

ROAD SAFARI: MANALI-LEH-SRINAGAR



TRIP DATE:

AUG 8 – 22, 2015

DURATION:

14 NIGHTS/15 DAYS

PLACES COVERED:

MANALI – JISPA – SERCHU – TSOKAR – TSMORIRI – LEH – KHANDUNGLA - NUBRA VALLEY AT TURTUK – NUBRA VALLEY AT DESKIT – WARI LA – PANGONG TSO – ULLEYTOKPO – LAMAYURU – CHITKAN - DHA - HANU- KARGIL VIA BATALIK – SONAMARG – SRINAGAR

This stunning journey begins in Manali and continues for nearly 500 km through the high Himalayas & over majestic passes to reach Leh. The suggested route ensures gradual acclimatization, so that you reach Leh in fine fettle to enjoy exploring the rest of Ladakh and seeing not only must-see places like the ethereal turquoise hued Pangong Tso & the surprisingly verdant valley of Nubra, but also lesser explored gems like Turtuk. The visual delights would be aptly complemented by some firsthand experiences of the local lifestyle & traditions like a Ladakhi meal in an ancient village home at Stok.

Trip date:	Aug 8 - 22, 2015
Start from:	Manali
End at:	Srinagar
Meals:	Dinner on day 1 to Breakfast on day 15
Total distance covered:	2000 kms
Maximum altitude reached:	5602M (Khardungla La)
Permits required:	Not for Indian Nationals, for Foreign Nationals - Yes

Itinerary

Day 01:

Arrive Manali (2050 M)

Arrive Manali and check into your hotel rooms.

Option to reach Manali:

- Board a morning flight from Delhi to reach Kulu Airport around 8AM. Drive 1 ½ hrs to reach Manali
- Board the morning Kalka Shatabdi to Chandigarh. Reach Chandigarh around noon. Drive 320 km / 9 hrs to reach Manali at night.
- On the previous evening board a Volvo Coach from Delhi & reach Manali in the morning.
- On the previous night board Himachal Express travel overnight by 2/3 AC to reach Kiratpur Sahib at 0600 hrs. Drive 230 km / 7 hrs to reach Manali in the afternoon.



Day 02: Manali - Jispa (3150 M / 10300 ft) 140 km / 7 hrs

Leave after an early breakfast, say by 0600 hrs (to avoid traffic jams at Rohtang) drive across Rohtang La and see the landscape changes drastically from lush greenery of Manali to barren landscape of Lahaul and Ladakh. **Have lunch at any of the Dhabas at Tandi.** Reach Jispa late in the afternoon. Check into Safari Tents at a campsite, right besides the gushing Bhaga River. **Photo ops:** around Rohtang; Tandi- before Keylong where the Chandra & Bhaga Rivers meet to form the Chandrabhaga or Chenab that flows into Pakistan; around the lodge at Jispa; high altitude wildlife that you may encounter from this day onwards- Bharal, Ibex, Yaks, Marmots...



Day 03: Jispa - Serchu (4250 M / 13900 ft) 75 Km / 3- 4 hr

After morning Tea/Coffee, go for a short acclimatization walk. Later, after a leisurely breakfast, around 1000 hrs you start the drive to Serchu. We cross over Baralacha La (4880 M / 16000 ft) and then descend to reach Bharatpur. Stop here for your packed lunch at a wayside tented amenity. Later drive to reach Serchu

around 3 pm. Check in to your safari tents at a campsite. Rest of the day at leisure. Photo Ops: Suraj Tal just before Baralacha, the chocolate colored rocks at Bharatpur. **Please note:** Serchu is a beautiful place but quite inhospitable in terms of the weather, apart from the high altitude, this place gets very windy by late afternoon. You are advised to spend most of your time indoors in your tent / dining tent and limit the time spent outdoors.



Day 04: Serchu - Tso Moriri (4520 M / 14850 ft) 235 km / 9 hrs

Leave after breakfast by about 0730 hrs, cross over Naki La & Lachalung La (5060 M / 16600 ft); turn off the main highway at Mangzul and drive to Tso Kar- where you could have your packed lunch and also try & spot the rare Black Necked Cranes. Drive on over the 5030 M / 16,500 ft high Polo Kongka La. To reach Tso Moriri around 5 PM. Check in to tents/rooms at a resort overlooking the lake at Karzok. Enjoy sunset views. **Photo Ops:** the Gata Loops (a series of 21 hair-rising switchbacks) just after crossing the Serchu Police Check Point, at the passes, the Moray Plains after Pang, at Tso Kar & Tso Moriri.



Day 05: In Tso Moriri

After morning Tea/Coffee go on an hour's hike up 7 beyond Korzok to a nomadic settlement of the Changspa - interestingly they live in yak skin tents called Rebo and are constantly on the move with their flocks of Yak, Pashmina goats. Get a peek into their unique and timeless lifestyle. Walk back to the resort for breakfast. Rest of the day at leisure for walks in the wetlands around the lake that teem with exotic Himalayan avian & mammalian fauna.



Day 06: Tso Moriri - Leh (3505 M / 11500 ft) 226 km / 7 - 8 hr

After morning Tea/Coffee go on an hour's hike up 7 beyond Korzok to a nomadic settlement of the Changspa - interestingly they live in yak skin tents called Rebo and are constantly on the move with their flocks of Yak, Pashmina goats. Get a peek into their unique and timeless lifestyle. Walk back to the resort for breakfast. Check out after breakfast and start on a picturesque drive over Mahe Bridge, all along the Indus. Just after the bridge stop at Chumthang. Have your packed lunch here and also visit the hot springs here where you can have the unique experience of dipping one hand in naturally hot water, while the other is in naturally cold water. Reach Leh by early evening. Check into your hotel rooms. Freshen up; relax in the lawns enjoying unobstructed sunset time views of the hills beyond Shanti Stupa. **Photo Ops:** sunrise at the lake, at the Changspa settlement.

Day 07: In Leh

Post breakfast, visit Shey Monastery & Palace and then the famous Thiksey & Hemis Gompa. Drive back and before Leh take a detour over the Indus to reach Stok Village. Enjoy a traditional Ladakhi meal in a village home later see Stok Palace & Museum. Enjoy the rest of the day in Leh seeing the Palace & Bazaar. Photo ops: the gompas & the monuments, the Stok & Rimo range of mountains from various vantage points, at Stok Village, in Leh Palace and at the Bazaar.



Day 08: Leh - Nubra Valley at Turtuk (avg. alt. of Nubra Valley is 3048 M) 225 km / 8 hrs)

We leave after breakfast on a stunning drive over the mighty Khardung La (5602 M) into the verdant Nubra Valley. We reach the base of the valley at Khalsar. Here the road forks & the broad valley get divided into two distinct parts by the Shyok & Nubra Rivers. The RHS branch goes all the way to Siachen Glacier. We move on the other branch, via Deskit & Hunder, past the Thoise Airfield. The wide open Nubra Valley starts

closing in dramatically with the rocky mountain face getting darker & darker, finally bursting out into the verdant & vibrant Turtuk area at the north western end of the valley. Upon reaching check into safari tents at a verdant campsite amidst fields & orchards, sprinkled with clumps of wild & vibrantly colored blooms. Relax for a while, have your evening cuppa, and go for a short stroll to enjoy the sunset.



Day 09: In Turtuk short walks / hikes & traditional Balti meal

Post breakfast spend 2- 3 hrs walking in & around the villages, interacting with the warm & hospitable locals sporting European looks. The cherubic kids are especially adorable. We get back to the campsite & enjoy a traditional Balti meal - so tasteful, nutritious and salubrious a diet that even 80- 90 yr olds in the villages are active & full of life. Later you go for a hike & explore the fantastic, totally pristine natural beauty all around.



Day 10: Turtuk - Nubra Valley at Deskit (3048 M) 95 km / 3 hrs

Post leisurely breakfast, leave Turtuk for Deskit. On the drive back stop at the dunes of Hunder, here those interested can enjoy a ride on the Double Humped Camels. Reach Deskit by late afternoon. After freshening up, relax for a while. Post your evening cuppa, go to a vantage point with a huge outdoor statue of the Sakhyamuni Buddha near Deskit Gompa to enjoy great sunset views. Stay overnight in a hotel at Deskit.



Day 11: Deskit - Wari La - Pangong Tso (4260 M / 14000 ft) 230 km / 9 hrs)

Leave post an early breakfast, on an uncommon drive over a very offbeat route that takes you over a little known pass - Wari La, into the Sakti Valley. A short while later, stop for a quick look into the cave gompa of Chemrey, and move on to meet the route from Leh, a short distance before the imposing Chang-La (5,475 M / 17950 ft). Go over the pass and carry on via Tangse and finally reach the grand Pangong Lake by evening, in time to catch the sunset views. Stay overnight in tents at a campsite bang on the lake shore.



Day 12: Pangong Tso - Ulleytokpo 10000 ft/ 210 kms/ 7-8 hrs

Enjoy your early morning cuppa & a spectacular sunrise by the lake shore. Leave after breakfast. Drive past Leh on a picturesque 70 km, all along the Indus on the Srinagar highway - a great stretch of tarmac on which 2 hrs is par for the distance mentioned, of course you'd also be stopping to check out the Hall of Fame - Army Museum (15 - 30 mins depending on your level of interest, Magnetic Point - where vehicles seemingly defy gravity (about 10 -15 mins) and Nimmu - confluence point of Indus & Zaskar (about 10 -15 mins). Reach the picturesque & undisturbed Sham Valley by late afternoon and check in to you cottage. Evening at leisure in the serene & picturesque Ulleytokpo village.

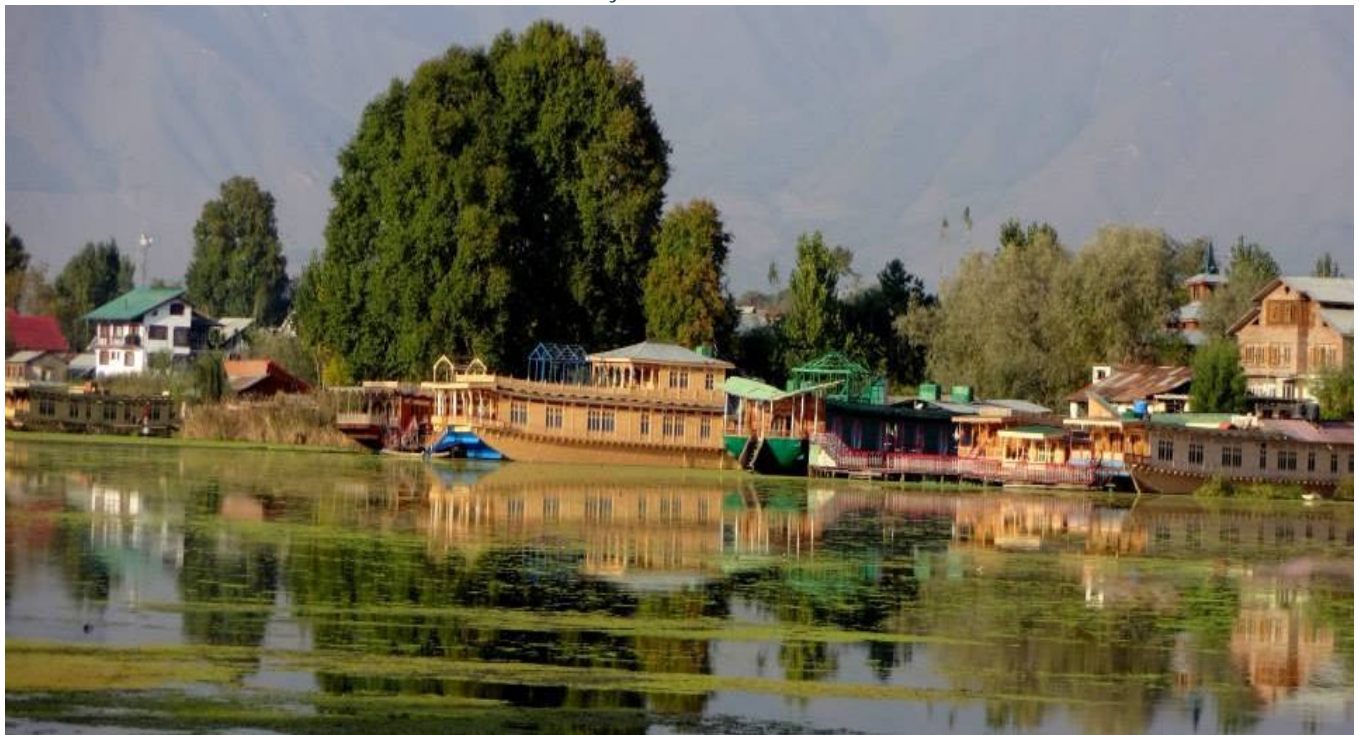


Day 13: **Ulleytokpo - Lamayuru 70 km / 2 hrs - Chitkan 55 km / 3 hrs - Dha 25 km / 1 hr - Batalik 30 km / 1 ½ hrs - Kargil (2850 M / 9350 ft) 50 km / 2 hrs (total 215 km / 9- 10 hrs)**

Leave after a slightly early breakfast - say by 0730 hrs and drive towards Srinagar. Reach Lamayuru, enjoy the moonscape terrain and have tea at a quaint cafeteria beside the gumpa. Carry on over Fotu La and short of Namika we turn north on a very off-beat road that takes us via Sanjak Valley & Chitkan to meet the Batalik Hwy near Dha Village. The 80 km drive from here to Kargil is via the serene & undisturbed Batalik Sector: we pass the villages of Darchik & Batalik, go over Hamboting La and reach Kargil by evening. Check into your rooms at the hotel.

Day 14: **Kargil - Srinagar (3140 M) 204 km / 7 hrs**

Check out after a breakfast and leave on a drive from Kargil into the verdant landscapes of the Srinagar area. Drive via Drass, the second coldest place on the planet. You may stop to see some landscape features made famous courtesy the Kargil conflict with Pakistan in 1999- Tolo- ling, Mushkoo Valley & Tiger Hill. Cross over the mighty Zoji La and soon you enter the verdant picture perfect meadow covered vales of the Sonamarg region. You could stop here for a while to explore the area - hire ponies and ride up to Thajawas Glacier and see some fantastic views AND perhaps snow too, and also have packed lunch. Later resume the drive and reach the peaceful & serene Nageen Lake in Srinagar by late afternoon/early evening. Check into a room in a houseboat on the lake. Freshen up and relax. Around 1730 hrs go for a 2-3 hr relaxing Shikara Ride on the lake: sunset should be really nice.



Day 15: **Srinagar - Fly Out**

Leave after breakfast to be dropped at Srinagar Airport in time to board flight.

Trip Cost

Cost per person on twin share: **INR 79000/-**

Single room supplement: **INR 28300/-**

Cost includes:

- Accommodation for 14 nights in a room at a hotel/camp/resort.
- All meals from Dinner in Manali on Day 01 to breakfast in Srinagar on Day 15, includes 01 traditional lunch in Stok, 01 Balti Meal in Turtuk & 01 celebratory dinner in Leh.
- 02 bottle of mineral water during the road travel OR sightseeing tour
- Road transportation, including sightseeing in a dedicated & exclusive Innova / Xylo
- Monument entries
- 2 hrs Shikara ride in lake in Srinagar
- Green Tax Levied by the Ladakh Tourism Council
- All applicable taxes.

Cost does not include:

1. Any air fares/Volvo fare
2. Beverages at any place of stay except those served on buffet table.
3. Bactrian Camel Ride in Hunder.
4. Any En route/ personal expenses.
5. Any expenses incurred due to factors beyond our control like a natural calamity/ man-made calamity.
6. Expenses on account of factors beyond our control like flight / train cancellations, landslides..

TOUR NOTES

Accommodation:

Manali:	Deluxe Room at Negis Mayflower/similar
Jispa:	Swiss Cottage Tent at Padma Lodge and Campsite/similar
Serchu:	Super Deluxe Tent at Goldrop Camp Serchu/similar
Tsomoriri:	Deluxe Safari Tent at Tsomoriri Camps & Resorts/similar
Leh:	Deluxe Room at Hotel Royal Ladakh / similar
Turtuk:	Deluxe Safari Tents at Turtuk Holiday Camp/similar
Deskit:	Deluxe Room at Hotel Stendel/similar
Pangong Tso:	Deluxe Safari Tent at Pangong Delight Camp/similar
Ulleytokpo:	Standard Hut at Ule Eco Resort/similar
Kargil:	Deluxe Room at Zojila Residency/similar
Srinagar:	Premium room in a Houseboat

Food & Hygiene:

Food is a mix range of vegetarian/ non- vegetarian with a choice of Indian, Continental & Chinese food. All meals are buffet meals. There is no room service at most places.

Fitness:

You should be in good health if you wish to hike. Please take your doctor's advise if you are a heart patient, asthmatic, pregnant or suffer from epilepsy. Please note that you will have to climb down about 90 odd steps to reach the retreat.

Tippling & Porterage:

We charge a service charge of 5% for the rooms. Tippling/ service charge is already taken care of in this trip. Our staff will carry your bags down to retreat and back up to car on day of departure.

Photography:

The retreat is at 7500 ft. and we will travel up to about 11000 ft. If you plan to take photos then please keep sunlight according to this altitude in mind. Please ask your guide before taking photographs inside any temple and if you plan to photograph any locals, please take their permission before doing so. You could charge your camera at the retreat.

Altitude Sickness:

Acclimatization to altitude above 3000 meters takes time. The body undergoes a number of physiological changes some of which are immediate like increased pulse rate & respiratory rate. These changes plus the effect of intense sunlight, walking & dehydration may cause loss of appetite, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, sleeplessness, mild shortness of breath etc.

The best treatment is prevention! Avoid rapid ascents; take acclimatization symptoms seriously using rest days/Diamox tablets. If symptoms are severe, DESCEND IMMEDIATELY.

Medicine:

We keep a first aid kit. It would be anyway a good idea to bring your own basic first aid kit with medicines for motion sickness, nausea, some painkillers etc. Please carry sun block and chapstick. Keep your face, feet and hands well protected. Request your doctor to prescribe effective medicines to cover the following: Fever, Body and joint pains, Cold, Cough, Sore throat, Headache, Acidity, Stomach cramps, Vomiting, Dysentery, Loose motion, Constipation, Diarrhea, Swelling, Muscle Pulls & Sore eyes. We do carry a first aid box though. In case you have any illness of any sort, please do inform us in advance so that we can take necessary precaution. You could also carry vaseline, Band Aid, Cotton, Badge roll, Dettol, Mouth freshener, Nose inhaler, Cough drops, Lip balm, Vicks, Elastoplasts, Adhesive tape, 4" crepe bandage.

List of things to bring:

1. Duffel bag (avoid suitcases if you can)
2. A small day backpack to carry water, food, jacket and camera

3. Hiking shoes- you need good traction in shoes and these should be at least water resistant. Forclaz 500 is a good. Your shoes should be well broken-in and not new. Otherwise, your regular sports shoes will also do.
4. 2 pairs of lowers.
5. 4-5 full sleeves T-shirts
6. A fleece jacket
7. A full sleeve thick jacket
8. Underclothing
9. 1 pairs of thermal inners
10. 2-3 pairs of sports socks. 2 pairs of woolen socks
11. Woolen cap/ balaclava that covers the ears
12. Gloves
13. Sun glasses
14. Lip balm
15. Cold cream and sun screen lotion (SPF 40+).
16. Water bottle.
17. Flash light
18. Personal toilet kit.
19. Personal medicine
20. Small repair kit consisting of safety pins, needle, thread and string.
21. Camera, memory-cards, batteries etc (carry enough spare batteries. Electricity is not available on the slopes.

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO USE A LOT OF WOOLENS LISTED ABOVE BUT, WEATHER IN THE HIMALAYAS CAN BE RATHER UNPREDICTABLE HENCE, BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY.

BOOKING, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

CONFIRMATION:

100% advance to confirm booking.

CANCELLATION CHARGE:

Minimum : 20% of full amount.
 Less than two weeks of arrival date (or tour start date) : 50% of full amount.
 Less than one week of arrival date (or tour start date) : Full amount.

PAYMENT MODES & METHODS:

1. **ONLINE TRANSFER** into our **current** accounts in **Axis Bank or Standard Chartered Bank**
2. **DIRECT CHEQUE DEPOSIT** into our **current** accounts in **Axis Bank or Standard Chartered Bank** at any branch/ ATM in India
3. **DIRECT CASH DEPOSIT**, into our **current** account at any branch in India
4. By **CASH** or **CHEQUE** handed over **personally (or by your rep) AT OUR DELHI OFFICE**
5. **OUTSTATION CHEQUE** payments are **acceptable only if** they are delivered (or we get a scan of the bank deposit slip) **at least 4 working days** before the payment due date.
6. **OUTSTATION PAYMENTS** by a **Payable at Delhi** DD sent to our **Delhi Office** by **courier/post**.

IMP: CHEQUE / DD to be made in favour of "Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd."

AXIS BANK:

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : **015010200017806**
- Branch address : K-12; Green Park Main; New Delhi - 110016
- Branch Code : UTIB0000015 (for direct cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code : UTIB0000015 (**for online transfer**)

STANDARD CHARTERED BANK:

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : **525-0-509-319-3**
- Branch address : 10 Sansad Marg; New Delhi - 110 001
- Branch Code : SCBL0036027 (for direct cash/ cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code: : SCBL0036027 (**for online transfer**)

DETAILS BY CURRENCY FOR O.T.T. /WIRE TRANSFER & DIRECT DEPOSIT:

In Favour of: "Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd. "

1) USD

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank
 Branch: 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001
 IFSC Code: SCBL0036027
 Swift code: SCB-LINBBDEL
 EEFC A/c No. : 525-0-509421-1

2) GBP

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank
 Branch: 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001
 IFSC Code: SCBL0036027
 Swift code: SCB-LINBBDEL

EEFC A/c No. : 525-0-509430-0
IBAN NO: GB42SCBL60910451997017

3) EURO

Bank: Standard Chartered Bank
Branch: 10, Sansad Marg, New Delhi- 110001
IFSC Code: SCBL0036027
Swift code: SCB-LINBBDEL
EEFC A/c No. : 525-0-509426-2
IBAN NO: GB41SCBL60910457083521

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