



Ladakh

The Zaskar River Expedition Fixed Departure Aug 07- Aug 18; Aug 21-Sep 01, 2010



Our "special" yearly feature which runs a spectacular two weeks covering most of western Ladakh, monasteries, palaces, villages, hikes and travel down three rivers. The trip begins with a flight over the Himalayas into the Trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. We spend a few days in Leh town acclimatizing at 11,000 feet above sea level and visiting the ancient monasteries, palaces and villages around Leh. We drive west of Leh past the town of Kargil and travel south into the valley of Zaskar, one of the coldest inhabited places on earth. Starting the trip on the Doda river, we begin our self contained multi-day river adventure down the spectacular and scenic Zaskar river gorge.

The trip takes you down the extremely desolate, remote and sheer Zaskar gorge with walls rising a few thousand feet out of the river bed, culminating on the mighty Indus river, (which incidentally lends India its name) at the historic monastic conclave at Alchi.

Undoubtedly a classic, this journey to the last truly lost horizon of our shrinking planet -Zaskar, the "land of white copper" is a trip of a lifetime.

ThunderBow Expeditions, President: Kim Hartlin

PO Box 4285, Banff Alberta, Canada T1L1E6, Phone 403-762-7735, Fax 403-762-2708
Email: info@thunderbowexpeditions.com, Web: www.thunderbowexpeditions.com



Itinerary

Day 01

Fly Delhi – Leh (3466m ; 11,370ft). Transfer to hotel. Rest, hydrate and acclimatise. Overnight Leh hotel.

Day 02

Leh. Acclimatise and sightseeing. For the more energetic a visit to a few monasteries such as Shey, Thikse and Hemis will be arranged. Or choose to relax and walk into Leh town, to its exciting market and outdoor restaurants. Overnight Leh hotel.

Day 03

Drive Leh – Kargil (3201m ; 10500 ft ; 9-10 hrs). We drive from Leh to Mulbek - Kargil, through a spectacular moonscape. We drive over the Fotu La (14,000 ft), a high mountain pass and exit the Indus valley. Enroute, we do a photo stop above the Lamayuru monastery belonging to the 'Red Hat' sect. Overnight Kargil hotel.

Day 04

Drive Kargil - Rangdum (12,000ft). A spectacular drive past Panikar and Parkachik, with magnificent views of the Nun and Kun massifs (7000 metres), hanging glaciers and large meadows. We drive till Rangdum Gompa (12,000 ft). Camp overnight.

Day 05

Drive Rangdum – Remala (3635m ; 11,925ft ; 6 hrs). We drive to Remala, which is the starting point for the rafting trip on the Stod river, a tributary of the Zaskar river. We drive over the Pensi La (14,500 ft), which enables grand views of the Zaskar peaks at the bottom of which is the Drung Durung glacier that feeds the Zaskar river, 40 km below, into which we flow trip the next day. Overnight tented camp.

Day 06

Rafting expedition begins at Remala. Raft till near Karsha Gompa, near Padum. (3496m ; 11,466ft ; 4 hrs) We raft 30 km in 4-5 hrs which includes a break for lunch and hot beverages. We are surrounded by 6000 metre high peaks. River section today includes a Class II section, a good introduction for first timers as well as to the river in general. Settle into camp by afternoon, we can take an optional hike to Karsha Gompa.

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Day 07

After a late morning start, we raft from Karsha up to Honyo / Pidmo (3361m ; 11,025 ft ; 3 hrs). This stretch is approximately 25 km with Class II and III rapids. Another easy day to get used to the river, the altitude and hone our paddling skills.

Day 08

After packing camp, we raft 25 km to Nyerak (3286m ; 10,780ft) a Class III section. The gorge narrows in on the river - this indeed is a Grand Canyon in its own right. We stop for the day to pitch camp in a gorge below Nyerak village.

Day 09

Rest day at Nyerak. Take a hike to Nyerak village or relax under the cool shade of the willows at our Campsite. Wash up at the campsite stream and enjoy the day off.

Day 10

Today's 35 km rafting section takes us from Nyerak to Lamaguru (3190m ; 10,465ft ; 5-6 hrs including scout and lunch) through the core of the Zaskar A classic white water day with continuous Class III rapids, and a few Class IV rapid where the river squeezes between a gap of about 18ft. We stop for lunch *formations, spires and an amazing palette of colours add to the trip today. Camp*

Day 11

We raft 40 kms of Class III/IV white water from Lamaguru to Nimu (3154m;10,345 ft) today. We make camp short of Nimu, the confluence of the Zaskar with the Indus river.

Day 12

Transfer to Leh airport. Fly Leh - Delhi.

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Cost

Price Per Person -Rs. 86,520 INR

Service Tax of 2.575% extra.

Cost includes: All Travel from Delhi and back to Delhi by road/rail/air as applicable (by air and non ac car / jeep / coach), all arrangements for staying and camping while on the trip, accommodation on twin share basis in tents / rest houses /hotel, all meals including those at Leh / Kargil hotels, professional guide fee, all rafting, kayaking and safety equipment with India's most experienced guiding team, camp staff, cook, etc

Cost excludes: Airport transfers in Delhi, any stay and meals in Delhi, bottled water/alcoholic beverages at Leh / Kargil hotels, restaurant meals outside Leh / Kargil hotels, sleeping bag, items of personal clothing, expense of a personal nature like laundry, phone calls, alcohols, cigarettes, insurance; any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, landslides, road conditions and any other circumstances beyond our control.

Note:

- Kayakers to bring own boat and gear. We can provide kayaks for Rs. 11660 INR if you do not want to carry your boat out. (Choose from Liquid Logic HOSS, Session Plus, Dagger, Necky & Perception boats)
- This river demands solid boaters with class 4+ skills and experience in big water.
- Cost does not include transfers and hotels in Delhi and Delhi hotels can be arranged on request.
- Airport transfers cost Rs. 1865 INR per transfer.

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How to book the above trip:

- 1 Email Thunder Bow Expeditions of your participation as soon as you decide to sign up
- 2 Read the booking form carefully, complete it and sign the trip booking form and fax it to us at 403-762-2708
- 3 Wire us your trip payments to confirm space for your self on the trip. We will send details by e-mail
- 4 Apply for an Indian Visa
- 5 Send us 5 original passport size photos, your passport and visa page photocopies
- 6 Let us know at the outset if you would like us to arrange airport transfers and hotels or any trip

NOTE: Submit all formalities to Thunder Bow Expeditions by July 15, 2010

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Booking Form

Please fill in this form after reading Conditions of Contract and send it to us by fax or scan and email.

PARTICIPANT 1

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Last Name) _____ (Name to be written as it appears in your passport)
(First Name _____)
Address: _____ Postal Code: _____
_____ Tel: (H) _____ (B) _____
_____ Email: _____
_____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Height (in cm): _____ Do you have a pre-existing medical condition? Yes / No? _____ If yes, please give details: _____

PARTICIPANT 2

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms (Last Name) _____ (Name to be written as it appears in your passport)
(First Name _____)
Address: _____ Postal Code: _____
_____ Tel: (H) _____ (B) _____
_____ Email: _____
_____ Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Height (in cm): _____ Do you have a pre-existing medical condition? Yes / No? _____ If yes, please give details: _____

TRIP SELECTED

Trip Name: **The Zanskar River Expedition**

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Booking Contract & Agreement

1. How to Book:

To hold your place on this trip please complete the booking form and send it by e-mail/mail or fax to our office.

-if cancellation takes place less than 30 days prior to departure, 100% of the tour price will be forfeited.

2. Payment:

Space on the trip is reserved once full payment is received. Payments are accepted by cash, cheque or wire transfers. The tour price is payable to Thunder Bow expeditions. Details and routing instructions will be sent to you by e-mail. Prices are quoted in US dollars. The tour price is quoted as a package. No partial refunds or credits will be given for services not used. We recommend that you obtain travel insurance including cancellation insurance upon booking.

4. Health and Fitness Requirements:

Participants must be in good health and good physical condition. It is vital that participants with medical problems make it know to us well before departure. If you should suffer from severe muscular, chest, heart or bronchial disorders or if you are a severe asthmatic, have high blood pressure you are strongly advised against participating. This expedition takes place in a remote area where there is little to no access to medical services or hospital facilities for serious problems. Where necessary evacuation may be prolonged, difficult and expensive. Medical and evacuation expenses will be the responsibility of the participant.

3. Cancellations

If it becomes necessary to cancel your tour you must notify Thunder Bow Expeditions immediately in writing. Once we receive your notice cancellation we will take effect. Please note that the following charges will apply upon cancellation. -if cancellation takes place more than 45 days prior to departure, your full deposit will be forfeited -if cancellation takes place between 45 and 30 days prior to departure, 50% of the tour price will be forfeited.

5. Tour Leaders

Our tour leaders take their responsibilities very seriously and if a tour leader believes in his/her judgment that you should not participate in part of the trip or not run a certain section /rapid of the river he/she may exclude you from that particular section of the trip. If during the trip the tour leader considers you should not participate further he/she may direct you not to continue and you must follow their instruction.

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6. Delay or Change of Itinerary

While every effort is made to run our expedition according to the itinerary Thunder Bow Expeditions reserves the right to change the trip plan prior to departure in the best interest of the trip. Delays may be possible and may become necessary due to inclement weather, snow and ice conditions, political restrictions or due to roadblocks, landslides, high river levels etc.

You will not be entitled to make any further claim for any injury, loss of expenses or damage, or for any loss of time of inconvenience which may result from such delays (including but not limited to visa, passport and vaccination charges, or departure, gear purchases, airport and airline taxes or charges).

7. Insurance

Personal travel insurance is not included in the tour price. We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance including cancellation insurance upon booking.

8. Package Prices

Prices are based on ground costs, airfares and exchange rates. Thunder Bow Expeditions tries its utmost not to increase tour prices (in full or in part) however sometimes increases are outside our control.

. We reserve the right to amend tour prices without notice at the time before and including the departure date. Amendments may be necessitated for many reasons including but not limited to exchange rate fluctuations, increased fuel costs, airfares, airport charges etc. Any increase in tour price must be paid prior to the departure.

9. Exclusions from Tour Price

Visa, passport and vaccination charges

Departure, airport and airline taxes

Meals on train, airports, in Delhi, extra meals not included in the itinerary, alcoholic beverages

Laundry, postage, personal clothing, medical expenses, personal travel insurance and items of personal nature

Emergency evacuation charges

Tips and excess baggage charges

10. Important Note

Our expeditions are for people who enjoying venturing into natural places, individual must be aware of the travel limitations and restrictions in this part of the world and the flexibility that goes along with it. These trips have a fixed departure where anybody can join and run the river.

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On behalf of Thunder Bow Expeditions

On behalf of

Name:

Name:

Date:

Date:

Signature:

Signature:

ThunderBow Expeditions, President: Kim Hartlin

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**RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, ASSUMPTION OF RISKS AND
INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: BY SIGNING THIS DOCUMENT, YOU ARE GIVING
UP THE RIGHT TO SUE**

**To: Kim Hartlin operating as Thunder Bow Expeditions (herein referred to as
Thunder Bow):**

Aquaterra Adventures Ltd. (India)
The Government of India and its States

IN CONSIDERATION of Thunder Bow accepting my application for and of my being permitted to attend and take part in rafting or kayaking trips conducted by Thunder Bow and Aquaterra on public lands and rivers in various States of India:

- 1. I agree to grant this release from liability,**
- 2. I agree not to sue and I waive all claims and,**
- 3. I agree to assume all risks of rafting or kayaking trips that I have agreed to participate in, some of which risks are described below.**

1. I HEREBY WAIVE any and all claims that I may now and in the future have against Thunder Bow, its owners, servants, agents and contractors (collectively referred to as the staff of Thunder Bow) together with Aquaterra as co-operator of some Thunder Bow trips, as well as the Government of India and its States as owners of the lands and rivers on which Thunder Bow rafting and kayaking trips take place, and I release from liability and agree not to sue those parties for any personal injury, death, property damage or loss, including economic loss sustained by me or by any other person as a result of my participation in any Thunder Bow rafting or kayaking trip due to any cause whatsoever, including, without limitation, negligence on the part of the staff of Thunder Bow.

2. I AM AWARE that rafting and kayaking on remote rivers in mountainous terrain are strenuous activities and that these activities have in addition to the usual inherent dangers and risks, certain additional dangers and risks which may include, but are not limited to:

- 1) The possibility of capsizing, striking rocks or other obstacles which may cause personal injury, death or property damage. Areas traveled may not have been previously traveled or examined as to potential dangers;**
- 2) Unstable or unpredictable weather conditions which may cause injury, death or property damage due to extreme temperatures and which may prevent travel to, from or within an area;**

- 3) **Unfamiliar and remote rivers and terrain** where I may become lost, or become separated from the rest of the party, and which may hamper or prevent communication and result in delays in rescue or the unavailability of prompt medical assistance;
- 4) **Rough terrain, which may contain dangerous obstacles and hazards**, some of which may include loose rock, tree stumps, boulders, forest deadfall, holes and depressions, as well as slippery, rocky and muddy trail conditions;
- 5) **Public health hazards**, including contaminated water, tropical diseases and similar hazards of travel in remote areas of developing countries;
- 6) **The staff of Thunder Bow and other travelers** who, by their conduct, including negligence, may cause injury, death or property damage.

3. **I ACCEPT** all the dangers and risks of rafting or kayaking and the possibility of personal injury, death, property damage or loss resulting there from.

4. **I ACKNOWLEDGE** that the enjoyment and excitement of the rafting or kayaking trip is derived from being in the wild outdoors far from the comforts and security of populated areas and that the inherent risks of outdoor adventure contribute to such enjoyment and excitement.

5. **I AM NOT RELYING** on any oral, written or visual representation or statements made by the staff of Thunder Bow in deciding to participate in the rafting or kayaking trip.

6. **I CONFIRM** that I am the full age of 19 years and that I have read and understood this Agreement prior to signing it and agree that this Agreement will be binding upon my heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, successors or assigns.

7. **I WOULD FURTHER CONFIRM** that I am the parent or guardian (or have the authority of such) in respect of the following minor individuals, who I have encouraged to participate in a Thunder Bow rafting or kayaking trip:

List those individuals under the age of 19 years that you accept liability for:

I ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY for the safety and conduct of the minor individuals listed above, and hereby indemnify Thunder Bow and the authority having jurisdiction of the land on which the Thunder Bow rafting or kayaking trip takes place, in respect of all liability for personal injury, death, property damage or loss sustained by occasion by the participation of those minor individuals in the Thunder Bow rafting or kayaking trip.

8. **I CERTIFY** that I am physically capable and fit to participate in the guided rafting or kayaking trip and that **I have no medical conditions or needs which might create or subject me to unusual risks in respect of my participation.**

9. **I AGREE** to govern myself in a manner so as to be responsible for my own safety, and I will abide by all applicable laws.

10. **I AGREE** that this Assignment shall be governed in all respects by and be interpreted in accordance with the laws of India.

Signed this ____ day of _____)
_____ 200__.

by: _____)
Signature of participant

by: _____
as parent/guardian/indemnitor

Address

In the presence of)

Witness

Name of Witness

Address of Witness