

Curated by Ashok Kochhar

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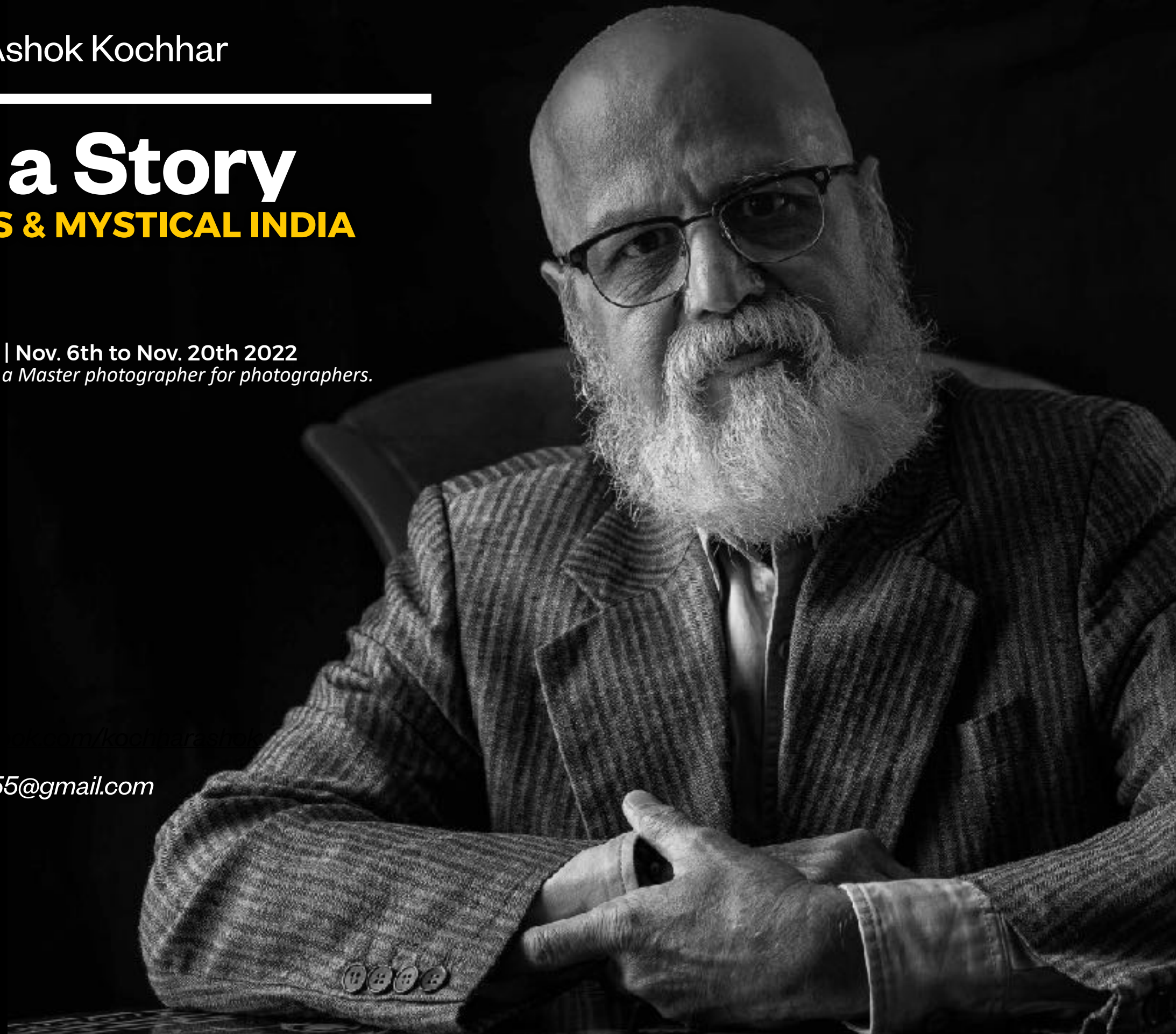
# India a Story

## HIMALAYAS & MYSTICAL INDIA

14 DAYS/13 NIGHTS | Nov. 6th to Nov. 20th 2022

*The tour is designed by a Master photographer for photographers.*

*Email : [kochhara55@gmail.com](mailto:kochhara55@gmail.com)*



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# Mystical India

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## Ganges to Himalayas

From the heights of 5,000m to the plains of the Ganges. From 1,000 year old monasteries to 5,000 year old cities.





# Overview

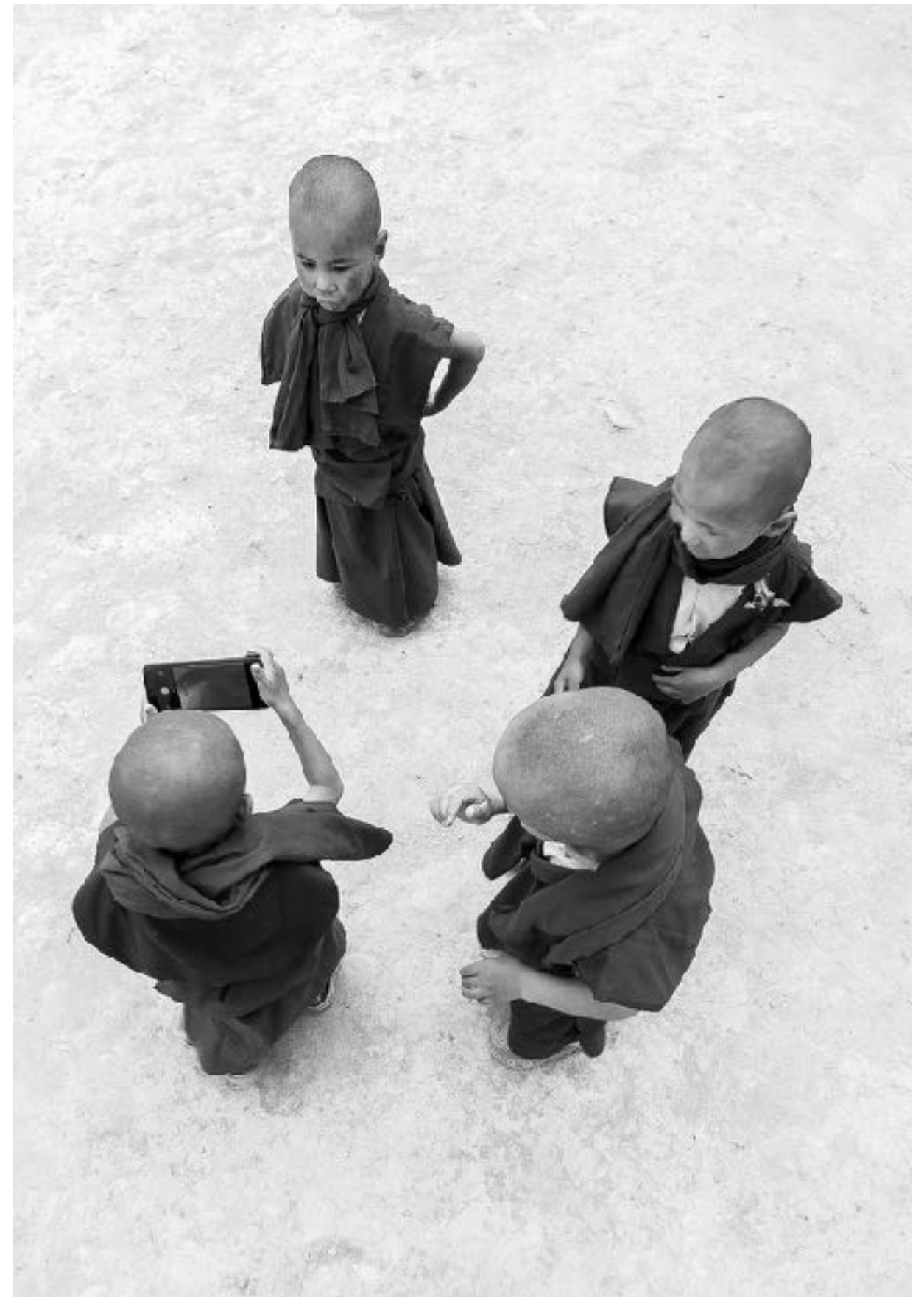
“India is not a destination. It’s a story. An age old story that is one of the oldest in the world. Come with me as to immerse in this timeless living story.”

Join us on a photography tour to the top of the world MAJESTIC HIMALAYAS & MYSTICAL INDIA. An opportunity to capture the gigantic height of cold dessert of the Himalayas and leave your footprints on the highest motorable road in the world. Experience the most beautiful part of India ‘Kashmir’. Capture the beautiful heritage of the monuments at Delhi. Soak up the vibes of the oldest spiritual city of the world ‘Varanasi’.

This tour has been designed by Master Photographer Ashok Kochhar who has five decades of visual experience, has more than two dozen ‘private travel coffee table books’ to his credit. He has visited these terrain several times over the last few years. Ashok will lead the entire trip, he is familiar with these locations and visited these terrains four times already in last eight months.

Also the PHOTO TOUR has been designed with utmost care to cover all genre of photography like Landscape, People, Portrait, Street, Architecture, Heritage, night scapes etc.

Lastly the group will be small, six photographers (max.) including Ashok to ensure an individually rich experience. Seamless and Top of the line stay and travel arrangements have been made, by our logistics collaborator.







# Highlight of the tour

## Ladakh region

- Due to the strong influence of Tibetan Buddhism, Leh is also known as Little Tibet or the Land of Lamas. The breathtaking cold desert of Himalayas, is a photographers paradise and amazing enough to mesmerise everyone.
- Enjoy old heritage of Monasteries built around 1400AD.
- Photograph the monks while they meditate/ chant
- Cross the highest pass Khardung-La in the world

## Kashmir

- Travel to the lesser known and lesser traveled locations
- Dal Lake with its beautiful array of boats
- Dive into colours and hustle of the floating morning Vegetable market
- Spectacular lush green Valleys that offer ample opportunities at Sunrise and Sunset

## Old Delhi/Monuments

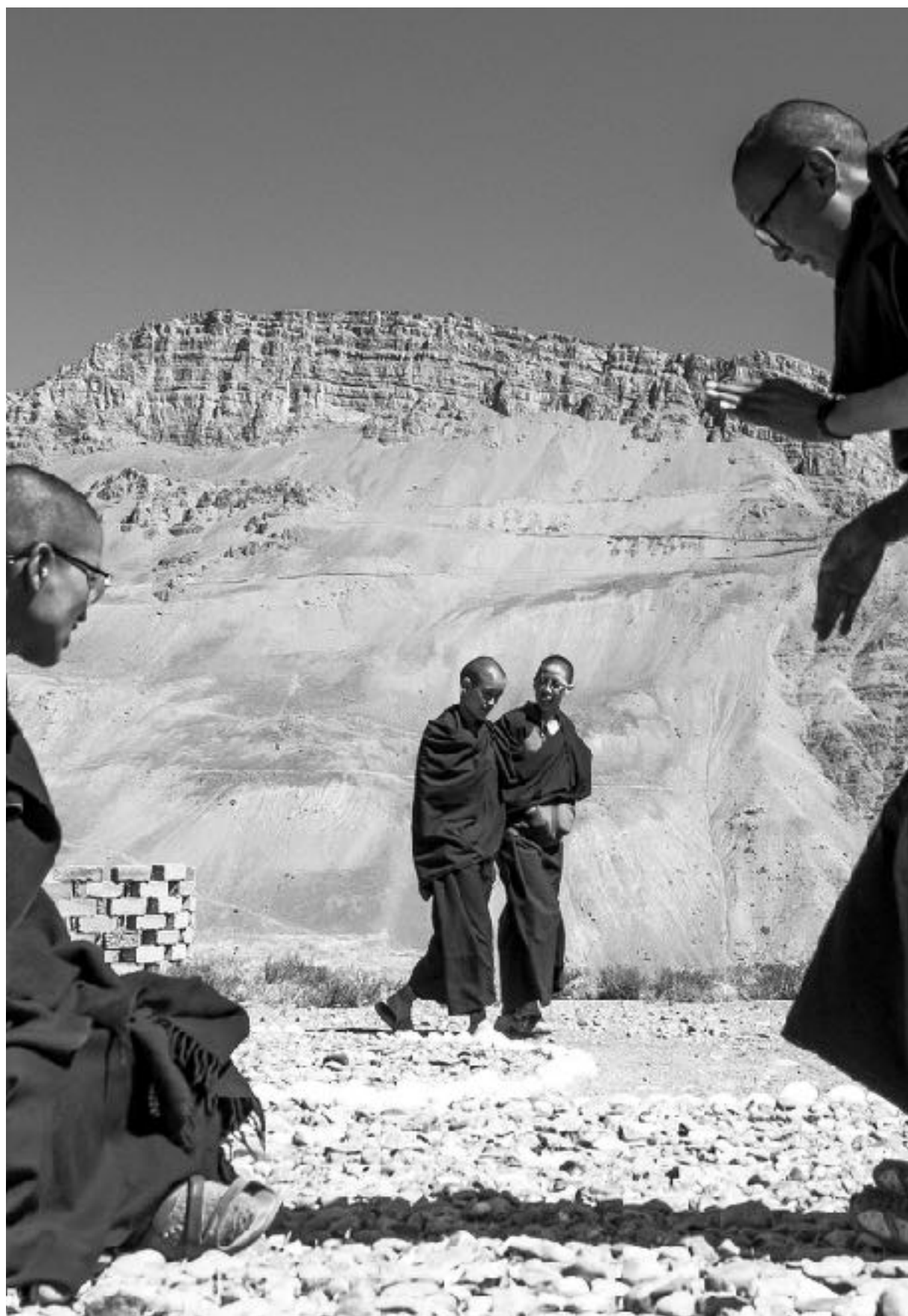
- Once a walled city known as Shahjahanabad built by Shah Jahan around 1639AD
- Today known for its Islamic architecture, street food, shopping, Bazars
- The largest mosque Jama Masjid.
- Witness the architecture and heritage of a bygone era.

## Varanasi/Sarnath

- One of the oldest inhabited city in the world situated on the banks of River Mother Ganges
- Known for pilgrimage, death and mourning in Hindu religion, Also a city of Lord Shiva.
- Become part of life in the narrow lanes with thriving businesses and rich culture
- Tour the whole day on the Ghats: Assi Ghat, Manikarnika Ghat, Dashwamedh Ghat where the visual around changes every minute
- An early morning visit to Sarnath where Buddha taught his first discourse
- A Stupa built by King Ashoka the Great.







# Itinerary at a glance

## Itinerary at a Glance

Destination - Dehi - Leh - Kashmir - Varanasi/Sarnath

**Duration** - 14 nights/15 days

**Date of travel** - 6th November-19th November 2022

**No of Pax** - 6 Adults (max.)

**No. of hotel rooms** - 3 Double Room (twin Sharing)

**Meal Plan** - Breakfast & Dinner (lunch on the go)

**Hotel Category** – Luxury (except for 1 night-home stay)

**Pickup & Drop** - All Airport transfers included

**Vehicle Type** - AC Innova (six seaters)

**1N Delhi, 3N Srinagar, 1N Lamayuru, 3N Leh, 1N Delhi,  
2N Varanasi, 1N Delhi**

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# Tour at a glance

## TOUR AT A GLANCE

**Nov. 6th** - Day 1: Arrival in Delhi

**Nov. 7th** - Day 2: Delhi – Srinagar (By air)

**Nov. 8th** - Day 3: Srinagar

**Nov. 9th** - Day 4: Srinagar

**Nov. 10th** - Day 5: Srinagar - Lamayuru (By road)

**Nov. 11th** - Day 6: Lamayuru - Leh - Thiksay Festival (By road)

**Nov. 12th** - Day 7: Leh - Thiksay festival, Local

**Nov. 13th** - Day 8: Leh - Khardungla - Nubra - Leh (By road)

**Nov. 14th** - Day 9: Leh – Delhi ( By air)

**Nov. 15th** - Day 10: Delhi

**Nov. 17th** - Day 11: Delhi – Varanasi( By air)

**Nov. 18th** - Day 12: Varanasi - Sarnath

**Nov. 19th** - Day 13: Varanasi – Delhi (By air)

**Nov. 20th** - Day 14: Delhi



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# Detailed Itinerary

## Day wise break-up of the itinerary

### **DAY 1 - Arrival in Delhi**

- Arrival at Delhi airport( Indiana Gandhi International Airport) and transfer to the Hotel.
- Tour briefing & Orientation session followed by dinner

### **DAY 2 - Delhi – Srinagar ( By air/ flying time: 1.30 hours)**

The city of Srinagar is located 1585 meters above sea level. The city is famous for its gardens, lakes and houseboats  
Check-in at the hotel and post lunch, leave for Dal Lake and Shankracharya Temple (believe to have been built around 371B.C.) .  
Capture all the scenic beauty that this wonderful lake has to offer with its boats and people. Perfect photo-op for all sorts of compositions. Have a boat ride and capture sunset. Setup your tripods for a breathtaking sunset

### **DAY 3 – Srinagar ( By road/ Taxi/local)**

Day starts early with a boat ride to Vegetable Market on boats. With packed breakfast, lunch and ride to Aharbal Waterfalls(75 km/ 2.5 hours). It is one of the most scenic waterfalls in Kashmir and a must visit spot in Kashmir itinerary

### **DAY 4 – Srinagar ( By road/ Taxi/local)**

Early breakfast and over to Tosa Maidan (66km /2 hours away).  
After crossing the upper mountain area of Drang, Zakhora and other small villages, stop at Tosa Maidan pastures that is surrounded by dense forests. If time permits, make a stop over at a close by village. Quick lunch on the move and then to Doodh Pahari (44km/ 2 hours away)  
(a bowl shaped valley in the Air Pinjal Ranges of the Himalayas the altitude of around 9000ft.)  
Situated in the lush green grasses over the vast meadows and silvery streams running over rolling stones.  
Back at the Dal Lake to catch another moody sunset.



### **DAY 5 - Srinagar – Lamayuru( By road/ Taxi/ 310 km/ 8 hours)**

Early start and ride towards Lamayuru in Ladakh  
Breakfast at the most exotic resort of Kashmir near Sonamarg.  
Cross the most picturesque Zojila Pass and stop at Kargil War Memorial.

Lamayuru is known for its monastery, and for its “lunar” landscape – quaintly promoted as a “Moonscape”. The landscape is certainly incredible with its spectacularly odd geological formations, though this is not unique to Lamayuru. Lamayuru monastery is ancient, built into the ‘moonscape’. Highlight is glassed in meditation cave of the Lama Naropa. After sunset, attempt to capture Milky way and other star trails.

This time of the year, all the hotels are closed, brace for richer experience with home stay at Lamayuru.

### **- DAY 6 - Lamayuru – Leh (By road/ Taxi/ 115km/ 2 hours)**

After breakfast leave for Leh and on the way capture the amazing views of confluence of river Zaskar and Indus.  
[Indus river is originated from the great Himalayan ranges and Zaskar river originates from Zaskar ranges. Zaskar river is shiny blue in colour, on the other hand Indus looks a little green. Zaskar meets Indus in Nimmu valley from the north-east. This is a scenic view and fascinating to mark the distinction between both the rivers even after their confluence. This spot is famous for Ice trek in winter called ‘Chadar Trek’]  
Head to the Thiksey Monastery to attend world famous festival Thiksey Gustor (masked dance).

# Detailed Itinerary

## Itinerary Continued...

### **DAY 7 – Leh ( By road/ Taxi/local)**

Thiksey Monastery is situated on a hillock overlooking the Indus Valley with full view of the magnificent Stok range. Built in 1433 AD. Tsongkhapa once prophesied: My doctrine will flourish along the right side of the Indus River. Many other large-scale monasteries belonging to the same order such as Spituk and Likir monasteries, all located on the right side of the Indus River.

Sankar Gompa is well located to be photographed from far or near.

Excellent view of the city from here.

Shanti Stupa situated at a height of 4267 meters overlooking Leh city, the Shanti stupa gives a panoramic view of surrounding snow capped mountains. It was built to promote world peace and prosperity and to commemorate the 2500 years of Buddhism.

Leh Palace built under the 17th-century king Sengge Namgyal, Leh Palace is a former royal palace overlooking the Ladakhi Himalayan town of Leh.

### **DAY 8 - Leh - Khar Dung La - Nubra Valley – Leh (By road/Taxi/75km)**

After early breakfast, head towards Khar Dung La Pass (the highest motor able pass in the world 5,359m/18380ft.) around 75km from our stay. And proceed towards Diskit Gompa to have blessings from the one of the largest Buddha statue. If time permits head to capture Nubra Vally Sand Dunes and back to Leh. A long rewarding Day with ample photo-ops

### **DAY 9 - Leh – Delhi ( By air/ flying time: 1.30 hours)**

Post lunch a visit to Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Built around 1546AD The monument is a fusion of Islamic, Persian, Timurid and Hindu culture).

Jama Masjid which was build around 1650. It served as the imperial Mosque for the Emperor & royals. A life time experience to photograph people, streets and heritage.

Evening will be spent at Chandni Chowk to savour the mood of narrow lanes, busy bazars and people.

### **DAY 10 – Delhi (By road/ Taxi/ local)**

Pickup at 6:00am from the hotel to the rustic lanes of Old Delhi a guided tour of 'Street Photography'. A forenoon trip.

Post breakfast/brunch at 2:00pm a visit to the historic site of Qutub Minar a thousand year old structure and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The height of Minar (tower) is 72.5 meters, making it the tallest minaret in the world built of

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bricks. Main focus on architectural and people photography.

Note: No tripods allowed at Heritage sites.

### **DAY 11 - Delhi - Varanasi( By air/ flying time: 1.30 hours)**

India is a mystically Spiritual land, there is no second India in this world. The diversity, the philosophy and understanding is unique in itself. And the land of Varanasi has been the ultimate pilgrimage spot for Hindus for ages. Hindus believe that one who is graced to die on the land of Varanasi would attain salvation and freedom from the cycle of birth and re-birth. A great opportunity to cover street life, monks, devotees etc. Evenings devoted to witness the famous 'Arti', an offering by lamps, flower petals and mantras to River Mother Ganges.

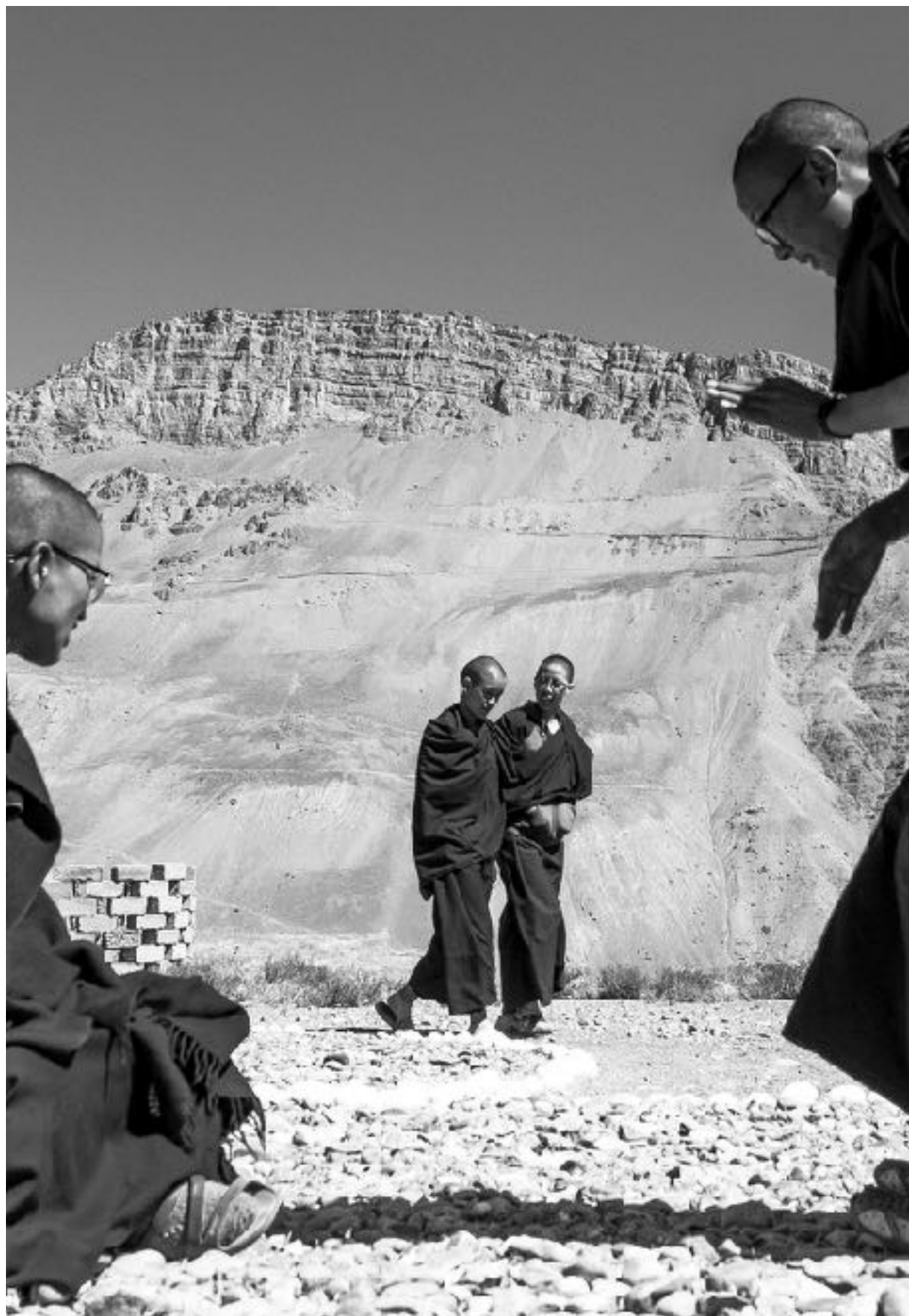
### **DAY 12 - Varanasi – Sarnath( By road/ Taxi/ 10 km/ 30 minutes)**

Early visit to Sarnath (where Buddha conducted his first discourse). Originally said to built by Emperor Ashoka. DHAMEK STUPA The most remarkable structure at Sarnath, is the cylindrical Dhamek Stupa, 28 mts in diameter at the base and 43.6 mts in height, built partly of stone and partly of brick. Rest of the day will be spent around the 'Ghats' banks of Ganges, a boat ride, across the river, a walk to the 'Manikarnika Ghat' the cremation place (it is believed that the person cremated here surely attains Heavens). Click away the scenes of traditional wrestling (Akhara where they practice wrestling in mud arena).

### **DAY 13 - Varanasi – Delhi ( By air/ flying time: 1.30 hours)**

Relax for a conclusive party in the evening





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# Few more points

- Please don't exert at high altitude.
- It is suggested to avoid alcohol & tobacco at high altitudes.
- Please avoid to tip beggars and Sadhus anywhere in Delhi or Varanasi.
- Tour guides at Delhi/Varanasi will be provided.
- Technical help extended to novice photographers.
- It will be tour at leisure and pleasure
- Visit to the lanes of Old Delhi and Varanasi involve walking.
- Please share if anyone needs any equipment on hire (will be charged as per actuals).
- The mentioned cost does not include any expenses such as medical, liquor, extra food other than mentioned
- Please share if any previous health issues.
- In the event of any unforeseen natural calamity that lead to modification/ cancellation of planned itinerary. The tour fee will not be refunded in full or part.
- Please note that inland flights permit 15kg as checked in baggage and 7kg as cabin baggage.

## Weather & General Weather

Mid November '22(temperature mentioned in Celsius)

Delhi -Min: 16 and Max: 22

Srinagar - Min: 7 and Max: 13

Lamayuru - Min: -7 and Max: 7

Leh - Min: -7 and Max: 7

Varanasi - Min: 24 and Max: 30

The terrains mentioned have extreme weather( Range from very sunny to very windy on the same day). So, appropriate clothing is advised. High altitude terrains have unpredictable weather and likely to affect the plan. Delhi and Varanasi weather is predictable. And less likely to present any surprises. Delhi and Varanasi will be easy as compare to high altitude.





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# Payment & Cancellation

## Payment & Cancellation

Reserve your slot with payment of NZ \$1,000 only

Balance payment to confirm latest by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

Cancellation 60 days before the tour date 75% is refunded

Cancellation 45 days before the tour date 50% is refunded

Cancellation 30 days before the tour date 25% is refunded

No refund if cancelled thereafter

## For bookings and cancellations reach out on:

Facebook : [facebook.com/kochharashok](https://facebook.com/kochharashok)

Email : [kochhara55@gmail.com](mailto:kochhara55@gmail.com)

## Please use the below details for all payments transfers :

Axis Bank LTD.

Account Name:

Luxury Vacations A Unit of Lotus exports PVT LTD

Account Number : 921020049955468

IFSC Code : UTIB00000015