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### ZANSKAR ON WHEELS

A 25-day journey through the ZANSKAR valley (Indian Himalayas)

Departure date:

15<sup>th</sup> July '2018 to 8<sup>th</sup> August '2018



The Mountains and Monasteries of Zaskar: -

The mountain range of Zaskar is part of the Tethys Himalayas, located in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. This semi-desert land covers around 7000 kilometres, with altitudes ranging from 3500 – 7000 metres.

Zanskar lies along two branches of the Zanskar River. The first river has its source near Pansi'la Pass and leads to a small village called Padum which lies



In the central part of Zanskar. The second branch is formed by two main tributaries: the Kargyag River, with its source close to the Shingo La Pass, and the Tsarap River, which originates from the Baralacha pass. These two rivers unite below the village of Purney. Before they flow into the River Indus.

The awe-inspiring valleys of Zanskar are the backdrop of ancient Buddhism. It is

said that Buddhism entered Zanskar from Kashmir as early as 200 BC. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, Buddhist monks travelled from Tibet in search of salvation and settled in the high ends of the Zanskar mountains. Eventually they built monasteries there, which are nothing short of a man-made sensation.



For an example image below is of Phugtal Monastery in Zanskar and several

Others like...

Ichar Monastery

Mune Monastery

Alchi Monastery

## Burdan Monaster

This journey will start out of Delhi to tourist hotspot Manali in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh.



Then we will proceed by car on a most beautiful road stretching between Manali and Ladakh. We will be crossing one of the highest passes in the world (5500 metres) to reach Ladakh.

From Ladakh we travel to Kargil (in the Suru Valley), which is the main gateway to the Zaskar Valley. Passing through the Suru Valley, we reach the first Buddhist settlement in the

village of Rangdum, with the beautiful Rangdum monastery in the middle of nowhere. We then cross the Pansi'la pass to descend into the main valley.

When our caravan reaches Padum, which is the main town in the entire Zaskar Valley, we will stay there for a week. This will be our basis for exploring places like Karsha, Zangla and Purney, to visit the Phugtal monastery, beside many other monasteries.

During this entire journey, we will be using cars for transportation and a pickup van to carry our luggage, food and camping gear. We will be camping at various beauty spots. Our food will be freshly prepared in a kitchen tent and eaten in a dining tent. We sleep in mountain tents. Our journey will end in Ladakh before we fly back to Delhi.

For a detailed itinerary with prices and conditions, please contact Virender Prakash mail to: [virender@journeytoindia.co.in](mailto:virender@journeytoindia.co.in)