



LAND OF LAMAS & LEOPARDS

08 Nights / 09 Days

“Land of Lamas & Leopards” offers a bespoke journey of 08 Nights / 09 Days journey through Ladakh, meticulously designed by **The Indian Bucket List**. This exclusive expedition includes visits to the captivating destinations of Leh, Stok, Thiksey, Shey, Hemis, Stakna monasteries, and Rumbak, known for its snow leopard sightings. Immerse yourself in the cultural heritage and natural beauty of Ladakh as you embark on this unforgettable adventure. Encounter the elusive snow leopards and interact with the charming llamas that inhabit this region, all while exploring the diverse landscapes and ancient monasteries that define Ladakh’s unique charm. Join us on this extraordinary voyage that promises an immersive and unforgettable experience in the heart of Ladakh.

Leh : Leh is a picturesque city located in the Ladakh region of India, known for its stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. Travelers visiting Leh can expect to be mesmerized by the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, serene lakes, and ancient monasteries. The city offers a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the tranquility of the Himalayas.

Stok : A historical and cultural gem that offers visitors a glimpse into the region’s royal past. Built in the 19th century, the palace served as the residence of the royal family of Ladakh. Today, it stands as a museum showcasing a rich collection of royal artifacts, including thangkas, crown jewels, ceremonial dresses, and ancient weapons. The architecture of Stok Palace reflects traditional Ladakhi design, with its whitewashed walls, intricately carved wooden balconies, and colorful murals depicting Buddhist motifs.

Shey: Shey Monastery, located in Ladakh, India, is a significant Buddhist monastery known for its historical and cultural importance. Situated atop a hill, Shey Monastery offers stunning panoramic views of the surrounding landscape. The monastery houses a giant copper statue of Shakyamuni Buddha, which is one of the largest of its kind in the region. Visitors can explore the intricate murals, ancient scriptures, and prayer wheels within the monastery complex.

Thiksey : Thiksey Monastery, located in Ladakh, India, is a prominent Tibetan Buddhist monastery known for its stunning architecture and spiritual significance. Perched atop a hill, Thiksey Monastery offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Himalayan mountains and the Indus Valley. The monastery complex houses numerous prayer halls, stupas, and monk quarters, showcasing intricate murals, statues, and religious artifacts.

Stakna : A prominent Buddhist monastery, belongs to the Drukpa sect of Tibetan Buddhism, is home to a community of monks who follow the teachings of the Gelugpa order. The name "Stakna" translates to "tiger’s nose," derived from the unique shape of the hill on which the monastery is situated. The monastery houses a rich collection of Buddhist scriptures, thangka paintings, and statues of Buddhist deities, making it a significant cultural and religious site in Ladakh.

Hemis : Renowned for its iconic Hemis Monastery, one of the largest and wealthiest monasteries in the region. This Buddhist monastery, founded in the 17th century, is a significant spiritual and cultural center, hosting the annual Hemis Festival that attracts pilgrims and tourists from around the world. Surrounded by stunning Himalayan landscapes, Hemis offers a serene and picturesque setting for visitors to explore ancient Buddhist art, architecture, and traditions.



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Rumbak : A picturesque village located in the Hemis National Park of Ladakh, India. It is renowned for being one of the best places in the world to spot the elusive snow leopard. Nestled at an altitude of around 4,000 meters, Rumbak attracts wildlife enthusiasts and photographers who come to witness these majestic big cats in their natural habitat. The village is also known for its stunning landscapes, traditional Ladakhi culture, and as a starting point for various trekking routes in the region.

Leh : Leh is a picturesque city located in the Ladakh region of India, known for its stunning landscapes, rich cultural heritage, and warm hospitality. Travelers visiting Leh can expect to be mesmerized by the breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains, serene lakes, and ancient monasteries. The city offers a peaceful retreat from the hustle and bustle of urban life, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the tranquility of the Himalayas.

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Day 01 & 02

STOK

Stok Palace, located 15 kilometers from Leh, is a historical gem and the current residence of the Namgyal dynasty, the former royal family of Ladakh. Built in 1820 by King Tsepal Namgyal, the palace showcases traditional Ladakhi architecture combined with Tibetan influences. It houses a museum with a rich collection of artifacts, including royal attire, ancient weapons, and thangkhas (Buddhist paintings).

Visitors to Stok Palace can enjoy guided tours that offer insights into Ladakh's royal heritage, culture, and history. The palace also features beautiful gardens and offers stunning views of the Stok Kangri mountain range. Staying at the palace provides a unique opportunity to experience regal Ladakhi hospitality and immerse in the tranquil ambiance of this historic site.



MONASTERY



HERITAGE WALK



MUSEUM

Day 03

SHEY

Built in the 17th century by King Deldan Namgyal, the palace stands majestically on a hill overlooking the fertile Indus Valley. It is renowned for its giant gilded statue of Shakyamuni Buddha, one of the largest in Ladakh, which is housed in the monastery adjacent to the palace.

Visitors to Shey Palace can explore the ancient structure, which offers stunning views of the surrounding landscapes, including the Indus River and the distant snow-capped peaks. The palace's intricate murals, beautiful chortens (stupas), and peaceful ambiance provide a glimpse into Ladakh's rich Buddhist heritage.

Activity 01

Visit Shey Palace & villege



MONASTERY



HERITAGE WALK



ART

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Day 03 THIKSEY

Thiksey Monastery, often referred to as the “Mini Potala” due to its resemblance to the Potala Palace in Lhasa, is one of the most striking and largest monasteries in Ladakh. Located about 19 kilometers from Leh, it is perched atop a hill in Thiksey village, offering panoramic views of the Indus Valley.

Founded in the mid-15th century, Thiksey Monastery belongs to the Gelugpa (Yellow Hat) sect of Tibetan Buddhism. The monastery complex is a twelve-story structure, housing a variety of Buddhist art such as stupas, statues, thangkas, wall paintings, and swords. One of its most notable features is the Maitreya (Future Buddha) Temple, which enshrines a magnificent 15-meter tall statue of Maitreya Buddha, the largest in Ladakh, built to commemorate the visit of the 14th Dalai Lama in 1970.

Activity 01

Visit the monastery, witness prayers and stunning views of surrounding landscape.



MONASTERY



HERITAGE WALK



ART



MUSEUM

Day 03 STAKNA

Stakna Monastery, also known as Stakna Gompa, is a serene and picturesque Buddhist monastery located about 25 kilometers from Leh, in the heart of the Indus Valley. The name "Stakna" means "tiger's nose," a reference to the hill's shape on which the monastery is perched. Founded in the late 16th century by Bhutanese saint and scholar Chosje Jamyang Palkar, the monastery belongs to the Drugpa (Red Hat) sect of Tibetan Buddhism.

Activity 01

Visit Stakna Monastery, admire the sacred texts and Buddhist murals and paintings.



MONASTERY



HERITAGE WALK



ART

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Day 04 - 06 RUMBAK

Rumbak is a small, picturesque village located in the Hemis National Park of Ladakh, India. Situated at an altitude of around 4,000 meters, Rumbak is renowned for its stunning landscapes, traditional Ladakhi culture, and as a gateway to the region's rich biodiversity. The village is characterized by its quaint mud-brick houses, terraced fields, and the warm hospitality of its inhabitants.

Rumbak is world-famous for being one of the best places to spot the elusive snow leopard, often referred to as the "Ghost of the Mountains." The Hemis National Park, encompassing Rumbak, is a key habitat for these majestic big cats.

Activity 01

Visit the Hemis National Park in search of Snow Leopard



WILDLIFE



TREK



TALK

Day 07 ALCHI

A quaint village located approximately 70 kilometers west of Leh, in the Leh district of Ladakh, India. Nestled along the banks of the Indus River, Alchi is renowned for its lush green surroundings, traditional Ladakhi houses, and a peaceful, serene atmosphere.

Alchi Monastery, also known as Alchi Gompa, is one of the oldest and most significant monasteries in Ladakh, dating back to the 11th century. Unlike other monasteries in the region, which are typically built on hilltops, Alchi Monastery is located on flat ground, adding to its unique charm.

Activity 01

Visit Alchi Village, monastery, admire Sumtesk and Manjushree Temple.



HISTORIAL SITE



HERITAGE WALK



ART

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Day 08

LEH

Leh, the capital of the Leh district in Ladakh, India, is a high-altitude desert city nestled in the Himalayas at an elevation of approximately 3,500 meters (11,500 feet). Known for its stunning landscapes, rich history, and vibrant culture, Leh serves as the main gateway for exploring the Ladakh region. Visit the 17th-century palace, modeled after the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet, offers panoramic views of Leh and the surrounding mountains. It houses a museum with ancient artifacts and paintings.

Activity 01

Visit Leh Palace, Shanti Stupa and Bazaar.



HISTORIAL SITE



HERITAGE WALK



ART



SHOPPING

Day 09

LEH

On the final day of your unforgettable journey, "Land of Lamas & Leopards" you have a full morning at your leisure to relax, reflect, and absorb the experiences of the past eleven days. This day is designed for you to unwind, indulge in personal interests, and make the most of your remaining time in this captivating region of Ladakh the heartland of India.

Journey Ends - Transfer to Leh Airport for onward Journey



HERITAGE WALK



ART



SPA

Thank you for joining **The Indian Bucket List** on "Land of Lamas & Leopards" journey. It was a pleasure to have you with us, exploring the rich cultural heritage and vibrant landscapes of Ladakh.

We hope you enjoyed the experience and made cherished memories along the way. Wishing you safe travels ahead and we look forward to welcoming you on another adventure soon.

Warm regards,

The **Indian** Bucket List Team