# CONNECT WITH HMALAYA

A CWH HOMESTAY BASED TREK TO EXPLORE THE VILLAGES AND MONASTERIES OF THE 'OTHER' LADAKH. 6 – 14 JULY 2018.

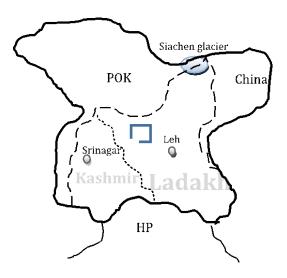


# LADAKH – THE OTHER SIDE

Beyond the coffee shops of Leh, the camel rides of Nubra valley, the hordes of bikers, there is a Ladakh, largely unexplored, closer to reality and in no ways lesser than the touristy side. An easy trek through the Sham valley lets us explore the passes, gorges, monasteries and remote villages, aspects that have defined Ladakh over the ages. And we do this while staying in each village with the local people, sharing their food and stories. This is the best way to make your trip and contribution meaningful.

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Beautiful road journey from
  Srinagar to Leh
  Short, easy walks in Sham valley,
  away from the crowds
  Authentic homestays and local
- cuisine of Ladakh
- Trek with an all-women guides grp







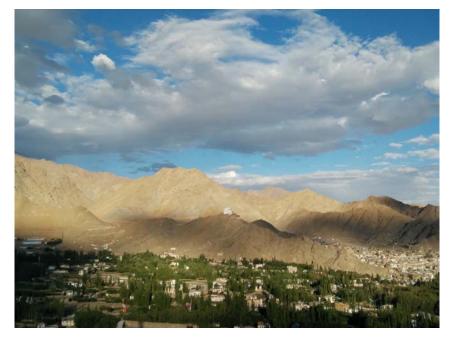
### The road journey

The road from Srinagar to Leh, apart from being breathtakingly beautiful, lets us explore the Zanskar region around Kargil and more importantly is just ideal for acclimatization, an overlooked but crucial factor, and we reach Leh all set to take in what Ladakh has to offer.



#### The homestays

One of the most authentic and successful initiatives to ensure that locals benefit from tourism in their region and tourists get a genuine experience. Managed by the 'snow leopard conservancy', rest assured that the rooms will be clean, the food tasty and the smiles real.



#### Leh

What to say about Leh. It's the ultimate chill-out place in the trans- Himalaya. You can choose to sit idle in the numerous cafes and enjoy the cosmopolitan cuisine or be the adventurer on a mountain bike or raft on the Indus. In short, you are spoilt for choices.



#### The trek

It's an easy trek for Ladakh standards, and is highly recommended as an introduction to trekking in the trans-Himalaya. During the day you cross over passes, visit old monasteries, and nights are warm and comfortable in the homestays.

# ITINERARY:

# 9 DAY TRIP, 5 DAYS OFF WORK (2 WEEKENDS)



Book your flight tickets to Srinagar and back from Leh

6- 8 JUL	The journey to Leh – 6 <sup>th</sup> July - Fly into Srinagar. Drive to Sonmarg. 2-3 hours. Plan to arrive in Srinagar latest by 1 pm. 7 <sup>th</sup> July - Today we cross the greater Himalaya and reach Kargil via Drass. ~ 5 hours. 8 <sup>th</sup> July – And we reach Leh today after a spectacular drive crossing the Zanskar range across two passes. ~ 5 hours.	The long but stunningly beautiful road journey from Srinagar to Leh is best done in 2-3 stages. This also ensures we are properly acclimatized for the high altitudes of Ladakh. We cross from the green Kashmir valley to the stark landscape of Ladakh as we cross the Zoji La pass. In Drass we will visit the Kargil war memorial. We enter the Buddhist realm at Mulbek and visit Lamayuru monastery, one of the oldest in Ladakh, on the way.
9 Jul	A rest day in Leh for acclimatization.	A well deserved rest day before our trek. Some sightseeing won't harm though.
10 - 13 Jul	The trek – Over 4 days, we trek through villages in the Sham valley, cross 4 easy passes, visit monasteries and stay in homestays. Daily walking distances are short. There is a backup vehicle which will carry the luggage and you just walk with the day bag.	Day 1 - We drive to Likir, the trek start point ~ 45km. Today's walk is for 4-5 hours to Yangthan village via two small passes. (3590M) Day 2 - Walk to Hemis Shukpachan village via the Rizong monastery and Sarmanchan La pass at 3900 M. ~ 5 hours. Day 3 – A walk to the village of Ang crossing the Mebtak Ia. ~ 4 hours. Day 4 – Trek ends in Temisgam. ~ 3-4 hours. Drive back to Leh.
14 JUL	Fly out of Leh. You can choose to extend your stay by an extra day if you want.	Book any flight out of Leh to Delhi and a connecting flight ahead.



## COST FOR THE TRIP:

Stay and food	Twin sharing in guesthouses in Sonmarg, Kargil and Leh. Food is not included (except when on the trek).
Trek	Stay in homestays throughout. All meals. Guide. Transportation for luggage.
Transportation	Throughout the trip in SUVs from Srinagar. 4 per car.

The cost of the trip = **Rs 47000/- per person** including all taxes.

Note: The group size will be limited to 12. Bookings are done on first come first serve basis and hence no deadlines. Confirm your place by making the full payment in advance. Read our <u>cancellation</u> <u>policy</u> and fill the <u>release</u> <u>document.</u>

#### Click here for PAYMENTS

## WHAT TO GET ALONG?

Ladakh is warm and windy during the day and cold in the nights. Temp ranges from 7 to 25 degrees. We will be prepared accordingly: Woolen sweater, cap, socks and gloves, a weather proof jacket and good trekking shoes are the essentials. Layering is the key. Detailed checklist on signing up.

## MAKING A CONTRIBUTION:

There is always a way of giving back to the place and people where we go for our holidays. We are conducting the trek in association with the ONLY women owned trekking group in Ladakh. All guides and other personnel are local women from the villages. Homestays provide a much-needed additional source of income to the villagers and they benefit directly. You can also support the local weavers by purchasing your woolens from them.

## GET CONNECTED:

Gaurav Punj <u>cwh.now@gmail.com</u> | +91 9833829240 | www.connectwithhimalaya.com Pics from our earlier trek to Sham valley, <u>here</u>

#### **GIFT THIS TRIP**

You can chose from gift vouchers starting from Rs 5000. Write to us with the name of the receiver and the denomination of the voucher.

#### NOTE

All CWH trips have a strict no-alcohol policy. And no instant noodles, etc.

