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SPECIAL FIXED DEPARTURE 2009

THE ANCIENT ROUTES ADVENTURE JEEP SAFARI

DEPARTURE DATES

I 14th July 2009 To 23rd July 2009

II 10th August 2009 To 19th August 2009

Ladakh: Known as "the moon land", "Little Tibet" or even more romantically as "the last Shangri La", is one of the most remote region of India, a barren, virtually rainless area. Ladakh beckons for more than one reason. This enlightening safari takes you to the most remote and isolated valleys in the Ladakh region. Here the landscape assumes fantastic and bizarre shapes a result of wind erosion. A remote village en-route, with its green barley fields and willow trees, only breaks the stark barren landscape. The defiance of its barren landscape, its unique flora and fauna, its culture, its clear blue skies and clean air, the land where snow never melts and only corn ripens, has more to offer than a good holiday.

Duration	: 10 Days of roadside adventure.
Highlights	: Monasteries, adventurous mountain passes, mud plastered villages & ancient cultures.
Focus	: Indus Valley monasteries, Khardungla pass, Tanglangla pass, Nubra Valley & Bactrian camels.
Highest Pass	: Tanglangla (5360m). Khardungla pass: (5800m).
Best Time	: May to September.
Red Tape	: Need of inner-line permits.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 01: Arrive in Leh:

You will be met at the airport upon your arrival in Leh. Our Representative will then escort you to your pre-booked hotel situated in the central part of the city. The day will be spent in complete rest to acclimatize you in this high altitude region. In the evening we will take a light stroll to the market. Dinner and Overnight at the Guesthouse.

Day 02: Sightseeing in Leh:

You will spend day of sightseeing in Ladakh's most famous monasteries known as Shey, Thikse and Hemis. Built in between the period of 15th and 17th centuries, the monasteries are a living example of the Buddhist teachings largely forgotten in the Asian region. An interesting collection of murals, frescoes and statues can be seen inside the main temples. We return in the afternoon to the hotel for lunch and relaxation. In the evening we will take a walk to the beautiful Shanti Stupa perched on a hilltop overlooking the city and the Indus valley. Dinner and overnight in Guesthouse.

Day 03: Leh to Alchi & Uletopko:

Today we drive on the Indus river route to visit the lovely oasis of Alchi situated in the outer Zaskar region. As we drive past colorful villages and hill side monasteries the journey will get more interesting. We cross the bridge and arrive at Alchi a bit early in the afternoon. After lunch at one of the hotels, we spend the time exploring the small village. One of the interesting aspects of this village is its monastery. Mainly known for its wall paintings of the 11th century, the monastery was built by the great translator "Lotsawa Rinchen Zangpo". The wall paintings in Alchi Monastery are some of the oldest surviving paintings in Ladakh and reflect artistic and spiritual details of both Buddhism and Hindu kings of that time in Kashmir. Later as we wrap up our Alchi visit, we

drive to our overnight camp at Uleytokpo. Upon arrival in Uleytokpo we settle into the camp and explore the outer areas. Dinner and overnight at Camp.

Day 04: Uletopko to Leh via Lamayuru:

After breakfast in the morning, we drive back to Leh and en-route visit the Lamayuru monastery. The Indian scholar Mahasiddhacarya Naropa founded Lamayuru monastery in the 11th century (allegedly on the site of a dried-up lake) after spending many years meditating, Lamayuru is the one of the largest and also one of the oldest gompa in Ladakh with a population of around 150 permanent monks resident. After we explore this beautiful monastery we will head back to Leh. Dinner and overnight at the Guesthouse.

Day 05: Leh to Nubra: (230 km / 6-7 hrs drive):

We will drive to Nubra valley in the morning, driving over the highest motored pass in the world. The exciting journey through serpentine roads leads us to the Khardungla Pass at an awesome height of 5550 meters. We stop at the pass to admire and click some photographs of the fantastic view, before driving down into the Nubra valley. The valley is situated on an old caravan route at the confluence of the Shyok and the Nubra rivers. We drive to our fixed camp resort we will stay for a few nights and explore the gentle and green valley. On this day we will visit Santaling monastery. Overnight in camp.

Day 06: In Nubra Valley:

We will begin a long and full day of explorations into this charming valley, by driving to Deskit – the tiny capital of Nubra. The capital is marked by a single file of shops that are put up on the main road. We will visit the Deskit Gompa, perched on a rocky spur above the village, with a commanding view of the entire valley. From Deskit we will drive to Hunder past an area of sand dunes and get acquainted with the famous Bactrian camels. This small population of shaggy double-humped animals, which in the old days, were used as pack animals on the Central Asian trade routes are now used as riding animals in the high deserts. In the late afternoon we will drive to the camp. Overnight in camps.

Day 07: Nubra to Leh: (230 km / 6-7 hrs drive):

We will drive back to Leh, driving on the same route and crossing the Khardungla pass yet again. We arrive at Leh in the afternoon and settle for the day at our Guesthouse.

Day 08: Leh to Sarchu:

We begin our trans Himalayan safari from Leh today and travel across the Indus Valley towards to Sarchu. We pass through a number of picturesque villages and fruit orchards before ascending the stark road towards Tanglangla, Pass. This is locally called as the second highest motorable pass in the world. As we drive down the pass, we will be running right across the Morey plains and then descending the infamous Gatta loops, known because of their sheer drop to the valley floor. We arrive in Sarchu late in the afternoon and settle at our camp, while we are served with hot beverages and snacks. Dinner and Overnight at the Camp.

Day09: Sarchu – Keylong:

Enjoy your breakfast at the camp and drive to Keylong. We cross the state border and drive now into Himachal Pradesh We drive across Baralachala Pass, (4,883m) which is also known as the gateway for the Zaskar valley trek. We will reach Keylong in the late afternoon. The Bhaga River runs right through Keylong, which is also described as the Oasis of green fields. The people of this valley are mainly Buddhists & the local society still follows the ancient culture of polygamy. Upon arrival we will check into our hotel. Later in the evening we will take a short tour in the village. Dinner and Overnight at the hotel.

Day 10: Keylong to Manali:

Today we start from Keylong and drive on for another exciting day across the Trans Himalayas towards Manali. We drive past the village.. We continue our drive to Manali through the Rohatang Pass 13,060 ft. We will reach Manali in the late afternoon and get transferred to our hotel. Manali, is the northern end of the Kullu Valley in Himachal Pradesh, and is situated at a height of 2050 m in the Himalayas. Situated on the Beas River it is a staging point for a number of treks across the state. Overnight at the hotel.

XX - END OF TOUR - XX

ALL PRICES IN INR (Indian National Rupee)

For 02 Paying Pax: INR: 37,500/- Per person on twin sharing basis with all taxes inclusive.

SRS: INR: 7,800/- Per person on single sharing basis with all taxes inclusive.

The costs are included as per the following details:

- ** Accommodation in Serthi guesthouse or similar in Leh on CPAI basis.
- ** Accommodation in Deluxe hotels / camps on APAI basis.
- ** All overland journey including arrival and departure transfers.
- ** All jeep safari for journeys and sightseeing.
- ** Entrance fee to monuments, temples and other places.
- ** Local English speaking guide for Leh tour.
- ** Assistance on arrival and departure transfers.
- ** English speaking tour guide.

The costs are excluding as per the following details:

- ** Any international or domestic airfare & airport departure tax.
- ** Any accommodation in Manali.
- ** Any extra meals other than the mentioned plan.
- ** Any extra sightseeing that is not mentioned in the tour program.
- ** Any personal expenses like, bar bills, telephone bills, tips, beverages, medical / travel insurance, still/video camera fee costs or any other cost not included above.

JOURNEYS BEYOND THE ORDINARY!!!