



# Incredible Indian Tours

## 'Top of the World'

### Ladakh & Kashmir

#### 22 Days ex Delhi

#### June/July 2022 (Dates tba)



**Maximum Group Size** 10

**Accommodation** 15 nights hotels, 3 nights houseboat, 3 nights tents

**Transport** Domestic flight, Private vehicle (4wd and/or Minibus), Cycle Rickshaws, Auto Rickshaws

**Meals** 9 dinners, 21 breakfasts, 4 lunches

**Entrance Fees** Included for all sites visited as part of the itinerary

**Starts in** Delhi (dates dependant upon the Hemis Festival dates for 2022 which have not yet been announced)

**Finishes in** Delhi

**Cost** From USD tba per person twin share (USD tba including *optional single supplement*)

Join us on this exotic adventure throughout the Indian Himalayas. First we journey to Ladakh through Himachal Pradesh, visiting Shimla and Manali before driving the spectacular Manali - Leh road. In and around Leh we explore the Nubra Valley and also experience the Hemis Festival. Heading west we drive through the upper Himalayas along one of the most stunning drives in the world to Kashmir, and Srinagar, holiday mecca of India.

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 Delhi

Arrival Day. We meet at 6pm for a short tour briefing before dinner.

### Day 2 Delhi

We have a half day sightseeing tour of New Delhi this morning visiting Humayans Tomb, Rajpath and the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara. This afternoon, relax by our hotels swimming pool, take a massage or get some retail therapy.

### Day 3 Shimla

We take a morning express train to meet the World Heritage Shimla Toy Train. We spend several hours on this famous mountain railway train, experiencing many of the 864 bridges and 102 tunnels, before transferring the rest of the way by vehicle, arriving in Shimla late afternoon.

### Day 4 Shimla

A visit to Jakhu temple with its 108ft high Hanuman statue, and then Wildflower Hall for morning tea before a free afternoon to enjoy Shimla, take a walk, explore the markets or rest in our charming Heritage Hotel.

### Day 5 Shimla

We explore Shimla and surroundings today, taking a heritage walk through Shimla town to the Viceregal lodge, visiting historic buildings and monuments along the way.

### Day 6 Manali

We drive to Manali today via beautiful valleys and stunning scenery. Manali, a favourite Indian holiday destination is also a very spiritual part of the Himalayas and a favourite with many long-time western travellers to India.

### Day 7 Manali

We have a half day hike to a nearby village untouched by tourists to experience traditional life here in the Kullu valley.

### Day 8-9 Jispa/Sarchu

We commence a two day drive along one of the most spectacular roads in the Himalayas, crossing the 3980m Rohtang Pass and into the Lahaul & Spiti valleys, stopping the night at Jispa. On day 9 we continue over the Baralacha La Pass (4890m) and have a second night camping at Sarchu, situated at 4290m.

### Day 10 Leh

Today's drive is breathtaking as we head into Ladakh, caught in the rain shadow of the Himalayas. This land is a high altitude desert with some of

the most incredible landscape scenery you'll ever see. Today we cross the 2nd highest motorable pas in the world, the Taglang La at 5328m.

### Day 11 Leh

We take a day to relax and acclimatise to the high altitude of Leh (3500m) with a sightseeing trip around the valley, including Thiksey Gompa, Shey Palace and the Shanti Stupa. There is also time to wander the markets in Leh where you'll find many Tibetan market stalls and Kashmiri shops selling beautiful handicrafts.

### Days 12-13 Nubra Valley

Heading over the highest motorable road in the world, the Khardung La at 5359m, we travel to the remote Nubra valley where you will have the opportunity to ride the double humped Bactrian camels through the sand dunes at Hunder. We visit the stunning Diskit monastery on day 13, we take a short optional hike through the villages and countryside enjoying the local culture and scenery.

### Days 14-15 Leh - Hemis Festival

We return to Leh and on day 15 take a trip to Hemis Monastery to experience the fascinating Hemis Festival in all its flamboyant colour and ritual.

### Days 16-17 Uleytokpo/Kargil

We spend the next two nights on our second spectacular scenic Himalayan mountain drive to Kashmir. Heading west from Leh, we head first to Uleytokpo via the amazing monastery villages of Basgo and Alchi. In Uleytokpo we stay in charming cottages overlooking the Indus River. On day 17 we travel on to Kargil, via Lamayuru Monastery, one of the oldest Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh situated in a barren moon-like valley of eroded hills and snowy peaks.

### Day 18 Srinagar

We continue on today to Srinagar over our final hi-altitude pass, the Zoji La at 3528m. The capital of Kashmir, often called Paradise on Earth, Srinagar was a summer getaway for the British Raj and before that for the Moghul Emperors back in the 17th century. Srinagar is famous for its houseboats on the idyllic 'mountain reflecting' Dal Lake.

### Days 19-20 Srinagar

We spend two days relaxing on our houseboats and exploring the sights in and around Srinagar including Dal Lake, the Moghul Gardens, Pari Mahal and the old city.

### Day 21 Delhi

After a relaxing morning, we take an afternoon flight over the Himalayas to Delhi for our final night. After checking into our hotel we head out for a final night dinner to celebrate our remarkable journey across the Indian Himalayas - the Top of the World.

### Day 22 Departure Day

There are no organised activities today. You are free to depart at any time.

Contact: Debbie Kindness

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