



Article published on June 9th 2012 | [Travel Tips](#)

Ladakh, the land of high passes and gompas, is India's most exotic region located in the northernmost Indian state of Jammu & Kashmir. The region is internationally famous for stunning landscapes, adventure sports, serene beauty and magnificent Buddhist monasteries, palaces and monuments. Almost every few kilometers you will find a Buddhist monastery (gompa) that is still well-preserved and displays excellent architecture and rich Buddhist culture & tradition. Due to magnificent Buddhist monasteries to see as attractions and serene natural beauty Ladakh has been one of the most popular India's tourist destinations. Leh is the main town of the region famous for Buddhist monasteries and monuments. It is also base to see other monasteries of the region. Have a look at three must-visit monuments during Ladakh tour in India.

## Leh Palace

Leh Palace is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Leh. It is a magnificent architecture and its first look reminds you of the famous Potala Palace of Lhasa, the capital city of Tibet. It looks like a smaller model of the real Potala Palace of Tibet. The beautiful palace was constructed in the 17th century by Dharamraja Singey Namgyal. It is also known as Lhachen Phalkar. This beautiful palace was once the abode of royal family till 1830s. It is located by the edge of a hill. Just above the palace you will see a victory tower that was constructed to commemorate the Ladakhi victory over Balti Kashmir.

## Hemis Gompa

Drive around 45 km south of Leh town; you will reach at famous Hemis Monastery. Founded in the 17th century by King Senge Namgyal and belonging to Kagyug Drukpa Red Hat sect, this legendary gompa is one of the most prominent and largest monasteries in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir. Currently it is the largest and most prosperous monastery in the region. It is also called "Chang Chub Sam Ling" which means the solitary place of the compassionate one. Inside the gompa you will see the world's largest thangka which will make you spellbound. The thangka is displayed only once in 12 years. Next display of the Thangka will be in the year 2016. Annually celebrated Hemis Festival is one another attraction that lures locals and tourists.

## Thiksey Monastery

Drive for just 20 km from Leh and you will reach the famous Thiksey Gompa which was built in the 15th century. It belongs to the Gelugpa Sect. This monastery is internationally known for its grand and impressive structures. The gompa is very popular among tourists with around 10 temples inside the premises. Inside the gompa, you will find the 15 m tall Maitreya Buddha that is one of the most photographed images in Ladakh region.

There are many other popular monasteries and monuments which can be visited and explored with Leh Ladakh tour packages. Alchi Monastery, Lamayuru Gompa, Spituk Monastery, Diskit Gompa, Shanti Stupa, Sankar Gompa, Stok Gompa & Palace, etc are other popular monuments to visit during Ladakh tour in India.

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Article Keywords:

Monasteries in Ladakh, Leh Ladakh Tour Packages

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