



Trekking – India - Markha Valley Trek

14 Days 13 Nights

The Markha Valley Trek is certainly one of the most varied and beautiful treks in the world. It ventures high into the Himalayas crossing two passes over 15,000 ft. as it circles from the edges of the Indus Valley, down into parts of Zaskar, and passes through terrain that changes from incredibly narrow valleys to wide open vast expanses. It is made all the more interesting by the ancient form of Buddhism that flourishes in the many monasteries that dot the landscape perched high atop hills. As we trek to the upper end of the Markha Valley we are rewarded with spectacular views of jagged snow capped peaks before cross the 16500 ft. Gongmarlu Pass and descending to the famous Hemis monastery, where we end our trek.

Day 1: Arrive Delhi Arrive in Delhi by International flight. After a traditional 'Swagat' (Welcome) and checkin at your hotel, you will have a half day tour of Delhi visiting Old Delhi, including the Red Fort, India's largest mosque - Jama Masjid and Gandhi Memorial at Raj Ghat. This is followed by an afternoon visit to India Gate & the President's House.

Overnight Hotel

Day 2: Delhi –Leh. Early morning flight to Leh. Upon arrival at Leh Airport our representative will assist you at the Airport and transfer to Hotel. The day will be a rest day to acclimatise to the altitude. An afternoon walk around Leh town (3500mtr) includes a visit to Leh Market, Leh Palace , Shanti Stupa & Leh Gompa –This walk shall help you in a getting acclimatized at this height.

Overnight Hotel

Day 3: Leh - Stok (30 Min drive) - Foot of Stokla (4900m) 3hrs trek Leave Leh early morning by Jeeps and reaches at Stok. Start trek from Stok, after passing off Stok village and following left bank of the river for two hours, climb gently leaving a small pass on the left, continue onto a small valley, It is the foot of Stokla.

Overnight in Tents.

Day 4: Foot of Stokla - Stokla - Yurutse 6/7hrs trek After by passing this beautiful stopping valley, ascent up to Stokla (4900m). by very steep zigzag, difficult footpath, by now it is 3 Hrs. Now steep descent to summer pastures of Stok and follow the river, which comes from Stok - Kangri massif.

Overnight in Tents.

Day 5: Yurutse - Gandala - Skiu 6/7hrs trek Yurutse follow path along the mountainside, then cross a small valley and follow zig zag steep path. Thereafter

cross Gandala. Then long descent towards Shingo. After 2 Hrs. descent arrive in the valley of Markha and then after few hundred meters further will reach Skiu.

Overnight in Tents.

Day 6: Skiu - Markha 7hrs trek From Skiu, follow a good path on the right bank of Markha where one can find great vegetation. Then cross right bank of river and cross through barren plain and arrive at Chaluk. Thereafter walk along the left bank of river and after another crossing climb towards Markha village. Good camp site beyond the village and near river.

Overnight in Tents.

Day 7: Markha - Tchatchutse 6/7hrs trek Start trek towards the main valley on the right bank. The path is sometimes difficult in the river bed and pass the monastery of Humlung. Then carry on trek along the right bank and arrive in Hankar where there are several houses. The path improves and cross a broad valley on the right side. The valley becomes narrow and higher and cross bridges on to the left bank and then reaches Tchatchuste.

Overnight in Tents.

Day 8: Tchatchutse - Nimaling (4700 M) 3hrs trek Trek starts on good path and several small inclines. The river is rather far to the other side and walk near a small lake, then cross pasture to Nimaling. This is one of most beautiful high valleys in Ladakh dominated by the Kang Yaze. Trek ascent towards other side and gradually reach Nimaling.

Overnight in Tents.

Day 9: Nimaling - Knogmarula (5150 M) - Shang 8hrs trek Cross the Markha valley and follow long climb along the mountain side, then zig zag road leads towards Kongmarula (5150m). Follow steep descent into gorges and then keep walking on the left bank to Chukirmo. Thereafter crossing right and left bank and arrive Shang, a beautiful camp in groves and there is a monastery an hour away from the village.

Overnight in tents.

Day 10: Shang - Hemis (4hrs trek) - Leh (1½hr drive) Trek starts from the riverbed, then follow a good path through large blocks and then go left bank. You reach a dusty trail suitable for motor vehicles and then pass a small house and series of Chortens. Leave Martselang on the right and follow a gently rising trail towards Hemis. Visit Hemis Gompa, founded in 1630's by Stag-tsang-ras-pa under the royal patronage of Sengge Namgyall. Hemis is one of the largest and richest gompas of Ladakh. The two-day festival of monastic dance in June-July has raised the reputation of Hemis particularly high. The festival is dedicated to Guru Padmasambhava, popularly known as second Buddha and responsible for spreading Buddhism in the Tibetan world. Later drive towards to Leh.

Overnight hotel

Day 11: Leh Sightseeing Today we proceed for Indus Valley monastery tour. We start with a visit to Shey - The ancient capital of Ladakh. The monastery here has a huge gold-gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni with a large silver lamp burning in front of the statue. Then we visit Thiksey Gompa, an impressive complex rising tier upon tier on a hill above the village. The monastery has a beautiful 30 m high gold-plated statue of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future. Drive further to visit Stok Palace, the Royal residence of the King of Stok & the Museum that has a rich

collection of Ancient Ladakhi artifacts including old Thangkas, precious stones, arms and armory, the Queen's necklace and the crown of the King of Ladakh among others.

Overnight hotel

Day 12: Leh - Delhi Transfer to the Airport to catch the flight for Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi we assist you to check in at our Hotel. Later in the afternoon we depart for Delhi sightseeing that includes Humayun's Tomb, Lotus Temple and Qutub Minar. Later we drive back to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 13: Delhi - Agra - Delhi (220 Kms. - 04hrs - One way) - Optional Tour. After an early breakfast, we drive at 0730 hrs to Agra, the erstwhile capital of India under the great Mughals and known for The Taj Mahal It has always fascinated Indians and foreigners alike. On the way we visit Sikandra (Tomb of Emperor Akbar). At Agra after lunch (own lunch), we visit the incredible architectural excellence of Taj Mahal, built by emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Next we visit Agra Fort - Built principally as a military establishment by Akbar in 1565, the red sandstone Agra fort was partially converted into a palace during Shah Jahan's time. Though the principal structure was built by Akbar, many more additions were made by his grandsons. This massive fort is 2.5 kms long and is considered as the predecessor of the Delhi Red fort. After Visiting the fort we return to Delhi.

Overnight hotel

Day 14: Depart Delhi

Trek Information

Season: May to September

Total Duration: 13 Nights / 14 Days

Trekking days: 08 Days

Total trekking hours: 42 hours approx.

Special Features: Beautiful Valley & Passes

Trek Grade: Moderate

Max Alt: 5150 m

Cost A\$TBA per person twin share

Inclusions

- Return flights between Delhi and Leh
- All airport transfers
- 6 nights hotels with breakfast
- 7 nights trekking accommodation in tent, all food and guide and one porter for 8 days

Exclusions

- Personal expenditure such as drinks, laundry service and souvenirs
- Tipping
- Compulsory insurance of any kind