

HEMIS FESTIVAL



DELHI + LEH + ALCHI + LEH + DELHI

Hemis Monastery is one of the wealthiest, best-known and biggest gompa of Ladakh. Its popularity stems from the major annual festival held here in summer. The festival is in honour of Guru Padma Sambhav's birth anniversary. Hemis was built in 1630 during the reign of Sengge Namgyal, an illustrious ruler of Ladakh. It flourished under the Namgyal dynasty for the royalty favoured the Drugpa sect, which managed the monastery. It is divided into two, the assembly hall on the right and the main temple on the left. The hall Dukhang is also used as "green room" by the dancers during the festival. The temple is known as Tshogkhang. The varandahs have a surfeit of frescoes, among them the Buddhist 'wheel of life' (Kalachakra) and the lords of the four quarters, besides the prayer wheel.

23RD JUNE 2012 DELHI

Fly to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi, you will be Greeted and Escorted by Indo Asia Tour Executive to your Hotel.

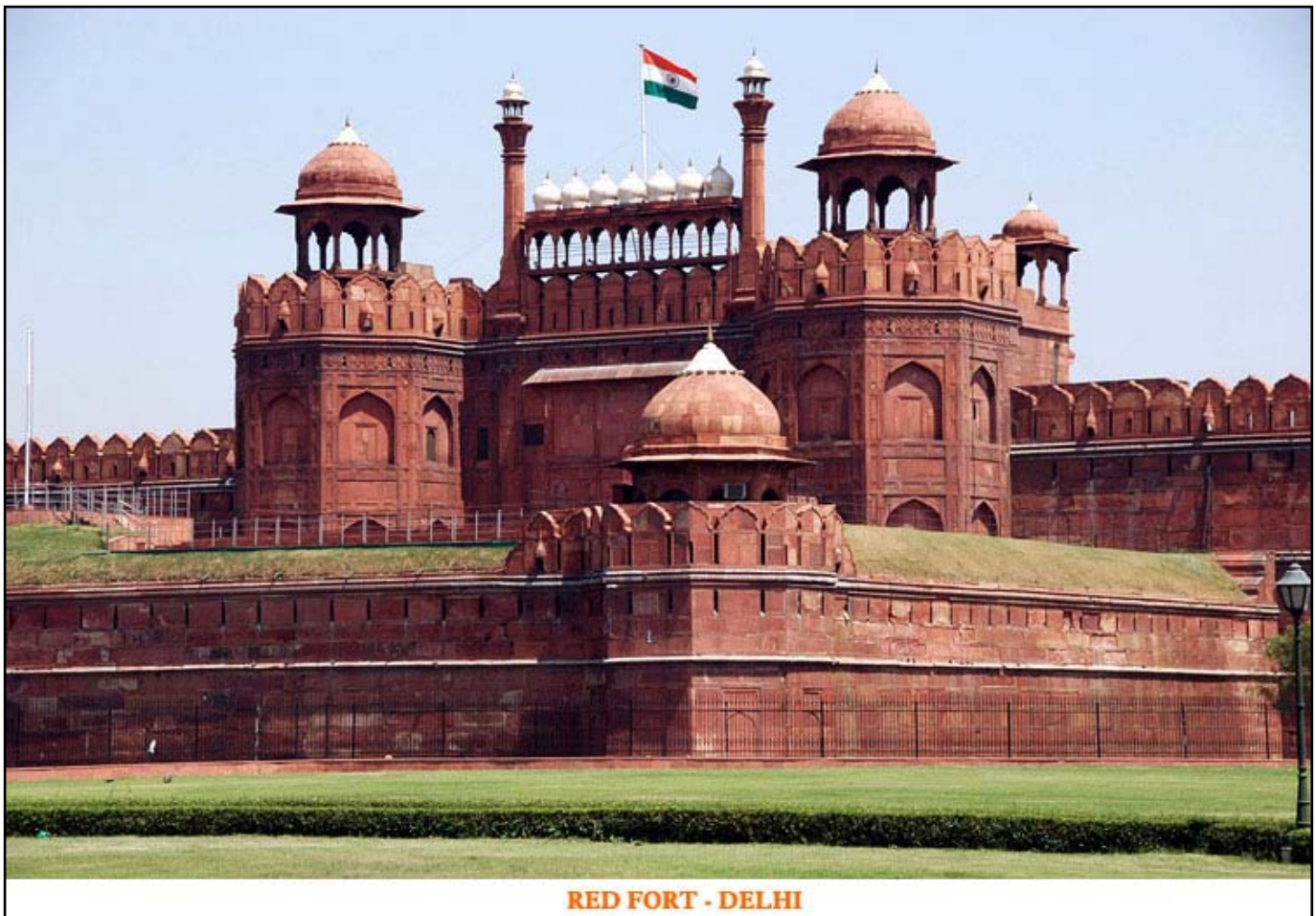
On arrival at hotel check in. (Room will be available from 1200 Noon)

In its 3000 years of existence; seven cities have risen where the present capital of India stands. Here you'll encounter a fascinating blend of the ancient and the contemporary. Where government buildings, medieval palaces and bazaars exist beside a modern metropolis. Delhi is a city waiting to be explored.

Overnight at the Hotel

24TH JUNE 2012: DELHI

After breakfast enjoy a full day city tour of Old & New Delhi. Visit the **Red Fort** - the 17th century imposing fortress built in red sandstone is surrounded by a huge 33m high boundary wall. Inside are exquisite palaces and beautiful gardens.



RED FORT - DELHI

Opposite the Red Fort lies **Jama Masjid** (Friday Mosque) made of red sandstone and white marble, completed in 1656 at a cost of one million Rupees has perfect proportions. India's largest mosque where more than 20,000 people can kneel in prayer. The interior of the prayer hall is divided into aisles by arches. The walls and floors are of marble inlay panels.

Also visit the **Raj Ghat** on the banks of the river Yamuna is Mahatma Gandhi's Memorial, where he was cremated following his assassination in January 1948. The memorial lies in the midst of landscaped gardens and made of a simple square platform of black marble inscribed



HUMAYUN'S TOMB - DELHI

with his last words "Hey Ram". An eternal flame burns 24 hours.

Drive through **Lutyens Delhi** and see **India Gate** - Built of Bharatpur-stone, commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in the 1st world war. 13516 names of British and Indian soldiers killed in the Afghan War of 1919 are engraved on the arch and foundations. **Photo stop** at **Rashtrapati Bhawan** once the Viceroy's residence is now the official residence of the President of India.

Later in the afternoon explore **New Delhi**. Visit the **Humayun's Tomb**, built by his wife Haji Begum in the 16th. Century. An early example of Mughal architecture considered the predecessor of the Taj Mahal. The elements in its design - a squat building, lighted by high arched entrances, topped by bulbous dome and surrounded by the char bagh (garden divided into quadrants), water channels and fountains.

Later visit the **Qutub Minar** - the landmark of Delhi, a huge tower of victory started in 1199 and completed in 1368. The Minar is 72.5m high with a diameter at the base 14.4m and 2.7m at the top. The tower has 379 steps to the top.

Overnight at the Hotel

IMP: Red Fort is closed on Mondays.

25TH JUNE 2012: DELHI / LEH

Morning, transfer to the airport to board the flight to Leh.



On arrival in Leh, transfer to the hotel and check in.

Leh, the capital of Ladakh is situated at a height of 3505 meters and is towards the eastern parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The region is watered by the **Zanskar River**, which flows into the Indus River just below. Leh is a beautiful destination with so many attractions and is the center of Tibeto-Buddhist Culture for ages. Its colorful gompas have attracted the devout Buddhists from all over the globe.

Rest of the day free rest and leisure to acclimatize.

Dinner and Overnight in the hotel

26TH JUNE 2012: LEH

Forenoon is free. Here you can walk around the City & visit Local Gompa.

In the afternoon visit **Shankar Monastery** a couple of km north of the town centre. There is a library and great views from the roof. There is an impressive representation of Avalokitesvara complete with 1000 arms and 1000 heads.



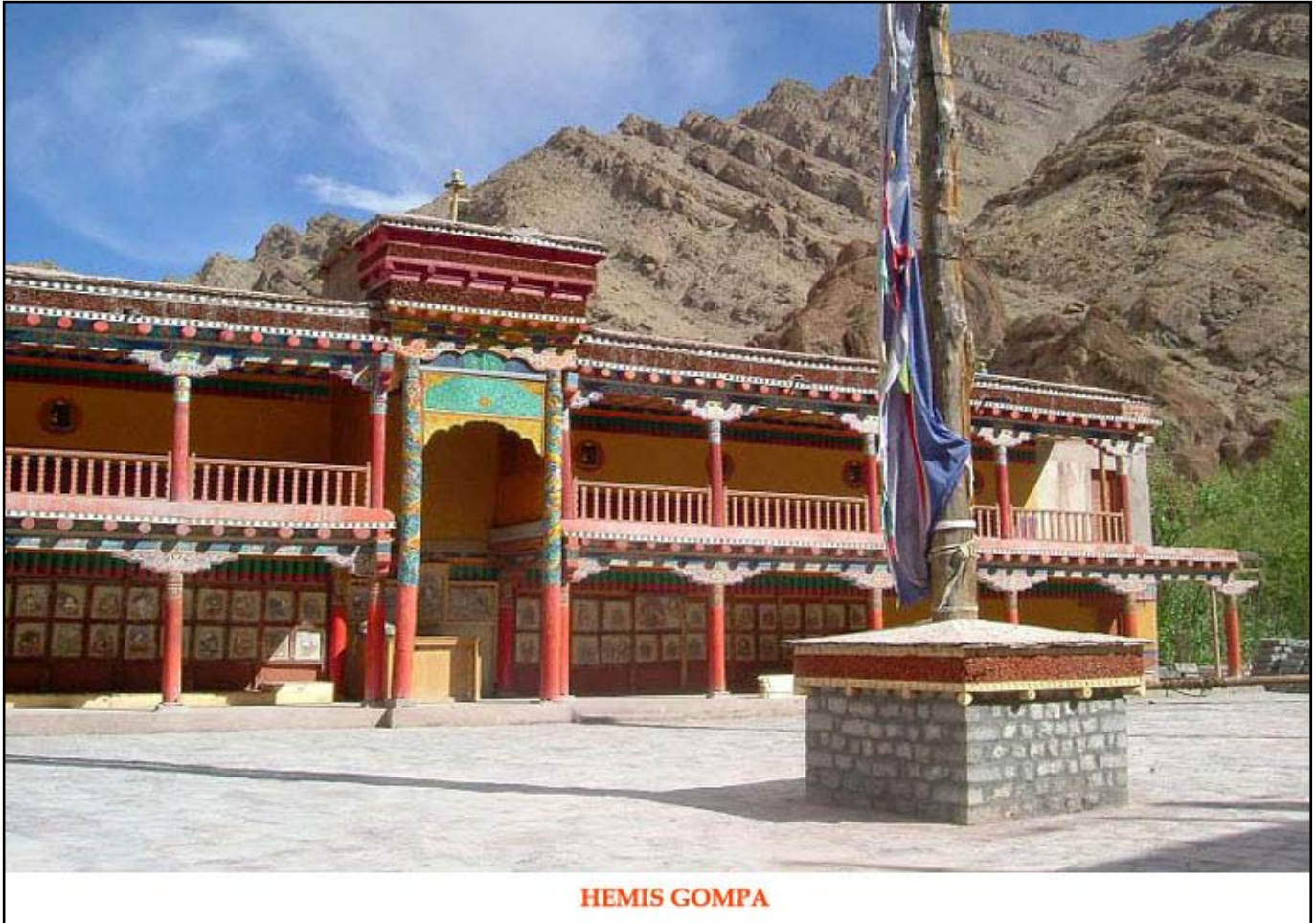
Later visit **Shanti Stupa**, The Japanese for World Peace built the Shanti Stupa, at Changspa, on the hilltop, and was inaugurated by Dalai Lama in 1985. Its state of the art work attracts a lot of tourists to Ladakh and is spectacular to watch. From there one can see the nice spectacular view of Leh town.

Dinner and overnight in the hotel

27TH JUNE 2012: LEH (EXCURSION TO SHEY, THIKSEY, STOK)

Today we proceed for Indus Valley monastery tour. We start with a visit to Shey the ancient capital of Ladakh. The monastery here has a huge gold-gilded statue of Buddha Sakyamuni with a large silver lamp burning in front of the statue.

Then we visit **Thiksey Gompa** an impressive complex rising tier upon tier on a hill above the



HEMIS GOMPA

village. The monastery has a beautiful 30 m high gold-plated statue of Maitreya Buddha, the Buddha of the future. Drive further to visit the famous **Hemis Gompa** founded in 1630's by Stag-tsang-ras-pa under the royal patronage of Sengge Namgyall.

Stok palace; which is currently a museum was built in 1840 to house the Ladakhi royal family after the Dogra army had exiled them.

Later in the evening we drive back to Leh

Dinner and Overnight in the hotel

28TH JUNE 2012 LEH (EXCURSION TO PHYANG & SPITUK)

Today morning set out on an excursion to the Phyang Monastery built in the 16th century by the founder of the Namgyal Dynasty. It houses hundreds of statues including some Kashmiri bronzes, thangkas and manuscript copies of old temples. The temple walls have colourful paintings of the 8th fold path of Buddha's teachings.

Later visit **Spituk** monastery which was founded by Old Led, in the 11th century AD. In those days the Gompa belonged to the Kadampa School but Gelukpa order was introduced during the region of King Dragspa Bum idle, when Lama Lhawang Lotus restored the monastery & Hall of Fame (war museum).

Dinner & Overnight in the hotel

29TH JUNE 2012: LEH (EXCURSION TO HEMIS)

After breakfast drive to Hemis Monastery to witness the festival

Hemis Monastery: This is biggest and the most important monastery in Ladakh. It was built in the 17th century by Chapgon Gyalshas and ever since has enjoyed the patronage of the royal family. Hemis is the headquarter of the Drukpa order and all the monasteries throughout Ladakh are administered by it. It also trains Lamas for the royal monasteries at Leh, Shey and Bazgo. The Monastery contains gold statues and stupas decorated with precious stones and many priceless old Thankas.



HEMIS FESTIVAL

Each year the Hemis Festival attracts more than its share of pilgrims & tourists. Held during the full moon in June, is a series of colourful masked dances performed to the accompaniment of cymbals, drums & long horns.

Dinner & Overnight in the hotel

30TH JUNE 2012: LEH (EXCURSION TO HEMIS)

After breakfast drive to **Matho Gompa** to witness the 2nd Day of festival.



HEMIS FESTIVAL

Enjoy the festival.

This is special day to watch the Oricals. Both Oricals performs puja and change of 'LHATHO' etc.

Dinner & Overnight in the hotel

01ST JULY 2012: LEH / LAMAYURU / ALCHI

After breakfast to **Lamayuru**, and **Ridzong**.

Lamayuru lower Ladakh its also called as sham. **Lamayuru Gompa:** The oldest holy site in Ladakh, it was a bon shrine prior to the advent of Buddhism. Also known as Yung Drung (Swastika) it is sited on a high promontory overlooking the village and valley. For sheer



LAMAYURU GOMPA

spectacle value no other Gompa can match Lamayuru.

After visit at lamayuru Gonpa the drive to **Ridzong Gompa:** There is no road to Rizong Gompa hence one has to walk to the monastery which is deep into the mountains. Rizong Gompa is known as the paradise for Meditation. Guru Padma Sambhava is believed to editated here for years. One can still find the small caves where Lamas used to meditate for years cutting themselves from the rest of the world except for a one feet square outlet window from where they accept the one time meal of the day.

Then we drive and cross the River Indus and reach **Alchi**, Ladakh's most loved monastery. Over a century old, its wall paintings are very similar to those of the Tabo gompa in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Unlike other monasteries, which are usually on a cliff top or cling to a mountainside, Alchi is at ground level and is nestled in the shade of a garden

Dinner & Overnight in the Camp

02ND JULY 2012: ALCHI / LEH

After breakfast drive back to Leh and check in at our hotel for overnight stay



ALCHI

Dinner & Overnight in the hotel

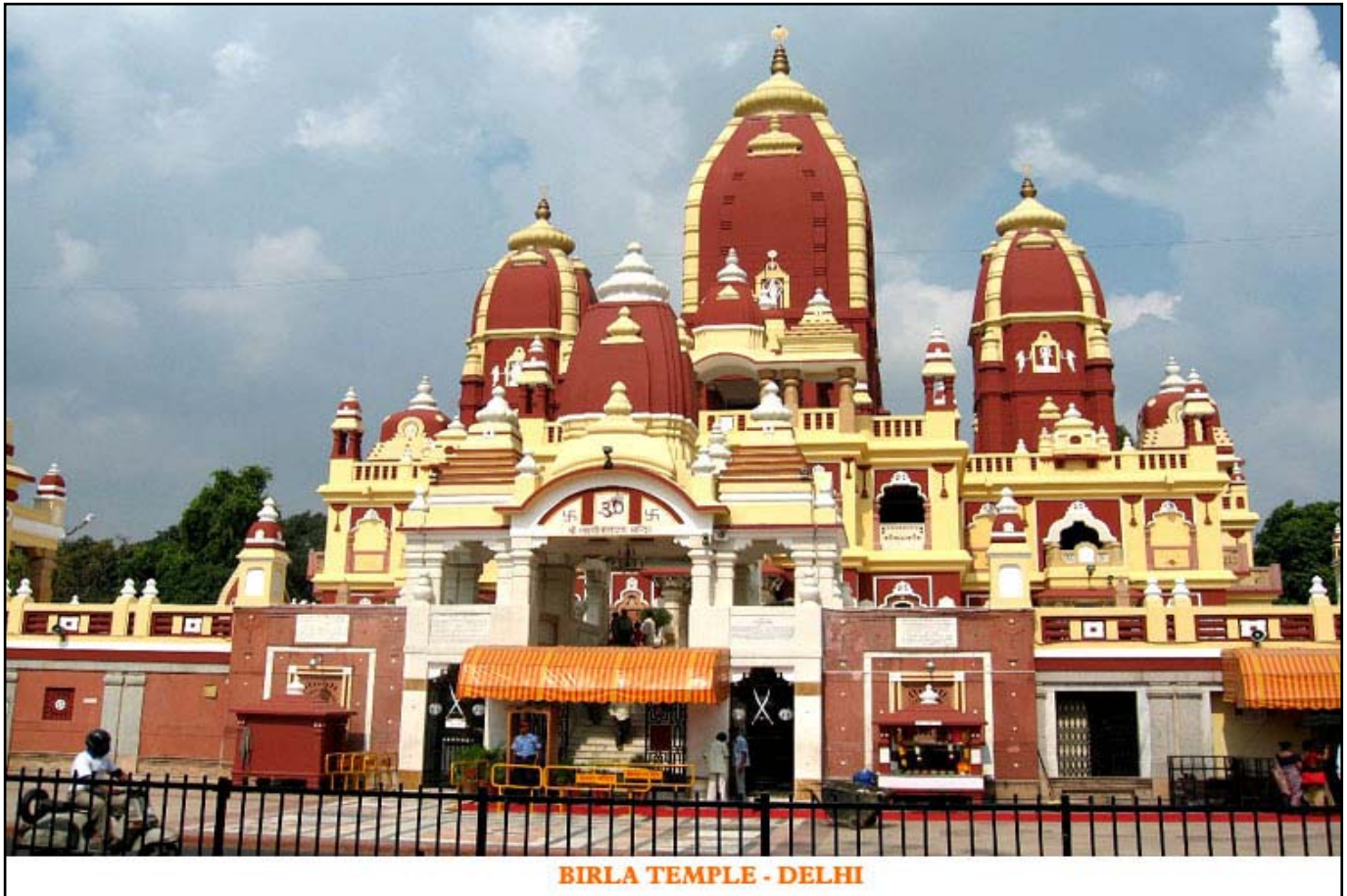
03RD JULY 2012: LEH / DELHI

Morning, transfer to the Airport to board the flight to Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to the hotel and check in.

Later drive for the temple tour of Delhi.

Visit to **Laxmi Narayan Temple**, one of the biggest Hindu temple in Delhi. A big industrialist



Mr. Birla built it about 50 years ago. It showcases almost all Gods worshipped by Hindus.

Later visit a Sikh temple "**Bangala Sahib Gurudwara**". This is another religion started in 15th century by great sufi saint Guru Nanak.

Also visit **Bhai's temple**. This is a new religion in India. There is one Bhai temple in every continent, in Asia it is in Delhi. It is made in white marble and resembles shape lotus hence also called Lotus Temple.

Overnight in the hotel



INDO ASIA TOURS

04TH JULY 2012: DELHI DEPARTURE

On time transfer to the International Airport to board the flight for onwards journey.

== End of the Services ==

Hotel List

Place	Hotel	Room Type	Dates
Delhi	The Royal Plaza http://www.hoteltheroyalplaza.com/	Superior Room	23 - 25 June 2012
Leh	Hotel Kaal	Standard Room	25 June - 01 July 2012
Alchi	Camps		01 - 02 July 2012
Leh	Hotel Kaal	Standard Room	02 - 03 July 2012
Gurgaon	Park Premier www.parkpremierhotels.com	Deluxe Room	03 - 04 July 2012

Prices:

Slab	Prices
Prices on twin sharing basis	EUR 851.00 PER PERSON
Single Room Supplement	EUR 380.00 PER SINGLE ROOM
Supplement for airfare between Delhi/ Leh / Delhi in economy class	EUR 415.00 PER PERSON

Regarding Airfare:

- Kindly note that the above airfares are the CURRENT fares of the Airlines for the given sectors & is subject to change at the time of booking.



Cost includes:

- Double room on twin sharing basis on bed & breakfast basis in Delhi & Full board elsewhere
- All transfers and sight seeing by air-conditioned Vehicle in Delhi & non air-conditioned jeeps elsewhere
- Entrances in the monuments as in the itinerary.
- Services of English Speaking local guides in each city for sightseeing as per the itinerary.
- All inner line permit in Ladakh
- Service Tax.

Cost does not include:

- Any airport taxes.
- Any airfares.
- Any new tax imposed by the Government.
- Any meals other than specified
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as tips, drinks, telephone charges, laundry etc.

IMP:

- In case of waitlisted booking we have to hold the alternate, for which we will advise the supplement OR reduction accordingly.
- The above rates are based on presently prevailing taxes and entrances to the monuments. If there is any change, prices will also change accordingly.
- Check in and check out time is 1200 Hrs noontime.
- *In case of fluctuations in the Rate of Exchange, the above-mentioned prices will change.*