



A CWH TRIP TO EXPLORE THE SURU  
VALLEY OF ZANSKAR IN LADAKH.  
6 – 14 JULY 2019.

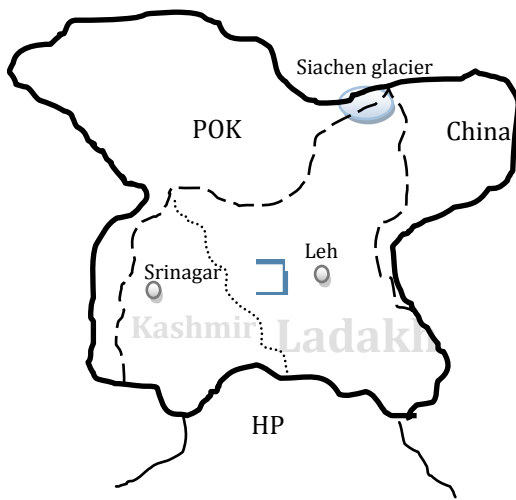


## WANDERINGS IN ZANSKAR AND LADAKH

What would you give to find an oasis in the middle of a desert? Maybe everything? At least a heartfelt name? What the first explorers must have felt when they discovered this green valley with snow-covered peaks of Nun and Kun standing guard against the arid mountains and deep gorges of Zanskar can never be known, however it can be judged from the name they gave it- Suru, a place of contentment. For us mere mortals, a journey to Zanskar will bring us closer to the real Ladakh, before it was overrun by tourists.

### TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Epic road journey from Srinagar to Zanskar and Ladakh
- Exploring Suru valley, a relatively untouched part of Ladakh.
- Stay in remote villages
- Trip ends in Leh, the heart of Ladakh



## A BRIEF OVERVIEW



### Suru valley

On the ancient silk-route from Srinagar to Leh, a branch cuts off from Kargil along the Suru river. Passing through remote villages of Islamic-Buddhist culture, high passes, nomadic camps and surrounded by snow covered peaks, the valley and the road leads to Zanskar.



### Zanskar

Christened the 'hidden kingdom' by a French explorer, and aptly so, this part of Ladakh lies deep within the trans-himalayan Zanskar and Ladakh ranges and is cut off from all directions by high passes. The monasteries here are amongst the oldest and most untouched in Ladakh.



### The glaciers of Suru

In more ways than one, this trip is about counting the number of glaciers you encounter on the way. From the Thajiwass glacier at Sonmarg, to the one at Parachik and the countless ones around Pensi la pass, including the Drang Drung, second longest in Ladakh after Siachen.



### The road trip

Starting from Srinagar, we cross not just mountains and rivers, but also cultures and beliefs. From Kargil to Padum is a magnificent road passing through glaciers and high passes, overlooked by the Nun and Kun peaks. On our way back, we drive all the way to Leh.

## ITINERARY:

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



Book your flight tickets to Srinagar and back from Leh

6 JULY

Fly into Srinagar and drive to Sonmarg. ~ 2.5 hours.

Reach Srinagar latest by 3 pm. We will stay the night in a guesthouse in Sonmarg tonight.

7 - 10 JUL

The journey to Padum –

7<sup>th</sup> July – Drive to Kargil today. ~ 5 hours.

8<sup>th</sup> July – Today we enter Suru valley and drive to Rangdum. ~ 6 hours.

9<sup>th</sup> July – Drive to Padum over the Pensi la pass. ~ 6 hours.

10<sup>th</sup> July – In and around Padum.

The long but stunningly beautiful road journey to Padum is best done in stages. This also ensures we are properly acclimatized for the high altitudes of Zaskar.

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 Parakchik and will be witness to remote villages, monasteries, glaciers and peaks of Zaskar as we move to Padum. In Padum, we will spend a day visiting monasteries and the local market.

11 - 13 JUL

The journey to Leh –

11<sup>th</sup> July – Our return journey starts and we will reach Parakchik today. ~ 8 hours.

12<sup>th</sup> July – Longest drive of the trip as we go all the way to Leh. ~ 11 hours.

13<sup>th</sup> July – A well deserved rest day in the happening city of Leh.

Now that we are well acclimatized and used to the roads and conditions of Zaskar, we use it to our advantage and make the return journey over two long days.

As we get back to the main highway from Kargil, it's a long but easy drive to Leh as we cross some very popular landmarks on the way.

The day in Leh can be spent the way you prefer – coffee shops, german bakeries, rooftop eateries, shopping, biking, etc. You are spoilt for choices.

14 JUL

Fly out of Leh. You can choose to extend your stay 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, Parakchik, Rangdum, Padum and Leh.

Breakfast is included. Rest of the meals are not.

### Transportation

Throughout the trip in SUVs from Srinagar. 3 per car.

The cost of the trip =  
**Rs 50000/- 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 [cancellation policy](#) and fill the [release document](#).

[Click here for PAYMENTS](#)

## WHAT TO GET ALONG?

We will be driving through the trans- Himalaya with temperature ranging from 5 to 25 degrees. Mostly pleasant, sometimes hot days and mostly cool, sometimes very cold nights. Boarding and lodging will be at clean, cozy but basic family guesthouses and homestays where available. So you will just need to carry the appropriate warm clothing and footwear. Layering is the key. A detailed checklist will be provided 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 going to a remote part of Ladakh and tourism provides the locals a much needed additional income. Making an effort to understand and respect the unique culture and way of life of the locals, preserved over centuries, is a small but important gesture. You can also support the local weavers by purchasing your woolens from them as well as local produce directly from there.

## GET CONNECTED:

Gaurav Punj  
[cwh.now@gmail.com](mailto:cwh.now@gmail.com) | +91 9833829240 | [www.connectwithhimalaya.com](http://www.connectwithhimalaya.com)  
Pics from our other trips, [here](#)

### GIFT THIS TRIP

You can choose 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.