

# Hills and High Places

16 days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



*From the Golden Sikh Temple in Amritsar, journey north to the home of the Dalai Lama, crossing the majestic snow-clad Himalayas to discover the medieval temples & stupas of the Buddhist kingdom of Ladakh.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Amritsar and the stunning Golden Temple
- Dharamsala and its laid back Buddhist atmosphere
- Palampur tea estate, Manali and adventure sports
- Keylong, the Rhotang Pass and the Tanglang Pass
- Sarchu and Sahsur Gompas and its priceless 5 metre painting of all 84 Buddhist sidhas
- Alchi Monastery - classic Himalayan Gompa
- Leh - 'Little Tibet', Sankar Gompa, Shanti Stupa, Hemis Monastery, Shey Monastery and Tikse Gompa
- High Himalayas - exhilarating mountain vistas and home to Mount Everest
- Delhi - the capital of India

### What's Included

- 15 breakfasts, 4 lunch, 4 dinners

- 14 nights superior hotels (standard and deluxe hotels available on request)
- 1 night permanent tented camp
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 16
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle (mountain vehicles are not air-conditioned)
- 2 Economy class flights - Delhi - Amritsar, Leh - Delhi
- Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- Touring, excursions and drives as per itinerary

### What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Delhi

Once you've arrived in Delhi, you'll be met and transferred to and afternoon flight to Amritsar and hotel check in. **Overnight - Amritsar**

### Day 2 : Amritsar

Amritsar. This morning enjoy a tour of Amritsar, taking in the beautiful Golden

Temple, considered the holiest shrine to Sikhs the world over, yet open to all. Surrounded by a complex of sparkling white marble and a lake for purification the lavishly guided temple with bulbous golden domes houses the Adi Granth, the book of teachings for the Sikh faith. This evening we drive to the Wagah Border crossing (a land crossing between India/Pakistan) to watch the highly animated 'Flag Lowering' ceremony - a must for any visitor to the north of India. **Overnight - Amritsar (B)**

### Days 3-4 : Dharamsala



Amritsar - Dharamsala. Driving north to Dharamsala offers some dramatic scenery, where rolling foothills rise high toward snow capped peaks. Dharamsala, the British hill station turned Tibetan settlement, home to the Dalai Lama and thousands of Tibetan refugees offers a sense of peace and tranquility to all those who arrive.

## Hills and High Places - 16 days

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This information has been compiled with care and good faith. They give an accurate illustration of the proposed arrangements for this holiday. Circumstances beyond our control such as changes in local conditions, inclement weather or other reasons could force us to make changes to this itinerary. Any costs shown are subject to change, though are an accurate reflection of costs at time of writing. Please also note that visa requirements are subject to change and are the responsibility of the traveller and not that of On The Go Tours.

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Day 4 offers guided sightseeing of the area surrounding the Dalai Lama's residence, Dharamsala's main Buddhist Temple - Tsug Lakhang and the Norbulingka Institute - centre for Buddhist learning and handicrafts.

**Overnight - Dharamsala (B:2)**

## Days 5-6 : Manali



Dharamsala - Palampur - Manali. En route to Manali a stop is made at Palampur - a pretty hill station enclosed by aged British tea plantations. Touring a colonial plantation, set upon the mounting slopes of Kangra Valley, criss crossed by babbling brooks offers a chance to enjoy a fine cuppa. Arriving in Manali, the adventurous can opt to go white water rafting, mountain biking or skiing. Or simply spend the afternoon relaxing. Day 6 allows for a sightseeing tour of the city and an afternoon of leisure. **Overnight - Manali (B:2)**

## Day 7 : Keylong

Manali - Rohtang Pass - Keylong. Continuing north and rising to 3980 metres above sea level along the Rhotang Pass we arrive at the village of Keylong - 120 km from the Tibetan border. **Overnight - Keylong (B, L, D)**

## Day 8 : Sarchu

Keylong - Sarchu. En route to Sarchu there is time to stop and explore Sahsur Gompa, a beautiful Buddhist Temple built in the 17th century housing priceless 5 metre 'Tankha', (wall painting) depicting all 84 sidhas of Buddhism. **Overnight - Sarchu (permanent tented camp) (B, L, D)**

## Days 9-11 : Leh & Ladakh



Keylong - Tanglang La Pass - Leh. Rudyard Kipling said of the region "Surely the Gods live here this is no place for men." Travelling over the Tanglang La Pass at a dizzying height of 5350 metres confirms our arrival to the remote and sparsely populated region of Ladakh. Cradled by the Karakoram and the Great Himalayan ranges, the vast and often snow covered desert is often described as the last 'Shangri-La', (land of high mountain passes) and is one of the last enclaves of Mahayana Buddhism, Ladakh's principle religion for nearly a thousand years, now much suppressed in its native homeland of Tibet. The following 3 days are spent exploring this delightful region. Day 10 - Leh city tour with visits to the Sankar Gompa and Shanti Stupa. Day 11 - guided touring of Hemis Monastery, Shey Monastery - a former royal palace and Tikse Gompa - a 12 story high complex resembling Potala Palace in Lhasa, housing Buddhist art, statues, art and swords.

**Overnight - Leh & Ladakh (B:3)**

## Days 12-13 : Alchi



Leh - Alchi. Alchi is set amongst the desolate gorges of the Indus River and spectacular mountains. Here we will visit the Alchi Gompa, a must see Buddhist Temple dating back to 1000 AD. On day 13 we return to Leh.

**Overnight - (1) Alchi, (1) Leh (B:2, L:2, D:2)**

## Days 14-15 : Delhi

Leh - Delhi - breakfast. Morning flight to Delhi and hotel check in upon arrival. The remainder of today and tomorrow offer free time to independently explore. Consider visits to the Red Fort, Qutab Minar and Raj Ghat.

**Overnight - Delhi (B:2)**

## Day 16 : Delhi

Sadly today arrangements conclude after breakfast and onward departure transfer to the airport.(B)

### PRICES / DATES INFO

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the per person price.

### PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
18 Feb	GBP 2,830	GBP 3,670

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