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# The Hidden Valleys of the Upper Indus:

Ladakh, Nubra, Shyok, and the Kashmir Valley and the Naropa Festival at Hemis

July 12-25, 2016 (arrival and departure in Delhi); extensions July 25-30

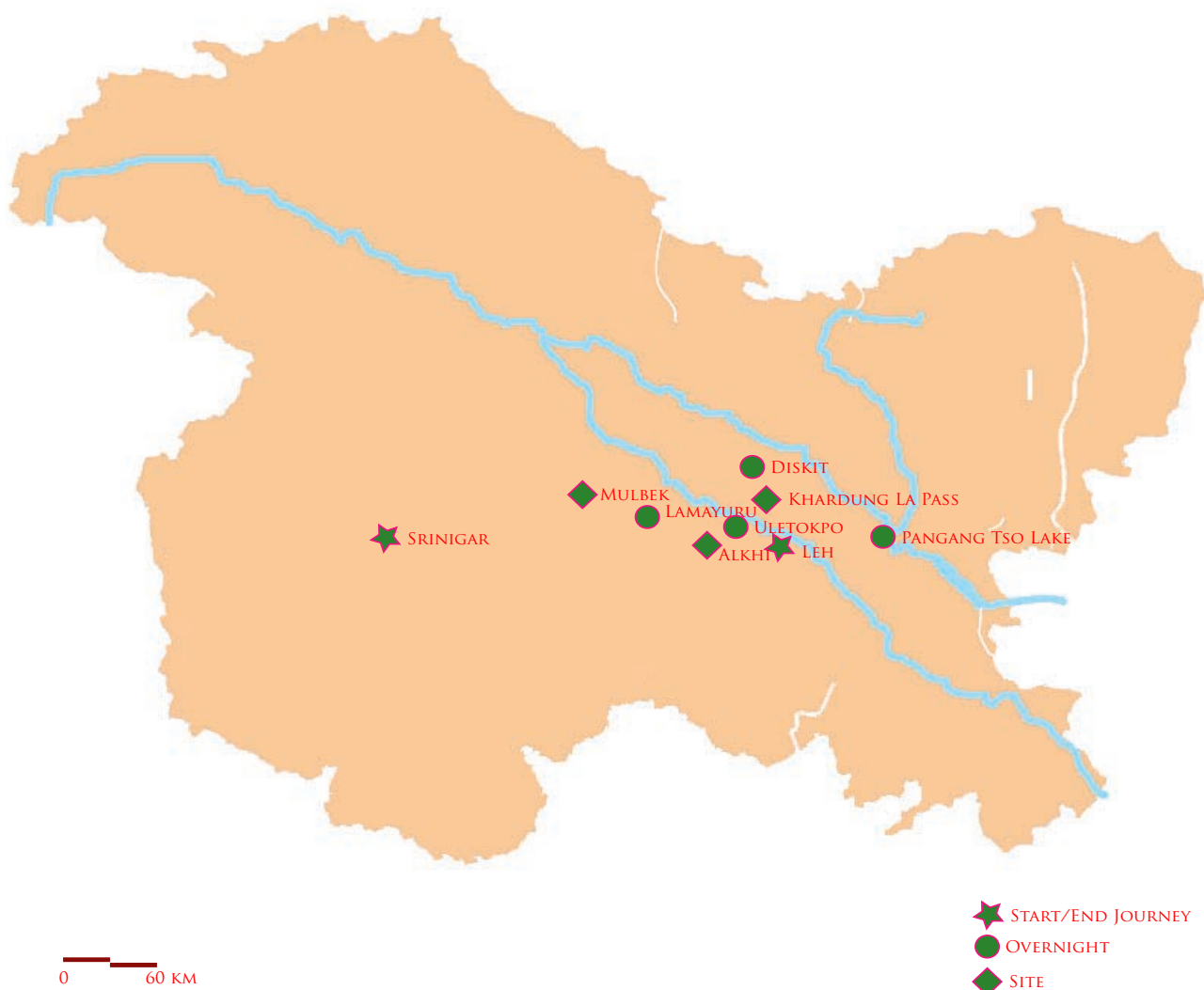


*Gompa (Temple) and Fort Protecting Leh (Watercolor by Stephen Harby)*

This proposed trip is the result of a three-week exploratory tour conducted last September. It was exciting to be visiting a region for our first time, and one which has so remarkably maintained its unique cultural traditions and way of life intact. Ever since visiting Bhutan some years ago, many of us have yearned for the chance to experience the roots of its Buddhist traditions in Tibet first hand. Sadly, this is no longer possible, but it turns out that the connections between Tibet and Ladakh and the Buddhist practices in each are strong, and despite some tumult in the region and rule by India, the original character of Ladakh, both in terms of its people and culture as well as the appearance of its land, have remained remarkably intact. Along with Sikkim and Bhutan, there are no other places on earth where one can experience Buddhist life of these highland regions seemingly on top of the world.

It was a challenge to reduce our three-week itinerary down to two weeks, a time frame that would be more manageable for most travelers. We decided to eliminate the excursion from Kargil into the Zaskar Valley. Although it was beautiful, the quality of the roads and the accommodations suggested that many might find this a bit too rigorous. We stayed in one place without running water, heat or clean sheets or linens of any kind, and we almost became stranded by an early fall snowstorm which deposited up to a foot of snow on the road up to the pass leading out of the valley. We had visions of a long winter of isolation! That is why we do scouting trips!

We also discovered, upon visiting Hemis Monastery, that this July is the occasion for the Naropa Festival, held only every twelve years. The contour of the itinerary is one based in Leh, where we will arrive and depart, using the region's only airport sited on one of the few pieces of terrain in all of Ladakh flat enough to accommodate the airstrip.



*Map of the territory to be covered with major stops.*

A series of forays along or out of the Indus Valley will bring us to the other “hidden” valleys of the region: the Nubra and Shyok Valleys and, including the optional extensions to Pangong Tso Lake and the Kashmir Valley. Our drives will be made in a fleet of Toyota Innova cars, which in our past experience prove to be the safest, most comfortable, and reliable vehicles available. Our days will be filled with the constantly changing and always spectacular scenery of mountains, valleys and the communities that cluster around the many monasteries. These will provide endless fascination and cultural enrichment. In appearance



*Key map locating the territory to be visited*

they are slightly more informal and ad hoc than those in Bhutan or Tibet, but in our experience the interiors stuffed with rich treasures of wall paintings, thankas (large painted scrolls), books, and statues, are more accessible and available to the visitor than in Bhutan. The creation of this devotional art is a living tradition and we will see works dating back centuries as well as those produced or restored recently. The images contained in this prospectus are but a small sampling of what we will see. A note on the rigors and challenges of the trip are in order: The pace and physical activities envisioned are not overly challenging—no



long treks are planned. But careful consideration should be given to the physical challenges inherent in the high altitudes we will encounter. Consultation with a doctor is strongly advised, in order that your readiness to cope with the high altitude can be determined and so that the range of available and highly effective preventative drugs for altitude sickness can be prescribed. Our experience was that after the first day of acclimatization during which the body adjusts to the altitude, and we did not feel top notch, after that one regains a state of normalcy, and can maintain it by drinking lots of fluids to counteract the potential for dehydration due to the dry air and by not rushing up slopes. As with the dozen or so previous trips to the Indian subcontinent, we

are collaborating with our old friends are Realms and Destinations in Delhi. They are working with the best local agent in Ladakh, and we are hoping to have the wonderful, knowledgeable guide we had last September.

At the end of the day our accommodations will range from the exotic of tent accommodations to the more familiar comfort of hotels. Food, which is generally Indian, will be always flavorful and varied. This is a part of the world that few of us have visited, that is wonderfully unspoiled and genuine and may not remain that way for long, so please join us!

For [photos](http://www.stephenharby.com/photos/himalayas/Himalayas_2015/Map.html) from the scouting trip, see: [http://www.stephenharby.com/photos/himalayas/Himalayas\\_2015/Map.html](http://www.stephenharby.com/photos/himalayas/Himalayas_2015/Map.html)

## ITINERARY for CORE TRIP

Day 1, July 12 /Tuesday, 2016

ARRIVE DELHI, India

- Arrive independently at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, by an international flight (arrival flight details awaited); clearing Indian Immigration, collecting your checked bags and passing through Customs control, you exit into the arrival hall and the meeting area outside.
- START OF SERVICE
- You are met, welcomed and assisted by a Realms staff member at the arrival hall meeting area, and transferred to the hotel
- Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel



*View of Leh across the Indus Valley. The airstrip can be seen in the foreground. The Shanti Stupa is the white structure in the center.*

- <http://www.radissonblu.com/hotel-newdelhi>
- ROOMS HELD FROM EARLY AFTERNOON THIS DAY

You should plan to arrive on the evening or in the night of July 12, allowing sufficient time for delays or any missed connection. The hotel is pleasant and comfortable, and could be anywhere. It is a good place to unwind and sleep well after the long journey. It has a good restaurant and a large pool, although the immediate surroundings are unremarkable at best. Those who arrive early enough may wish to make an excursion into Delhi, which can be arranged. Bear in mind it will be quite hot in July.

Day 2, July 13 /Wednesday DELHI to LEH

- Early morning check-out, transfer to airport for flight to Leh.
- Fly Delhi/Leh by GoAir flight G8 203 – 0640/0755

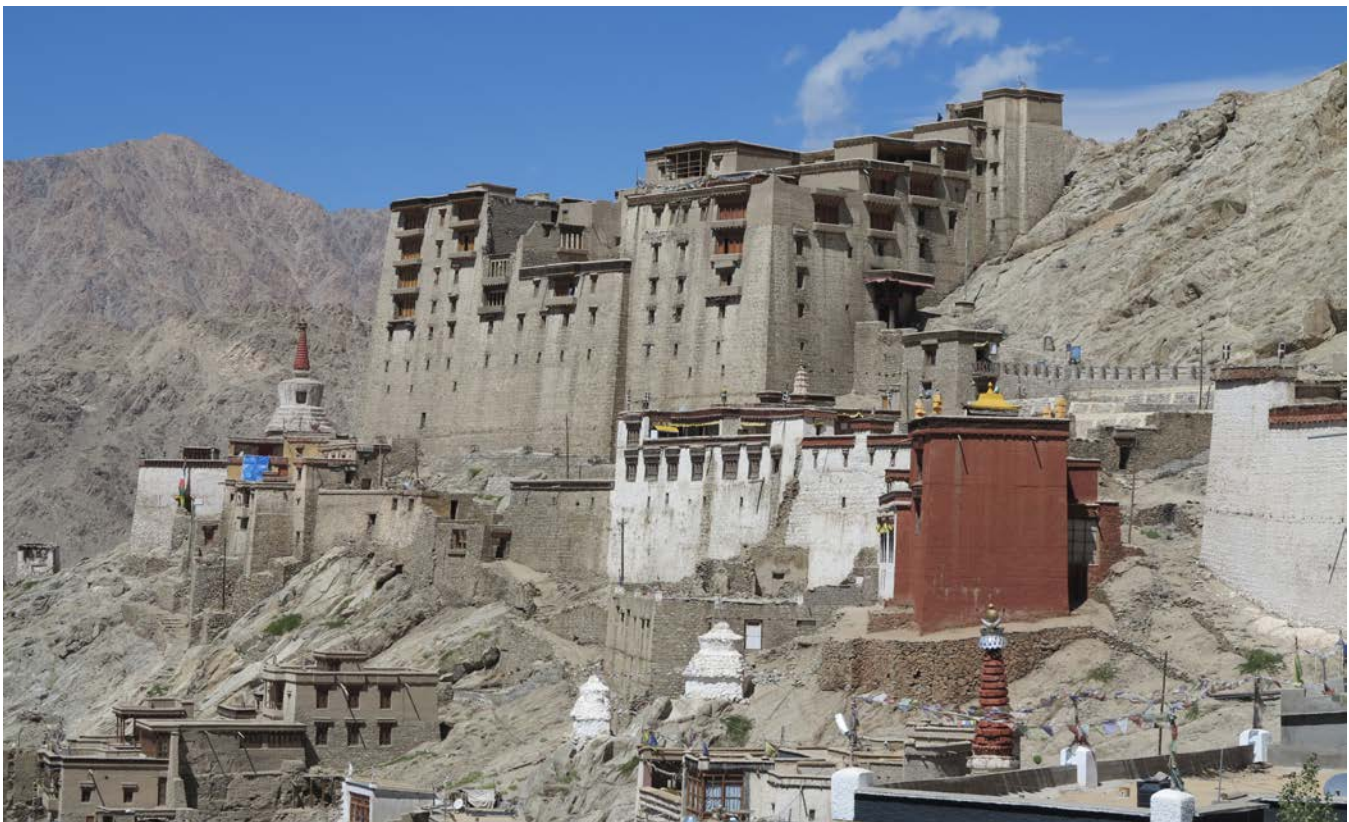
- On arrival in Leh [ <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leh> ] (3524 m/11562 ft) you are met by our local representative and transferred to the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities allowing you time to get used to your new surroundings and for acclimatization. This period of inactivity after arrival at such a high altitude is key, and will be repaid later on by avoiding problems from being over active at the outset.

- The Zen Ladakh
- <http://www.thezenladakh.com/about.html>

There are two immediate impressions upon approach and landing in Leh. One is the drama of the scenery, with the plane's wing tip seemingly brushing the adjacent peaks next to the airport. The other is the effort it takes to get up out of your seat! This is most likely the highest

elevation you have ever experienced, and the air is much thinner than our bodies are used to, and initially your lungs and heart will go to considerable effort to gather the oxygen necessary for even modest activity. The good news is this will change, and acclimatization, for which we have built in plenty of time in our schedule, is the key. You will also realize that you have come to a place like no other, and unlike so many places on earth, has retained much of the unique character of its people and culture.

Leh, other than Srinagar, if you opt for the extension to Kashmir, is the only town (it might stretch the term to call it a city) we will visit. It has grown in recent years since the cessation of the border skirmishes, and this is mostly due to its function as an army garrison town for the Indian forces as a deterrent to further inroads by Pakistan. This is the first of the dramatic valleys we will experience,



*The Palace above Leh. The style of this building with its battered walls and small windows is heavily influenced by Tibetan architecture*



and the Indus river is visible from the town meandering its way from southeast to northwest. The town climbs up the gentle slopes of the valley until settlement is stopped by the rise of precipitous and dramatic mountains. While the area, and all of Ladakh is extremely arid and desert conditions prevail, you will be struck by how lush the town is with thick plantings of poplar and willow trees. This will be the case in most of the settlements we will visit. Due to the dryness of the air, you will be struck by the clarity with which you perceive the amazing scenery, as if you have been given a new set of eyes. All of this can be enjoyed from our hotel, which is located at a slight elevation and therefore has lovely views of the surrounding town and mountains. Of the two hotels in Leh we tried out last September, we preferred this one for its excellent management, and really top notch Indian cuisine, of which we never tired during the many nights we were there. It is also one of the few hotels in Leh to boast a swimming pool. For this first day, you will be content to loll around and do nothing, gathering force

for the gradually increasing intensity of our activities over the next few days.

Day 3, July 14 /Thursday LEH

- In Leh – drive to Hemis Monastery (45 km/01 hr)
- Attend the opening ceremony of the Hemis Festival and the unveiling of the sacred Thanka
- <http://naropa2016.org/programe.php> –
- Returning to Leh later in the day, your time is at leisure
- The Zen Ladakh

The Naropa festival at Hemis Monastery has been the inspiration for the timing of this trip, as it takes place only once every twelve years. Monastery festivals are amazing pageants of dance, music, and display of rarely seen temple treasures. The Monastery at Hemis is one of the most important and well endowed of all those which we will see, so this is a good introduction for us on this day.

Day 4, July 15 /Friday  
LEH to ULETOKPO

- Drive Leh-Uletokpo (70 km/02 hrs)

- Visit the monasteries at Alchi
- [[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchi\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alchi_Monastery) ],
- Likir and Phyang [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyang\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phyang_Monastery)
- Arrive Uletokpo 3030m/9950ft late in the day to check in at your hotel with time at leisure.
- Ule Ethnic Resort
- <http://www.uleresort.com>

We will drive along the banks of the Indus river following its downward flow, making excursions up into the valleys to see three important monasteries of varying age. Alchi is the smallest, oldest and contains the most artistically significant treasures in multiple main halls, the largest of which has a complex configuration of multiple layers to provide access to the large sculptural devotional figures, individually enshrined in niches on three sides.

The place where we will spend the next two nights is at a picturesque bend in the Indus River. It was created with a good architectural sensibility and emphasizes sustainable development and agriculture. All of the delicious cuisine is produced locally, including jams and jellies, which we will enjoy with thin pancakes served at breakfast.

Day 5, July 16 /Saturday  
ULETOKPO to DHA, HANU and back

- Full day excursion to Dha and Hanu villages (75 km/02 hrs one way)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dah\\_Hanu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dah_Hanu)
- Return to hotel in Uletokpo for an overnight stay later in the day.
- Ule Ethnic Resort

We will drive further down the Indus Valley, and last September when we



*Main prayer hall of the Hemis Monastery*

scouted the trip, there had been a torrent from a tributary stream causing debris to block the river. The level of the water was above the road and so we hiked to one of the villages. Here we discovered some of the most indigenous peoples we encountered on the trip, many of whom still observe faiths that predate Buddhism and whose societies are matriarchal.

Day 6, July 17 /Sunday ULETOKPO to MULBEK and return to LAMAYURU

- Morning check-out; drive Uletokpo-Mulbek (110 km/05 to 06 hrs)
- Cross Fotu la Pass 4094 m/13432 ft.
- Arrive at Mulbek 3304 m/10840 ft later in the day with time to visit Mulbek Monastery

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulbekh\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mulbekh_Monastery)
- Return to Lamayuru later in the afternoon, where we will spend the night.
- Moonland Hotel
- <http://www.hotelmooonland.in/>

Mulbek is well on the way to Kargil, and the reason to go here is to see the temple containing a large monolithic Buddha statue carved from a huge boulder several stories tall and dwarfing the temple structure clinging to it. We will have passed by the monastery of Lamayuru, which is the most unusual and picturesque assemblage of religious buildings we will see, and it is here where we will return for the night and an extended visit the next morning.

The monastery and its adjoining village is clustered amongst columnar limestone tower-like forms, which have been eroded by the winds coursing through this valley. These extraterrestrial forms have led the area to be compared to a moonscape, and indeed, we will stay in the Moonlands hotel!

The monastery has numerous shrines both in present day use and defunct. They are packed with some of the most stunning paintings and sculptures we will see.

Day 7, July 18 /Monday LAMAYURU to LEH

- Morning visit to Lamayuru monastery,



Lamayuru Monastery





*Sengge Lakhan Shrine, Lamayuru*

- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamayuru\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lamayuru_Monastery),
- Following lunch, set off to drive Lamayuru-Leh (110 km/02 hrs 30 min)
- Arrival in Leh in the late afternoon
- The Zen Ladakh

After our morning spent taking in Lamayuru and its surrounds, we will retrace our steps to Leh and a return to our familiar home there, the Zen Ladakh Hotel.

Day 8, July 19 /Tuesday LEH

- in Leh – drive Leh-Hemis Monastery (45 km/01 hr)
- Attend the Hemis Festival Millennial Anniversary <http://naropa2016.org/programe.php>
- Returning to Leh later in the day, your time is at leisure
- The Zen Ladakh

Today is devoted to experiencing the festival at Hemis.

Day 9, July 20 /Wednesday  
LEH to DISKIT

- Morning departure Leh-Diskit (120 km/05 hrs)
- Traveling on one of the highest motor roads in the world, to cross



*Diskit Village*

- the Ladakh range of mountains over Khardung La Pass
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khardung\\_La](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khardung_La) 5359 m/17581 ft
- On the Northern side of the Ladakh range descend into the valley of the Shyok River, and it's Northern tributary, the Nubra
- Reach village of Diskit (3244 m/10310 ft) located a little down valley; check in at camp
- Visit Diskit Gompa Monastery (by 03:00 PM latest)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diskit\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diskit_Monastery)
- Followed by camel rides and a local dance performance
- Desert Himalaya Resort (Luxury Tents)
- <http://www.deserthimalayaresort.com/>



*View of the Nubra Valley through gates of Diskit Monastery*

We will venture out of the Indus Valley for one night, crossing the highest pass for motor vehicles in the world and descending into the beautiful valleys where the Nubra and Shyok Rivers join. Our camp is located in the village of Diskit, and offers all the essential amenities, including ensuite baths with running water (sometimes hot) and flush toilets. In July we will not be likely to need to go to quite the effort we did last September to stay warm!

The Diskit Monastery is visible clinging to the cliff above, and we will make a visit there this afternoon before the sun drops below the hills. Nearby on another peak is the modern Maitryea Buddha, a large seated image; we will get more great views of the valley below from here. Up the valley there are broad expanses of sand and dunes with herds of indigenous camels available to ride into the desert. Nearby is a village where a local group

gives dance performances, which we will be able to see if they are performing this day.

Day 10, July 21 /Thursday  
DISKIT to SUMUR, PANAMIK and LEH

- Visit and explore the Panamik-Sumur/Samsthaling Gumpa Monastery, located in the Nubra and Shyok valleys (35 km/45 min)
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubra\\_Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nubra_Valley)
- Retrun to Leh (115 km/04 hrs), retracing route over Khardungla Pass.
- arriving in Leh 3524 m/11562 ft later in the afternoon or evening you check in at your hotel with time at leisure
- The Zen Ladakh

Rise early enough this morning to take a short walk before breakfast to the nearby village. Here some of the best preserved indigenous rural structures of shrines, mani walls, and farm houses and a small

palace can be seen along with members of the local population going about their daily tasks.

We will set off across the valley to enjoy the picturesque river landscapes and to see a modern monastery with some beautiful works of art. After lunch back at camp, we will return to Leh.

Day 11, July 22 /Friday LEH

- Full day in Leh to see:
- Shankar Gumpa Monastery
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sankar\\_Monastery](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sankar_Monastery)
- Local market and back lanes of Leh town, including the imposing Leh Palace [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leh\\_Palace](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leh_Palace)
- Late afternoon you visit the Shanti Stupa
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanti\\_Stupa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shanti_Stupa)
- The Zen Ladakh



Shyok Valley





*Thikse Gompa (Monastery)*

Today and the next day, finally, is our chance to take in the local sites of Leh town and then the next day to venture out along the Indus to visit the four major monasteries overlooking the valley in addition to Hemis. There will also be a chance to shop in the local bazaars of the town.

Day 12, July 23 /Saturday  
LEH

- Full day near Leh in upper Indus Valley to see:
- Shey Palace and Monastery
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shey\\_Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shey_Monastery)
- Thiksey
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thikse\\_Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thikse_Monastery)
- Chemrey
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemrey\\_Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chemrey_Monastery)
- Matho
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matho\\_Monastery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Matho_Monastery)
- The Zen Ladakh

Day 13, July 24 /Sunday  
LEH to DELHI

- Morning check-out; transfer to Leh airport (unless participating in optional extensions)
- Flight for Delhi by Air India flight AI 446 – 0800/0900
- Transfer by Realms staff member to Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel near the airport



*Chorten at Matho Gompa*

For those departing after the core trip, we will say farewell, as you head to Delhi for a day of rest and possibly independent exploration there prior to your flights home. You can schedule these for any time from late afternoon on this day until afternoon of the following day, since your hotel room in Delhi is reserved with midday check out on July 25.

Day 14, July 25 /Monday  
DEPART DELHI

- Check out at the hotel based on time of your individually arranged flight for transfer to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, to board the flight to your onward international destination
- departure assistance and send off outside the departure terminal
- END OF SERVICE for Core Tour
- Clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the flight
- Depart Delhi for your onward international destination (departure flight details awaited)

The two optional extensions are organized to be done sequentially, however it may be possible to modify this, depending on the interest there is in each.



*Interior, Chemrey Gompa*



Watermark Camp (left) on Pangong Tso Lake (right)

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION No. 01 to Pangong Tso – July 24-27**  
**Leh – Pangong Tso – Leh – Delhi**

Pangong Tso is a large freshwater landlocked lake that spans Ladakh and China. Its deep topaz or turquoise color is a function of the clear blue sky, the depth, and the material of its rocky bed. The drive up out of the valley from Leh and back down again is surely the most exciting and challenging ever to be experienced, and the road one of the most daunting of engineering challenges. You will be lodged in beautiful white tent, one of several in a row beside the

lake. Like the other camp in the Nubra Valley, there is running (heated even) water for showers and flush toilets in each tent.

**ITINERARY**

Day 13, July 24 /Sunday  
 LEH to PANGONG TSO LAKE

- Early departure for drive Leh-Pangong Tso Lake (150 km/06 hrs), a spectacular drive to the Northeastern region of Ladakh
- [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangong\\_Tso](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pangong_Tso) (4350 m/14270 ft)

- Afternoon arrival with time available to hike along the lake's shoreline and nearby hills – time also to sit by the lakeside and see it's moods change during the course of the day and into the evening and dusk

- Camp Watermark
- <http://campsofladakh.com/watermark.html>

Day 14, July 25 /Monday  
 PANGONG TSO LAKE to LEH

- Free time in the morning to hike along the lake's shoreline or the nearby village or shepherd



Pamgong Tso Lake (watercolor by Stephen Harby)



settlements before setting off to drive back to Leh

- Drive Pangong Tso Lake to Leh (150 km/06 hrs)
- The Zen Ladakh

Day 15, July 26 /Tuesday  
LEH to DELHI

- Morning check-out; transfer to Leh airport (unless participating in the optional extensions to Kashmir)
- Flight for Delhi by Air India flight AI 446 – 0800/0900
- Transfer by Realms staff member to Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel near the airport

Day 16, July 27 /Wednesday  
DEPART DELHI

- Check out at the hotel based on time of your individually arranged flight for transfer to the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, to board the flight to your onward international destination
- departure assistance and send off outside the departure terminal
- END OF SERVICE for Extension No. 1



*Shalimar Bagh*

- Clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the flight
- Depart Delhi for your onward international destination (departure flight details awaited)

**OPTIONAL EXTENSION No. 02 to Srinagar and the Kashmir Valley – 26 to 30 July**  
**Leh – Srinagar – Delhi**

The Kashmir Valley, while quite different from Ladakh in many important ways,

is considered one of the most beautiful places on earth for its natural setting and its seventeenth century Mughal gardens. It is a place to visit of major importance, and while until not so long ago considered off limits due to Hindu-Muslim tensions, our time there last September, even during a major festival with tensions predicted to rise, was completely peaceful and serene. It would seem a pity to miss this spectacular place when so close and when getting there is so easy.

Coming from sparsely populated Ladakh, Srinagar and its valley will seem teeming (with people, cars and animals) and overpopulated like much of the rest of India. Another striking contrast is the presence of so much water, both serenely at rest in Lake Dal and in some of the mirror like pools of the gardens as well as flowing—rushing down mountain streams and spurting up in fanlike plumes through the many jets in the gardens. This presence of natural moisture also results in the verdant quality of the landscape with green fields and lawns and large mature trees. The other major



*View across the Vale of Kashmir and Lake Dal at sunset*

contrast is of a cultural and religious nature with the reversal in majority religious practice from the Buddhism of most of Ladakh (with the exception of Kargil) to the practice of Islam, coming from the traditions of the Mughals who ruled India from the sixteenth century and established the vale of Kashmir as their place of respite from the broiling heat of summer in the Ganges plain.

## ITINERARY

Day 15, July 26 /Tuesday  
LEH to SRINAGAR

- Morning check-out; transfer to Leh airport to board the flight for Srinagar
- Fly Leh/Srinagar by Jet Airways Konnect flight 9W 2369 – 0740/1120 (via Delhi) – other more efficient flights will be available closer to tour dates

- Arrive in Srinagar to be met by our local representative and transferred to the hotel
- The remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities
- The Lalit Grand Palace
- <http://www.thelalit.com/the-lalit-grand-palace-srinagar/?gclid=Cj0KEQiAqemzBRDh2vGKmMnqoegBEiQAqJPuyFEyJZ8q5F0nCvW-19IPM8wiHahPqkYGwFJuGO53T5waAl268P8HAQ>

Following our exploratory visit last September during which we considered a variety of hotel options from houseboats, to the hilltop modern Taj hotel, to the grand former Maharaja's palace, we chose the latter for its comfort, grandeur and location.

Day 16, July 27 /Wednesday  
SRINAGAR

- Visits:
- Cruising Dal Lake in native shikara boat

- Nishat Bagh (1636)
- Shalimar Bagh (1619)
- Chesma Shai Bagh
- The Lalit Grand Palace

Cruise through Dal Lake – drift along through a network of canals to the enchanted floating gardens of Nishat and Shalimar, the notable Mughal gardens, built respectively by Asaf Khan in 1636, and Jehangir for his beloved Nur Jahan in 1619. In the evening there will be time to take a shikara boat cruise on Dal lake returning to your hotel later for free time and dinner.

The Mughal gardens of course take their place among the key monuments of garden design, in the league of Versailles, Villa d'Este, Stourhead, or Katsura to name a few. Of course these places all share the narrative of water in all its states and forms from wild streams to tamed reflecting pools. The gardens symbolize the water flowing from mountain



*Nishat Bagh*



sources down through brooks into the lake at their base. They are sloped with a series of stepped flat terraces descending from one end to the other and are organized axially with a central water channel providing the spine along which are flat mirror-like pools, cascades, and covered open pavilions for lounging. The atmosphere is cooled by a fine mist, which emanates from hundreds of jets shooting plumes of water up into the air. There is no experience anywhere else like it!

Day 17, July 28 /Thursday  
SRINAGAR

- Visits:
- Very early morning lake cruise for market
- Old City
- Shah Hamdan Mosque
- Jami Masjid
- Tomb of Badshaw
- Riverside houses
- The Lalit Grand Palace

Early morning visit to floating vegetable market on Dal Lake by shikhara boat.

This is a colorful and unique market where the local people purchase vegetables from the nearby farmers. In some deals they also use the barter system in buying and selling their produce. Visit the 'old city' of Srinagar, and the Shah Hamdan Mosque, and enjoy the walk through the narrow bazaars of the city.

Day 18, July 29 /Friday  
SRINAGAR to DELHI

- Morning check-out; transfer to Srinagar airport to board the flight for Delhi
- Fly Srinagar/Delhi by Indigo Air flight 6E 554 – 1030/1210 OR GoAir flight G8 190 – 1320/1450
- Transfer by Realms staff member to Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel near the airport

Day 19, July 30 /Saturday  
DEPART DELHI

- Check out at the hotel based on time of your individually arranged flight for transfer to the Indira Gandhi International Airport,

Delhi, to board the flight to your onward international destination

- departure assistance and send off outside the departure terminal
- END OF SERVICE for Extension No. 2
- Clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the flight
- depart Delhi for your onward international destination (departure flight details awaited)



*Sikaras on Lake Dal at sunset*

## REGISTRATION FORM

The Hidden Valleys of The Upper Indus, **July 12-25 (Core Trip) July 24-30, 2016 (Optional Extensions)** (arrival/departure at Delhi)

☐ Yes, I would like to attend this journey! Core Tour price is estimated at \$6,800 per person double occupancy, \$7,900 single occupancy based on a group of at least six participants.

☐ And Yes, I would like to also attend the Optional Extension # 1 to Pangong Tso estimated at an additional \$510 per person double occupancy, \$650 single occupancy, based on a group of two or more participants.

☐ And, furthermore, Yes, I would like to also attend the Optional Extension # 2 to Kashmir estimated at an additional \$1,150 per person double occupancy, \$1,780 single occupancy, based on a group of two or more participants.

*Costs have fluctuated unpredictably this past year due to changes in fuel costs and exchange rates. The above costs are based on market conditions as of March, 2016. They are subject to increase should market conditions change.*

To register please complete this registration form and send it with a deposit of \$2,000 (per person) by check to Stephen Harby, 718 Cedar Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405-3810. Only written registrations, including appropriate payment will be accepted. You may complete, scan and e-mail a copy of this registration form, and request payment by credit card, and an invoice for payment through PayPal will be issued.

**Final payment of balance will be due by May 15, 2016.**

Also, please send a photocopy of the picture page of your passport.

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Name

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Name

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Address

City

State

Zip/Postal Code

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Home phone

Alt. phone

Email

Please select one of the following:

☐ double occupancy with 2 beds

☐ double occupancy with one bed

☐ single occupancy

☐ I would like to have assistance booking my flights

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS

### WHAT IS INCLUDED

Hotels as indicated on the itinerary based on double occupancy. A limited number of single rooms are available at an additional supplement. We reserve the right to substitute other hotels of a similar quality.

All meals are included from Start to End of Service as noted in Itinerary.

Admission to all sites as described in the itinerary.

The handling of no more than two medium size suitcases per person

Private Car transportation throughout.

Use of personal headset to facilitate hearing of on-site lectures and commentary.

### WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED

International air transportation to Delhi. Incidental expenses such as for telephone calls, fax communications, a la carte orders or items not on the set menus, alcoholic drinks, laundry, and any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



## TRIP INSURANCE

In the event participants cancel their trip, all non-refundable payments will be forfeited. Trip cancellation insurance is recommended for this purpose.

## REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay, along with an Indian Tourist Visa.

## TOUR COSTS

Costs have been calculated on the basis of charges and exchange rates as of March, 2016. Should these change, Stephen Harby reserves the right to make appropriate adjustments to the tour cost.

## ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY

Stephen Harby reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. Itinerary changes made by local travel providers are beyond the control of Stephen Harby and should such changes be made the participant will be bound accordingly.

## ITINERARY DEVIATIONS

Stephen Harby assumes no liability or responsibility for any participant deviating from the group tour. Participants arriving and departing independently are responsible for their own transfers.

## CANCELLATION

Should cancellation occur prior to 90 days before departure, full refund will be granted less a \$200 service charge; within the following days prior to departure, the specified percentage of tour costs is non-refundable: 60-89 days - 20%; 45-59 days - 30%; 30-44 days - 50%; 29 days or fewer - 100 % Forfeiture of entire tour cost). Cancellations must be submitted in writing; trip cancellation insurance is strongly recommended. There will be no refund for any tour accommodation, service, or feature not taken, or if participant cancels for any reason while tour is in progress. Any additional costs due to leaving the tour are the responsibility of the departing passenger. In these times of uncertainty in the international realm, we also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable by Stephen Harby, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. Many destinations may pose a normal risk of political instability, civil unrest, etc. It is assumed each participant has reviewed same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

## RESPONSIBILITY

Stephen Harby and /or agents assume no responsibility or liability in connection with the service of any train, carriage, aircraft, motor coach, or other conveyance or hotel which may be used wholly or in part, in the performance of the tour. Neither will they be responsible or liable for any injury, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned by reason of any defect in any vehicle or through neglect or default of any company or person engaged in conveying or accommodating the passengers; nor for any delays, injuries, damages or losses resulting directly or indirectly from any acts of God, acts of governments, de jure or de facto, wars whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, terrorist activities, riots, thefts, pilferage, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, or from any causes beyond the control of Stephen Harby, and /or agents. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well being of the passengers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Additional expenses, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The sole responsibility of the airline used is limited to that set out in the passenger contract evidenced by the tickets. This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Stephen Harby. These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by the State of California.

Your signature below confirms that you have read the Terms and Conditions and accompanying itinerary and agree to abide by its contents.

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Date

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Signature

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