



## The wonders of Himalaya

### Day 01: Arrival New Delhi- Leh

This early morning arrival in New Delhi International airport and connect flight to Leh. Board the connecting flight to Leh. Upon arrival at Leh airport, meeting with our local ILH representatives at Airport. Following customs & immigration formalities and baggage collection, an ILH representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building after which you would be straight transferred to your hotel for check-in. Buffet breakfast at hotel.

**Leh/Ladakh**, located on the western extremity of the Tibetan Plateau and amongst the most highly elevated inhabited places in the world, is a land of many passes and gompas, where the faces of Ladakh reflect its history. There is a mingling of a variety of ethnic strains supporting the belief of cross-cultural currents that swept in from Central Asia, Tibet and India. Experience the basis of ancient Buddhism practiced in the monasteries of Hemis and Lamayuru, enjoy the beauty of the dramatic landscape along the calm waters of the River Indus and explore the remains of Kings of Ladakh in Leh.



In the evening explore main **Leh bazaar**; visit the colourful vegetable, jewellery and curio streets.

**Overnight at the hotel.**

### Day 03: In Leh

Breakfast at hotel.

After buffet breakfast you will visit the **Shey, Thiksey and Hemis Gompas**.

Situated on a crag, overlooking the flood plains on the east bank of the Indus, the 500-year-old **Thikse Monastery** is one of the largest and most imposing monasteries in Central Ladakh, and was part of the Gelugpa order in the 15th century. The impressive 12-storey monastery is painted deep red, ochre and white with typical tapering walls and has 10 temples, a nunnery and 60 lamas in residence whose houses cling to the hillside below.

Visit the monastery and observe the religious ceremonies. Continue to **Shey Gompa**, which lies on the left side on the way to Hemis on the top of a hill and houses the largest victory Stupa with golden top. From Shey, continue to Hemis on the west bank of the River Indus. The **Hemis Gompa**, founded 350 years ago by Stagtshang Rinchen, guest of King Senge Namgyal, is built on a green hillside, surrounded by spectacular landscape, hidden in a gorge, is the largest and wealthiest Gompa in Ladakh. **Lunch at Restaurant.**



Hemis comes alive during the Hemis Festival. The courtyard of Hemis-the biggest Buddhist monastery in Ladakh is the stage for the famous 'Hemis' Festival that celebrates the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava.

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Return to the hotel after your visit.

#### Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 03: In Leh

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning proceed to day excursion (50 kms/1 ½ hrs.) of one of the most exciting places to visit in Leh Ladakh is the **Khar dung La Pass**. It is one of the highest motorable roads in the world. The views here are spectacular. This is an important road, especially for the Indian Army as it is used to transport various necessities to the Siachen Glacier. This is a favorite spot for bikers who love adventure and travel here on bikes under the blue open skies. This isn't an easy trip, but one that is simply unforgettable. **Lunch at city Restaurant**

Evening for optional visits to the centre has a library of books on the Ladakhi culture, Buddhism, the environment. Besides the Ecological Centre, one may choose to visit the Women's Alliance of Ladakh. Visit also Mahabodhi Society International Meditation Centre, subject to centre being open to visitors on day of visit.



#### Overnight at hotel.

#### Day 04: Leh - Srinagar

After early breakfast at hotel, transfer to airport to board flight Srinagar.

**Gulmarg (meaning "meadow of flowers")** displays a breathtaking panoramic view of the whole Vale of Kashmir and of Nanga Parbat, one of the highest peaks (26,660 feet [8,126 meters]) of both the Himalayas and the world. The valley and mountains may be viewed from various lookout points on Gulmarg's Circular Path. The resort there is reputed to contain the world's highest golf course.

Upon arrival in Srinagar airport straight drive to day excursion of Gulmarg (approx. 02 hrs. / Hight 2700 mtrs).

#### Lunch at city restaurant in Gulmarg.

Due to its magnificent slopes, Gulmarg is perhaps the only winter resort in the country that attracts professional skiers and snowboarders from around the world. Our ski professional ski program provides you with state-of-the-art ski gear and small-group tuition from our team of expert instructors, headed by Canadian and European professionals and backed up with skiers from the Indian winter Olympic team.

After tour of Gulmarg drive back to Srinagar and check-In Deluxe Houseboat.





Evening proceed with the sightseeing tour of the world famous Mughal Gardens visiting the Nishat Bagh (The garden of pleasure) and Shalimar Bagh (Abode of love).

Dinner at city restaurant/hotel / Houseboat along with visit of hotel Inspection/show around.

**Overnight at Houseboat.**

#### Day 05: Srinagar – Sonamarg – Srinagar

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning proceed to day excursion tour of Sonamarg (80kms/2 hrs. drive). Upon arrival explore Sonamarg Valley.

**SONAMARG** (9100 ft): This golden meadow is about 100 kms from Srinagar. A gushing river Sindh is the highlight of this meadow, flowing down from snowy heights into the dense woodlands of fir and silver birches. Glaciers pour down this river from Himalayas on to the many camping sites in Sonamarg. Also famous for trout fishing. **The**



**Thajiwas Glacier** located just 7Km from the beautiful hill station Sonamarg in Kashmir is the Thajiwas Glacier. Sonamarg is the hidden jewel of Kashmir that features lush meadows and soaring peaks topped with snow.

Tourists can see pretty scenes of nature like horses grazing around the grasslands and small streams gushing through the area. The Thajiwas Glacier is located at a height of 3000m above sea level and is covered with snow almost all around the year.

After tour of Sonamarg drive back to Srinagar and check-In at hotel.

Evening enjoy **Shikara ride** is one of the most soothing, relaxing aspects of a holiday in Kashmir. Shikaras are long boats which crowd the Srinagar lakes. They are used for getting back and forth from the houseboats or for longer tours. It is worth taking a pleasure ride around the lake in shikara.

Dinner at city restaurant/hotel along with visit of hotel Inspection/show around.

**Overnight at hotel.**



**New Delhi**, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the British and the Mughals respectively. The division in the walled city and New Delhi also marks the division in the lifestyles. The walled city is all tradition where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all its facets, colours and spells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21<sup>st</sup> century standards





#### Day 06: Srinagar - Delhi

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning transfer to Srinagar airport to board flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi straight proceed to **Lunch at city Restaurant.**

After lunch half day city tour of Old Delhi drive pass visit Red Fort. Further visit mile long Chandni Chowk Bazaar where craftsmen sell their wares. Continue to Raj Ghat (where Gandhiji was cremated) and the Ashoka Pillar.

Dinner at city restaurant/hotel along with visit of hotel Inspection/show around.

**Overnight at hotel.**



#### Day 07: Delhi - Departure

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning proceeded to visit Qutub Minar & Lotus temple.

Qutab Minar is the tallest brick minaret in the world and an important example of Indo-Islamic Architecture. The Qutub Minar and its monuments are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Later in time transfer to international airport to board flight to onward destination.

