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Golden Temple, Dalailama and Ladakh Tour

(Best time to do this programme June to September)

Day 01 Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport Terminal 2 you are met and transferred to your pre booked Hotel.

Afternoon visit to Lotus Temple

Evening Welcome Dinner at local Restaurant.

Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 02 Delhi – Amritsar By Shatabdi Express Departure at 0720 Hrs Arrival at 1305 Hrs)

Early morning we are transferred to the New Delhi Railway Station to board Shatabdi Exp. Departure at 0720 hrs for Amritsar. Upon arrival in Amritsar at 1305 Hrs you are met and transferred to your pre booked hotel.

Afternoon we visit the famous Golden temple which is sacred to the Sikh nation, here we will find time to tune into the amazing spiritual center and feel the power that inspires the Sikh people worldwide. We continue our city tour and visit the Jallian Walla Bagh – Martyrs' Memorial built in the shape of eternal flame of liberty is situated on the outskirts of Golden Temple. Here about 1500 and 2000 persons who were attending a peaceful meeting during the freedom movement fell under the bullets of the British General Dyer on 13 April 1919 and the city of Amritsar. Overnight at the Hotel.



Day 03 Amritsar

After a relaxed breakfast we proceed to visit the Wagha Border – the border between Pakistan and India. From here we continue the visit to Tarn Taran a town situated 24 kms south was founded by Sri Guru Arjan Dev in 1590. The famous Gurudwara stands on the side of the large tank. From here we visit the town of Goindwal where Guru Amar Dass established a new center for preaching Sikhism A

Baoli well paved with 84 steps was constructed here. The devout believe that by reciting Japji Sahib the divine Word revealed to Guru Nanak Dev Ji at each step after taking a bath in the Baoli provides Moksh – liberation from the 84000 cycle of life of this world.

Evening we watch the famous Punjabi Bangra Dance Performance.
Overnight at the Hotel

Day 04 Amritsar – Dharamshala (By Surface)

Morning after breakfast we depart for Dharamshala – a hill station full of natural charm and beauty. Situated in the Kangra Valley and spread over a height of 450 meters. It is surrounded by the majestic Dhauladhar Ranges on three sides. Tibetan settlements at Mcleodganj and Tibetan Library are the treasure hunts of manuscripts and text and its ancient culture. The Dalai Lama's Palace is next to his monastery at Dharamshala. Upon arrival check into our pre booked hotel.

The day is spent walking around the Kangra Valley and mixing and talking with the Tibetan Community.
Overnight at the Hotel



Day 05 Dharamshala

Morning we start our city tour of Dharamshala and visit the Dalai Lama 's Monastery , Tibetan children village and handicraft center, Bhagsunag and water fall and the war memorial.

Evening is spent relaxing.
Overnight at the Hotel

Day 06 Dharamshala – Manali (By Surface)

Today morning we depart for our new and exciting destination KULLU & MANALI .Upon arrival we check into our pre booked hotel. Manali is a major resort in the Kullu valley . According to the legend its name is derived from Manu and Alaya – the abode of Manu. Manali is synonymous with streams and birdsongs, forest and orchards and the grandeur of the snowcapped Himalaya.

Overnight at the Hotel

Day 07 Manali

Today we leave for city tour of Manali – visiting the Hadimba Devi temple set within dense Pine forest and to the Naggar Castle to have the stunning view of the valley.

Afternoon is spent walking around the Beas River and the local market.
Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 08 Manali – Keylong (by surface)

Morning we start our drive through the Rohtang Pass (4,220m) to Jipsa visiting the Gompa (monastery) of Khardong en route. Upon arrival in Keylong check in at your pre booked Hotel.

Day 09 Keylong - Sarchu (Pang) (By Surface)

Today morning we start are drive towards Pangand would be covering a distance of 163 kms and going to a height of 4630 meters. Today it will take approx. 8 - 9 hours and we will be crossing over the Baralacha - La pass which is at a height of 4892 meters and the Lachalang La Pass which is at a height of 5065 meters. The journey is through the most beautiful mountain scenery. Upon arrival at pang we overnight in camps.

Overnight at Camp

Day 10 Sarchu - Leh (by Surface)

The morning drive today will take us to Leh the capital of Ladakh. Leh is situated at an height of 3505 meters. Today we pass through the incredibly HIGH PASS of Tanglang La which is the world's highest pass situated at an height of 5360 meters. Upon arrival in Leh we check in at your pre booked hotel Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 11 Leh

Morning Visit Sankar, Shanti Stupa, Leh Palace. These are a couple of kms away from Leh. Sankar Monastery belongs to the Gelukpa School of Tibetan Buddhism and is a branch of Spituk Monastery. Shanti Stupa at the Hilltop was built by the Japanese for World peace, and was inaugurated by the Dalai Lama in 1985. Leh Palace was built by King Singey Namgyal in the beginning of 17 century AD. The nine-storey Palace is now deserted and has been taken over by ASI. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 12 Hemis, Thakthok, Chemday.

HEMIS MONASTERY : Hemis is situated 47 Kms from Leh on the west bank of the Indus, the monastery belongs to Dugpa Order, built on a green hillside surrounded by spectacular mountain scenery, is hidden in a gorge. It is the biggest and wealthiest monastery in Ladakh and is a must for visitors.

CHEMDAY MONASTERY : Chemday monastery is situated 40 Kms east of Leh. The monastery is situated there on the mountain side and was founded 365 years ago by Lama Tagsang Raschen with the Dharmaraja Singey Namgyal acting as patron. There is a sacred image of Padmasambhava to be seen there, one storey in height.

TAKTHOK MONASTERY : The monastery of Takthok is situated in the village of Sakti at a distance of 46 Kms from Leh. Before the monastery was founded there was a meditation cave of a Mahaadiddha called Kunga Phuntsog.

Overnight at the hotel

Day 13 Leh - Shey, Thiksey & Stok palace.

Morning visit Thiksey, Shey & Stok Palace. Thiksey Monastery was built in 1630 and is one of the most famous, largest and richest monasteries in Ladakh. Shey 03 Km from Thiksey and 18 kms South of Leh and was the seat of power of the first King of Ladakh who constructed the hilltop Fortress. The ruin Fort can be seen above the present Shey Palace. Stok Palace, is located 14 km Southeast of Leh and 8km from Shey on the other side of river Indus, where the present day royal family resides. The King Tsespal Tondup Namgyal built Stok palace & Museum in the year 1825, after Zorawar Singh's annexation of Ladakh. Visit the Palace and museum and drive back to Leh.

Overnight at the hotel

Day 14 Leh -Likir – Lamayuru - Leh via Alchi

Morning drive to Liker Likir lies at a distance of 62 Kms west of Leh. During the time of Lhachen Gyalpo, the fifth king of Ladakh, a religious estate and the land on which to build the monastery was offered to Lama Duwang Chosje, a great champion of meditation. The monastery was brought into the order of the great Lama Tsongkhapa and up till present times the ritual and observances of the three basic Pratimoksa disciplines, which from the basic of Buddhist teachings, are preserved. There are many blessed shrines in this monastery and there resides a protective deity wearing golden armour and of stern command. The successive reincarnations of Naris Rinpoche act as the incumbents of the

monastery. Visit the monastery further drive to Lamayuru.

LAMAYURU MONASTERY : Lamayuru Monastery is situated 127 Kms west of Leh and 60 kms. In the 11th century the Mahasiddha Naropa came to this place and the cave where he resided and meditated is still to be seen today. Then Rinchen Zangpo, the Translator came to build many temples and Stupas and so the teaching of the Kadampa School came to flourish greatly there. The rituals and observances of the Digung Kargyud School were introduced and the monastery received the name of Yungdrung Tharpaling. The successive reincarnation of Skyabsje Toldan Rinpoche acts as the incumbents of the monastery. Visit the monastery Visit Alchi. **ALCHI MONASTERY** Although there are a great many temples, caves and stupas built in Ladakh by Rinchen Zangpo, Translator, Alchi Choskor is the large and most famous of all of them. Alchi is situated at a distance of 67 Kms west of Leh, founded by Rinchen Zangpo, Translator, in 1000 AD. The sacred temples, to be seen there include the Principal one of the Rinchen Lhakhang, at Lotsa Lhakhang, the Jamyang Lhakhang (Manjusri temple) and the sumtsag Lhakhang. The main image is that of Vairocana but there can also be seen the five Buddha Families together with their attendant deities, The paintings are not like the Tibetan style but rather they are executive according to the Indian tradition. Other temples built by Rinchen Zangpo, Translator are to be found at Mangu and Sumda each containing a sacred image of Vaironica, various most beautiful images of the Buddhas and Bodhisatvas and many kinds of lovely paintings. They are also included among the 108 temples built by Rinchen Zangpo, the Translator, within the province of Naris Skorsum. Drive further towards Leh.

Overnight at the hotel

Day 15 Leh

Morning visit Stakna Matho, Evening visit Phyang and Spituk.

STAKNA MONASTERY: The Stakna monastery lies at a distance of 25 Kms from Leh on the Right Bank of the River Indus. The monastery formed part of the one of the many religious estates offered to the great scholar saint of Bhutan called Chosje Jamyang Palkar in about 1580 AD by the Dharmaraja Jamyang Namgial who had invited his to Ladakh.

MATHO MONASTERY : Matho is situated at a distance of 26 kms Southeast of Leh and 5 kms from Stakna on the opposite bank of the River Indus. There is a monastery, which belongs to the Saskya Order. A Lama Dugpa Dorje founded it about five hundred years ago. Shrines and also a sacred temple dedicated to the guardian deities are to be seen there.

SPITUK MONASTERY : 8 Kms from Leh, the monastery standing on a conical hill with 3 chapels was founded in the 11th century by Od-de the elder brother of Lha Lama Changchub Od, when he come to Maryul. He introduced a monastic community.

PHYANG MONASTERY : Phyang is situated 17 kms west of Leh and 10 kms from Spituk.. The site for the monastery there formed part of one of the many monastic estates Offered to Chosje Damma Kunga from Digung during the time of Dharmaraja Jamyang Namgial, who had invited the former to Ladakh.

Overnight at the hotel

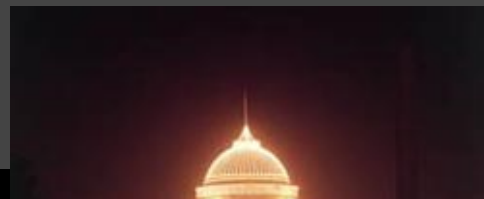
Day 16 Leh - Delhi (By Flight)

Today you are transferred to Delhi airport to board flight for Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi airport you are met and transferred to your pre booked hotel

Overnight at the Hotel.

Day 17 Delhi

Full day city tour of New and Old Delhi visiting Qutab Minar, Humayun's Tomb, India Gate, Rastrapati Bhawan and the Parliament Street, Raj Ghat, Red Fort, Jama Masjid and the Chandni Chowk.



Overnight at the Hotel.



Day 18 Leave Delhi (check out at 12 noon)

Departure transfer from hotel to airport to board flight for onward journey.

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