

Journeys & Experiences
by THE TIMES OF INDIA

deorhi
RETURN

Ladakh,

lived
as it is.

Leh, Nubra & Turtuk
30 Sept - 5 Oct, 2026

6 days, one unfolding

Stillness

Arrival in Leh. Thin air, and an afternoon that asks nothing of you.

Day 1

Heritage

Alchi's murals, a kitchen that knows this valley, the Moonland at Lamayuru.

Day 2

Ascent

Over Khardung La, tea with a family at Khardung Village, into Nubra.

Day 3

Frontier

Turtuk, where a Balti family still keeps the house their grandparents built.

Day 4

Devotion

Dawn prayers with the monks at Diskit. Not a performance.

Day 5

Horizon

A slow breakfast, and a Ladakh a map never showed you.

Day 6

Day 0130 Sept

Leh Stillness

Arrival, Leh

Leh sits above eleven thousand feet, and the day is built around that fact rather than around you. The airport gives way to a slow drive into town, thin air and wide light, and an afternoon with nothing asked of it. Evening brings the group together for the first time, an orientation not to sights but to a place: its geography, its traditions, how to move through both with care.



- 2:00 pm

Arrival, Leh Airport
Private transfer to The Grand Dragon Ladakh, check in and rest
- 6:00 pm

Orientation Briefing
Ladakh's geography, Buddhist traditions, and travelling well
- 8:00 pm

Dinner
At the hotel
- Stay: The Grand Dragon, Leh

Day 021 Oct

Sham Valley Heritage

Sham Valley

The cultural heartland opens today, seven or eight hours through it. Alchi's eleventh-century murals hold a kind of Buddhist art found nowhere else in Ladakh, and lunch is cooked by someone who has spent a life in this valley's kitchens, not a menu written for visitors. Lamayuru closes the day against the Moonland, a landscape that looks unfinished, or finished in a different language altogether.



8:30 am Depart for Sham Valley
Full-day exploration of Ladakh's cultural heartland

10:00 am Alchi Monastery
Eleventh-century murals, one of Ladakh's finest seats of Buddhist art

12:30 pm Lunch at Alchi Kitchen
Curated by Chef Nilza Wangmo

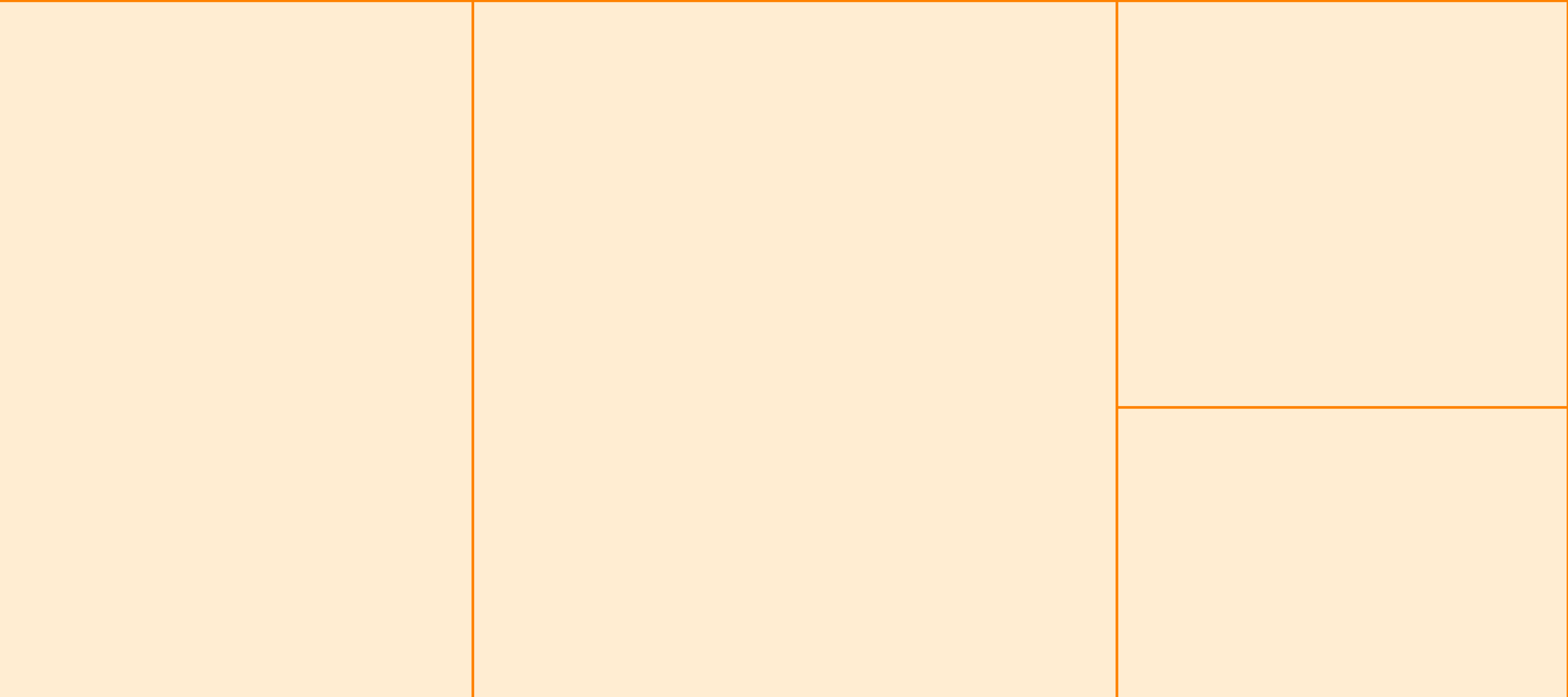
Stay: The Grand Dragon, Leh

Day 032 Oct

Khardung La Ascent

Leh to Nubra

The road climbs to Khardung La, one of the highest motorable passes on earth, and the pass is not the point of the day so much as its threshold. Khardung Village receives you on the other side of the climb, with tea poured by the people who live there and a walk that has nothing to do with photographs. By afternoon, Nubra opens out, and its air feels like a different country's.



- 7:30 am

Depart Leh

Drive over Khardung La Pass, 5,359 metres
- 9:30 am

Khardung Village

Heritage walk and traditional Ladakhi tea with locals
- 5:00 pm

Hunder Sand Dunes

Walk to the dunes, optional camel ride at golden hour
- Stay: Organic Retreat/Lchang Nang, Nubra

Day 043 Oct

Last Village Frontier

Turtuk

Turtuk was Pakistan until 1971, and it still carries that border in its stone houses, its polo fields, its apricot orchards, its Balti tongue. Most itineraries never reach it. The drive along the Shyok is stark enough to be its own reward, and the village, once you're in it, asks you to slow down to a pace its families have kept for centuries, not one arranged for you.



- 8:00 am

Depart for Turtuk

Drive along the Shyok River through stark, stunning terrain
- 10:30 am

Arrival in Turtuk

The last Indian settlement before the Pakistan border
- 11:00 am

Guided Village Walk

Stone houses, polo fields, apricot orchards, Balti culture

Stay: Organic Retreat/Lchang Nang, Nubra

Diskit Devotion

Return to Leh

The Maitreya Buddha at Diskit catches the first Himalayan light before the rest of the valley does, and this morning you are there for the monks' actual rituals, unrehearsed, not rearranged for an audience. Then the road back over Khardung La, a free afternoon in Leh's markets, and a last dinner that closes the circle with live Ladakhi folk music.



7:00 am Morning Prayers, Diskit Monastery
Resident monks' daily rituals, first Himalayan light

10:00 am Drive Back to Leh
Over Khardung La, approximately 5 hours

7:30 pm Farewell Dinner
Live Ladakhi folk music performance

Stay: The Grand Dragon, Leh

Day 065 Oct

Leh Horizon

Departure

The last morning asks nothing more of you than breakfast, taken slowly, and a transfer to the airport timed to your flight. Six days ago Ladakh was a name on an itinerary. It leaves you knowing the family who keeps a house in Turtuk, the monks who keep first light at Diskit, and a country you came to know rather than simply see.



- 10:00 am

Breakfast & Checkout

Leisurely final breakfast at the hotel
- 10:30 am

Transfer to Leh Airport

Private transfer for onward journey



Inclusions

- Five nights across two properties: The Grand Dragon Ladakh, Leh (3 nights); Organic Retreat or Lchang Nang Retreat, Hunder (2 nights). Double sharing.
- All meals as per itinerary
- All ground transfers in private vehicles
- All activities and experiences listed in the itinerary
- Inner Line Permits for Nubra and Turtuk
- Oxygen cylinders and medical aid
- Dedicated photographer and videographer for the full journey
- Hosted by top Deorhi curators throughout the journey

Exclusions

- Flights to and from Leh
- Personal expenses, tips and gratuities
- Anything not named in the itinerary





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is always
waiting within



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Reserve

Solo traveller on single occupancy

3L + 5% GST per person

For two travellers

4L + 5% GST per couple

Group bookings on request