Day 01: Leh Airport – Leh Hotel

Arrival transfer from Leh airport to hotel in **Leh (3500 mtr),** is in the Indus river valley, at a crossroads of the old trading routes from <u>Xinjiang</u>, <u>Tibet</u> and <u>Kashmir</u>. There is a pass that links it directly to <u>Khotan</u>. The city's importance as a trading town slowed down with the partition of <u>British India</u>, and ended with the closure of the border in 1962 during the Sino-Indian war. Since opening to tourists in 1974, it has become a bustling tourist town, with many Kashmiri traders. Since 2000, Indian tourists have been visiting Ladakh, with a dramatic increase in 2010 after the *Three Idiots*. After check in Leh free for your own to yourself acclimatization. <u>Overnight stay at Leh.</u>

Day 02: In Leh — Sham Valley Visit

After breakfast drive to visit sham valley including:

Magnetic Hill: Located about 30 kms away from Leh as you head towards Kargil along the Manali highway, the Magnetic Hill continues to baffle tourists till today. So called because of the strong magnetic force that pulls cars up even when the ignition is turned off, a car drive up the magnetic hill is well worth the gravity defying experience.

Gurudwara Pathar Sahib: As you drive back towards Leh after visiting the Magnetic Hill stop by at Gurudwara Pathar Sahib. Built in 1517 to commemorate the visit of Guru Nanak to Leh. A sense of peace pervades this Gurudwara which also offers a bewitching view of the majestic mountains that border it from all sides.

Sangam, Indus and Zanskar River Confluence: What really makes the Confluence of Indus (right) and Zaskar (left) a truly wonderful sight is the color of the water as well as the flow it changes all year long you will notice that the color of Indus is light green while Zanskar is crystal blue. In the second picture, you will see how the color of the Indus has become dark green whereas Zanskar has turned completely muddy.

Shanti Stupa: Climb down the hill to reach the main bazaar where you can indulge your taste buds in some local eateries. Leave the bazaar behind to turn off towards Changspa to reach Shanti Stupa. Built to commemorate 2500 years of Buddhism by "The Japanese for World Peace" organization, Shanti Stupa is a structure dedicated to promoting world peace. An all-white structure with domes, Shanti Stupa offers a breathtaking imagery silhouetted against the rising and setting sun. That apart doesn't forget to capture the breathtaking view of the surrounding mountains and valleys from all sides of Shanti Stupa. Overnight stay at Leh.

Day 03: Leh – Khardung La (5400m) – Nubra Valley (160 Kms / Approx 6-7 hrs drive)

Today we proceed to Nubra valley is a part of the old Silk Road to Central Asia. The valley connected eastern Tibet with Turkistan through the <u>Karakoram Pass</u>. Nubra valley is known for its centuries-old <u>gompas</u>, hot sulphur springs, high-altitude sand dunes, double-humped Bactrian camels and a unique amalgamation of mountains, rivers and deserts. The Karakoram mountain range and the valley combine to create a fantastic desert landscape and fertile fields. Nubra is known as *Ldumra*, meaning "valley of flowers" in Ladakhi language. Nubra is also the gateway to Siachen glacier, the <u>highest and coldest battlefield in the world</u> at an altitude of almost 6,000 metres where the temperature falls below minus 60 degrees in the winter. Tourists need an Inner Line Permit (ILP) to enter Nubra valley. <u>Overnight stay at Nubra Valley</u>.

Day 04: In Nubra Valley – Shyok – Pangong Lake (160 Kms / Approx 6-7 hrs drive)

Morning after early breakfast drive from Nubra Valley to Pangong via Shayok.

Pangong Lake, one of the most famous lakes in Leh Ladakh, derives its name from the Tibetan word, "Pangong Tso", which means "high grassland lake". You could spend some time here in contemplation here, and still not have enough of its beauty. Pangong Lake is also known to change colors, appearing blue, green and red at different times. Overnight stay at Pangong Lake.

Day 05: Pangong Lake – Chang La Pass (5300m) – Leh (160 Kms / Approx 6-7 hrs drive)

Morning after early breakfast drive from Pangong Lake to Leh. Upon arrival at Leh check in hotel & later free for your own to explore surrounding local market without any transportation. Overnight stay at Leh.

Day 06: Leh Hotel – Leh Airport Drop

Morning after breakfast departure transfer from Leh hotel to Leh airport drop for your onward journey