



Birding and wildlife Tour in Ladakh 9 Night / 10 Days

Overview

Ladakh, with its rugged landscapes and diverse ecosystems, offers unique opportunities for birding and wildlife enthusiasts. Over 300 different species of birds have been spotted in the region by researchers and photographers. Some of the notable species include Tibetan Snowcock, Black-necked Crane, Himalayan Snowcock, Ibisbill, Himalayan Griffon, Lammergeier, and various species of finches, warblers, and buntings. Many species travel long distances from Central Asia and beyond to nest in the wetlands and lakes of Ladakh. Pangong Lake, Tso Moriri Lake, Shey Marshes, Indus River, and Hemis High Altitude National Park are some of the prime locations for bird watching. These places also host a variety of wildlife adapted to its high-altitude desert ecosystem. Some notable mammals include the elusive snow leopard, Tibetan wild ass (kiang), blue sheep (bharal), ibex, marmots, Himalayan wolves, and pikas. Exploring the birdlife and wildlife in Ladakh requires patience, proper planning, and respect for the natural environment. It offers a chance to witness unique species thriving in one of the most extreme yet breathtaking landscapes on Earth.

Detail Itinerary

Day 01 Delhi to Leh

Arrive at Leh Airport and transfer to the Hotel. Rest in the hotel for **acclimatization to Ladakh's high altitude**. With enough free time in the afternoon, one can explore nearby areas and expect to see species like Black-billed Magpie, Black Kite, Common Kestrel, Mountain Chiffchaff, Red-Billed Chough, etc. Stay overnight at the hotel.

Day 02 Bird watching around Indus River belt

Be ready for birding the full day. Reach Indus River Belt from Shey, 18km east of Leh, by passing through the irrigation channels and marshes or follow the river upstream from the bridge at Choglamsar. Expect to see Bluethroats (*Lusciniasvecica*), Streaked Rosefinch (*Carpodacus rubicilloides*), Water Pipits (*Anthus spinoletta*), White-Winged Redstart, Rosy Pipits (*Anthus roseatus*), the Ibisbill (*Ibidorhynchastruthersii*), the Hobby (*Hypotrachosis*) in summer, or the Water Rail. Also, get to explore the grazing land, the shoreline, wetlands, thick buckthorn patches along the riverbanks of Indus. Spend the night at the hotel.

Day 03 Leh to Nubra valley

By crossing Khardung La Pass, the world's highest motorable pass (18,380 ft/5,700m), drive to Nubra Valley where visitors can expect to see raptors, ducks, waders, and White-browed Tit Warbler, etc. here. Mammals including Tibetan fox, lynx, pika, Himalayan blue sheep, Bactrian camel (semi-feral) can be among the exciting discoveries for birdwatchers. Further, cape hares (*Lepus tibetanus*) can be only spotted in India here. Return to the Hotel for Dinner and o/n stay.

Day 04 Nubra Valley to Leh

Drive back to Leh through the same route crossing Khardong La Pass. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 05 Leh to Rumbak Valley

Full day birding around the Rumbak Valley. Birds like brown & robin accentor, streaked rose-finch, tickell's leaf warbler, chukar, Tibetan snow-finch, red-billed chough, Himalayan snow-cock, common & fork-tailed swift, fire-fronted serin, twite etc can be seen. Mammals including Urial, Himalayan marmot, Tibetan wolf, and argali above Yurutse are also present here. Later drive back to Leh for overnight stay.

Day 06 Leh to Tsomoriri

Situated at an altitude of (4,650m), Tsomoriri is the largest lake in Rupshu Plains, can be reach in a day by driving from Leh enjoying beautiful panoramic scenery. The lake is the best-known and most important breeding ground for the Bar-Headed Goose *Anser indicus* in Ladakh. Black-Necked Grebe *Podiceps nigricollis* and the Great Crested Grebe *P. cristatus* can both be found there. Once an Arctic Skua *Stercorarius parasiticus* was seen chasing a Brown-Headed Gull *Larus brunnicephalus* over the lake! Accentors, rose finches and mountain-finches can be seen in the peashrub-covered northern slopes. Mammals include blue sheep, fox, weasel, marmot, woolly hare and pikas. Overnight in Home stay

Day 07 Puga to Tsokar lake

Reach Tsokar via Puga Valley and Polo kong ka La after breakfast. Black-Necked Cranes, waterfowls, Common Redshanks, and lots of waders can be seen at the lake. The most common mammal species spotted here are Tibetan wild ass, Stolizka's mountain vole, and marmot. Other than this, Little Owl, Plain-backed Snowfinch. Tibetan Sandgrouse, Horned Lark, Tibetan Snow finch, Hume's Short-Toed Lark are the exotic birds found in Tsokar lake. Avocet, Ruddy Shelduck, the breeding colony of Crested Grebe, Black-Necked Cranes may be seen around the freshwater lakes in the afternoon. Overnight in Homestay

Day 08 Tsokar

The lake's surroundings, comprising marshes, wetlands, and grasslands, provide an ideal habitat for various bird species and wildlifes. The diverse ecosystem around Tsokar contributes to the presence of different avian life. So let's take one more day to watch these beautiful life. Overnight in Homestay.

Day 09 Tsokar to Leh

Driving back to Leh via the Tanglang Pass, stop on the route for more bird watching. Intriguing species Tibetan Snowcock and White-capped Redstart can be spotted on the way. Reach leh by late afternoon, stay Overnight.



Day 10 Leh to Delhi

After an early breakfast, reach Ladakh airport for an early flight and get back to Delhi with lifelong memories of an adventurous trip you just had.

Tour Ends

Tour Cost per person in INR

1 Pax	2 Pax	3 Pax	4 Pax	5 pax	6 Pax	7 Pax	8 Pax	10 Pax
167859	94822	84903	66606	69408	59792	60545	55813	56841

Single Supplementary - Rs 21900 per person

Above Cost Includes:

- Accommodation on Twin Sharing basis with all meals and heating facility
- All meals in Hotel, Guest House and Lodge.
- All transportation by Innova, Scorpio & Tempo Traveler
- Nature Guide services throughout the tour in Ladakh
- Spotting throughout the tour.
- National Park entrance fees
- Spotting Scope during the trek.

What is not included in the above cost?

- Flight tickets from Delhi-Leh-Delhi
- Sleeping Bags, trekking shoes and clothing.
- Any Kind of Personal Expenses, Personal binocular or Optional Tours / Extra Meals Ordered
- Anything not specifically mentioned under the head "Prices Included".
- Tips, Insurance, Laundry, Phone Calls.
- Any Kind of Drinks (Alcoholic, Mineral, Aerated)
- Cost incidental to any change in the itinerary/ stay on account of flight cancellation due to bad weather, ill health, roadblocks and/or any factors beyond control.

Terms & Conditions:

- Prices valid from 01 January 2025 to 31 March 2025.
- 10% cancellation charges if the trek is cancelled within 30 days before the tour.
- 20% cancellation charges if the tour and trek is cancelled within one week before the tour.
- No refund if the trek or tour is cancelled after starting or in the middle of the trek or tour.

Dos and Don'ts

- On arrival, please rest for 24 hrs, as you are traveling to high Altitude from Low, due to low oxygen.
- Have plenty of drinking water or any kind of liquid (except alcohol)
- Please cooperate with the localities, porters, guide, cook and driver as they are more helpful during the trek.
- Transits between two destinations depend upon weather and road conditions.
- Ladakh is a polythene-free region; make sure not to use any polythene when not necessary.
- Do not contaminate the area by not disposing the waste properly.
- Leave your denims behind – these are ill suited for treks. Snacks, colas, alcohol and personal food – No need to overburden yourself with food
- Don't get any equipment. We would carry Alpine tents and other equipment required for such treks.
- Medicines of all kinds are usually available in local pharmacies with no prescription necessary. Check expiration dates.

Things you must carry:

- Clothing (Heavy Warm Feather Jacket, Warm philes jacket, woolen and windproof gloves, Warm hat, woolen Socks, Warm Windproof Trouser, Sweaters etc.)
- Sun glass with UV Protection
- Torch with extra batteries.
- Sun Screen lotion and cold cream.
- Sleeping bag for – 25.
- Light towel (should be thin, quick drying kind).
- Chapstick or lip balm
- Water bottles. The insulated water bottles are good but even normal water bottles will suffice.
- Camera, memory-cards, batteries etc. (carry enough spare batteries. Electricity is not available on the slopes)
- Personal toiletries/windcheater/Tissue rolls.
- If available then a Pair of walking sticks.
- An identification card (like Passport, driving license, voters ID card etc.), along with a photocopy.

Medicines:

- Avomine-Vomiting
- D cold-Illness/combiflam-Body ache
- Vicks balm
- Diamox (250mg) – for high altitude/high pressure.
- Saridon - Headache.
- Personal Medicines.
- Glucon D/ Electral powder and camphor.
- Also consult your local doctor for any other medicines.

Avoid Acute Mountain Sickness

Acute mountain sickness can occur to anyone at an altitude above 10,000 feet from the sea level. The most common symptoms of the acute mountain sickness are headache disturbed sleep, loss of appetite, nausea, coughing, irregular breathing, breathlessness, lassitude and lack of concentration, Since Leh town is situated at an attitude of 11,500ft. above sea level, it is advisable to take the following precaution, so as to acclimatise your body properly.