

Ladakh Birding Tour

- **Duration: 8 Days / 7 Nights**
- Explore the unparalleled beauty of Ladakh with a focus on its rich birdlife, unique culture, and breathtaking landscapes. This itinerary balances birding, cultural exploration, and acclimatization for a memorable experience.
- **Day 1: Arrival in Leh - Acclimatization Day**
 - Arrival: Fly to Leh from Delhi or Mumbai (approx. 1.5-hour flight).
 - Airport Transfer: Meet our representative and transfer to the hotel in Leh.
 - Acclimatisation: ◦ Spend the entire day resting to adjust to the high altitude (11,500 ft). ◦ Take slow, short walks around the hotel or guest house to ease into the environment. Avoid exertion to ensure a safe acclimatisation process. ◦ Enjoy stunning views of the surrounding mountains and valley. ◦ Optional Evening Stroll: A short, relaxed walk near the hotel may offer sightings of common species like Hill Pigeon, Eurasian Magpie, and Black Redstart. ◦ Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- **Day 2: Birding at Sindhu Ghat & Leh Local Sightseeing**
 - Morning Birding at Sindhu Ghat: ◦ Located along the serene Indus River, Sindhu Ghat is a haven for birders. Look out for species such as Ibisbill, Brown Accentor, Robin Accentor, Tibetan Snowfinch, and Ruddy Shelduck. ◦ Explore nearby villages to spot Tibetan Partridge and Streaked Rosefinch. ◦ Local Sightseeing: ◦ Visit Shanti Stupa, a peaceful monument offering panoramic views of Leh. ◦ Tour the historic Leh Palace, a masterpiece of medieval Tibetan architecture. ◦ Stroll through Leh Market, where you can shop for local handicrafts and souvenirs.

- Evening Birding (Optional): Search for White-browed TitWarbler and other passerines in nearby areas.
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

• **Day 3: Leh to Nubra Valley via Khardung La Pass**

- Early Morning Drive: ○ Travel to Nubra Valley via Khardung La Pass (18,380 ft), one of the highest motorable roads in the world. ○ Stop at the pass to admire the views and search for Alpine Accentor, Tibetan Snowcock, and Golden Eagle.
- Diskit Monastery: ○ Visit this iconic monastery and the towering Maitreya Buddha statue that overlooks the valley.
- Hunder Sand Dunes: ○ Experience the stunning desert landscape of Hunder and enjoy a Bactrian camel ride. ○ Birding at the dunes for species like Desert Wheatear, Isabelline Shrike, and Horned Lark. ○ Overnight Stay: Hunder Village. ○ Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

• **Day 4: Nubra Valley to Shakti Village via Warila Pass**

- Morning Drive: ○ Travel from Nubra Valley to Shakti Village via Warila Pass (17,200 ft), with stops for birding and scenic views. ○ Target bird species include Lammergeier, Tibetan Snowcock, Streaked Rosefinch, and Chukar Partridge.
- Shakti Village: ○ Spend the evening birding around the tranquil surroundings of Shakti. ○ Look for high-altitude specialists like Himalayan Snowcock and Rosy Pipit. ○ Overnight Stay: Shakti Village. ○ Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Day 5: Shakti to Pangong Lake via Changla Pass**

- Travel Route: ○ Begin an early drive to Pangong Lake via Changla Pass (17,590 ft), the third-highest motorable road in the world. ○ Along the way, birding opportunities include sightings of Tibetan Sandgrouse, Himalayan Griffon, and Plain-backed Snowfinch. ○ Pangong Lake: ○ Witness the mesmerizing blue waters of Pangong Lake

- (13,940 ft). ○ Look for waterbirds like Bar-headed Goose, Black-necked Crane, Brown-headed Gull, and Great Crested Grebe. ○ Evening Birding: Explore the lakeshore and surrounding areas for species like Horned Lark and Tibetan Lark. ○ Overnight Stay: Merak Village, a remote settlement on the lake's edge. ○ Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Day 6: Pangong Lake to Tsokar Lake**

- Morning Birding: ○ Continue birding around Pangong Lake. Spot species like Hume's Groundpecker, Red-fronted Serin, and Robin Accentor.

- Travel to Tsokar: ○ Drive to Tsokar Lake, a stunning high-altitude saltwater lake surrounded by grasslands and rugged peaks.

- En route, look for Kiang (Tibetan Wild Ass) and other unique wildlife. ○ Birding highlights at Tsokar include Tibetan Snowfinch, Blacknecked Crane, and Ruddy Shelduck.

- Overnight Stay: Tsokar. ○ Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Day 7: Tsokar to Leh via Tanglang La Pass**

- Morning Birding: ○ Explore Tsokar and the nearby plains for high-altitude bird species like Tibetan Sandgrouse, Himalayan Snowcock, and Plain-backed Snowfinch.
 - Tanglang La Pass: ○ Drive back to Leh via Tanglang La Pass (17,557 ft), the second-highest motorable road. ○ Stop for birding and photography at scenic points along the route.
 - Evening in Leh: Relax at the hotel and reflect on the trip. ○
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

- **Day 8: Departure from Leh**

- Morning:
- Enjoy tea and breakfast at the hotel. ○ Reflect on the memories of this unique high-altitude adventure.
- Airport Drop: Transfer to Leh airport for your onward flight.

- **Trip Highlights**

- Unique Birding Opportunities:
 - Target species: Ibisbill, Black-necked Crane, Golden Eagle, Himalayan Snowcock, Tibetan Snowfinch, and more.
- Cultural Exploration:
 - Visits to Diskit Monastery, Shanti Stupa, and Leh Palace.
- Breathtaking Landscapes:
 - Pangong Lake, Nubra Valley, Tsokar Lake, and Khardung La Pass offer jaw-dropping scenery.

- Wildlife Encounters:
 - Sightings of Kiang, Marmots, and Himalayan fauna.
- Altitude Awareness:
 - Ample time for acclimatization ensures a safe and comfortable journey.
- **This itinerary offers a perfect balance of birding, cultural immersion, and stunning landscapes, making it an ideal experience for birders and nature lovers alike.**