

HIMALAYAS & MOUNTAIN CAMELS

For India tours online, visit: www.traveltheunknown.com/india

TOUR DETAILS		Duration
HIGHLIGHTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wander through Tibetan markets Visit colourful Buddhist monasteries Drive the world's highest motorable road 		9 days
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go rafting on the Zaskar River Visit shimmering Lake Pangong Ride a rare double-humped camel 		
Off The Beaten Track Rating	● ● ● ●	Activity Rating
		★ ★ ★

ITINERARY

- DAY 1** Pick-up from Delhi Airport by a Travel The Unknown representative and transfer to guest house. Freshen up and relax, then set off on a half day tour of Delhi. Drive by India Gate, the Presidential Palace, lunch en-route, and then on to Old Delhi – visit impressive Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site - a symbol of India's Mughal past, and now of India's sovereignty. Immerse yourself in the chaos of Chandni Chowk on cycle-rickshaw. Stroll around magnificent Humayun's Tomb and its gardens, and watch it change colour as the sun starts to set. Evening to relax and enjoy sumptuous North Indian cuisine. Overnight in Delhi. Meal plan: N/A
- DAY 2** Early morning flight to Leh. Sit on the left-hand side of the aircraft for breathtaking views of the snow-capped Himalayan mountain range. The plane touches down in what must be one of the most dramatic runways in the world. Your driver will greet you at the airport for transfer to hotel. Leh is at an elevation of 3500m above sea level, so complete rest is advised for this day to get acclimatised. Enjoy a light lunch at the hotel. Late afternoon, visit Leh Palace, modelled on the Tibetan Potala Palace in Lhasa. From there we move on to Shanti Stupa. Sit on the edge of the cliff and watch the valley change colour under the setting sun. Get off at Leh Market. Wander through the bazaar and back to the hotel. Feast on a delicious buffet dinner. Overnight in Leh. Meal plan: B, L, D
- DAY 3** Leisurely start to day. After a satisfying breakfast, set off on a full day tour of Leh. We visit some of Ladakh's most famous and spectacular religious sites, including Sindhu Ghat where you can take a stroll by the bank of the River Indus. From there we move on to Thiksey Monastery, one of Leh's most architecturally impressive structures clinging to the cliff-face and containing numerous stupas and murals of Lord Buddha. After lunch at a local restaurant, we visit the former home of the Ladakhi royal family, Shey Palace and Museum, which is situated on a hillock and houses an impressive 7.5 metre gold statue of Lord Buddha. Our final stop is Hemis National Park, India's largest national park and the only one north of the Himalayas. It is home to a number of endangered species and the 400-year old Hemis Monastery. Return early evening to the hotel. Buffet dinner and overnight at hotel. Meal plan: B, D
- DAY 4** Early start to the day. Get into our 4x4 jeep and head for Nubra Valley. This must be one of the world's most spectacular journeys with sublime views of Ladakh's valleys. Cross the highest motorable road in the world. At 17,582 feet (5,359m), Khardung La Pass literally is on top of the world. Drive onwards to Nubra Valley, a remarkable setting with silver sand dunes contrasting with snow peaks. After settling in at the Organic Eco-retreat, set forth in the 'Himalayan desert' on shaggy double-humped camels. These fine beasts are amongst the rarest of its kind in the world. Return to the Eco-retreat as the light fades. Enjoy excellent food in the buffet tent and gaze at the night sky from your private veranda. Overnight in Nubra Valley. Meal plan: B, L, D
- DAY 5** Relaxing start to day. The eco-retreat is located close to the tranquil picture-postcard village of Hunder and it is well worth a light morning stroll. Return for breakfast at the eco-retreat then leave for Leh. Drive back to Leh via impressive Diskit Monastery. A short detour but not visited by many, this Monastery enjoys fantastic views of the Ladakhi landscape. The Monastery itself houses a number of shrines and is steeped in Buddhist folklore. After walking around the monastery complex, hop back into the jeep. Head back to Leh stopping off for your packed lunch. On arrival in Leh, unwind and relax in hotel. Evening buffet. Overnight in Leh. Meal plan: B, L, D



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- DAY 6** After breakfast, we drive through more spectacular mountain scenery to the appropriately named village of Chilling, the departure point for your white water rafting trip on the River Zaskar. Ride some of the best and most scenic rapids in the Himalayas along the 28km route to the confluence of the Zaskar-Indus rivers. The raft ends on the sandy bank of the confluence, where a hot buffet lunch awaits you. Lie back and soak in the Himalayan sunshine. En-route back to Leh, stop off at the bizarre Magnetic Hill, where you will experience nature defying gravity. Also stop at the Gurudwara Pathar Sahib, a small Sikh temple surrounded by barren mountain landscapes. Drive onwards to Leh and cap the day off with dinner back at the hotel. Overnight in Leh. Meal plan: B, L, D
- DAY 7** Lake Pangong is one of Ladakh's true gems. Set off after breakfast and cross the world's second highest motorable road, Chang La Pass (17,350 ft). Packed lunch provided or have a snack at a foodstop en-route. The lake forms part of the border area between India and China, and sits at an altitude of 13,930 ft above sea level. On arrival, you will be assigned to your private tent overlooking the serene lake. Tents come equipped with beds and bathroom. After unwinding, take a short hike by the lake. Sit back and enjoy a delicious dinner buffet in the midst of the starry nightsky with the moonlight shimmering off the lake's still waters. Overnight in Lake Pangong. Meal plan: B, L, D
- DAY 8** Wake up to the sight of Lake Pangong in resplendent glory. Take an early morning walk by the lake, followed by a filling breakfast. Start the journey back to Leh. Packed lunch will be provided. Arrive into Leh late afternoon. Spend the rest of the day at ease, wandering the streets of Leh's bustling market, shopping for souvenirs. Feast on Ladakhi cuisine at the hotel. Overnight in Leh. Meal plan: B, L, D
- DAY 9** Check out after early morning breakfast. Transfer to Leh airport for morning flight to Delhi. Connect for return flight home. End of tour. Meal plan: B

PRICE INCLUDES

Airport pick-up & drop-off
All internal flights
Ground transport
Accommodation

Entrance fees to sites
Activity fees (rafting, camel ride)
Most meals (refer to itinerary for meal plan)

Drivers and guides
Climate Care contribution

ABOUT OUR TRIPS

In addition to our scheduled group departures, **private and tailor-made trips** can be arranged that include some or all of the places on this itinerary. Please contact us with your requirements (e: info@traveltheunknown.com, t: 0845 053 0352) and we will happily put together an itinerary for you and your group. No trip is too long or too short.