Zanskar Hidden Realm



DAY 01 : Kuala Lumpur – New Delhi (5h50m flight)

Late night flight to Delhi, arrival early morning the next day.

Meal: NIL



DAY 02 : Delhi – Leh (1h30m flight)

Upon arrival in Delhi, connect to a domestic flight to Leh, once the imperial capital of Ladakh Kingdom. During the flight journey, admire spectacular view of the Himalayan ranges. Upon arrival, transfer to hotel, rest and relax for altitude acclimatization (3500m).

Meal: B/ D



DAY 03 : Leh

Sightseeing around Old Leh, which is a blend of multi-culture, with monuments of various religions, including Buddhism, Islam, and Sikhism. Also stroll around the Leh Bazaar, soak up local vibes.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 04 : Leh – Kargil (220km)

Take a scenic drive westward, en-route stopover at the viewpoint of the confluence of Indus River and Zanskar River. Later, visit Alchi Monastery dated from 10th century, known for its marvelous frescoes. After lunch arrival in Lamayuru, known for its moon-like landscape and ancient monastery, one of the oldest and largest in Ladakh. Overnight in Kargil, a Muslim dominated town.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 05 : Kargil – Rangdum (130km)

Proceed towards Zanskar Valley, en-route visit Suru Valley located at an elevation above 3,600m, view of the magnificent twin peaks of Nun and Kun, both above 7,000m height. The mountain range separates Zanskar from the Suru valley and

other parts of Ladakh. On top of a pass, enchanting view of towering mountain ranges. Just before arriving in Rangdum, the valley gets broader with green and lush meadow.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 06 : Rangdum – Padum (105km)

Morning visit Rangdum Monastery before continuing the drive to Padum. En-route, impressive view of Drang Drung glacier, which flanked the way up to the pass of Pentse La (4,200m). On top of the pass, there' re two small and greenish lakes – Sato and Langto. Around sunset arrival in Padum, our base for the next few days to learn more about Zanskari lifestyle in isolation.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 07 : Padum

Today explore nearby communities, visit Karsha monastery with a large collection of Tangka (silk Buddhism paintings) and Chushikjal Nunnery that provides spiritual education for young girls. Later proceed to the hamlet of Sani, where an ancient monastery standing by a sacred lake. Walkabouts in Sani and mingle with the locals, gain up-close contact with the local way of life. Back in Padum for stay.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 08 : Padum

Drive to nearby Zangla village, where a ruined fort perched high on a hilltop. To enter the village, cross a rickety wooden suspension bridge, with fast-flowing Zanskar River roaring beneath. Later, visit the oldest monastery in Zanskar – Stongdey, which offers sweeping view of the Zanskar Valley and the farmland at foothill.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 09 : Padum – Phukthal (4h drive, 2h trek)

A scenic drive along Tsarap River to Purne Village. After lunch, start trekking to Phukthal monastery, which is only accessible on foot. Perch high on a cliff 4000m above sea level overlooking a gorge, the honeycomb-like structure of Phukthal monastery has a surreal appearance, as if growing out of the rocks and exploding out of a cave. Explore the complex of prayer halls, library, chortens. Overnight at the monastery guesthouse, immerse in its solitary and divine aura.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 10 : Phukthal – Gonborangjon (2h trek, 3h drive)

After breakfast trek downhill back to Purne, and drive southwards until passing the last village of Zanskar – Khargiah, late afternoon arrival at the campsite under the foothill of Gonborangjon, a standalone lofty rock deemed holy by the locals.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 11 : Gonborangjon – Tso Kar (260km)

A day of long drive, begin with ascending to 5,150m at the high pass of Shinko La, which borders Ladakh and the next-door province of Himachal Pradesh. Later, cross back into Ladakh via the Manali-Leh highway, journey through high passes of Baralacha La (5,030m), Nakee La (4,738m), and the 21 hairpin bends of Gata loops, finally arriving at the shore of Tso Kar (4,500m), a saline lake in the Changtang region of Ladakh.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 12 : Tso Kar – Tso Moriri (50km)

Average elevation in Changtang region is above 4000m, it is part of the Tibetan Plateau extending to adjacent China. Today explore two high altitude lakes in Changtang, after sightseeing around Tso Kar, drive to Tso Moriri at an altitude of 4522m, the lake’ s calm surface reflects mirroring image of the surrounding mountains, and the lake appears in multiple shades of blue.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 13 : Tso Moriri – Leh (220km)

Journey back to Leh, on the way visit Thiksey Monastery, which is known as the Little Potala Palace (looks like the one in Lhasa, Tibet). Back in Leh, free & easy.

Meal: B/ D



DAY 14 : Leh – Delhi – Kuala Lumpur

Early morning transfer to airport, board a domestic flight to Delhi, later connect to a home-bound flight, arrival late night, end of tour.

Price Details

Fee includes:

1. Accommodation (a mixture of hotel, guesthouse, camp site, and monastery. 2 – 3 sharing basis depending on accommodation layout)
2. Chartered transport (4WD, 4pax/ car; airport transfers for appointed flights)
3. Meals as specified in itinerary
4. Local tour guide (English speaking)
5. Tourist sites entrance fee as per itinerary

Fee excludes:

1. Indian visa fee (30 days e-visa for Malaysian and Singaporean free of charge)
2. Flights (Round-trip KL-Leh with Air India estimate airfare from RM 3,000. Once the trip is confirmed, LevArt will provide flights schedule for members to buy own tickets online)
3. Daily lunch (estimate budget RM300)
4. Tips (for local drivers and guide)
5. All cost incurred during free & easy sessions/ optional activities
6. Additional cost due to unforeseen calamity (acts of god)
7. International travel insurance (Members must self-purchase travel insurance. LevArt cannot be held responsible for any losses as a result of you being inadequately insured/ without insurance)

Reminders

- Ladakh is set at high elevation, beware of high-altitude sickness.
- Travel in high elevation region poses many uncertainties, including unpredictable weather, road blocked due to landslide or other reasons, political situations, policy changes, and more. Tour itinerary may subject to change in response to various uncertainties, interested tour members should be mentally prepared to accept changes and be understanding.
- People who suffer from high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, and chest problem are advised against traveling to Ladakh.
- Respect Tibetan Buddhism culture and custom in Ladakh. When entering temple and monastery, take off your hat and sunglasses, do not smoke, and do not touch holy statues or articles without permission. Please check with local guide if unsure of local taboos.
- Long drive over high passes and winding mountain roads beware of motion sickness.

Hardship Level: 3.5★

- Many places covered by the itinerary are remote, with limited facilities and amenities; basic accommodation standard in some places, especially in Rangdum, Phuktal, and Gonborangjon.
- No shower facilities on certain days of the trip when staying at camp site & monastery (D5, D9, D10).
- D9 and D10 include trekking at high elevation to reach Phukthal monastery, require certain level of physical fitness, unsuitable for those with restricted movement.
- Huge temperature gap between day and night, strong UV rays.
- Possibility of suffering from high altitude sickness.
- Mountainous winding road, at times, bumpy drive.
- Some places lack modern toilet, may have to answer nature’ s call in the wild.