



Hemis Gompa, the largest and richest Buddhist monastery in Ladakh plays host to the popular yearly festival day called Hemis Festival. The day has been declared as the state holiday. This 2-day festival is celebrated on the 10th day of the Tibetan lunar month and remembered as the birth of Padmasambhava, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism. During the festival, the locals get dressed-up in traditional clothes, where men wear cummerbunds and women wear vibrant headgears and loads of jewelry. The Lamas perform sacred masked dance, known as Chaam while they are accompanied by musical drums, long horns and cymbals. This is an extremely well-known festival. The most mysterious form of celebration are the mystic mask dances. The Mask Dances of Ladakh are referred collectively as chams Performance. Chams performance is a fundamental a part of Tantric tradition. Chams are performed only in the monasteries that practice Vajrayana teachings of Tantric Buddhism. Hemis Monastery is one of the wealthiest, best-known and biggest gompa of Ladakh. Its popularity stems from the major annual festival held here in summer. 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 Drugpa sect, which managed the monastery. It is divided into two, assembly hall on the right and the main temple on the left. The hall Dukhang is also used as "green room" by the dancers during the festival. The temple is known as Tshogkhang. The varandahs have a surfeit of frescoes, among them the Buddhist 'wheel of life' (Kalachakra) and the lords of the four quarters, besides the prayer wheel.

30 June 2017: - Arrive Delhi

Traditional welcome on arrival and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Note: Kindly note the check in time is 14:00 hrs. If your international flight arrives at the midnight or early morning, room on immediate occupation on the previous day might be needed as early check in is not guaranteed

01 July 2017: - Delhi – Leh (Flight)

Early morning transfers to airport to board flight for Leh. Meeting assistance on your arrival at Leh airport and transfer to hotel

Leh City: The capital of Ladakh, at one time was a major stop on the Asian “Silk Route”. A stroll along the main bazar, observing the varied crowd and peering into the curio shops, is an entrancing experience. Chang Gali, behind the main bazar is less bustling but has intriguing little shops selling curios and jewellery like pearls, turquoise, coral, malachite, lapis and many other kinds of semi-precious stones, as well as curiously carved Yak-horn boxes, quaint brass locks, china or metal bowls etc.

Evening we visit Shanti Stupa at Sun Set time. A magnificent white-domed structure, The Japanese for World Peace built the Shanti Stupa, at Changspa, on the hilltop, and was inaugurated by Dalai Lama in 1985. From there one can see the nice spectacular view of Leh town. The stupa looks best at night, when it is beautifully illuminated with glittering lights. A large number of tourists come to Ladakh every year to visit this amazing stupa.

Overnight at Leh



02 July 2017: - Leh

Early in the morning, we head out to visit the confluence of Indus and Zaskar near Leh. As the waters of the Zaskar merge into the Indus, the landscape is almost magical. From here, we drive on to Basgo Fort, some 40km from Leh. This ancient fort, almost 5 centuries old, holds a complex of buildings that include some gompas. We'll spend time photographing these monuments and the beautiful villages around them. From the monastery, we will head back to the hotel for lunch and rest through the afternoon.

03 July 2017: - Leh (Photo shoot of Hemis festival)

After breakfast drive to Hemis Monastery to witness the Hemis festival Hemis Monastery: This is biggest and the most important monastery in Ladakh. It was built in the 17th century by Chaggon Gyalshas and ever since has enjoyed the patronage of the royal family. Hemis is the head quarter of the Drukpa order and all the monasteries throughout Ladakh are administered by it. It also trains Lamas for the royal monasteries at Leh, Shey and Bazgo. The Monastery contains gold statues and stupas decorated with precious stones and many priceless old Thankas. Each year the Hemis Festival attracts more than its share of pilgrims & tourists. Held during the full moon in June, is a series of colourful masked dances performed to the accompaniment of cymbals, drums & long horns. Overnight in the hotel

04 July 2017: - Leh – Nubra valley via Khardungla

Having gotten used to 10,000+ feet heights, we will now head towards the highest point that we will ever reach during the tour. Be ready to see the mountainscapes like you have never seen before. As we slowly climb up the Ladakh Ranges towards Khardung La, you will see jagged snowy peaks of Zaskar Ranges challenging the heights we are climbing. Once on

top, you will no longer have to crane your neck to see all the mountains rising tall in the distance; those peaks appear almost at your height. Besides the thrill of having gone up the world's highest motorable pass, you will get to see vistas that you will never forget for the rest of your life.

We will continue driving past Khardung La and descend on the other side at Nubra, known for its wide valley, green



landscapes, a gushing river, gentle streams, lush agrarian landscapes and shepherds herding their sheep in the evening hours. There is more! In these mountain landscapes with greenery unusual for Ladakh, you will also see a stretch of white-sand dunes that springs a sudden surprise. If we are lucky, we may even see Bactrian Camels roaming the seabuckthorn jungles of Nubra. It is going to be a pleasant evening today in Nubra, amidst the greenery at the river bed and a beautiful sunset.

Overnight at Nubra

05 July 2017: Nubra Valley

Today, we start with a visit to the dunes at Hunder, this time in the morning. We'll spend the day driving down through Nubra Valley till Turtuk, taking in the changing landscapes of one of India's remotest regions. On the way back, we visit Diskit Monastery in the evening. The huge golden statue of the Buddha here is a sight to behold.

06 July 2017: Nubra Valley – Shakti Village (05 Hours Drive)

In time drive to Shakti village via Wari La. On Arrival check in at guest house.

Shakti village is a large village situated 40km west of Leh along the Indus valley at the confluence of the Zaskar and Indus rivers. The village is characterized by impressive mountain scenery, and is considered exceptionally fertile in Ladakhi terms - lush green fields and apricot, apple, and walnut orchards abound

After lunch visit the Basgo Fort in the late afternoon. At Basgo (3295m/10808ft) there are three 'Future Buddha' monasteries completed in the 16th century and the ruins of a fort that is interesting for its Islamic architecture. Here you can short walk around Basgo village for capturing photo shoot of village activity.

Later back to guesthouse for overnight.

07 July 2017: Shakti Village – Tsokar

After breakfast we will drive to incredible lake, but this one is a salt lake called Tso Kar.

Tso Kar is also home to nomadic people, some of whom have made their base at the remote Thukje Village where we will be staying. The residents of this village take their cattle out to graze on the Morae plains during the summer and then they retreat to Thukje in the winter. Both of these incredible lakes are not only home to nomadic tribespeople but also wonderful Himalayan wildlife like Kiangs.

08 July 2017: Tsokar - Tso Moriri lake

Today we will drive from high altitude pastoral areas of Tso Moriri. Enroute we will stop to visit nomadic herders and sightsee in tiny villages.



Tso Moriri Lake in the Changthang region of Ladakh is one of the most beautiful, calm and sacred (for Ladakhis) high altitude lakes in India. In fact, it is the largest high altitude lake in India that is entirely in Indian Territory. This beautiful blue pallet lake is about 7 KM wide at its broadest point and about 19 KM long. The beautiful multi shades of blue colour offered by this lake, along with a picturesque landscape around it, gives this place an extremely romantic and breath-taking feel. However, in actual reality the place is extremely harsh and difficult to survive especially in winters.

09 July 2017: Tsomoriri lake - Leh

Today we will drive back to Leh. On arrival check in at hotel

Evening at your leisure for your own activity

10 July 2017: Leh – Lamayuru - Dha Hanu (Drive 165 Kms – 04 Hours)

After breakfast we take an early morning drive (5 to 6 hrs.) to Dah-Hanu. This is a beautiful village which consists of a community of people whose culture and religious practice are very similar to ancient pre-Buddhist religion known as Bonchos. These people are known as Drogpa and considered as the race of Aryans confined to the Dah-Hanu valley. It is situated to the south west of Leh and is around 163 kms from the Leh town. Their features are pure Indo-Aryan and they appear to have preserved their racial purity by not marrying outside their community. Their language is similar to that spoken in Gilgit.



Dha Hanu renowned as ‘the Land of Aryans’, Dha and Hanu village are settlements of Drokpa or Brokpa community in Ladakh. The village is located about 163 km northwest of Leh at the confluence of rivers Shyok and Indus in Kargil region in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to popular belief, the Brokpas were part of the army of Alexander the Great and came to the region over two thousand years ago. The Brokpas reside in five villages; however, tourists are allowed only in two villages – Dha and Hanu. Besides tourists, the villages also attract anthropologists.

The custom of marrying within the community has ensured the Brokpas have retained their distinctive features. Brokpa have fair complexion and blue coloured eyes. The custom of marrying within the community has, however, limited the population of Brokpas. The community hardly numbers over 2000.

Drokpa or Brokpa community is racially and culturally distinct from the common Ladakhis. The community has a unique sense of dressing. The community especially women makes it a practice to wear flowers on their hats. The practice has earned them the sobriquet of flower women of Ladakh. The community also practices polyandry.

Overnight at Camp

11 July 2017: Dha Hanu – Leh enroute visit Alchi Monastery and Sangam (confluence of Zaskar and Indus River)

Morning after breakfast we will visit the villages of Beema and Dah and meet the Drokpa tribe. They are a small community of about 2,000 people whose features are pure Indo-Aryan, and they have preserved their racial purity down the centuries

Later drive to Leh. On arrival check in at hotel. Overnight at hotel

12 July 2017: Leh – Delhi (Flight)

After breakfast transfer to Leh airport to board the flight for Delhi. Meeting assistance on your arrival at Delhi airport and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

13 July 2017: Delhi departure

In time departure transfer to International airport to board the flight for onward journey.