



10 Tips for a Trip to Ladakh in Monsoons

Ladakh falls under trans-Himalayas, which is a rain shadow region. What it means is that the rains do not reach up to Ladakh in plenty because of the range of mountains protecting it from winds bearing the rains. However, this definition is changing with the change in climate in the past few years. Nowadays, Ladakh has started getting rains and drizzles now and then. Here are points that will help you make a wise decision about the August Ladakh trip.



Be prepared for monsoon hassles in lower hills

Places before Baralacha La Pass and Zojila Pass on their respective highways could bring monsoon hassles. Routes can be troublesome due to landslides in the Manali-Keylong stretch, Jammu-Srinagar stretch, Sonamarg to Zojila Pass stretch and even on the Delhi-Manali route as well. The closer you're to Leh, the lesser your chances of being affected by monsoon rains.



Be prepared for driving in slush on roads in Ladakh in Monsoons

Rohtang Pass to Gramphu, some sections towards Keylong, near Darcha on Manali Leh Highway and around Zojila Pass on Srinagar Leh Highway will have a lot of mud on the roads. DO NOT push through too much in case you get stuck, try the back-n-forth tactic to come out. Otherwise, you may end up with burned clutch plates.



Be prepared for tackling furious water crossings

Water crossings are troublesome on Manali Leh Highway, especially between Jispa-Zingzing Bar-Sarchu stretch. You might spend a night in the middle of nowhere OR puncture your engine sump if you arrive late. If riding a motorcycle, gumboots will help you dodge overflowing water crossings and help you keep your other boots dry to ride further.



Be alert for shooting stones

Landslides and shooting stones are widespread. When driving or riding or even sitting in the car, you must always be alert to see over a shooting stone, especially in stretches with loose gravel, like the ones you can spot between Khardung village to Hunder in Nubra Valley.



Carry water-resistant clothes and boots

Rain cut jacket, waterproof shoes, and water repellant/quick-dry material lower are few things you must carry to protect yourself and your gear. Gumboots are an additional must if you're planning on biking during the monsoons in Ladakh.



Carry tarpaulins & waterproof bags

Carry small tarpaulins or waterproof bags which will protect your clothes, luggage, or electronic gear if the need arises. It will also help you protect your luggage, which you might put on top of your car. It is one of the cheap yet useful and essential equipments for a trip to Ladakh in monsoons.



Carry an extra pair of car windshield wipers

Might sound outlandish, but there are times when people are stuck just because their wipers stopped working, which led to blind conditions. Hence, do not risk your entire trip over a simple thing as wipers and avoid the chances of having an unlucky day.



Always leave early in the day

As always in the Himalayas, "Sleep Early and Leave Early" shall be the mantra of your entire trip. It becomes more critical in rainy season as you are already expecting delays due to landslides and roadblocks. It will also help you cross the water crossings when water is less in the early hours of the day.



Always have a couple of buffer days

You should expect rains and possibly landslides in monsoons, which may delay your plans by a day or two. If you are running on a neck to neck schedule, well, delay of one day somewhere will trigger tensions in mind which will not help you enjoy the sightseeing in Ladakh or the journey. So, always better to plan your trip with a couple of buffer days when traveling in monsoons.



Protect your camera from moisture

It is monsoon time rain and humidity will be all around you when you're traveling in Ladakh. Please ensure that you protect your camera and other gear so that it does not expose to moisture or water.



Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



#SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles