



Rediscover the
meaning of travel

Tour Notes

India – Ladakh - Hemis Festival

Tour Duration – 11 Days
From 17th to 27th June 2021



Tour Rating

Fitness ●●●○○ | Off the Beaten Track ●●●●○ | Culture ●●●●○ | History ●●●○○ | Wildlife ●○○○○

Tour Pace

Busy

Tour Highlights

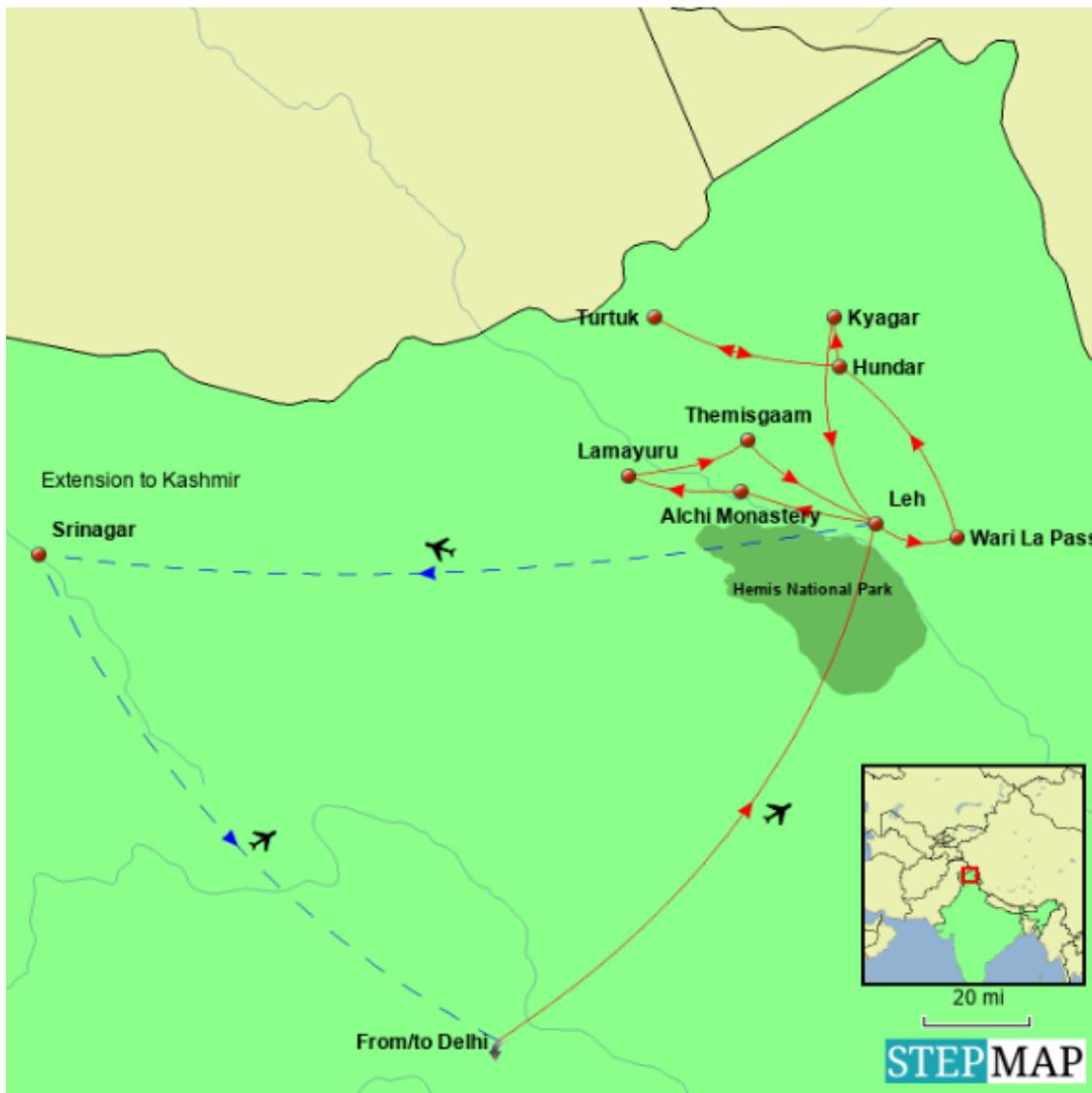
- ✓ Experience the colourful cultural event of the Hemis Festival in Leh
- ✓ Cross the Khardong La Pass into the exquisitely beautiful Nubra Valley
- ✓ Travel to the isolated Turtuk and nearby villages close to the border with Pakistan
- ✓ Explore atmospheric age-old monasteries in spectacular hillside locations





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India Ladakh - Hemis Festival



Tour Essentials

- Accommodation:** Mix of comfortable small hotels (some locally family run)
- Included Meals:** Daily breakfast (B), plus lunches (L) and dinners (D) as shown in the itinerary
- Group Size:** Maximum 12
- Start Point:** Delhi
- End Point:** Delhi
- Transport:** Private cars or buses and domestic flights
- Country Visited:** India



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India – Ladakh - Hemis Festival

Ladakh is undeniably one of the last areas in India which still affords the visitor a sense of being a pioneer. Having only opened its borders to outside visitors in 2010, the region is an edifying blend of remoteness, natural beauty and timeless links with the past. The name 'Silk Road' is a particularly evocative one, conjuring images of now well-rehearsed corridors of tourist interest, but few outsiders can claim have trodden this particular pathway of past trading glories. Ladakh is colloquially known as 'The Land of High Passes' and this tour leads you into the heart of the mountainous north of India, a landscape that looks towards China, Tibet and Pakistan for its commercial links, encircled by some of the planet's highest peaks and most pristine mountainous scenery. We explore the array of beautiful Buddhist religious houses at a wide variety of sites, such as Leh, Samstanling and Alchi and thread our way into the remotest valleys of Nubra. Our drives will take us over mountain passes that surpass any drivable altitude in the world and afford us incomparable views of the stunning snow-clad mountain ranges Zaskar, Karakoram and the Saser massif. The historical links with the Silk Road are always in evidence and we will witness first hand some of the Bactrian camels which made such journeys a reality for so many generations. The highlight of the tour is a visit to the Hemis festival, a cultural display of grand proportions which takes place in the remote, but grandiose monastery there, drawing crowds from all around. There is also the option of extending our stay to take in more of the Kashmiri culture at Srinagar, staying in a colonial houseboat on the lakeside and exploring the vastly different society at this beautiful city. Northern India is still very sparsely visited by outsiders, but its hidden secrets are a breath-taking mix of cultural fascination and topographical grandeur, rich reward for the adventurous.

Tour Itinerary Notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested and on occasions alternative accommodation, of a similar standard to that named below, will be used.

Tour Guide

Our guides are a key strength, chosen for their knowledge of and passion for the areas in which they work. All of our guides are carefully hand-picked, and are not merely passing through these countries, but are usually locally born. Unlike some companies, it should be noted we do not send a guide or tour leader from Undiscovered Destinations in the UK: we have every confidence in our locally appointed representative who is responsible for operating the tour on our behalf. Where possible, you will have the same guide throughout your trip but on occasions it may be advantageous to change the guide at one or more points during the tour. Group sizes of only 2 people will not be accompanied by a tour leader guide but will have different local guides in different locations.

Itinerary

Day 1, 17th June 2021: Arrive in Delhi

Arrive in Delhi, the capital of India, where you are met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure with no guided activities. Overnight at Taj Princess or similar – No meals.

Note: If you are arriving early into Delhi we can arrange different excursions. Please contact us for details.

Delhi

Old Delhi was the capital of Moghul India between the 12th and the 19th centuries. You will find here a myriad of mosques, monuments and forts dating from the Moghul period of India's history. The medieval atmosphere of the bazaars of Old Delhi contrasts sharply with the open, spacious streets of New Delhi, the majestically proportioned imperial city, created as the capital of India by the British.



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Day 2, 18th June: Delhi – Leh (Flight time – approx. 1½ hours)

Transfer to the airport for a flight to Leh in the remote region of Ladakh (15kg checked bag allowance and 7kg hand baggage). On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Depending on flight times on arrival there should be some leisure time and we will also take a gentle orientation walk of Leh and its bazaars. Overnight at Hotel Singge Palace Hotel or similar. (B)

Note: The flight to Leh is often scheduled for early in the morning. Exact flight details will be provided nearer to departure.

Leh

Leh's strategic importance for trade – on the Indus river valley where the old trading routes from Kashgar, Tibet, and Kashmir meet – mean that it has probably been a significant mercantile base for over 1,500 years. However, it became isolated by the closure of the Chinese border in 1962 and the tensions with Pakistan have also contributed to its strategic demise. In 1974, it opened up to tourists and has now become a key springboard for exploration into the region as well as a growing Kashmiri trade scene. The former capital of India's Buddhist Ladakh kingdom, Leh seems a world apart from the chaos and sprawl of Indian cities further south, having much more in common with the Tibetan lands to the north. The authorities, mindful of the burgeoning wealth and development of Lhasa, are very keen to see Leh's traditional Old Town architecture and Buddhist ways of life preserved. Lhasa is modernising and Leh is arguably a much clearer example of uninterrupted traditional building over many centuries. The town's main style of Ladakhi building depends upon whitewashed walls and seemingly fragile mud-based brickwork. With increased levels of rainfall battering the often precariously built dwellings, the precarious nature of Leh is all the more accentuated. All over the Old City, temples, palaces, stupas and fascinating architectural gems abound. This stands at over 3,500 metres, so, upon arrival, you will sense the altitude a little, as well as the gloriously crisp, clear Himalayan air. The climate is generally kind in the summer: highs are usually mid 20's centigrade, falling to around 10° at night, though it can occasionally be cooler. Most of the current 28,000 population live in the New City below and there is a dominant barley farming and livestock culture, all set against the peerless background of the Himalayan peaks.

Day 3, 19th June: Leh

This morning you will visit the bustling food market as part of a short city tour. Your route takes you along the main street where strikingly-clad Buddhist women, wearing tall, velvet traditional Ladakhi headgear chatter exuberantly whilst selling their wares. Slender backstreets wind their circuitous ways through the old city. As you walk, the presence of clusters of old dwellings is a constant; your exploration will lead to the 16th century Leh Khar Palace and its gompa, the Temple of the Guardian Deities. This is exquisitely perched on top of the hill and offers an unforgettable backdrop to the city's earthen-bricked scatter of houses. Next on your itinerary is a visit to Shey, a few miles outside the city, the oldest of the monasteries and no longer in regular use. The monastery contains a magnificent statue of the Buddha seated in meditation which is 12 metres high and contained within three floors of the building. There will also be time to head 12 miles east of Leh to see the 800-year-old Thikse Gompa. Standing above the valley at 3,600 metres, this is an ideal place to witness Buddhist ceremonies: the lulling sensation of monks chanting their prayers is set to a more cacophonous backdrop of bells, clashing cymbals and eerie horn-blowing, making for an overwhelming experience. Overnight Hotel Singge Palace Hotel or similar. (B)

Day 4, 20th June: Hemis Festival (Overall driving time – approx. 1 hour)

The Hemis Gompa (monastery) is the largest, wealthiest monastery in Ladakh and the centre of the Kagyu lineage of Buddhism. It probably dates back to at least the 11th century, being restored in 1672. The main courtyard provides the setting for the famous 'Hemis' festival that marks the birthday of the celebrated Guru Padmasambhava, builder of the first, 8th century Buddhist monastery in Tibet at Samye. This vibrant two-day spectacle takes place the 10th day (Tse-Chu) of the fifth Tibetan lunar month.



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Local people arrive in droves for the occasion, adorned in their very finest traditional garb and perform acts of devotion under the canopy of countless streamers of prayer flags. Chhams (Lamas) perform fabulous masked dances and ritualistic plays accompanied by a huge array of percussion and the ceremonial long horns. Overnight at Overnight Hotel Singge Palace Hotel or similar. (B)

Day 5, 21st June: Cross the Wari La to the Nubra Valley (Overall driving time – approx. 5 - 6 hours)

After early breakfast you will meet guide and driver and leave for another visit to Hemis monastery to watch festival activities for couple of hours before heading to Nubra Valley via Sakti and crossing over the spectacular Wari La pass (5,342 m) one of the world's highest motorable mountain passes situated in the North –East of the Ladakh valley. From the col, the magnificent views offer you a panorama which stretches far south over the Indus valley to the seemingly endless peaks and ridges of the Zaskar range, and north to the giants of the Saser massif, the highest of which, Saser Kangri I stands at 7,672 metres (25,17 ft). Please be prepared the road conditions near the pass on both sides is quite poor so be prepared for a bumpy ride. Descending from the pass, you head into the villages of Nubra Valley like Tangyar and Agyam villages. Here you will encounter the rare double-humped Bactrian camels once the backbone of transport along the ancient Silk Road. If time allows you may get an opportunity to ride on one of these camels amidst the sand dunes of this enigmatic high-altitude desert with the glistening white backdrop of pristine snow-capped mountains on the horizon. You stay overnight in a pleasantly located hotel in Hundar. Overnight at Karma Inn or similar. (BLD)

Nubra Valley

To the north of Leh lies the region of Nubra – an incomparably tranquil and remote confluence of the twin valleys of Nubra and Shyock, the region now is characterised by its surprising blend of arable fields and montane, arid desert. The alabaster sands compliment perfectly the rugged chain of snow-clad Karakoram mountains which encircle the broad flood plains. The valley once hosted a thriving trade between Leh and Yarkand in modern day China: Varanasi brocades, Chinese silks, pearls, spices, Indian tea, pashmina wool, salt, indigo, carpets, and even opiates and gold flooded through the Ladakh 'land of high passes', bringing trade, wealth and cultural diversity, all on the backs of the doughty Bactrian camel caravans, pony and yak trains. Estimates suggest that each year over 10,000 pack animals completed the Silk Road here, through the breathless, yet gloriously crisp air. Political unrest – the valley, having hosted skirmishes between India and Pakistan in the past, is reputedly the world's highest battlefield – and the eventual closing of the Chinese border in the 1950s finally signalled the end to this source of income; instead, the villages in the Nubra ('green') focused on agriculture, irrigating fertile fields of grain, peas, mustard, and trees such as walnut, apricot, apple and almond. In recent years, a small tourist trade has begun to put Ladakh and the Nubra back onto the international traveller's map: the stunning scenery, religious sites and opportunities for outdoor activities are starting to be realised here.

Day 6, 22nd June: Hundar – Excursion to Turtuk (Overall driving time: approx. 5 - 6 hours)

Today we start early to take a full-day excursion to Turtuk which is about as close as you can get to Pakistan in India, physically and culturally. This delightful village is crunched into the narrowing Shyok River valley in the furthest corner of India, right at the top of the country's map. Only when the Indo-Pakistan war ended in 1971, was Turtuk (together with 5 other Balti villages) then included within the Indian line of border control. It remained off-limits until only a couple of years ago, keeping it well off the beaten track. Turtuk is in every sense a pioneering treat – culturally intact, untainted by tourism and simply delightful. The Muslim Balti inhabitants are exceptionally friendly, and this area offers excellent opportunities for photography of scarcely-visited people in beautiful surroundings. Overnight at Karma Inn or similar. (BLD)

Day 7, 23rd June: Hundar – Kyagar – Sumur - Terith (Overall driving time – approx. 1½ hours)

Hundar, capital of the erstwhile 17th century Nubra kingdom, is home to the simply jaw-droppingly beautiful ruins of Chamba Gompa.



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In nearby Diskit you will visit the 14th century Monastery, set amidst the mild climate of 'The Orchard of Ladakh', and the prize possession of a succession of Ladakh kings who developed it and poured favour and finance upon it. The chief and oldest monastery in the Nubra, its rooms are bursting with thangka paintings, statues and effigies of the Buddha. From Hundar your route crosses the Shyok River and heads north to the Samstanling Gompa, set in the serene green meadows of Sumur village and boasting a restored 19th-century monastery. After lunch you continue to Panamik, a foremost halt on the caravan trade route, and celebrated for its medicinal hot springs. Our final stop for the day is the village of Terith. As the sun sets if time allows, take time to explore the village which very few foreign tourists have been privileged to see. Here the welcoming local Ladakhi people are always delighted to see visitors. Overnight at Osay Khar Resort or similar. (BLD)

Day 8, 24th June: Kyagar (Terith) – Leh – Alchi (Overall driving time – approx. 6½ hours)

After breakfast, start a spectacular drive from Nubra to Leh and Alchi. Initially road conditions are good before crossing the vertiginous and spectacular Khardong La (5,602m), feasibly one of the world's highest motorable mountain pass. From the col, the magnificent views afford you a panorama from the Khardongla top where you can enjoy the magnificent view of peaks and ridges of the Zaskar range, and north to the giants of the Saser massif, the highest of which, Saser Kangri I stands at 7,672 metres (25,171 ft.). Descending from the pass, road conditions are quite poor so be prepared for a bumpy ride. Head into South Pulu and continue the drive to Alchi, passing through Leh city. (BLD) Overnight at Zimskhang Hotel or similar. (BLD)

Alchi

70km from Leh is the renowned 12th Century Alchi Monastery. Alchi is a monastic complex of whitewashed temples, stupas and dwellings which, unusually is situated on the valley floor around a leafy garden, rather than the typical cliff-top monastery setting. Inside is a breath-taking array of ancient wall paintings and wood sculptures, much of which date back to the origins of the Gompa in the 10th and 11th centuries. The wealth of thousand-year-old artwork is all the more surprising since the majority of religious houses suffered iconoclasm, looting and destruction during the 14th century Muslim incursions. Today, five tiny mud-walled temples house a unique collection: the Dukhang ('Assembly Hall'), the beating heart of monastic life, contains exquisitely carved doorways and colonnades, leads through a passageway of 1,00 Buddha paintings a room adorned with a myriad of beautiful pictures; in particular, seek out the amazing image of Tara in the Manjushri; around the site are a series of equally delightful chortens.

Day 9, 25th June: Alchi – Lamayuru – Themisgaam (Overall driving time – approx. 2½ hours)

The road from Leh to Srinagar negotiates high passes and fragile mountainsides. There are dramatic scenic and cultural changes as you make the dramatic transition from Buddhist, ascetic Ladakh, to Muslim, verdant Kashmir. Still in Ladakh, you travel as far west as Lamayuru, one of the most famous and spectacular gompas in Ladakh, perched on a steep cliff overlooking a strange and alien land formation called the 'moon landscape'. The first Lamayuru monastery was built at the end of the 10th century: in its heyday up to 400 monks were resident here, but today only 20 to 30 remain. You visit the newly renovated prayer hall. Returning east to Themisgaam, the richest valley of Ladakh, you will encounter a real bounty of horticulture here: apricots, apples and nuts are plentiful, and you will also visit a beautiful village with its gompa. You stay overnight at a hotel run by a Ladakhi family. The hotel is sprawled over a vast area of apricot and apple groves proffering a relaxed and rejuvenating atmosphere. Overnight at Namra Hotel or similar. (BLD)

Day 10, 26th June: Themisgaam – Leh (Overall approximate driving time – 2½ hours)

After breakfast explore Themisgaam. Start with a steep climb uphill (most of the way we can drive if the road allows) to a local nunnery overlooking the fertile valley. Continuing uphill you reach the monastery of Themisgaam with its opulent and ornate interiors. Built in the 15th century, the once thriving foundation is now run by a single monk-on-duty. Each year, the monk is changed, unusually the duties being shared between the yellow cap southern order and the red cap order of Tibetan Buddhism.



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Alongside stands the impressive Tingmosgang castle, sentinel over the Indus valley and all its trade influences, and palace of the kings of Ladakh before they moved their court to Leh. This afternoon, drive back to Leh. Overnight Hotel Singge Palace Hotel or similar. (B)

Day 11, 27th June: Leh – Delhi (Flight time – approx. 1½ hours)

This morning transfer to the airport for your flight back to Delhi (15kg checked bag allowance and 7kg hand baggage). End of services on arrival in Delhi Airport. No further transfers or services. (B)

Note: If you wish to extend your stay in Delhi or perhaps make additional arrangements in a different part of India then please contact us for details.

Tour Inclusions/Exclusions

Inclusions:

Arrival and departure transfers

Transport throughout as listed

All accommodation

Services of English-speaking guide/ tour leader – group size of only two travellers has different arrangement

Meals as listed (B – Breakfast, L – Lunch, D – Dinner)

Entrance fees for sites listed as part of the itinerary

Domestic flights Delhi – Leh - Delhi (15kg checked bag allowance and 7kg hand baggage)

Excluded:

International flights

Travel Insurance

Meals not included in the itinerary

Visa

Drinks

Items of a personal nature

Tips (discretionary)

Important Information

Foreign Office Travel Warnings

We constantly monitor the advice posted by the British Foreign, Development and Commonwealth Office (FCDO). In particular we will always advise clients of any travel warnings. At present there are no warnings against travel to the areas of Ladakh, India that we visit on the main tour.

However, there is a travel advisory against all travel to the Kashmir region. For this reason we are unable to offer the Kashmir extension. It is likely this advice will remain in place for the foreseeable future. Please refer to the FCDO website here - <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india>

Please feel free to contact us should you have any specific concerns or would like to know in detail what measures are being taken to ensure visits remain trouble free and without incident.



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It should be noted that this information applies to British citizens. Other nationals are asked to check the current position of their respective government.

Accommodation and Meals

Hotel Check-in Times

As a general rule most hotels will allow guests to check-in from 2pm. Please note that the price of your tour does not include guaranteed early check-in. Therefore please advise us if you would like to ensure that your room is available for an earlier arrival. This is particularly relevant on the first day of the tour and for early morning arrivals. One option is to pre-book and pay for an extra night at the beginning of your tour which will guarantee your accommodation is available irrespective of what time you arrive. Please contact us for information and costs.

It should also be noted that on many of our tours we have set-aside Day 1 of the itinerary as an 'arrival day'. For this reason and because tour participants are likely to be arriving at different times, and often from different countries, guided sightseeing or other activities are not included. If you are arriving early or before the start date of the tour and would like to organise some extra arrangements on a private basis please contact us.

Accommodation Rating

On this tour we stay in simple but comfortable and clean accommodation consisting of small hotels and guesthouses. All accommodation has private bathrooms.

Food & Drink

The daily meal basis is shown in the tour itinerary; breakfast (B), lunch (L) and dinner (D). Please note that lunch may be a picnic. Drinks are not included and will be payable locally in cash.

Dietary Requirements

If you have any special dietary requirements you must notify us at the time of booking. While we will make every effort to cater for you, we cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Tipping – Guide and Drivers

Tipping is common practise in India. If your local guide has been helpful then you could think about tipping. This amount can obviously be left to you. When tipping a driver, a guide or hotel staff a few dollars will always be gratefully received.

Foreign Exchange

ATM Availability: ATMs are available in Delhi. There are few ATMs in Leh but are not always reliable and we wouldn't recommend using them.

Credit and Debit Card Acceptance: Cards are generally only accepted in the more expensive shops and restaurants

Local Currency: Rupee

Recommended Currency for Exchange: Pound Sterling or US Dollars

Where to Exchange: Your guide will advise you



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Joining your Tour

Flight Information

Our advertised prices do not include the cost of international flights. Please contact us if you would like a quotation to book a 'flight inclusive' package.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive an airport transfer, both on arrival and departure include in the tour price. In order that the transfer can be arranged please ensure that you advise us of your flight information once available. Please advise the date, time and flight number for your arrival/departure. If we have not been advised of this information at least 2 weeks before travel, then you will be required to make your own way to the hotel on Day 1 of your tour.

Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Undiscovered Destinations that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country and be valid for the entire duration of your holiday. Please also ensure that your insurance covers you for activities at altitude.

Visa Information

Most nationalities need to get a visa before travelling to India.

Make sure you get the right visa for your travel and that it's valid for the purpose and duration of your stay. If you enter India on the wrong visa, you could be detained on arrival and you may be deported and blacklisted, meaning that you can't enter India again. Make sure you meet entry requirements.

From 1 April 2017, the length of stay on an e-visa has been increased from 30 days to 60 days with double entry on tourist and business e-visa and triple entry on medical e-visa. The 60 days start on the date of your first entry into India on your e-visa. When you arrive at the airport, your passport will be stamped and an expiry date for your e-visa will be handwritten by an Immigration Officer. Please be aware that 60 days is not automatically equal to 2 calendar months. Check the date that is written on your passport and make sure you leave the country before your visa expires.

Nationalities and people who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for a double entry e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) to enter India at certain designated airports. You can find more information about the eligibility criteria on the government of India's e-Tourist Visa website. Beware of fake websites offering the e-TV service.

Passports

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, valid for at least six months after the date of return to your country.

Your passport must be machine readable, with 2 blank pages for your visa and valid for a minimum of 180 days at the time of your visa application.

The guidelines regarding passport validity on arrival in India are unclear. To avoid possible problems at immigration, make sure your passport is valid for a minimum of 180 days at the time of entry into India.

For specific information about the requirements for your destination please check with the country's embassy or consulate. Alternatively, UK citizens can visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice



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Vaccinations & Protection

As with travel to most parts of Asia, we strongly recommend that you contact your doctor's surgery or a specialist travel clinic for up-to-date information, advice and the necessary vaccinations. For a visit of less than one month, almost certainly you will be advised to have immunisations against the following: Diphtheria and Tetanus, Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Meningitis. The use of a DEET-containing insect repellent is highly recommended.

The legal status and regulation of some medicines prescribed or purchased in your home country can be different in other countries. If you're travelling with prescription or over-the-counter medicine, read this guidance from NaTHNaC on best practice when travelling with medicines. For further information on the legal status of a specific medicine, you'll need to contact the embassy, high commission or consulate of the country or territory you're travelling to.

Preparing for your tour

Climate

The climate of much of the Subcontinent - which includes Sri Lanka, India, Bhutan, Nepal & Pakistan - is dominated by heat, monsoons and the Himalayas. Northern India enjoys a predominantly dry, desert climate, with the months between October and March providing the best time to visit. Kashmir experiences a continental climate with cold winters and warm summers which like Ladakh, is best visited between April to October.

Generally, the weather is good in Ladakh during the summer time, with warm to very hot sunny days (up to 30°C/35°C +) with cooler nights depending on the altitude. There is, however, the possibility of rain, and you should be prepared for this. The sun is very strong at these altitudes and some of the days walking/sightseeing can be extremely hot so we often start walking quite early to avoid the heat in summer. Please bring plenty of lightweight clothes for the trek and plenty of sun protection. Ladakh, though technically part of the Tibetan plateau and classified as a high-altitude desert, can and does occasionally experience the effects of the Indian monsoon. As you know in any mountain area the weather is never wholly predictable and you should be prepared and equipped to deal with any differences in weather beyond the conditions described above. Delhi in the summer it is very hot and humid.

Clothing

When it comes to clothing it is usually recommended that lighter clothes are worn through the day, and warmer ones at night. You will also be travelling at altitude so some warmer clothes will be necessary in the mountains. A hat is also advised to be worn through the day to protect from the sun, along with at least one piece of waterproof clothing for any days that the weather may be wet or windy.

You should bear in mind that India tends to have a conservative attitude towards dress. Women, and also to a certain extent men, will find that the way they dress will often determine the degree of respect they receive from both men and women.

Equipment

The first thing on your list should be a first aid kit. Whilst there is no undue cause for alarm, travellers are best advised to travel well-prepared: adequately immunized, with sufficient supplies of prescription drugs, along with a medical kit.



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Suncream/sunblock is a must. Insect repellent, including a bite spray will also be useful to have. Please also bring a torch/flashlight or a head-torch for any unexpected electricity outages or for dimly lit areas.

Altitude

Leh and the surrounding area are situated at around 3500 metres. The Nubra Valley is at around 3000 metres. Higher altitudes are reached on Days 5 and 8 during the drives between Leh and the Nubra Valley, the highest being the Khadrung La Pass at over 5500 metres. But only a few minutes are spent at this altitude. All overnight stays are at 3500 metres or below and sufficient time is allowed for altitude acclimatisation. Whilst there is little strenuous physical activity on this tour travelling at altitude can make you feel more tired. You should drink plenty of water when at altitude. You should ensure that you are medically fit to travel at altitude.

Leh Flight Delays

Leh Airport can sometimes experience adverse weather conditions and fog which can occasionally cause flights to be delayed or cancelled. We advise you to book your international flight home from Delhi departing no sooner than midafternoon/ evening on the last day of the itinerary. Please also be aware that should you miss your international flight as a result of delays from Leh, your insurance may not cover you for any additional expenses incurred.

With regard to luggage allowance most of the domestic flights in India allow (15kg checked bag allowance and 7kg hand baggage).

Footwear

Footwear is a main priority on this tour. Comfortable walking shoes/boots are recommended.

Luggage on tour

Your luggage should not exceed 20kgs (44lbs). One large suitcase/rucksack, and one small hand luggage rucksack is acceptable.

Electric Supply & Plugs

230-240volts. Plugs are usually of the European two round pin variety.

Tour Itinerary Versions

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes. These notes were updated on 8th June 2020.