

# INDIA, LEH HEMIS FESTIVAL

## 06 NIGHTS / 07 DAYS



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

### DELHI – LEH HEMIS FESTIVAL – ALCHI – LIKIR – LAMAYURU – LEH – DEPARTURE

#### Day 01 ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive at Delhi International airport. Upon arrival, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel for night stay. Rest of the day free. Night in Delhi

#### Day 02: Fly to Leh (via Flight) (11562 i.e. 3524 mts)

After breakfast, in time fly to Leh. On arrival you will be met our representative and drive towards the hotel. Welcome drink on arrival. We recommend you completely relax for the rest of the day to enable yourselves to acclimatize to the rarefied air at the high altitude. Dinner and night stay at Hotel in Leh.

#### Day 03: Leh – HEMIS FESTIVAL - LEH

After early breakfast leave to witness Hemis Festival in Hemis Monastery. **Hemis Festival** in Ladakh is celebrated annually on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the Tse-Chu, Lunar month of the Tibetan Calendar. The 2-day fiesta marks the birth anniversary of Guru Padmasambhava. On this day, Hemis Monastery is adorned beautifully to host the ceremony. The colorful festival showcases the beautiful handicrafts of the area. Natives also dress up in lovely traditional attires and gather in the **courtyard of Hemis Monastery**, the biggest Buddhist Monastery of Ladakh. Lamas dance around central flagpole to the tunes of drums, cymbals and long horns. The otherwise cold-barren desert comes to life during Hemis Festival. The masked dances also known as 'Chham Dance' depict the triumph of good over the bad are the highlights of the Hemis Festival of Ladakh. These must-watch dances are also accompanied by sacred plays which keep spectators amused. Vibrant costumes worn by the Lamas also grab the attention. As per traditions, monks are supposed to wear long gowns, elaborate masks and a headgear. Every mask holds a special significance associated with it.

In the end, a sculpture made up of dough and representing the evil powers is destroyed by the head of Black Hat dancers. This implies warding off the evil spirits. The broken pieces are then thrown in four different directions. The ritual indicates purification of soul after death. 'Devil Dances' are also vital aspects of the fiesta. 'Chang', a local liquor is served to the people during the festival. Exhibition of striking handicrafts adds to the charm of the gala. The head Lama or 'Rinpoche' is the presiding person of the event. The Tibetan Year of Monkey aka every 12<sup>th</sup> year adds to the fun quotient. Ladakh gets submerged in a strong wave of faith and spiritualism as the largest thanka (as high as two storeys of a building) of Guru Padmasambhava is showcased with great zeal. Various people gather to witness the thanka decorated with semi-precious gems, stones and pearls. **Thiksey**: is one of the largest and most impressive Gompas. There are several temples in this Gompa containing images, stupas and exquisite wall paintings. It also houses a two - storied statue of Buddha which has the main prayer hall around its shoulder. **Shey**: It was the ancient capital of Ladakh and even after Singge Namgyal built the more imposing palace at Leh, the kings continued to regard Shey, as their real home. The importance which was attached to Shey - the seat of Ladakh's heartland - is attested by the enormous number of Chorten about the village, particularly around the palace complex and barren plain to the north of the road. Dinner and Overnight stay Hotel at Leh.



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**Day 04: Leh – Alchi, Likir & Lamayuru –Leh (02 hrs one way)**

Morning drive to west of Ladakh. On the way stopover at **Magnetic Hills/Road** is a so-called "gravity hill" located on the Leh-Kargil-Srinagar national highway, about 30 km from Leh, at a height of 11,000 feet above sea level on the way to Sangam point. It is an amazing small stretch on the road where you need to stop your vehicle & the vehicle moves on its own on a small slope, in both front & reverse direction. So, all in all a must place to visit when you are in Leh for amazing/surprising experience. After that drive to **Alchi's** large temple complex founded in the 11th Century is regarded as one of the most important Buddhist Centers in Ladakh and a jewel of monastic skill. The **Likir** Monastery or Gompa is one of the oldest and well-maintained monasteries in Ladakh. The monastery is located in Likir village and is believed to have been in existence since 11th century Lamayuru Monastery, one of the earliest seats of lamaistic learning and most picturesque monastery in Ladakh. Lamayuru belongs to the Dringungpa order of Tibetan Buddhism. The history of the monastery begins with the visit of Arahat Nimagung to this place, when there was merely a lake here. It is said that Arahat made a prophecy that "a monastery will come up at this spot" and he made offerings (prayer with grains of corn) to the Nag serpent spirits. The corns mixed with the earth and formed in the shape of Swastika (Yungdrung), later it came to be known as Yungdrung Monastery. The Great Translator RinchenZangpo constructed a temple here in eleventh century. Naropa also visited Lamayuru and meditated here. Gelukpa or Kadampa school of Tibetan Buddhism initially looked after by Lamayuru, but later; it was taken over by Dringungpa Order. Later drive back to Leh on the same route. Dinner & Overnight at Leh.

**Day 05: Nubra (via Khardung la Pass) 160 Km. (05 Hours' Drive)**

After breakfast drive to NUBRA VALLEY passes over KHARDUNG LA (the highest motorable road in the world) at 5602 M / 18,390 Ft, around 39 km from Leh. From the pass, one can see all the way south over the Indus valley to seemingly endless peaks and ridges of the Zaskar range, and north to the giants of the Saser massif. Nubra Valley is popularly known as (Ldumra) or (The valley of flowers). It is situated in the north of Ladakh between the Karakoram and Ladakh ranges of the Himalayas. The average altitude of the valley is 10,000 Ft. above sea level. The Shayok and Saichen Rivers drain Nubra. The flat part of the river is sandy & occupied by green farms & myricaria. The villages look pretty with greenery, willow & poplar trees. Till partition Nubra Valley was one of the trade centers, the ancient famous Silk Route passed through this area.

After check in drive to Hunder to visit Diskit, the HQ town of Nubra Valley. Driving for 30 Kms takes to Khalsar Bridge. Deskit can be approached by driving parallel to Shyok River for 20 Kms. From the Historical & Tourist point of view, Deskit is famous for 515 years old Deskit Buddhist Monastery, lying magnificently situated on a hilltop, facing the entire Valley. Further drive from Deskit to Hunder, another 8 – 10 Kms drive. At Hunder, you may see a few Double Humped, Hairy and Bactrian Camels. Enjoy an Optional Ride on Camels around the Sand Dunes of Hunder. Dinner and Overnight stay Camp/ Hotel at Nubra.



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**Day 06: Nubra – Leh (via Khardung la Pass) (160 Km. (05 Hours' Drive)**

After breakfast return Leh on the same route you came in Nubra. Dinner and night stay in Hotel at Leh.

**Day 07: Departure (1h Drive)**

After breakfast transfer to Leh airport to catch the flight for your onward journey...

**End of Service**

**Note:**

1. Generally, the HEMIS FESTIVAL celebrate in July but pls check with us the exact dates before planning the trip. Thanks
2. This tour can be modified as per your requirements.
3. If you wish you can include Agra / Jaipur or both as per number of days available.
4. The routing is subject to change due to climatic condition or any other forced situations.
5. **YOU MUST CARRY OVERSEAS TRAVEL & MEDICAL INSURANCE WHICH COVERS ALL YOUR MEDICAL EXPENSES, ESPECIALLY THE EMERGENCY RESCUE.**