8 Lesser Known Lakes in Ladakh

We’ve all heard about or visited the famous lakes of Ladakh—namely Pangong Tso, Tso Moriri or Tso Kar lakes. As Pangong Tso Lake made its pseudo debut in the 3 Idiots Bollywood movie, it got so famous that Ladakh is flooded with tourists. However, some travelers still look for peaceful locations here. Let’s introduce you to eight such lesser-known lakes of Ladakh that you should consider visiting next time you’re in Ladakh.

1 & 2

Kyon Tso 1/Ryul Tso and Kyon Tso 2/Chiling Tso

The first two lakes in the list are the two lakes located deep in the isolation of Changthang region near Hanle. Some people visit these desolate lakes when travelling to Tso Moriri from Hanle. Travel in groups to this desolated place as there is no help around in case you get stuck. Travel with a special permit from Hanle and these two lakes.

3

Mirpal Tso

This lake is an emerald green lake nestled amid widening brown-black mountains just below Kaksang La pass which is the 8th highest motorable road in the world. Need to hike the last stretch till the lake. The route requires a special permit from the DC office in Leh.

4

Yaye Tso

This heart-shaped scattering lake is about 20 kilometers on the route of Mahe – Hora La – Kaksang La – Chusul which is at an altitude of 4988 meters. Promptly visible atop the Hora la pass, you can drive down to the lake. No special permit required.

5

Yarab Tso

Yarab Tso is located near Panamik village in the Nubra Valley. Locals treat it as a sacred/holy lake, and swimming/bathing is not allowed. Lake is popularly known as a Wish Pond too among the locals. A 15-minute easy hike is required.

6

Tso Kiagar

Many must have visited this lake or may have overlooked while travelling to Tso Moriri. It is a small yet serene lake in Ladakh with a beautiful backdrop where you can spot some wildlife too. As you drive from Chumathang towards the boundless Tso Moriri, the roads lead straight into Tso Kiagar.

7 & 8

Lang Tso & Stat Tso - Twin Lakes in Zanskar Valley

These twin lakes, Lang Tso and Stat Tso, fall just around the corner of Pensi La pass that connects Zanskar Valley with Suru Valley and is relatively easily accessible. They are a thing of absolute beauty, offering some majestic reflections of backdrop peaks of Zanskar. You could consider camping here as well.

Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early
- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles

#SaveOurHimalayas