

Abercrombie & Kent

Guaranteed
Departure

Ladakh: Nature, Festivals and Photography with Palani Mohan
An A&K Hosted Journey
30 June - 11 July 2017





To make your reservation call
Abercrombie & Kent
on 1300 853 428 or
your travel agent.

Confluence of Zaskar and Indus rivers



Ladakh: Nature, Festivals and Photography with Palani Mohan

An A&K Hosted Journey 30 June - 11 July 2017

12 Days | Delhi - Leh - Hemis - Shey - Thiksey - Nubra Valley - Nurla - Lamayuru - Delhi

This extraordinary adventure into the remote and rugged landscapes of Ladakh will reveal a region shaped by staunch Buddhist traditions and a strategic location at the crossroads of ancient trade routes. With a history and culture more closely related to Tibet than India it is one of the highest continuously inhabited areas in the world with the sacred Indus River its backbone. Expect dramatic landscapes of high altitude desert, vast valleys and fluttering prayer flags, centuries old monasteries and temples plus fine examples of Buddhist art and some of the most gentle and hospitable people on the planet. Your host is a regular visitor to the area who will introduce you to the rich culture and help you create your own magical photographic mementos.



Your Host

Indian born, Australian raised, and now living in Hong Kong, Palani Mohan is an award-winning freelance photographer and published author. He has produced five books and photographic essays and his work is part of the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London. Exhibited widely around the globe, his images have been shown at the prestigious Visa Pour L'Image in Perpignan, France and he has been recognised with numerous awards. He has travelled to Ladakh a number of times and his book 'Hidden Faces of India' features a chapter on the region.

Journey Highlights

- An intimate group size of no more than 16 guests
- Specialist-led photographic workshops
- Two days at the colourful Hemis Festival
- Private lectures on Buddhism, architecture and photography
- Morning prayer ceremony at Thiksey monastery
- Khardung La- the highest 'motorable' pass in the world
- Meditation class with an instructor
- Visit to Lamayuru monastery, one of the oldest and most photographed in Ladakh
- An exclusive Himalayan polo match

Your Itinerary

Friday 30 June 2017: Arrive Delhi. Arrive into India's northern gateway where you will be welcomed by A&K and privately transferred to your hotel near the airport. *JW Marriott Aerocity (Deluxe Room)*

Saturday 1 July 2017: Delhi – Leh (3,500M). Early this morning you are returned to the airport for the flight north to Leh, Ladakh's high altitude capital. On arrival you are transferred to the hotel with the rest of the day at leisure to acclimatise. Late this afternoon meet your host, Palani Mohan, for a briefing and hear about his photographic work. This evening a welcome dinner is included at the hotel (B,L,D). *Saboo Resorts (Cottage Suite)*

Sunday 2 July 2017: Leh. This morning head out on foot to explore the lovely Saboo Valley learning about the Ladakhi way of life as you go. After lunch visit a traditional home with the opportunity to sample salted butter tea and barley beer. Continue with an orientation tour of Leh including the most important landmarks. Start at the magnificent 9-storey Leh Palace built in the 17th century. From here continue on foot to the Ladakh Arts & Media Organisation which houses workshops, galleries and an open-air performance space showcasing Ladakh's artistic traditions. Later today visit the historic Munshi (Togoche) House situated at the foot of the Leh Palace where tea and snacks are included on the terrace with breathtaking views of the city. Afterwards a short presentation is arranged on the architectural heritage of the Old City by a leading Ladakhi scholar and time wandering through the old city and bazaar. This afternoon hear from Palani about the upcoming Hemis Festival and take part in a workshop on portrait photography that will come in useful at tomorrow's celebrations. This evening a special Tibetan hotpot meal is included (B,L,D). *Saboo Resorts (Cottage Suite)*

Monday 3 July 2017: Leh – Hemis - Leh. Today after breakfast you are driven to Hemis Monastery, the largest and wealthiest in Ladakh, for the annual festival. Hemis is home to over 500 monks and during the festival hundreds of eager devotees, local villagers and visitors. The two day festival is considered the biggest and most famous of the monastic festivals. Festival celebrations include traditional music and dances performed by colourfully masked monks (B,L,D). *Saboo Resorts (Cottage Suite)*



Ladakhi women, Photograph by Palani Mohan



Hemis Monastery

Tuesday 4 July 2017: Leh – Hemis – Shey - Leh. Another opportunity to enjoy the festival celebrations this morning followed by a visit to Shey, the former summer retreat for the kings of Ladakh for a tour of Shey monastery and Shey Palace. After lunch experience an exciting afternoon polo match held in the nearby Chushot village where the ground backs on to the foothills of the Ladakh range. The game of polo originated in the Western Himalayas and was introduced to Ladakh in the 17th century. It is fast and furious and a magnificent spectator sport. Each goal struck is accompanied by a burst of song and music from traditional Ladakhi musical instruments. Later today join a local scholar for a talk on Tibetan Buddhism followed by an evening 'kopong' performance. This is the traditional string instrument played by the nomadic mountain shepherds (B,L,D). *Saboo Resorts (Cottage Suite)*

Wednesday 5 July 2017: Leh – Thiksey – Nubra Valley (3,127M). Before breakfast, drive to Thiksey for an early morning prayer ceremony and visit to Thiksey monastery. After breakfast the expedition takes us via the incredibly scenic Wari La pass (5,303M) through dramatic landscapes of glaciated peaks and arid thoroughfares to the charming village of Diskit in the beautiful Nubra Valley (3,127M). Nestled in a quiet corner of the tranquil yet thriving village is Chamba Camp, your luxury tented home for the next two nights. This afternoon there's time to walk around the delightfully unspoiled village and into the market before a workshop with Palani on landscape photography in preparation for tomorrow's visits (B,L,D). *The Ultimate Traveller Camp - Chamba Camp (Luxury Suite Tent)*

Thursday 6 July 2017: Nubra Valley. An early morning jeep ride takes us to the top of the Hundar Gorge and to the tiny village of Hundar Dok, where we begin our walk (approx. 3 hours with shorter options available) following a glacier-melt stream past terraced farmland surrounded by the impressive Karakoram mountains. After a hot picnic lunch at Hundar Dok walk 12km (3hrs.) back down through the gorge, with shorter walking options available or the afternoon at leisure (B,L,D). *The Ultimate Traveller Camp - Chamba Camp (Luxury Suite Tent)*

Friday 7 July 2017: Nubra Valley – Leh. After breakfast return to Leh by road via Khardung La (5,586M) - the world's highest 'motorable' pass (B,L,D)! *Saboo Resorts (Cottage Suite)*

Saturday 8 July 2017: Leh – Nurla. Early this morning you are driven to Stok Village where you meet with Mr. Tsewang Norbu who will guide you in a one hour meditation class. After breakfast a drive through beautiful fields of barley and stands of poplars to the monastery at Alchi, one of the oldest, which has some of the few remaining examples of early Mahayana Buddhist frescoes anywhere in the world, many dating back to the 11th century. Continue on to Nurla and the charming hotel nestled amongst apricot and apple trees and perched on the edge of a cliff overlooking the Indus River. Enjoy lunch before checking into your room with its own private balcony looking out over the river. Rest of the day at leisure to enjoy this breathtaking and peaceful setting (B,L,D). *Apricot Tree Hotel (River View Room with Balcony)*

Sunday 9 July 2017: Nurla. A day at leisure. Optional photographic walks with Palani into the surrounding countryside and villages (B,L,D). *Apricot Tree Hotel (River View Room with Balcony)*

Monday 10 July 2017: Nurla – Lamayuru - Leh. Travel on the Srinagar-Leh highway and on to Lamayuru and its impressive 11th century monastery. Perched on a spur high above the valley it is one of the most spectacularly picturesque and oldest monasteries in central Ladakh. There's time to briefly visit Lamayuru village at the foot of the monastery before returning to Leh for tonight's farewell dinner under the stars on the hotel rooftop (B,L,D). *Saboo Resorts (Cottage Suite)*

Tuesday 11 July 2017: Leh – Delhi. After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi and onward arrangements (B).

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



Nomadic Tribe, by Palani Mohan

To make your reservation call Abercrombie & Kent on 1300 853 428 or your travel agent.

Price

Twin share per person: \$9,795
Single supplement: \$2,995

Tour Dates

30 June - 11 July 2017

Tour inclusions

Domestic flights in economy class Delhi - Leh - Delhi; all accommodation as detailed on a double/ twin share basis with private facilities; meals as specified; bottled water during transfers and touring; airport welcome; assistance with luggage and group transportation by private air-conditioned vehicle; services of English speaking A&K tour escort & Guest host; all entrance fees including two days entry to the Hemis Festival, planning, handling, operational and communication charges, all tipping excluding A&K tour escort.

Tour exclusions

International flights; insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip; items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax or phone charges; transfers/ sightseeing or meals not specified in itinerary; excess baggage charges; tipping to A&K tour escort. Tipping is not expected or required for guest host.



Traditional Ladakhi cuisine



Luxury Suite Tent, Chamba Camp, The Ultimate Traveller Camp

1. Definitions

"A&K" means Abercrombie & Kent (Australia) Pty Ltd ACN 005 422 999.
 "ACL" means the Australian Consumer Law Schedule to the Competition and Consumer Act.
 "Conditions" means these Terms and Conditions.
 "Contract" means any agreement for the provision of Travel Arrangements or Services by A&K to the Customer;
 "Customer" means a person, jointly or severally if more than one, acquiring Travel Arrangements and Services from A&K.
 "Departure Date" means the date scheduled for the Customer to depart at the start of the Travel Arrangements.
 "GST" has the definition given in A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 ("Act") or any amending legislation, and includes any similar value-added or consumption tax.
 "Material Alteration" means a material change to the Travel Arrangements as determined at A&K's sole discretion.
 "Products" means individual components of Travel Arrangements, such as accommodation, meals, transport, cruises and tours.
 "Services" means the booking and payment services provided by A&K in relation to Travel Arrangements.
 "Suppliers" means the third parties that are responsible for providing the individual Products.
 "Tax Invoice" means a tax invoice which complies with the definition contained in section 29 - 70 of the Act or any amending legislation.
 "Travel Arrangements" means the travel arrangements made by A&K including all Products.

2. Basis of Contract

2.1 The Conditions apply exclusively to every contract for Services by A&K to the Customer and cannot be varied or supplanted by any other condition unless expressly accepted in writing by A&K.
 2.2 Acceptance: Payment of a deposit indicates the Customer's acceptance of the Conditions.

3. Booking Your Holiday

3.1 Quotes - will be provided in relation to a price for the Travel Arrangements. The quote is valid for a period of 7 days.
 3.2 Deposit - a deposit of 25% of the total booking cost (or other amount as advised) is required to secure a booking.
 3.3 Booking requests within 120 days before the Departure Date must be accompanied by full payment and may be subject to an urgent processing fee.

4. Price Policy

4.1 Prices are valid for the period 30 June 2017 to 11 July 2017. All prices are per person in Australian Dollars unless otherwise specified. Prices are subject to the quote provided.
 4.2 Travel Arrangement prices are quoted for the entire package and itemised component costs cannot be given.
 4.3 Travel Arrangements - prices may be based on

Products being booked in groups, and accordingly Customers must travel together throughout the Travel Arrangements.

4.4 Surcharges - the price of the Travel Arrangements is subject to the possibility of surcharges. Surcharges may be incurred (without limitation) in connection with: currency exchange rates, increases in Product prices, fuel levies, scheduled airfares, hotel and ground transportation charges, game park entrance fees and any other increases in connection with the Travel Arrangement.

4.5 Where there is any change in the costs incurred by A&K in providing the Services, A&K may vary its price to account for such change by notifying the Customer, whether or not the Customer has made full payment.

4.6 Changes in the Australian Dollar - the financial commitments A&K undertakes in order to offer the prices mean that prices cannot be reduced or refunded if the Australian dollar strengthens.

4.7 Products not Utilised - no refunds are made in respect of Products not utilised, for example, accommodation, meals and sightseeing excursions.
 4.8 Tour Inclusions Domestic flights in economy class Delhi - Leh - Delhi; all accommodation as detailed on a double/ twin share basis with private facilities; meals as specified; bottled water during transfers and touring; airport welcome; assistance with luggage and group transportation by private air-conditioned vehicle; services of English speaking A&K tour escort & Guest host; all entrance fees including two days entry to the Hemis Festival, planning, handling, operational and communication charges, all tipping excluding A&K tour escort.

4.9 Tour Exclusions - International flights; insurance coverage of personal loss, injury, illness or damages incurred during your trip; items of a purely personal nature such as drinks, laundry, dry cleaning, internet, fax or phone charges; transfers/ sightseeing or meals not specified in itinerary; excess baggage charges; tipping to A&K tour escort. Tipping is not expected or required for guest host.

4.10 Prices quoted include GST. Prices for the supply of the Travel Arrangements and the Services exclude any other taxes, duties or imposts imposed on or in relation to the Travel Arrangements and the Services in Australia or overseas. The Customer is liable to pay any amount of GST imposed on any Product.

5. Payment

5.1 Final Payment - unless otherwise agreed in writing the final payment must be received by A&K 120 days prior to the Departure Date.
 5.2 Where bookings are made within 120 days before the Departure Date, full payment must be made at the time of booking.

6. Amendments

6.1 A&K reserves the right to modify program itineraries, including arranged sightseeing, and substitute accommodations, including vessels and trains, at any time due to a smaller group size, unforeseen circumstances or circumstances beyond A&K's control. Every effort will be made to operate itineraries as planned, but alterations

may occur after the final itinerary has been issued.
 6.2 A&K will endeavour to assist if the Customer requests an amendment to the Travel Arrangement booking up to 120 days prior to the Departure Date subject to the following;
 a) Amendment Charge - fees apply to any Customer requesting a change to a confirmed booking.
 b) Additional Charges - all other expenses incurred by A&K may also be payable by the Customer at A&K's discretion.
 c) Any charges arising from a request for an amendment are payable by the Customer whether or not A&K is successful in confirming the requested amendment.
 d) Late Amendments - amendments made by the Customer within 120 days of the Departure Date are treated as cancellations and re-bookings. Cancellation charges apply as detailed below.

7. Cancellations By The Customer

7.1 The Customer must give A&K notice if it intends to cancel any Travel Arrangements.
 7.2 Charges - the following charges are payable by the Customer in accordance with the number of days prior to the Departure Date following notice being received by A&K of cancellation:
 Cancellations:

Days prior to Departure Date	Percentage of Travel Arrangements Price Payable
121 days or more	\$1,000 per person
120 - 61 days prior	50% cancellation fee
60 - 0 days prior	100% cancellation fee

7.3 Additional Charges - the Customer may incur further cancellation charges from some Suppliers and local agents.

8. Cancellations and Material Alteration by A&K

8.1 A&K may treat a booking as cancelled and levy cancellation charges if the Customer does not pay the balance of the Travel Arrangements price at 120 days prior to the Departure Date.
 8.2 Force Majeure - A&K may, at its sole option, where circumstances outside of its control affect the provision of Travel Arrangements (such as flood, fire, act of God, war or threat of war, physical unrest, riots, civil disturbances, terrorist activities (threatened or actual), strikes, port or airport closure, technical problems with transport, alteration or cancellation of scheduled travel services) cancel scheduled Travel Arrangements at any time and may at A&K's sole and absolute discretion:
 a) offer the Customer alternative Travel Arrangements or Products of comparable standard as may be appropriate in the circumstances; or
 b) if alternative Travel Arrangements or Products are not offered by A&K, A&K will make a prompt proportional (taking into account the extent of the Travel Arrangements that have been provided or arranged) refund of monies paid by the Customer.

8.3 A&K may charge a reasonable fee to cover the administration costs associated with providing alternative Travel Arrangements or Products.

8.4 Material Alteration - if a Material Alteration becomes necessary within 120 days of the Departure Date for any reason other than the circumstances described in clause 8.2 A&K will endeavour to offer comparable Products or a full refund of all monies paid by the Customer.

8.5 This tour is guaranteed to depart with two guests.

9. Obligations and Liability

9.1 Booking Agent - A&K acts as a booking agent for the Suppliers of Products and accepts no liability for any injury, loss, damage, accident, delay or irregularity that may arise to any Customer or third party resulting from the Customer's or third party's use of the Products, unless recoverable from A&K on the failure of a statutory guarantee under the ACL. A&K makes reasonable enquiries to determine that Suppliers provide appropriate Products, but A&K is not responsible for the Products or their standard.

9.2 Except as the Conditions specifically state, the Agreement does not include by implication any other term, condition or warranty in respect of the quality, merchantability, acceptability, fitness for purpose, condition, description, specification or performance of the Travel Arrangements or Services or any contractual remedy for their failure.

9.3 Nothing in these Terms restricts, limits or modifies the Customer's rights or remedies as a consumer against A&K for failure of a statutory guarantee under the ACL.

9.4 Loss - A&K is not liable for and accepts no responsibility for any direct or indirect loss, financial loss, consequential loss, loss of enjoyment, pain and suffering, damage, injury, accident delay or irregularity occasioned to the Customer, other than if the Customer is a consumer, then to the extent the loss was reasonably foreseeable.

9.5 Nothing in the Conditions is to be interpreted as excluding, restricting or modifying the application of any relevant State or Federal legislation which cannot be excluded, restricted or modified.

9.6 Visa Requirements - it is the Customer's responsibility to ensure that it has valid passports, visas and permits which meet the immigration and governmental requirements of the country of travel.

9.7 Medical Conditions - the Customer must notify A&K of any pre-existing medical conditions that might reasonably be expected to affect the Travel Arrangements.

9.8 Health Issues - it is the Customer's responsibility to obtain any vaccinations or health

precautions applicable to the country of travel.

9.9 A&K strongly recommends that the Customer insure themselves against loss of deposit, cancellation charges, medical expenses and loss of personal possessions, and any other foreseeable loss or expense.

9.10 The Customer acknowledges and accepts that different places, countries, facilities and tour operators may have lower standards of safety, labeling, warnings and precautions. The Customer is responsible for maintaining personal diligence and safety notwithstanding the level of standards. A&K is not liable for any loss, damage, injury or death that could be avoided if the Australian standards were to apply.

9.11 Conduct - A&K reserves the right to remove from the trip, at the participant's own expense, anyone whose physical condition or conduct negatively impacts the enjoyment of the other guests or disrupts the tour.

10. Notice

10.1 A notice by the Customer must be in writing, and may be delivered by hand, sent by prepaid mail, sent by facsimile or sent by electronic means such as e-mail to the address or number specified.

10.2 A notice is treated as given to A&K, when:

- a) if hand delivered, when delivered;
- b) if sent by prepaid mail, when received or within 48 hours after posting, whichever is the sooner;
- c) if sent by email or facsimile, on confirmation of successful transmission.

11. Governing Law

11.1 These Conditions are governed by and are to be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Victoria and Australia.

11.2 Each party irrevocably and unconditionally submits to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts and Tribunal of Victoria and Courts entitled to hear appeals from those Courts and Tribunals.

12. Privacy Information

12.1 Any personal information that A&K obtains from the Customer, or about the Customer from its representative, is necessary for A&K's business purposes or providing the Customer with A&K's Travel Arrangements, Products and Services, and may be used in answering any queries the Customer may have, considering the Customer's application for credit or to become a Customer, performing internal administration and operations, developing, improving and marketing A&K's products and services, and related purposes.

12.2 A&K's Privacy Policy details why A&K collects

this personal information, who A&K may disclose it to (including whether A&K is likely to disclose it to overseas recipients), and the main consequences (if any) if A&K does not collect the personal information of the Customer. A&K's Privacy Policy also contains information about how the Customer may seek access to, or correction of, the personal information held about the Customer, and A&K's complaint resolution procedures.

12.3 A&K will not disclose any personal information to any other party without the consent of the Customer except to the Suppliers, a related entity or adviser of A&K or where A&K is otherwise required by law to do so.

12.4 A&K's Privacy Policy is available at www.abercrombiekent.com.au/legal or by request to A&K by phoning +61 3 9536 1800 or via email at privacy@abercrombiekent.com.au.

13. Consent for cross-border disclosures

13.1 By making a booking, the Customer acknowledges and consents that A&K will not, as would otherwise be required, be obliged to take steps to ensure that an overseas recipient of Customer Information complies with the APPs.

14. Miscellaneous

14.1 A&K's failure to enforce any of these Conditions shall not be construed as a waiver of any of the A&K's rights.

14.2 If any Condition is unenforceable it shall be read down to be enforceable or, if it cannot be read down, the condition shall be severed from the Conditions without affecting the enforceability of the remaining conditions.

15. A&K Guaranteed Departures

15.1 All Hosted journeys are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of two (2) persons.

15.2 Guaranteed departures operating with less than six (6) persons will be locally hosted.

15.3 Guaranteed departures will operate except only in cases of force majeure, which could include any major world event adversely effecting international travel patterns or other circumstances beyond A&K's control.

Note: Specific programmes may have different Terms & Conditions which will be advised at the time of booking.