

LEH HEMIS FESTIVAL SAFARI - INDIA

- DURATION – 14 days
- DEPARTURE – 22 June
- PRICE pp share twin –
2pax/NZD3435 3>4pax/NZD3320; 5>6pax/NZD3200
prices current at the time of publication (09/02/2009)
- INCLUDES – Quality tourist class guesthouses/hotels on twin share, Fully serviced camp at Sarchu, all meals (breakfast only in Delhi and Amritsar), all entries, all flights/ road transport, professional English speaking escort.
- ROUTE – **Delhi, Amritsar, Dharamsala, Manali, Sarchu, Leh**

Experience the magic of the Tibetan Hemis festival at Leh in the mountain valleys of Ladakh. Visit McLeod Ganj at Dharamsala, home in exile to his Holiness the Dalai Lama and make the journey to picturesque Manali and beyond across the mountains to the ancient Buddhist kingdom of Leh.

Day 01 : Arrive Delhi - Met and transfer to Hotel.

Day 02 : Delhi to Amritsar train.

Transfer to railway station for train to Amritsar. Arrive early afternoon, met and transferred to hotel. Evening sunset visit to the Golden Temple.

Day 03 : Amritsar to Dharamsala (1750 m).

Visit Jaliawala bagh before departing for 5-6 hr drive to Dharamsala.

Day 04 : Dharamsala

Visit the Dalai Lama's Palace and Tsuglakhang Buddhist Temple. Also visit the Tibetan Medical Institute and Museum and Tibetan Library.

Day 05 : Dharamsala to Manali (2050 m).

Depart for 8 hour drive to Manali. Evening free to visit the local bazaar and Mall.

Day 06 : Manali

Visit Hadimba Devi temple, Vashist hot water spring and Nicholas Reorich museum.

Day 07 : Manali to Sarchu (4253 m).

Drive to Sarchu via Keylong (3349 m) approx 7/8 hrs over Rohtang la pass (3980 m) and Baralacha la pass (4892 m). Transfer to Fixed camp for overnight.

Day 08 : Sarchu to Leh (3505 m)

Today's drive to Leh takes us over the Lachlangu la pass (5065 m) and Tanhlang la pass (5360 m) (8hr drive)

Day 09 : Leh

Full day tour including a visit to the Sankar Gompa monastery with excellent views over Leh and of the imposing 6100m (20,100 ft) high peak of Stok Kangri. We will also visit the 17th century Leh Palace.

Day 10 : Leh-Hemis Festival.

Early this morning we head east along the Indus Valley toward Hemis. The 10th day (Tses - Chu) of the Tibetan lunar month is celebrated as the birthday of Padmasambhava (Guru Rimpoche), the founder of Tibetan Buddhism. The Hemis Monastery celebrates this event with a two day festival which showcases the cultural heritage of the region. We will also visit Thiskey and Shey monasteries.

Day 11 : Leh/Lamayuru/Alchi.

This morning drive to Lamayuru (3440 M), one of the most important and sacred monasteries in Ladakh, (125km/04hrs from Leh) Continue to Alchi (2hrs)

Day 12 : Alchi/Ridzong/Likir/Leh.

Visit Ri-dzong, situated a few kilometres up a side-valley from Uley-Tokpo, after visiting the monastery and nearby nunnery, return to Alchi. Visit Alchi monastery which houses many gigantic clay statues of the Buddha and 1000 year old wall paintings. Visit Likir monastery en route to Leh (70 kms/02 hrs)

Day 13 : Leh/Delhi.

Transfer to airport for spectacular flight over the Himalaya to Delhi. Free time this afternoon.

Day 14 : Delhi, sightseeing.

Morning half day tour of New Delhi tour includes a visit to the towering Qutab Minar, the pre-Mughal monuments and the tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun, India Gate and the President's Palace. Afternoon visit to Old Delhi for a half day visit to the Red Fort, the Jama Masjid Mosque and Raj Ghat. Evening transfer to airport for flight.