

# Stok Kangri With Markha Valley



Days:	19
Price:	1650 USD International flight not included
Comfort:	★★★★★
Difficult:	★★★☆☆
🏔️ Trekking	

## DAUNTING CHALLENGING, AMAZING DISCOVERIES

A spectacular thrilling trekking holiday filled with thrills galore as you pass by monasteries, cross gorges, tread through mountain pastures and climb past high altitude passes with utterly unforgettable views. Scaling new challenges and achieving concrete climbing goals is heady and makes this trek completely worthwhile.

Fly into Leh from Delhi, taking in breathtaking views of Stok Kangri (6,153m) – the ultimate goal of our trek. Spend three days acclimatizing to the high altitude, while exploring Leh and the colourful Buddhist monasteries around it. The trek begins with a hike through the Markha Valley, and then leads through several remote and picturesque villages to the high Nimaling plain below the imposing peak of Kang Yatse. After trekking up to the Kongmaru La, we take a little-used route to Stok Kangri base camp, a two-day approach to the mountain that boasts of superbly located campsite and far-reaching views encompassing Tibet and the eastern Karakoram Range. The climb to Stok Kangri (over 6,153m) is both challenging and supremely rewarding and on descending to Stok, we return to Leh for some well-earned relaxation

### HIGHLIGHTS \* A challenging & rewarding ascent to Stok Kangri (6,153m), the highest mountain peak in the Stok range \* Chilling – a famous Ladakhi village renowned for its silversmiths \* Markha Valley – a beautiful trekking region \* Nimaling – a picturesque summer grazing ground \* Dramatic Ladakhi wilderness and scenery

## Day 1. Traditional welcome on Arrival



Delhi 📍

- Arrive at the **International airport** of Delhi. After the traditional welcome, transfer to the hotel for overnight stay.

🏠 Accommodation | Hotel Jivitesh

## Day 2. Delhi - Leh By Flight



Delhi 📍

✈️ 610km - ⌚ 1h 30m

Leh 📍

### Delhi - Leh

- In the early morning flight from Delhi, the plane flies over the **Himalayan Range** providing amazing overhead view of the whole mountain range with gigantic glaciers and glaring peaks before it brings us to Leh, a fertile valley just to the north of the mighty **Indus River** (this flight is subject to appropriate weather and perfect flying conditions). Upon arrival, we transfer to the hotel.
- Upon arrival, we transfer to the hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax and acclimatize to the altitude (3,500m). Late in the afternoon, there is a **Gentle orientation walk of Leh** and its bazaars. In the olden days Leh was an important trading center along the old Silk Road from China.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Jivitesh
🍷 Dinner	Hotel Mansarovar
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Mansarovar

## Day 3. Leh – Thiksey – Hemis – Matho – Leh



Leh 📍

- Today, in the sightseeing tour to three of the major gompas (monasteries) around Leh we first drive to Thikse Monastery that belongs to **Gelukpa order (Yellow hat)**. Perched on top of a hill its red and white buildings can be seen from miles. A recently built temple within this complex contains a magnificent image of the Future Buddha. Next we drive to Hemis Gompa that belongs to **Drukpa order (Red hat)**. It holds the distinction not only of being the biggest and the wealthiest monastery of Ladakh but also of very rich collections of ancient relics and the rare 17th century murals and the painted stone reliefs adorning the courtyard gallery making it a true UNESCO World Heritage Site. We continue our excursion and visit Matho monastery situated right across Thikse on the other side of Indus River. This monastery was founded in 16th century and it's an only monastery that belongs to **Sakya order** of Tibetan Monastery.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Mansarovar
🍷 Dinner	Hotel Mansarovar
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Mansarovar

## Day 4. Walk around Leh OR optional drive to Khardung La



Leh 📍

- Today is a free day to walk around the **Leh Valley** to get acclimatized. Set above Leh on Namgyal Hill are the ruins of the **Old Royal Palace**. From here a winding path leads to **Tsemo Monastery**, with panoramic views of Leh and its surrounding villages. Descending from the back of the palace, it's possible to walk via **Sankar Gompa** to the recently built **Japanese Peace Pagoda**. This huge stupa overlooks Leh and commands stunning views of the town and the Stok mountains across the valley.
- There is also the chance today to do an **Optional Jeep trip to Khardung La** at 5,602m, one of the highest motorable roads in the world.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Mansarovar
🍷 Dinner	Hotel Mansarovar
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Mansarovar

## Day 5. Leh – Chilling by Road



Leh 📍

🚗 40km - ⌚ 2h  
Chilling 📍

### Leh - Chilling

- We are now sufficiently acclimatized and ready to begin our trek. Our brief introduction to the **Tibetan Buddhist world of Ladakh** (which has been many times threatened by invading forces over the years) makes us better able to appreciate the significance of the hilltop location of many of the monasteries which we see on our trek through the Markha Valley. A 40 kms drive along the road towards Srinagar and Kashmir takes us to **Nimu**, where chilled water of the Zaskar River meets the silted water of Indus. We turn onto a dirt road, cross the Indus on a sturdy bridge and then follow the left bank of **Zaskar River** through a gorge to **Chilling** - a village well known in Ladakh and Zaskar for the skill of its silversmiths. Chilling is also the gateway to the Markha Valley. We camp at Chilling and spend an easy afternoon.

☕ Breakfast	Hotel Mansarovar
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🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

## Day 6. Trek Chilling – Skiu (3,400m)



Chilling 📍  
4km - ⌚ 50h  
Skiu 📍

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

## Day 7. Trek Skiu – Markha (3,750m)



Skiu 📍  
18km - ⌚ 6h  
Markha Valley 📍

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

## Day 8. Trek Markha – Hankar – Thachungtse (4,300m)



Markha Valley 📍  
17km - ⌚ 7h  
Thachungtse (4300m) 📍

### Markha Valley - Thachungtse (4300m)

- Just beyond Markha the trail meets the Chacham Valley where we see the **Umlung Gompa** set way above us on the cliff face. We visit the **Monastery** which is the most important in the valley and is affiliated to **Hemis**. Continuing up the valley, we walk through **Umlung Village** to **Hankar** where there are more impressive fort ruins and a small gompa. From Hankar the trail turns off from the main valley and follows the Nimaling stream to **Thachungtse**, our overnight camping spot. We may be lucky and see wild sheep high up on the grazing areas.

**Duration of Trek: 7 Hrs**  
**Distance: 17 Kms**

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

## Day 9. Trek Thachungtse – Nimaling (4,850m)



Thachungtse (4300m) 📍  
7km - ⌚ 4h  
Nimaling 📍

## Thachungtse (4300m) - Nimaling

- Today is a short walk to **Nimaling**. The trail climbs steeply to the plateau where the valley opens out. Ahead are the spectacular views of **Kang Yangtse** at 6,400 metres, the highest peak in the valley. In this area, there is no permanent habitation. But during the summer months the shepherds bring their flocks of sheep, goats and dzos (cows cross-bred with yaks) to graze on the high altitude pasture. The shepherds stay in stone shelters close to the grazing area for the whole summer and we can often buy yoghurt or cheese from them. In the evening, the animals are brought down from the hills and it is quite usual to have hundreds of them wandering through the campsite. We should get to Nimaling by lunchtime. In the afternoon, there is an **Optional walk behind the camp towards Kang Yangtse**. This is well worth doing and highly recommended for the impressive close-up views of Kang Yangtse, which at 6,400m, is the highest peak in the Markha Valley.

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

## Day 10. Nimaling: Rest or Exploration (Trek)



Nimaling 📍

- This is a day for rest and acclimatisation. This is a fantastic camping location and spending a second night (4,850m) provides excellent acclimatisation for scaling **Stok Kangri**. Those amongst the group who are feeling energetic can trek over towards **Kang Yatze** to a high point (5,500m) on the ridge that runs from the peak towards Northwest. The impressive birds of prey of this region include lammergeyers (bearded vultures - the biggest of the Himalayan raptors) and golden eagles. The sight of a lammergeyer drifting towards you on motionless wings, passing just overhead, unconcerned by your presence, is simply unforgettable.

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

## Day 11. Trek Nimaling – Kongmaru La (5,150m) – Chuskyurmo (4,000m)



Nimaling 📍  
- ⌚ 6h  
Chuskyurmo (4000m) 📍

### Nimaling - Chuskyurmo (4000m)

- Our walk begins today by climbing to the **Kongmaru La**. It is a fairly long, steep ascent zigzagging to the top of the pass at 5,286m. As we expect the views are fantastic: looking back we see **Kang Yangtse**, **Dzo Jongo** and **Regoni Malari**, while in front the **Stok Range** and the **Indus valley** attract our attention. The descent is steep until we enter a spectacular gorge and then descend more gradually, with a few small river crossings. High up on the barren cliffs we may spot the elusive blue sheep which inhabit this area. Our campsite for tonight is at Chuskyurmo.

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

# Day 12. Trek Chuskyurmo – Gyuncho La (4,600m) – Shang Phu (4,350m)

Chuskyurmo (4000m) 📍  
- ⌚ 7h  
Shang Phu (4350m) 📍

## Chuskyurmo (4000m) - Shang Phu (4350m)

- From Chuskyurmo, we turn towards west into a **Tributary valley** that leads, after a long and gradual ascent, to **Gyuncho La**. Descending from the pass, we camp at Shang Pu.  
**Duration of Trek: 7 Hrs**

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

# Day 13. Trek Shang Phu – Shang La (4,800m) – Gangpoche (4,300m)



Shang Phu (4350m) 📍  
- ⌚ 6h  
Gangpoche (4300m) 📍

## Shang Phu (4350m) - Gangpoche (4300m)

- This part of our route traverses a rarely visited area and involves the crossing of many spurs and minor passes with occasional views northwards towards the **Indus Valley** and the peaks beyond. Today, we climb to cross the **Shang La (4,800m)** and then descend to the **Tokpo River** for lunch. After lunch, we Trek mostly downhill to our camping place at Gangpoche (4,300m).

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping

# Day 14. Trek Gangpoche – Matho La (4,850m) – Stok Kangri Base Camp (4,990m)



Gangpoche (4300m) 📍  
- ⌚ 7h  
Stok Kangri Base Camp (4900m) 📍

## Gangpoche (4300m) - Stok Kangri Base Camp (4900m)

- Today, we ascend steeply in the morning to the final pass, **the Matho La**. From the pass there are some beautiful views of **Stok Kangri** and the entire route ascension. Then, we descend into the valley to the north of **Stok village**. This lovely valley is a high and wild area which is visited only by climbing groups and by the local people who spend some of the summer months in picturesque villages of stone huts. People come from distant villages to graze their herds of sheep/cows. This valley connects the village of Stok to the base camp of the same name. The very pleasant campsite is on a grassy area beside a number of melt water streams.  
**Duration of Trek: 7 Hrs**

☕ Breakfast	Camping
🍴 Lunch	Camping
🍷 Dinner	Camping
🏠 Accommodation	Camping



## Day 15. Stok Kangri Base Camp (4,900m)



Stok Kangri Base Camp (4900m)

- The morning is free to relax. In the afternoon, we can walk above our camp for views of the surrounding peaks; Stok Kangri, Parchu Kangri and many others. The afternoon is spent resting and preparing for the climb. Gear is checked and there is a full briefing about next day's ascent and a run through of walking in a rope team and with crampons. After an early dinner, we retire to bed to rest for a few hours.

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

## Day 16. Climb Stok Kangri Summit (6,153m)



Stok Kangri Summit (6153m)

- The summit day is long and hard (at least 12 hours). After a very early start in the dark (2am), we cross a glacier at the foot of the climb. Although not technical, the route to the summit is very steep and usually involves the use of ice axe and crampons. For safety, we also carry a rope and we usually rope up along the ridge and sometimes even before. The summit route is steep and it is necessary to proceed along an exposed ridge for some time, with some scrambling on loose (sometimes icy) rock. The extreme altitude is the greatest difficulty, however. The climb from camp to the summit takes five to seven hours. The final hundred meters need special care while crossing the slopes just below the summit. From the summit, the views are simply amazing. **Minuscule Leh** can be seen in the distance, and all around us the **snow-capped peaks** of the Himalaya, the **Ladakh Range** and the distant Karakorum reach far to the horizon. We spend a short while at the top to savour the beauty of it all and regain our breath before descending slowly and carefully back to base camp, where the crew will be waiting with welcome hot food. *Please note: that the climb is entirely **Optional**. For anyone not intending to climb there are wonderful walks from the base camp itself, with one taking you to the glacier at the foot of Stok Kangri for magnificent views).*

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	Camping
Accommodation	Camping

## Day 17. Descend through Mankarmo to Stok and drive to Leh



Stok Kangri Summit (6153m)   
Leh

### Stok Kangri Summit (6153m) - Leh

- It is an easy but spectacular walk down to the valley to **Stok** as we descend layer upon layer of multi-coloured rocks surround us. The trail finally emerges from this amazing gorge and the valley widens as we approach Stok village.
- Here, our vehicle would be waiting for us and on arrival, we board the vehicle and head towards Leh by lunchtime for a welcome hot shower and a well-deserved celebration.

Breakfast	Camping
Lunch	Camping
Dinner	<div>17 Hotel Mansarovar</div> <div>17 Camping</div>

## Day 18. Fly to Delhi - Day at leisure.



### Leh - Delhi

- Today, we have an early morning transfer to the **Airport** for the flight back to **Delhi**. Upon arrival in Delhi, we transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is free for individual sightseeing or last-minute shopping.

Breakfast

Hotel Mansarovar

Accommodation

Hotel Jivitesh

Leh   
✈ 610km - ⌚ 1h 30m  
Delhi

## Day 19. Delhi Departure



- Check-out from the hotel and transfer to the International airport or any point of convenience for onward journey to respective countries.

Breakfast

Hotel Jivitesh

Delhi

## Itinerary map



## Individual price per person

2-2	3-4	5-6	7-9	10-12
3400 USD	2605 USD	2170 USD	1815 USD	1650 USD

### Included

- Accommodation for 12 nights on Full board in camp/tent on double sharing basis
- 02 nights in Hotels on double sharing basis on breakfast basis in Delhi
- 04 nights in Hotel on double sharing basis on Half board in Leh
- All ground transportation included in the program using private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking driver
- Trekking equipment and materials including food (excluding personal equipment)
- Trekking guide for 12 days during trekking (D:06 till D:17)
- Professional English speaking tour leader throughout the trip
- First aid kit
- Govt. Taxes

### Not included

- International flights tickets
- Travel insurance
- These rates will not be valid for peak season from 20 December 2019 to 10 January 2020 , Christmas and New Year's extra supplement cost will be charged during this period
- Domestic flights tickets for the sectors: (Delhi - Leh and Leh - Delhi)
- Tips for Local guide, trek guide and other trek staff
- Rescue and evacuation services
- Miscellaneous Expenses - drinks, souvenir, personal expenses etc.
- The cancellation and baggage insurance, assistance and repatriation
- Indian Visa
- Other services not mentioned in 'Inclusion'