BIRDING THE TRANS-HIMALAYAS
4 NIGHTS / 5 DAYS

Set against the breathtaking landscapes of the Trans-Himalayas, Ladakh offers an exceptional birding experience across high-altitude wetlands, shimmering alpine lakes and rugged mountain valleys. From the remote marshes of Changthang to the banks of the Indus River, each habitat reveals a fascinating variety of birdlife. Look for the striking Black-necked Crane, graceful Bar-headed Goose, elusive Ibisbill and other remarkable Himalayan and migratory species in their natural surroundings. This expedition goes beyond ticking species off a checklist, offering an opportunity to discover fragile ecosystems, observe wildlife in its natural habitat and experience the extraordinary tranquillity of the Trans-Himalayan wilderness.

Tour Highlights

- Four days of guided birding across Ladakh's remarkable landscapes.
- Explore pristine high-altitude wetlands, river valleys and alpine habitats.
- Discover diverse Himalayan and migratory bird species.
- Enjoy exceptional opportunities for wildlife and landscape photography.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival and Acclimatization
Arrive in Ladakh, proceed to the resort and check in. After lunch, set out for an afternoon driver to explore the region's wilderness. Spend the rest of the day relaxing and acclimatizing to the high altitude.

Days 2–4: Morning and Evening Birding Sessions
Begin each day with an early morning birding session, followed by breakfast and leisure time at the resort. After lunch, head out for another birding session to explore Ladakh's diverse habitats and search for regional bird specialties. Return to the resort for dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 5: Departure
After breakfast, check out by 10:30 AM and depart from Ladakh, taking home wonderful memories of your Trans-Himalayan birding adventure.

Weather

Summer (June–August): Summer is the most accessible season for exploring Ladakh, with daytime temperatures generally ranging from 15°C to 25°C in Leh, although nights remain cool. High-altitude wetlands and alpine habitats become active with breeding birds and migratory visitors. Carry lightweight clothing, warm layers, and sunscreen for early morning excursions.
Winter (November–March): Winters in Ladakh are extremely cold, with temperatures often dropping well below 0°C, particularly at night. Many high-altitude wetlands freeze and access to remote birding locations may be limited by snow and harsh weather. Carry heavy insulated clothing, thermal layers, gloves and suitable winter footwear.

Best Season for Birding

May to September is generally the best period for birding in Ladakh, with June to August particularly rewarding for breeding birds, migratory species and activity around high-altitude wetlands. This period offers the best access to many birding locations, although conditions vary with altitude and weather.