WHAT'S INCLUDED
- Accommodation: Hotels/Guesthouse (6 nts), basic camping (5 nts), camping w/facilities (1 nt), overnight bus (1 nt)
- Transport: all hotel-airport transfers, Leh-Delhi airfare, all transportation in Ladakh
- Group Size: Min 2, Max 10, avg 6
- Group Leader: English, Hindi, and Ladakhi-speaking trip leader throughout, trek leader, helper/cook
- Trekking: all trekking and camping equipment, donkeys/horses
- Meals Included: all meals while camping
- Misc: Inner Line Permit, rafting, camel safari, monument entrance fees, and taxes.

NOT INCLUDED
International air fare, passport and visa fees, medical insurance, immunizations, meal costs in New Delhi and Leh, tips and donations, beverages, laundry fees, souvenirs, internet, and phone calls.

TRIP OVERVIEW
Get off the beaten path and follow the hidden valleys of Ladakh- beyond the confines of the Indus Valley, and get a cultural immersion unique to Ladakh. We trek from Lamayuru to Chilling, a distance of 65km over 7 days, crossing three mountain passes at well over 4600m, visiting remote villages, learning about the traditional lifestyles of yak-herders and highland farmers, and marveling at the spectacular landscape all around. The trek ends in Chilling village, from where we raft back to Leh via the highly turbulent Zanskar River. Don’t forget to bring your camera as Ladakh’s valleys, glaciated mountains, deep ravines, virgin meadows and crystal flowing rivers are unsurpassed in its pristine beauty.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Uncovering Leh’s back streets and bustling markets
- Visiting ancient monasteries and spectacular palaces
- Trekking through challenging mountain passes and valleys
- Experiencing the unique lunar landscape Passing through remote villages and gaining a deeper understanding of traditional Ladakhi lifestyle
- Relaxing on the shores of the beautiful Pangong Lake
- Crossing Khardungla Pass - world’s highest motorable road
- Riding a double-humped camel through the sand dunes
- Rafting the whitewater of the foaming Zanskar River

TRIP DATES (START – FINISH)
May 15 – May 30  June 1 – June 16  June 22- July 8
July 13- July 28  Aug 1 – Aug 16  Aug 16 – 31  Sept 1- 16

ITINERARY
DAY 1 NEW DELHI Arrive at any time. DAYS 2-3 LEH Morning flight from New Delhi to Leh –Ladakh’s cultural capital. Visit the colorful market, Tsemo, Hemis, Shey and Tikse Monastery. DAYS 4-5 PANGONG LAKE Drive over the Changla Pass to the beautiful Pangong Lake (4350m) enclosed within snow-capped mountains. We camp overnight by the lake. DAYS 6-7 KHARDUNGLA PASS AND NUBRA VALLEY Drive over the world’s highest motorable road to Nubra Valley. Visit the village of Diskit and its beautiful monastery. Ride a double-humped camel through the white sand dunes of Hundar- the only remnant of the Silk Route. DAY 8 LAMAYURU Drive to Lamayuru, the starting point of our trek, through spectacular lunar landscape. En-route we visit the ancient wall paintings at Alchi Monastery. We reach our campsite in the late afternoon with plenty of time to explore the Lamayuru Monastery. DAYS 9-14 LAMAYURU-CHILLING TREK six days of trekking through high mountain passes, isolated villages and stunning landscape. DAY 15 ZANSKAR RIVER RAFTING Journey through the magnificent canyon of the turbulent Zanskar River (class III-V). Our trip ends at the confluence of Indus and Zanskar River and we drive back to Leh. DAY 16 NEW DELHI Morning flight back to New Delhi. Tour ends on arrival at the airport.
DAY 1 – ARRIVE IN NEW DELHI

Arrive in New Delhi at any time. You will be welcomed at the New Delhi airport by our Wheels Across India (WAI) trip leader and transferred to your joining point hotel. If you arrive early, you can allow yourself time to explore Old and New Delhi. After an introductory meeting, we have the option of having a group dinner at Karim’s Restaurant, which prepares one of India’s oldest and finest cuisines.

Accommodation: Hotel; meals not included
Join point address: Hotel Namaskar India 8a/99, W.E.A, Channa Market, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, 110005, India
Telephone: +9910381291 /+9313113014

DAY 2 – FLIGHT FROM DELHI TO LEH (1 HOUR)

We catch the early morning flight from New Delhi to Leh, the capital of Ladakh. WAI will make the roundtrip flight reservations for you at the time of your registration. The flight into Leh is beautiful and a befitting introduction to the Land of High Passes. Upon arrival, we check into our hotel. We recommend that you take rest during the day to allow acclimatization to the high altitude. In the evening, we have a short orientation walk in the colorful and lively market.

Accommodation: Hotel/Guest house (with room heating and hot water); meals not included

DAY 3 – EXPLORING LEH: SHEY PALACE, TIKSE MONASTERY, HEMIS MONASTERY, AND TSEMO NAMGYAL FORT

We spend the day enjoying the sites around Leh. Our first stop is the famous Hemis monastery, cradled in a lovely valley surrounded by streams. We stop for lunch at the colorful and gigantic Tikse Monastery (12 stories) which resembles the Potala Palace in Lhasa, Tibet. In the afternoon, we visit the Shey Palace, which used to be the old summer palace for the King. Shey also has the largest golden Buddha statue in Ladakh. We end our day at the Namgyal Tsemo Monastery, which is perched on a mountain-top overlooking Leh. Tsemo Monastery contains a three storey high golden Buddha statue, library of old scriptures, and beautiful frescoes. The ruins of Tsemo Fort above the monastery offer spectacular view of surrounding mountains and Leh city. We watch the sunset from Tsemo and then take the stairs down to the main market. The evening is free for you to wander through the market area and visit the local shops.

Accommodation: Hotel/Guest house (with room heating and hot water); meals not included

DAY 4-5 PANGONG LAKE (5-6 HOURS)

Day 7: We begin our journey on a rough and dramatic mountain road over the Changla Pass (5360m) towards Pangong Lake. Pangong is an enclosed lake in the Himalayas and extends from India into Tibet. The lake is flanked by massive snow-covered peaks all around that over 6500m high. The road down from Changla Pass leads through nomadic settlements in the Changthang Plateau, and reaches Pangong Lake sometime in the early afternoon. Our campsite is located just next to the lake. Accommodation: Permanent tents/homestay family; meals not included

Day 8: We spend the morning relaxing by the banks of the lake, watching how its color changes constantly. We depart after a late breakfast and reach Leh by early evening.
Accommodation: Hotel/Guest house; meals not included
DAYS 6-7 NUBRA VALLEY Via Khardung La Pass (4-5 HOURS)

Day 6: We depart Leh early to begin our journey towards Nubra Valley via Khardungla Pass (5602m), the world’s highest motorable road. Khardung La Pass and Nubra Valley lies on the Silk Route from Leh to Kashgar in Central Asia. About 10,000 horses and double humped camels used to take the route annually. The pass is permanently covered in fog and snow and a free cup of hot chai near the “highest temple in the world” is most welcome. After enjoying the magnificent views from the top, we begin our descent to the Nubra Valley. Our first stop is the Diskit monastery, which is the oldest (400 years old) and largest of its kind and shouldn’t be missed! It is particularly famous for its murals, and the breath-taking scenery from the rooftop. After lunch, we drive through the cold desert to the picturesque village of Hundar. The sand dunes between Diskit and Hundar are not unlike the Sahara (if you can ignore the snow-capped mountains in the background!) and it is on this route where you will find herds of double humped camels grazing on acai thorns - the only remnants of the Silk Route! In the afternoon, we enjoy a long camel safari on the sand dunes with plenty of photo opportunities. The evening is free for you to wander through the cobbled streets of the Hundar village.

Accommodation: Permanent tents; meals not included

Day 7: The morning is free for you to spend more time in Hundar. We reach Leh in the afternoon and there are no activities planned for the rest of the day. In the evening we say our goodbyes and have a last group dinner.

Accommodation: Hotel/Guest house; meals not included

DAY 8 - LEH TO LAMAYURU (4-5 HOURS)

Our trekking starts from Lamayuru, a small town about five hours from Leh. After breakfast we drive down the geologic wonderland of the Indus River valley, past the confluence with the Zanskar River, and on through the small pretty villages. En-route we visit the famous wall paintings of Alchi monastery, the only monastery in Ladakh on a flat ground. We cross the Indus just past Khalse Village and begin a steep climb through the unusual lunar landscape of Lamayuru. We reach our campsite in the late afternoon with plenty of time to visit the famous Lamayuru Monastery. The monastery, perched on top a steep cliff, is the oldest in Ladakh, dating from the 11th century, and is built around a cave where the Naropa lived and meditated.

Accommodation: Camping; dinner included

DAY 9 - LAMAYURU TO WANLA VIA PRINKITI LA PASS (3720M) (4-5 HOURS; 12 KM)

Today is the first day of our trek. We walk down the valley from Lamayuru and then begin our ascent to Prinkiti La Pass (3650m). The pass offers magnificent views of the barren lunar landscape and the Zanskar Range. From the pass, the trail enters a narrow gorge, following a dry streambed down to the confluence with the Shilakong Valley. We continue past the picturesque Shila village to reach our campsite on the Wanla River. We have the option of taking a short evening walk up to the Wanla monastery, which has a commanding position looking up the Shilakong Valley.

Accommodation: Camping; all meals included

DAY 10 - WANLA TO HINJU (3150M; 5-6 HOURS; 15 KM)

We begin our trek today by crossing the Wanla River and following the 4WD road to the Phanjila village, the entrance to Hinju Valley. We trek through apricot orchards and barley fields, and eventually come to a long windy dusty trail that has been cut through the side of the barren mountains. We reach our campsite at Hinju village in late afternoon. The rest of the day is free for you to wander around the pretty village.

Accommodation: Camping; all meals included

DAY 11 - HINJU TO KONZE LA BASE (3720M; 5-6 HOURS; 15 KM)

From our camp at Hinju we make a steady climb through upper Hinju and pass through rolling grazing pastures for goats and yaks. The trail leading to the Konze La Pass (4950m) offers fine views that stretch all the way back to Hinju and beyond to the ridges of the eastern extremity of the Zanskar Range. Our path then makes a dramatic descent into a serene and secluded valley past many yak herder’s encampments to the base of the pass.

Accommodation: Camping; all meals included
DAY 12 - SUMDO CHIMMU VILLAGE VIA KONZE LA PASS (4950M; 6-7 HOURS; 18KM)
From our encampment, we continue up the valley floor for 3-4 km before commencing the ascent to the top of the pass (4950m). The steep path to the top takes about 4 hours, depending on weather and acclimatization to altitude- so it is important to go slow. The descent from the top is quite steep, over loose moraine that follows an ill-defined trail. Once we reach the valley floor, it is only a short distance over some side ridges to our campsite. We will camp near the Sumdo Chimmu village (4500m), where a number of yak herders make their huts during the summer.
Accommodation: Camping; all meals included

DAY 13 - SUMDO CHIMMU VILLAGE TO DUNG DUNG LA BASE (6-7 HOURS; 20 KM; 4400M)
We start our day by crossing a large river and following the trail to the main Sumdo Chimmu Village. The path then winds down to the valley floor, covered in thick canopy of willow trees and wild rose bushes. After several river crossings, we make a short but rather steep ascent over an intermediary ridge (4430m) to reach the actual base of the Dung Dung La Pass (4400m). The ascent will take about two hours, passing a profusion of edelweiss and other wild flowers. From the top of the ridge, there are magnificent views of Konze La Pass. The descent from the top is long, but quite gentle, and it takes us a little over an hour to reach our campsite over a delightful meadow at Larnak.
Accommodation: Camping; all meals included

DAY 14 - LARNAK TO CHILLING VIA DUNG DUNG LA PASS (7-8 HOURS; 22 KM; 4820M)
We begin with a long but relatively gentle ascent towards the top of the Dung Dung La Pass (4400m). The trail winds past many yak herder’s and nomad’s camps before gradually crossing a series of scree slopes to the top. Here, we will enjoy unrivalled views of glaciated peaks all around. The route then follows the contours along a high ridge before making a long and gradual descent towards Chilling Village. About halfway down, the trail leads through a single yak herder’s settlement and fields, followed by a short and steep descent towards a subsidiary valley. The trail here is ill-defined and we are in for a good two hours of work before reaching our campsite at Chilling. Chilling village provides much of the copper work entering the Leh market. The main village is up a ridge above the campsite and is well worth the visit.
Accommodation: Camping; all meals included

DAY 15 – WHITEWATER RAFTING ON ZANSKAR RIVER (30KM; 3.5 HOURS; CLASS III-V RAPIDS)
Today is an adrenaline rush day as we raft on the whitewaters of the turbulent Zanskar River, one of the most dramatic river canyons in the world! We begin our downstream journey with Class III and IV rapids, drifting through spectacular mountain backdrops, deep gorges, and lush green valleys. The whitewater becomes progressively more difficult as we move downstream. We’ll navigate through several narrow Class IV and V mini gorges. After encountering the last of the Class IV whitewater, we float past the enormous and dramatic confluence of the Zanskar with the Indus River. Our trip ends at the confluence point known as Sangam, from where we drive back to Leh (1 hour). We have no more activities planned for the rest of the afternoon. In the evening we say our good-byes and have a last group dinner.
Accommodation: Hotel/Guesthouse in Leh; Breakfast and Lunch included

DAY 16 - LEH TO NEW DELHI
Catch the early morning flight back to New Delhi with sweet memories of Ladakh. Trip ends on arrival at the airport and you are free to depart anytime. We are happy to arrange accommodation for you in New Delhi.