
Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 03

Excursion to - Lamayuru Monastery (140kms, round trip 04hrs drive)

After breakfast excursion to **Lamayuru Monastery**.

Located in the western region of Ladakh, amidst mountain backed badlands, is one of the most popular village. Tourists visit Ladakh halts in Lamayuru as a rule to visit Lamayuru monastery in this region. Dating back to the 11th century, Lamayuru monastery was founded by Mahasiddhacharya Naropa and belongs to Red-Hat sect of Buddhism.



Also known as Yung-Drung, this monastery is home to more than 150 monks and houses a rich collection of artifacts, wall paintings, thangas, statues, carpets and an impressive 11-headed, 1000 eyed image of Chenzing. Apart from the monastery, Lamayuru also attracts tourists for its beautiful landscape which is quite similar to the lunar territory. Although it's quite remote, it is a favorite jaunt for photographers and trekkers.



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Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 04

Ulley / Alchi / Likir / Basgo / Leh (72kms, 02hrs)

After breakfast drive to Leh and en route visit **Alchi Monastery** - Sightseeing of 1000 year old Alchi monastery the only Monastery in Ladakh region on flat ground.

Likir Gompa, situated atop a windy cliff top overlooking the beautiful village of Likir. It was founded in the 12th century although the present construction dates back to the 18th century, as the original one was destroyed by fire. In its courtyard is a yellow-colored 3 storey high mammoth statue of the lord Buddha, which was constructed by a resident monk. The top floor has an impressive museum containing old tangkhas and weapons used many centuries back

Basgo

The seat of power of a branch of the Namgyal family, It is here in 1680 A.D. that invading Mongol and Tibetan armies were held in check over a three year long Siege. Original 16th century murals and other arts of Basgo are well worth a visit.



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Later drive to Leh, transfer to hotel

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

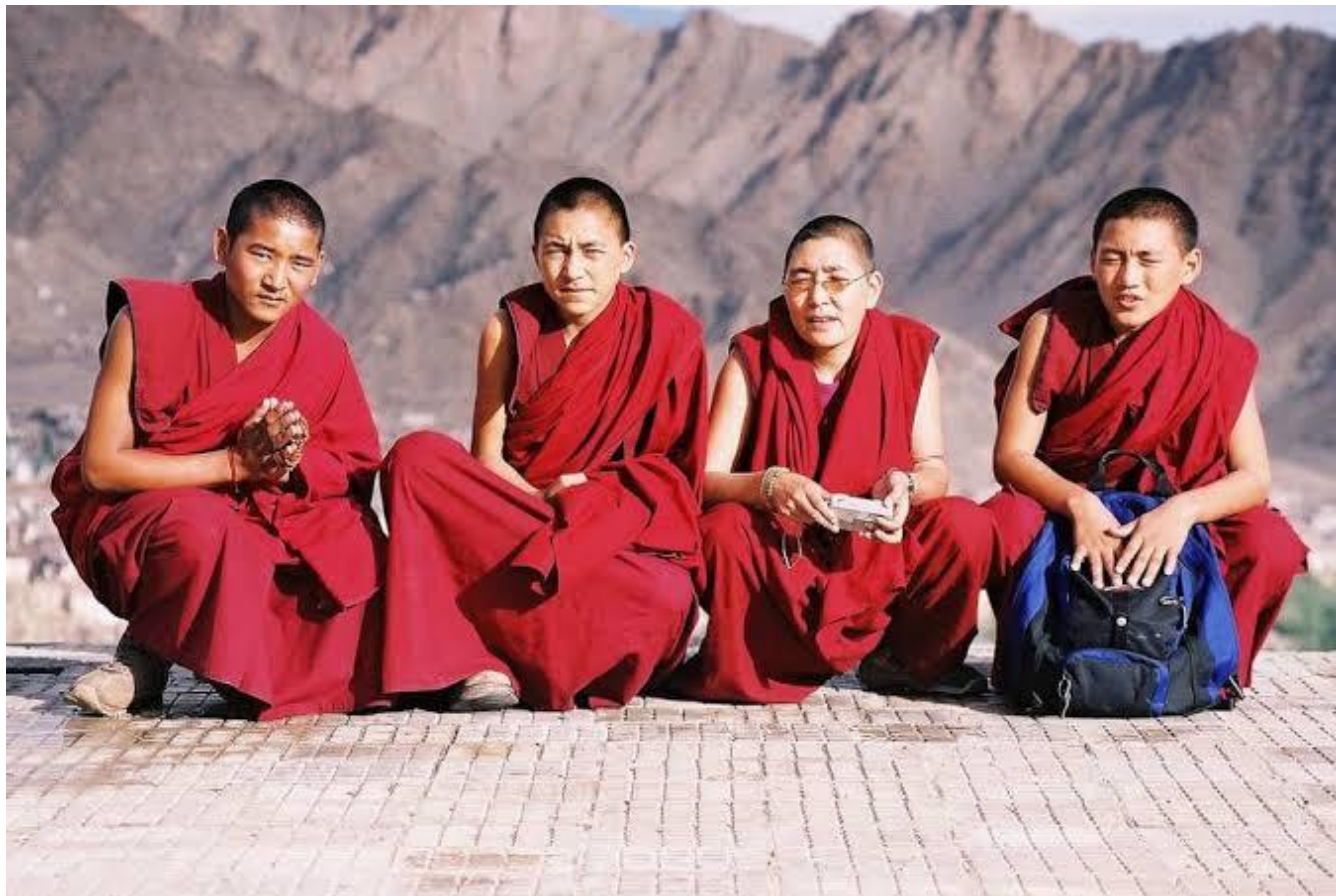
Day 05

Leh

After breakfast **attend Lecture by a prominent person on Ladakh monasteries and art.**



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Rest of the day at leisure.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 06

Leh / Hemis Monastery / Leh

After an early breakfast, drive for one and half hours drive (45 Kms) to reach the famous “Hemis monastery” The Hemis monastery is the biggest monastery of Ladakh. The monastery is decorated on all the four sides by the colorful prayer flags which flutter in the breeze and send the prayers to Lord Buddha. The main building has white walls. The entrance to the complex is through a big gate which reaches to a big courtyard.

This special day is to enjoy the “Hemis Festival”.

The Hemis Festival is held every year on the tenth day of lunar month in the Tibetan calendar. The festival is celebrated in the commemoration of the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. During the festival, the Lamas



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gather around the central flagpole in the courtyard of the monastery and perform mask dances and sacred plays. Their performances are accompanied by the music from drums, cymbals and long horns.



HEMIS MONASTERY

The Hemis Festival is associated with a legend. The founder of Tibetan Buddhism, Guru Padmasambhava fought with fiends for the safety of the local people. Marking the victory of good over the evil, monks perform the sacred mask dances. When these performances come to an end, an idol made of dough is destroyed by the leader of black hat dancers. The destroyed pieces of the figure are then spread in four directions. The programme of Hemis Festival is supervised by the head lama. Other major attraction of the Hemis festival includes a colourful fair displaying some of the most exquisite handicrafts of the Ladakh region.

After witnessing this unforgettable Festival, drive back to Leh.



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Dinner & Overnight in the Hotel

Day 07

Leh

After breakfast enjoy the visit of Leh including followings

Stok Palace - Stok Palace Museum, which is about 12 kms from Leh across Indus River. It houses some old statues and other equipment.

Matho Monastery

Matho is about 6 kms from Stok and houses some incredible statues and paintings. Around 26km. south east of Leh is the only Gompa, which belongs to the Sakyas order and Lama Tunjpa Dorjay founded it in the 16th century and the Gompa was named Thupstan - Sharling Choskor. In order to introduce the Monastic community, the king offered religious estate in neighboring villages and the Nag-Rang festival was started, which is held on 14th and 15th day of the Tibetan calendar.

Satkna Monastery

Stakna Monastery, located about 25km from the main city of Leh, is also known as "Tiger's Nose Monastery". This is because the rock on which the monastery is located resembles a tiger leaping up to the sky. Stakna Monastery displays the cultural and religious heritage of Buddhism. The monastery houses almost 30 monks belonging to the Dugpa order. Visiting the monastery lets you explore the cultural heritage of Buddhism and also enjoy the panoramic views of the surroundings from the monastery.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 08

Leh – Shey – Thiksey (20 kms, approx. 30 mins drive)

After breakfast, enjoy visit of Leh including following:

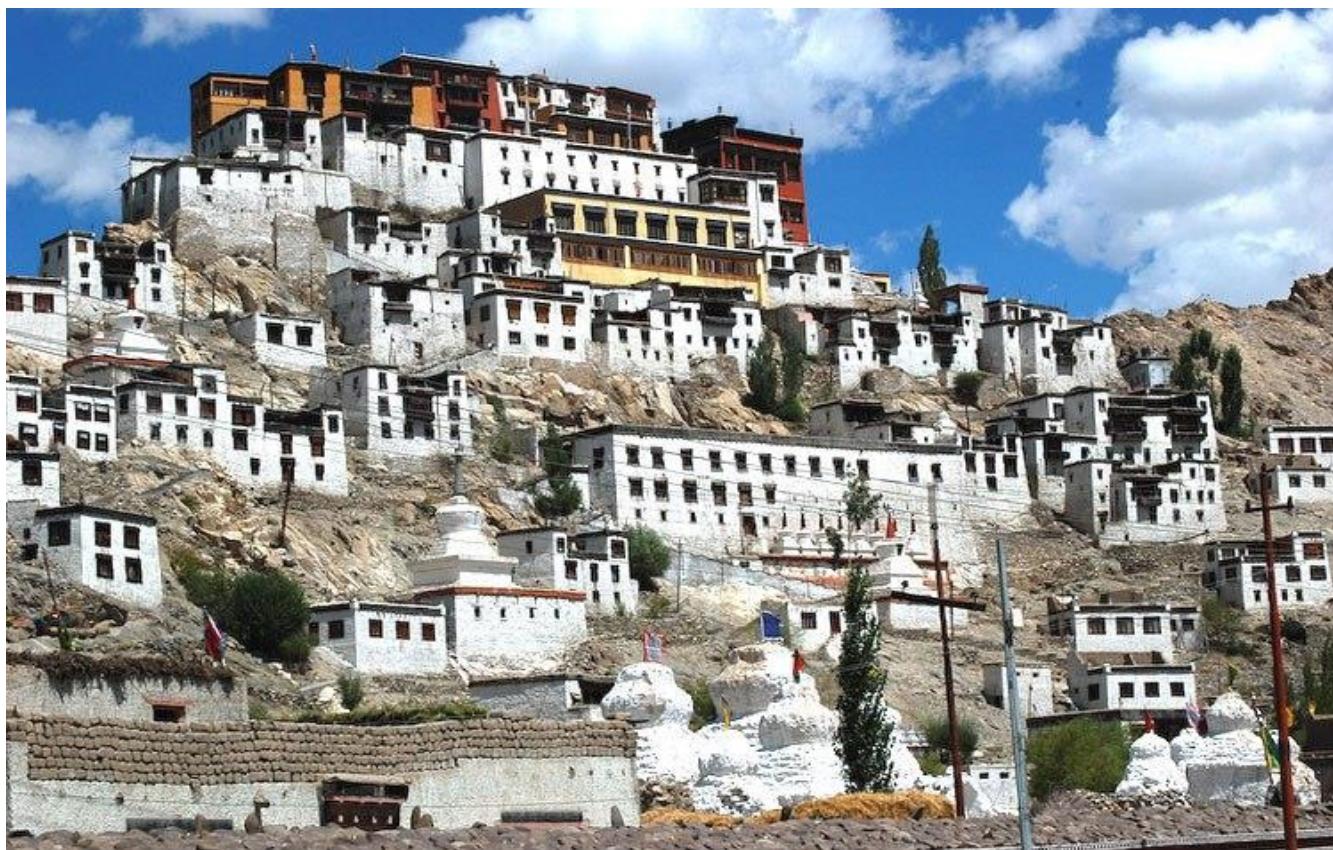
Shey Gompa - The ancient capital of Ladakh The monastery here has a huge gold-gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni with a large silver lamp burning in front of the statue.

Thiksey Gompa

Thiksey Gompa an impressive complex rising tier upon tier on a hill above the village. The monastery has a beautiful 30 m high gold-plated statue of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future.



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Thiksey 25 km south of Leh on a cliff that stands out on the plain located on the east bank of the Indus River. One of the most impressive monasteries belonging to the fifteenth century. The gumpa of 12 heights is painted an intense red (deep), ochre and white with the typical narrow walls has 10 temples, a convent and 60 lamas that reside. There is a 15 meter high Buddha statue; you enter through the new monastery

Dinner and overnight in the tent.

Day 09:

Thiksey / Leh (20kms, approx. 30 mins)

After breakfast drive to Leh.

On arrival in Leh, visit to **Tibetan Children village / Schoo.**

Later, visit to Oracle.

Ladakh has many interesting and mysterious aspects and one of the most well known institutions among the local population is the Oracle, "Lha-mo" (female) or "Lha-pa" (male). It is a type of a spiritual healer. The oracles also divine one's future.



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Rest of the day is free.

Dinner and overnight in the tent.

Day 10:

Leh

After breakfast, enjoy visit of Pagir.

PAGIR was created precisely for the sole purpose of creating a just, equitable and inclusive society in Ladakh. PAGIR is a rights movement working to create a society that is inclusive and free of prejudices. The main motive is working towards the conservation of nature and having environment friendly processes established in the Ladakh region of India.

Rest of the day is free for shopping and Market walk.

Dinner and overnight at the hotel

Day 11

Leh / Delhi (By flight)

After breakfast, transfer to airport to board the flight to Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to hotel near to airport.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 12

Delhi Departure

After breakfast, transfer to airport to flight back home / onward destination (Rooms will be available till 1200 hrs)

End of Services
