

Monasteries of Ladakh Tour

Majority of the population in Ladakh is Buddhist and this could explain that Ladakh has the largest concentration of Himalayan Buddhist Monasteries, or Gompas, outside Tibet. The early streams of Buddhism have disappeared, but almost every sect of Tibetan Buddhism is represented here by way of monasteries and shrines, each a veritable museum, lavish with murals, frescoes, idols, sacred texts, and religious paraphernalia.

For this tour, Leh will be our base camp most of the time.

Duration: 8 days

Price: \$1592

Rating: 3 Star

Group Size: Minimum Pax - 2

Grade: Strenuous

Destination: India

Activity: Tour in Nepal

Quick Facts

Total Days: 8

Tour Days: 5

Accommodation: Hotel

Food: Three meals a day

Transportation: Jeep

Guiding: Fully escorted by a guide

Itinerary:

Day 1: Kathmandu-Delhi-Leh

Fly from Kathmandu to Delhi - 1h30.

Fly from Delhi to Leh (3505m) - 80 minutes.

Night in Leh.

Day 2: Shey-Stok Palace

After breakfast, you proceed to Shey, the ancient capital of Ladakh - 15 km.

The monastery here has a huge image of the seated Buddha and is considered to be the biggest metal statue in Ladakh region. Copper sheets, gilded with the gold make up this amazing statue.

Then you visit Thiksey Gomba, one of the most beautiful monasteries of Ladakh, it belongs to the Gelukpa Order of Buddhism. It serves as the residence of approximately eighty monks.

Later, you drive further to visit the famous Hemis Gomba. The two-day festival of monastic dance in June-July has raised the reputation of Hemis very high.

This event is dedicated to Guru Padmasambhava, popularly known as second Buddha and responsible for spreading Buddhism in the Tibetan world.

Finally, we visit the Stok Palace, the Royal residence of the King of Stok, and the museum that has a rich collection of ancient Ladakhi artifacts such as Thangkas, precious stones, arms and armory among others.

Night in Leh.

Day 3: Likir -Lamayuru

After breakfast, you drive to Likir and visit the Likir Gomba situated at the top of a windy cliff overlooking the village - 62 km.

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.

Then you cross the Indus River and reach Alchi, Ladakh's most loved monastery. Unlike other monasteries which are usually on a cliff top or cling to a mountainside, Alchi is at ground level.

Finally, you reach Lamayuru.

Night in Lamayuru.

Day 4: Lamayuru Monastery-Night in Leh

This morning, you visit Lamayuru Monastery which belongs to the Red-Hat sect of Buddhism and houses approximately 150 Buddhist monks.

The gomba is made up of a number of shrines and also has a very rich collection of thankas and magnificent wall paintings.

On the way back to Leh, you stop at Basgo. It is known for its castle ruin dating from the 15th Century and the adjoining royal temples spectacularly located on the rocks.

Night in Leh.

Day 5: Leh Palace-Spitok Gomba

This morning, you discover Leh Palace, a nine storeys high building which housed the Royal Family from 17th to mid-19th Century and the Namgyal Tsemo Gomba, a monastery that stands behind the Palace.

Later, you discover the Shanti Stupa, also called Japanese Peace Pagoda, which is one of the finest monuments in Leh.

Finally, you reach Sankar Gomba where there is a grand image of Avalokiteshvara (the Buddhist deity of compassion) who is depicted with 1000 heads and 1000 arms.

During your afternoon, you will be taken to Phyang Monastery - 40 km. In 1515, a monastic community was introduced there and with this started the first establishment of the Digung teachings in Ladakh.

You are then transferred to Spitok Gompa. The name "Spituk", meaning exemplary, has been derived from a statement of a translator, Rinchen Zangpo, about the monastery: he said that an exemplary religious community would develop there.

Night in Leh.

Day 6: Free day

Today is your free day. You can walk around and visit the Leh markets where you can buy Ladakhi craft items from the friendly local people.

Night in Leh.

Day 7: Leh to Delhi

Fly from Leh to Delhi - 80 minutes.

Night in Delhi.

Day 8: Delhi to Kathmandu

Fly from Delhi to Kathmandu - 1h30.

Other Features:

- Total Days: 8
- Tour Days: 5
- Accommodation: Hotel
- Food: Three meals a day
- Transportation: Jeep
- Guiding: Fully escorted by a guide