

APRICOT BLOOM



Total Duration :
8 Nights / 9 Days



Style of Tour :
Jeep Safari & Walks



Stays :
*Hotels, Homestays,
Organized Camping*



Highest Altitude :
3100 Metres



Best Season :
Mid April to Mid May

The apricot flower bloom signifies the onset of summer after the long and harsh winter of Ladakh. During this period, settlements in the western belt of Ladakh especially areas of Kargil are covered with a white sheet of flowers. It is probably the most beautiful time of the year but only lasts for about two weeks towards the end of April and beginning of May. Kargil boasts of the highest production of superior quality apricots across the Indian Himalayas. This tour is a series of easy and scenic walks through the most beautiful apricot farming villages and will let you indulge in authentic rural experiences. Perfect for couples or group friends who share the same love for the outdoors and are looking for an active holiday.



Brief Itinerary





Route Map





Day 1 :

Arrive in Leh and acclimatize

- Pick up from airport and transfer to hotel.
- Use this day to rest and acclimatize to the high altitude of Ladakh.
- Staying hydrated and minimum exertion is key today to avoid Altitude Sickness.
- You can take a stroll through the Leh Bazaar in the evening.
- Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 2 :

Hemis monastery and Leh Old Town

- Today again we will take it easy and let the acclimatization process continue as we will be doing a lot of walking during the following days.
- Start the day with a visit to the Hemis Gompa, the most iconic monastery of Ladakh which also holds the status of the wealthiest monastery of Ladakh. The sheer grandeur of the monastery is sure to keep you spell bound.
- The journey is 40 kms one way covered in about an hour.
- Witness the copper gilded statue of Lord Buddha and a large statue of Guru Rimpoche is also quite interesting to witness.
- The monastery also has a museum within its premises. Numerous historical and religious paintings (Thangkas), carriers, weapons are at display in the museum.
- Return to Leh for lunch at a local eatery.
- Post lunch you can take a walk through the Leh old town up to the Leh Palace to watch the sunset.
- The walk is a unique window into Leh's past as an important city on the Great Silk Route.
- Alternatively, you can also choose to go café hopping in the town. We can suggest you some of our favourites.
- Dinner and overnight at hotel/homestay.



Day 3 : Leh to Garkone via lower Indus

- After an early breakfast today, we will drive towards Garkone village along the Indus river passing through a scenic landscape.
- Enroute stop over at the Domkhar rock art site, a pre historic petroglyph site situated in a private apricot orchid. Take a guided tour with the local host. You can purchase authentic apricot oil and dried apricots from their family run farm.
- Garkone is one of the four villages in the Indus valley region inhabited by the "Brokpa" tribe.
- Once at the village, the homestay is approached by a short walk.
- Meet and greet with the local host and sit down for lunch.
- Relax and take in the beauty of this quaint village.

Day 4 : Garkone village walk and Local "Chhang" making

- Today we will start the day with part taking in "Chhang" preparation, a local beer made using barley.
- Post this visit the local Labdak museum that preserves the Brokpa heritage of this valley. The museum itself is set up inside the 300 year old heritage building owned by your local host.
- Take a walk through the apricot orchids in the village and explore the local culture. You will find locals elderly folk relishing the warm spring sun in their courtyards.
- The warm climate of Garkone makes the land conducive for various other fruits which are not possible to grow in other parts of Ladakh such as walnut, pears, grapes and strawberries which you will discover as you walk through the village.
- Lunch at homestay.
- In the evening, you can enjoy the Chhang you helped prepare earlier and relax by a bonfire.



Day 5 :

Garkone to Kargil via Humboting Lal

- Wake up at leisure and savor on some local breakfast.
- Post breakfast, say goodbye to your local host and head towards Kargil via Humbtongi La pass.
- Atop the pass offers breathtaking views of the mountains.
- As you drive down towards Kargil take a short detour to discover a hidden relic. A 7 th Century rock cut Maetriya Buddha statue in the village of Apati.
- It is one of the three only remaining rock arts from the Pre-Tibetan period. A short but beautiful walk along a cobbled path through the village approaches the statue.
- Spend some time here in contemplation.
- Continue from here towards Kargil and check into your hotel.
- Post lunch, take a walk to the Munshi Aziz Bhat Museum, a family run museum that showcases artifacts from the Silk Route trade heritage of Kargil. It is situated just above the town and provides great vistas of the town.
- Kargil was once a thriving trade centre on the Silk Route. From the museum you can walk down to the old bazaar and explore the old shops.
- The mighty Suru river flows cutting through the town of Kargil and makes for a nice riverside walk in the evening.
- Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

Day 6 :

Village Walks in Hardass and Hundurman village. Overnight at Hundurman border village.

- After an early breakfast at the hotel we will set out to see the apricot blossom in Hardass village just off Kargil town.
- Hardass is another unique settlement inhabited by the "Balti" tribe who are originally from Baltistan (now in Pakistan).
- Hardass is one of the highest producers of high quality "Halman" apricots so you can imagine how this village looks when the apricot flowers are in full bloom.



- Take a casual stroll through the village and enjoy a cup of local “Namkeen Chai” in the orchids.
- From here we will drive to Hundurman village which is about 30 minutes from Hardass.
- Hundurman is a frontier settlement near the Line of Control between India and Pakistan. The villagers have now shifted to a new settlement nearby; the original settlement is a 500-year-old architectural marvel now in ruins. It has been transformed into a heritage experience called the Unlock Hundurman – Museum of Memories and houses personal objects of people who used to live here. Once a village along the Silk Route, the settlement has a long war history and remained under Pakistani territory till 1971, post which there were many families that got separated. This museum is a window into Kargil’s unknown past.
- Continuing our exploration on foot, we will take a walk through this time capsule and eventually end up in the new settlement of Hundurman.
- A local host who will accompany us for the walk.
- After a tour of the museum, we will hike upstream through the village orchards.
- In spring time, it is a beautiful green walk.
- Explore the history and architecture of this forgotten village.
- Learn how to make apricot oil.
- Spend the night at the homestay.

Day 7 : Suru valley drive and camping

- Suru valley is probably the most underrated region of Ladakh in terms of scenic beauty. And if you have travelled this far, it would be a pity if you don’t experience Suru.
- Suru valley is an adventure paradise and the greenest region of Ladakh. Fed by numerous glacial streams, the Suru river snakes through the valley, originating from the Zaskar mountain range with the Nun Kun massif as its crown jewel, two of Ladakh’s highest peaks standing at 7135m and 7070m respectively. In the spring time, Suru is covered by snow-capped mountains and green hill sides with spectacular views of the Nun Kun Massif.
- After breakfast in Hundurman, drive towards Suru valley.



- Have lunch in Sankoo.
- It is a scenic drive along the Suru river.
- The road bends to reveal the first sight of the Nun Kun massif in Puriktsey. The massive white domes towering over the wide valley of Suru, is a spellbinding sight.
- Tonight we setup a private camp here with the best view of the valley
- Camping under the stars here with the a jaw dropping view of the Nun Kun range is surely the highlight of this trip.
- Spend the evening by the bonfire and celebrate this moment with a beautiful sunset.

Day 8 :

Suru to Leh via Namki La and Foto La

- Wake up to catch the sunrise with a hot cup of tea.
- Post breakfast, we will drive back to Leh via Namki La and Foto La pass along the NH1.
- Spectacular panoramas from atop the passes as usual.
- Enroute there are couple of worthwhile historical sites to visit. You can check out the Shergole cave monastery, the Buddha rock statue in Mulbekh and Lamayuru monastery.
- Arrive in Leh by evening and check into your hotel.
- You can freshen up and rest after the long journey.
- Dinner at overnight at the hotel.

Day 9 :

Departure from Leh

- Early morning airport transfer

Inclusions :



Transport :

- Airport transfers
- Vehicle throughout the journey



Meals :

- All meals during stays
- Packed lunch for the road



Medical Services :

- Onsite first aid
- Oxygen cylinder



Accommodation

- Twin sharing rooms at the hotels
- Twin sharing dome tents during camping
- Quad sharing room at Hundurman



Permits :

- Inner Line Permit



Staff :

- Trained and experienced guide

Exclusions :

- Single room accommodation
- International & Domestic flight fares, visa charges
- Monument/monastery and Museum visit fee
- Any expenses of personal nature such as mineral water, laundry.
- Cost incurred due to emergency evacuation
- Any kind of insurance, such as accident, theft, medical, evacuation etc.
- Tips to porters, camping team, driver, guide, etc.
- Cost incurred due to change / extension in the itinerary due to roadblocks, bad weather condition, flight delays, vehicle breakdowns, etc.

Checklist for your trip

Clothing :



Water-proof
Trekking Shoes



Woolen &
cotton socks
(2 pairs each)



Full sleeve
tshirt



Water-proof
trekking pants
(1 spare)



Woollen or fleece
sweater/jacket



Downfeather
Jacket



Thick gloves
with inner



Spare under
garments



Thick muffler



Woolen Cap



Rain poncho or
wincheater

Essentials :



Sun goggles



Valid ID proof



Wearable
Flashlight with
batteries



Power bank



2 Ltr. Water
bottle



Rucksack

Toileteries :



Personal
Toileteries



Sun block



Personal-Aid
Kit

Payment & Cancellation Policy :

- Full payment must be made before commencement of the journey
- 30% of the total amount will be retained as cancellation fee if the trip is cancelled 30-21 days prior to date of journey.
- 50% of the total amount will be retained as cancellation fee if the trip is cancelled 21-15 days prior to date of journey.
- 70% of the total amount will be retained as cancellation fee if the trip is cancelled 15 days prior to date of journey.
- No refund will be granted on cancellation done within 15 days of the date of journey.
- No refund will be granted for portion/portions of the journey not performed by the traveller.
- No refund will be granted in case of non-performance of journey due to external and natural events.
- The refund process will take atleast 10 to 15 days working days.
- In the event of any dispute, the matter shall be resolved under the jurisdiction of the District Court, Kargil.

Get Your Adventure Trip Insured :

We have now partnered with India's first Adventure Insurance provider www.asc360.com to make your trek safer. For an additional one time amount of Rs 988/- you will get a cover of over 3.5 Lakhs for your 10 day trip. Please let us know if you are interested so that we can send you more details. We strongly recommend signing up for it. Please note that we are not charging any additional service fee on this. The policy rates are as per ASC360. You can also get your insurance directly by contacting them.

Trip Specific Information

By signing up for a trip with Roots :

You acknowledge that you have voluntarily applied to participate in this trip and that you have read the description of the trip as it appears on the website and the information below:

Delays are expected on account of roadblock & weather conditions.

Our effort will be to continue with the trip as per the schedule & make you as comfortable as possible. We may have to compromise on the campsite & adjust to these situations. The final call will be taken by our Lead Guide on location.

The itinerary should be viewed as ideal & we may have to make some spot changes due various unavoidable reasons.

The distances & altitude mentioned in the above itinerary are to the best of our knowledge & information
marginal variance in the actual distances & altitudes is possible.

You are expected to be in reasonable shape and fitness, being able to walk for several hours at a normal pace while taking care of your own equipment.

The local administration has made it compulsory for every trekker to get a Medical Fitness certificate from the local SNM hospital in Leh. You will not be allowed to perform the trek without clearance from the hospital.

The minimum age restriction for this trip is 18
(unless accompanied by parent/guardian)

All outdoor related activities involve a certain level of risk. You are expected to sign an Indemnity Form in agreement to the risks involved.

Discount available for doctors or medics who wish to join the trek
Roots Ladakh reserves the right and permission to use photographs of individuals and photographs submitted by them on tour for use in promotional and publicity purposes

Accommodation:

Hundurman – Homestay

Kargil – The Kargil

Leh – Grand Dragon/ Ladakh Sarai /Stok Palace Hotel

Hundurman – Roots Homestay

Suru Valley – Organised Camping

Garkone – Payupa Guest House

About Roots Homestay in Hundurman:

- *Please understand that we are going to be living in a local home so you are expected to respect the local culture and traditions.*
- *The rooms are basic with carpeting. Single cots with fresh linens will be provided*
- *Traditionally, food is eaten sitting down with the food placed over a cloth known as the "Dastarkhwan". Spoon is usually not used while eating.*
- *Toilets are traditional dry pit system outside the house. It is an age old method used to naturally decompose the human waste which is later on used a manure for farming. We also provide Clean Waste technology toilet commode with an odour free degradable waste bag.*
- *Water supply is scare and waster for washing is provided in buckets*
- *Pre-boiled water will be provided for drinking*
- *Rooms can accommodate up to four people*

4 REASONS WHY

You should travel with us!



Go Offbeat :

We pride ourselves in being the experts in offbeat and adventure travel experiences in Ladakh. We like to mix it up – a little bit of history and a little bit of adventure.

Travel Responsibly

We believe in creating shared value. We focus on engaging local communities in our work and always try to harness the local knowledge from the land.



Travel with Locals

Get an authentic and immersive Experience. Expect some local food, close interaction with locals and more time out in the nature on your own.

Expect Professionalism

We promise only what we can deliver. We are a great team of young, trained & experienced professionals from various backgrounds and share the same passion for outdoors & exploration.



Everything you need to know about

ACUTE MOUNTAIN SICKNESS

Altitude sickness ranges from mild headache and tiredness to a fatal build up of fluid in the lungs or brain at high altitudes.

Causes of AMS

Dipping air pressure & Lack of Oxygen at High Altitudes

The symptoms



Headache



Dizziness



Nausea



Loss of Appetite



Fatigue



Loss of sleep

steps to prevent ams



Consume 2 Litres of water everyday

Start exercising 1 month prior to the Journey



Diamox to help with better Acclimatisation



If initial precautionary measures are not taken, Acute mountain sickness might prove to be fatal and lead to further heart conditions

WHO DOES aMS AFFECT?

Part of the mystery of Acute Mountain Sickness is that it is difficult to predict who will be affected. There are many stories of fit and healthy people being badly limited while their older companions have felt fine!

what to do if you suffer from AMS?



Tell your team mates immediately



Descend down as soon as you can