

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Kashmir - Leh - Ladakh

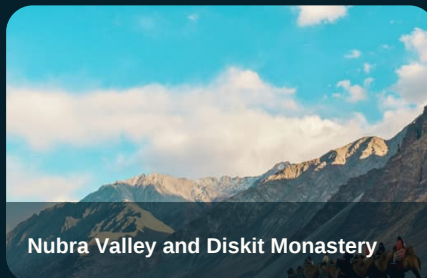
9-12 Days

From INR 35,000 per person

Best: May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep

This is the long version of a Himalayan holiday: the green Kashmir valley at one end and the bare high desert of Ladakh at the other, joined either by a flight into Leh or the summer road over Zoji La. Ladakh itself sits above the tree line - ochre and violet mountains, a thin dark sky...

FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

This is the long version of a Himalayan holiday: the green Kashmir valley at one end and the bare high desert of Ladakh at the other, joined either by a flight into Leh or the summer road over Zoji La. Ladakh itself sits above the tree line - ochre and violet mountains, a thin dark sky, barley fields and poplars where the rivers run, and whitewashed Buddhist monasteries on the ridges above them. Distances are large and the days go on driving to lakes like Pangong and Tso Moriri, over passes such as Khardung La, and down into the dunes and villages of Nubra. It suits travellers who are fit enough for altitude, patient with simple comforts in remote places, and drawn to landscape and Buddhist culture rather than to a sightseeing checklist.

PACKAGE DURATION

9-12 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 35,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep | Shoulder: Apr, Oct |
 Avoid: Jan, Feb, Mar, Nov, Dec

TRIP TYPES

hill

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit


Pangong Tso
LAKE | FULL DAY

A long, very high lake reaching from Ladakh across into Tibet, its water shifting through blues and greens as the light changes through the day. The drive from Leh crosses the Chang La. Visitors walk the shore, photograph the water and increasingly stay overnight in seasonal camps at Spangmik or Merak.


Nubra Valley and Diskit Monastery
VALLEY | FULL DAY

A valley north of Leh where the Shyok and Nubra rivers meet, low enough for apricot orchards, with a stretch of cold sand dunes at Hunder worked by double-humped Bactrian camels. Diskit's monastery stands above the valley beside a large seated Maitreya statue facing the river.


Khardung La
VIEWPOINT | 1-2 HOURS

A very high motorable pass on the road from Leh into the Nubra valley, maintained by the Border Roads Organisation and marked by a signboard, a small cafe and a shrine. Stops here are deliberately brief: the air is thin and lingering brings on headaches quickly.



Leh Palace

PALACE | 1-2 HOURS

A nine-storey palace of mud brick and timber rising over Leh's old town, built by the Namgyal kings and modelled loosely on the Potala in Lhasa. Much of the interior is bare, but the stairways, prayer rooms and roof terrace give a strong sense of the building and a view across to Stok.



Magnetic Hill

VIEWPOINT | 30 MINUTES

A marked stretch on the road west of Leh where the slope of the surrounding land creates an optical illusion, so that a vehicle left in neutral appears to roll uphill. It is a brief roadside stop, normally combined with the river confluence at Nimmu and Gurudwara Pathar Sahib.



Shanti Stupa

MONUMENT | 1-2 HOURS

A white domed stupa on a hill above Leh, built as a Japanese-Ladakhi peace project and holding relics enshrined by the Dalai Lama. Reached by road or a long flight of steps, it is visited mostly around sunset for the view over the town and the Stok range opposite.



Hemis Monastery

MONASTERY | 2-3 HOURS

The largest and wealthiest of Ladakh's monasteries, of the Drukpa lineage, set in a side valley south-east of Leh and hidden from the main road. It keeps a good museum of thangkas and ritual objects, and its masked-dance festival in early summer is the best known in Ladakh.



Tso Moriri

LAKE | FULL DAY

A high lake on the Changthang plateau, more remote and much less visited than Pangong, with the village of Korzok on its shore. It is a protected wetland with bar-headed geese and black-necked cranes in season, and kiang and pashmina herds grazing around it. The approach is a long drive.

8 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Pangong Tso

Visit Pangong Tso.

02

DAY 2

Nubra Valley and Diskit Monastery

Visit Nubra Valley and Diskit Monastery.

03

DAY 3

Khardung La

Visit Khardung La.

04
DAY 4
Leh Palace

Visit Leh Palace.

05
DAY 5
Magnetic Hill

Visit Magnetic Hill.

06
DAY 6
Shanti Stupa

Visit Shanti Stupa.

07
DAY 7
Hemis Monastery

Visit Hemis Monastery.

08
DAY 8
Tso Moriri

Visit Tso Moriri.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. Leh has ATMs, but Nubra, Pangong and Hanle run largely on cash, so withdraw enough before leaving town.

LANGUAGE

Ladakhi is the local language and Kashmiri is spoken in the valley. Hindi is the common tongue and English is widely used by guides and hotels.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

A high cold desert: short bright summers from May to September, freezing winters that close the passes, and thin dry air with fierce sun year round.

CONNECTIVITY

Only postpaid SIMs issued outside the region work here; prepaid connections from elsewhere will not. BSNL reaches furthest, while Nubra, Pangong and Hanle stay patchy at best.

PERMITS AND ID

Indian travellers should carry government photo ID and confirm current environmental-fee, registration, checkpoint and road-opening requirements before entering restricted or high-altitude circuits. Requirements can vary by route and may change.

Food and culture

Ladakhi food suits cold, high-altitude conditions: thukpa, momos, skyu, chutagi, barley tsampa, butter tea and local apricots. Tibetan Buddhist traditions shape most of Ladakh, while Muslim communities are prominent around Kargil and parts of Leh. Dress respectfully when visiting monasteries and villages.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Srinagar and Leh are the main airports, with Jammu useful for land-based starts. Allow acclimatisation after flying directly to Leh.

RAIL

Jammu Tawi and Katra are the nearest major railheads for the Kashmir side. Ladakh has no railway; all onward movement is by road or air.

ROAD

The Srinagar-Leh and Manali-Leh roads are seasonal high-altitude routes. Confirm openings, vehicle rules and acclimatisation stops before fixing a through itinerary.

Official guidance: Ladakh Administration permit-framework update -

<https://ladakh.gov.in/chief-secretary-reviews-protected-area-permit-pap-restricted-area-permit-rap-framework-to-enhance-tourist-facilitation-in-ladakh/>
(checked 2026-08-30)

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Indian travellers no longer need the old Inner Line Permit for Pangong, Nubra or Tso Moriri, but you must register online, pay the environment fee and carry the receipt for checkpoints.
- Give yourself two nights in Leh doing very little before driving to any pass or lake - altitude sickness is the commonest reason trips here go wrong.
- The Manali and Srinagar road routes open only in the summer months once the passes are cleared; outside that window Leh is reachable by air alone.
- Draw cash in Leh. ATMs are unreliable and there are none at Pangong, Nubra or Tso Moriri, where payment is usually cash only.
- Mobile networks in Ladakh run on postpaid connections and drop out beyond Leh - treat Pangong and Nubra as offline, and tell people at home so.
- The sun burns fast at this altitude even when the air is cold: high-factor sunscreen, lip balm, sunglasses and a hat are not optional here.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
Experience
Remember

This itinerary is a planning guide based on the approved destination information held by Orbitz Holidays. Final services and inclusions depend on the confirmed booking.