

em

THE PASHMINA TRAIL

DISCOVER THE HIDDEN GEMS OF LADAKH

2ND – 10TH AUG 2024



**"15 incredible experiences in
India to add to your list in 2022"**

By Conde Nast Traveller



ITS ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

Pashmina trail is the stories of Ladakh told by the many Ladakhis, each one of them makes this tour special and you will agree with me when you meet them on the tour. Here are some of them, you will meet many others too.

The tour is being lead by **Siddarth Pradhan** one of the top specialist for the Himalayas, including Nepal, Bhutan & the North East of India. An avid reader with a love for history, Siddarth knows the many less told stories of Ladakh with his extensive research and meeting with Ladakhis for the last 14 years he spent here. Siddarth can transform your travel experience to help you observe the nuances of this land, discover the story of Pashmina and the many living heritages of Ladakh you never imagined.



Jiwan Kaur and Jigmet Wangchuck the partners at Mantra Himalaya based in Ladakh are the backbone of this tour. Their ground knowledge, excellent network, suggestions and ideas helped design this tour. They with their team on the ground stay on their toes to ensure a seamless flow of events. While they stay in the background taking care of operations, you will definitely meet them some time during the tour, when they will share their insights and stories.

Sonam & Ming, the founders of LENA Ladakh, the slow fashion Pashmina label. We will be doing a dyeing and weaving workshop with them and we will hear the many stories about Pashmina and the growing Pashmina economy of Ladakh from them.



Kunzes is the founder of Artisanal Alchemy, a food company, and a food historian. She is a proud Ladakhi who shares her incredible knowledge on Ladakhi food, where you will taste the most wonderful food and also discover the many stories behind each ingredient and every dish.

I am **Shoba George** the founder of The Extra Mile. This moment here with the Pashmina kid and a Changpa boy in Changthang at a freezing -20C, was my transformational moment that inspired me to create this tour. And I hope that this tour will be just as transformational and inspiring experience for you and you will fall in love with the people and land like I did.



WEAVING THE STORY TOGETHER

Legend has it that a Pashmina shawl that travelled from Kashmir to Iran reached the hands of the French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte during his campaign in Egypt. He gifted this to his wife Empress Josephine who took a great liking to this delicate warm fabric that she soon owned over 400 pashmina shawls at a cost of over 20000 gold francs. The Pashmina Shawl appeared in a French fashion magazine in 1790s and was by now a fashion icon in Paris and soon to be the prized possession of the ladies of the high society in Europe. Kings, adventurers, explorers all had to ensure that on return home, the gift of love was wrapped neatly and on open, a Kashmir shawl was inside. Nothing less could do. Well before Europe discovered Pashmina, the Mughal courts already flaunted it. It has been an important commodity in the Caravans on the Silk Route trade and was known as the "Soft Gold". Wars were fought and treaties signed to claim and control this pashmina trade routes.



It still remains the most coveted fibre in the world and has its origin in this land of High Mountains. Changthang region in Ladakh, an extension of the Tibetan Plateau, and home to pastoral nomads known as the Changpa, or "people from the north" and their livestock includes the Pashmina goat or the Changra. Over centuries they have been following the same migration pattern and lifestyle. From time in memorial this fibre was sent to Kashmir where the weaving was done and sent out to the rest of the world.

The Pashmina Trail, a journey thru the less trodden path in this land abound in mystical tales and breathtaking views. As you connect with the people and culture of Ladakh, weave your own beautiful story.



ITINERARY AT A GLANCE

Date	Program	Inclusions
2 August Fri	Land at Leh Airport. Transfer to hotel in Sham Valley to Nurla village. Checkin and relax. After lunch and some rest, take an evening walk around the resort. Dinner and overnight Apricot Tree.	• Accommodation in Deluxe room at Apricot Tree. • Lunch, evening tea and dinner.
3 August Sat	After Breakfast proceed to Alchi temple complex for a tour of the murals, followed by lunch at Alchi Kitchen. Drive to the beautiful Lamayuru Monastery surrounded by the enchanting landscape also called Moonscape. Return to hotel . Evening at leisure. Dinner.	• Accommodation in Deluxe room at Apricot Tree. • Breakfast, Lunch, & dinner.
4 August Sun	Checkout after an early breakfast and proceed to for a trek to the beautiful Tar Village . A half day trek with picnic lunch. Return to Apricot Tree , pickup your luggage and proceed to Stok Village , checkin at Chulli Bagh. Dinner at the restaurant.	• Accommodation in villa at Chulli Bagh. • Breakfast, Lunch , dinner. • Tar village trek with picnic lunch.
5 August Mon	After a leisurely we proceed to Jigmat Couture Textile Museum , followed by Lunch at Namza Cafe for a Ladakhi lunch. After Lunch we visit "We are Kal" a Community centre of Changpas, that do a. Complete processing to weaving of Asphmina, Sheep & Yak wool. Rest of the afternoon at leisure to explore Leh Market on a curated shopping experience. Return to Stok, Bonfire and Dinner.	• Accommodation in villa at Chulli Bagh. • Breakfast, lunch, and dinner. • Visit to Jigmat Culture Textile museum. • Visit to we are Kal.
6 August Tue	Today start early to leave in time for the early morning prayers with the monks at the Thiksey Monastery. Partake in this age old tradition. After prayers we do a tour of this monastery and proceed to a nearby farm for breakfast here. From here we go to for the Pashmina workshop at the studio of LENA Ladakh. After an engaging workshop we proceed for a lovely picnic lunch by the river. Post lunch return to Chulli Bagh. Rest of the evening at leisure. Evening walk upto Stok palace to see the beautiful living palace followed by high tea. Dinner at the restaurant in Chulli Bagh.	• Accommodation in villa at Chulli Bagh. • Prayer with the monks at Thiksey. • Breakfast at a farm. • Pashmina Workshop. • Picnic lunch by river Indus. • Visit to Stok Palace with high tea. • Dinner at Chulli Bagh.
7 August Wed	After Breakfast , checkout and proceed to Changthang for camping with the nomads. 4 hrs scenic drive passing Tanglang La pass to reach the Nomadic settlement. Settle down into your tents and lunch. Rest for in the afternoon, evening visit the nomadic settlement as the Shepards return from grazing. Return to your camp by night fall. After dinner take the time to watch the night before you snuggle into your sleeping bags.	• Accommodation in double tents. • Breakfast, lunch , evening tea & dinner. • Interaction with the Changpas.
8 August Thu	Early morning visit the nomadic settlement as the Shepards get ready to go for grazing. Return to camp for breakfast. Return to Leh. Checkin in time for lunch. Afternoon at leisure. Special dinner at Tsas.	• Accommodation in suites at Chospa. • Breakfast, lunch & dinner.
9 August Fri	After breakfast proceed to Leh old town for Heritage walk, followed by Curated Artisanal lunch at Jade house. Shopping in Leh town. Dinner at one of the hip and popular restaurants in Leh.	• Accommodation in suites at Chospa • Breakfast, lunch & dinner • Curated Lunch by Food historian.
10 August Sat	After breakfast, departure to airport or proceed to your next destination. End of Pashmina Trail.	• Breakfast • Airport transfers.

em

THE PASHMINA TRAIL ITINERARY

2 AUG

SOAK IN THE LANDSCAPE

Fly in to Leh valley with spectacular views of the Zaskar and Karakoram ranges en-route. We highly recommend that you web check-in and opt for a window seat. You will be ascending from 216m/709ft (New Delhi) to 3500m/ 11480ft (Leh). Complete rest and acclimatisation is of utmost importance on day 1.

From Leh airport is where our adventure in this mystical land begins, as we drive to western Ladakh crossing the confluence of the Indus and Zaskar rivers. In spring the two rivers have distinct colours. The Indus an emerald green, while the Zaskar is an azure blue.

It is after crossing the confluence that we are truly in lower Ladakh also called western Ladakh or Sham Valley.

We make our way to the village of Ule Tokpo, which shall be our residence for the next 2 days. We cross the Basgo fort to our right, the erstwhile capital of lower Ladakh. Housing a 14 meter gilded statue of the Maitreya Buddha (Future Buddha) Upon arrival the hotel, we take the day to soak in the change of landscape amidst a beautiful apricot orchard sipping steaming cups of tea.

Stay: Apricot tree

Meals included: Lunch and dinner





ACCOMMODATION



2ND & 3RD AUG THE APRICOT TREE

The Apricot Tree is tucked away on the outskirts of Nurla village and is a ninety minute drive from Leh airport. Perched on a gentle slope overlooking the Indus river, the hotel is set in an orchard of apple and apricot trees, offers sounds and views of the river and crisp mountain air.

4TH, 5TH, 6TH AUG CHULLI BAGH

Chulli Bagh , as the name suggest is an Apricot Orchard, interwove old walnut and willow trees. In the midst of these trees are three villas each with two cosy, private bedrooms that open into a common open plan sitting area with views of the orchard. Each villa has been hand built with traditional natural materials such as wood and mud and built using sustainable architectural building techniques and natural traditional methods. The rooms look out into this ancient garden scape which by intention have been left un-manicured, in order to retain its natural charm.



7TH AUG CAMPING IN CHANGTHANG

A comfortable tent set up with outmost care to ensure we do not disturb the grazing grounds of the Chang-pas livestock . The tents are owned by us and we maintain the highest standards of hygiene . The Siachen sleeping bags keep you cozy ,warm and comfortable . The specially designed dry toilets are hygienic, designed to be comfortable to use and absolutely environment friendly. We will provide toilet rolls.

We are mindful of the resources we use here, however assure you that you will be most comfortable and enjoy this experience of being up close with Nomads.



8TH & 9TH AUG CHOSPA HOTEL LOCATED IN CITY CENTRE

Built in a traditional Ladakhi style of construction, Hotel Chospa has been moulded using sustainable raw materials and ethically sourced local wood that protect the hotel from the elements while also leaving behind minimal carbon footprint. Sojourn in the majestic city of Leh with Chospa – Made of The Earth

