



Indian Tibet High Adventure

Led by Eddy Downpatrick and Brandon Wheeler

Sunday, July 30 – Saturday, August 12, 2023

Designed by Jack Wheeler

EST.  1976



WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS

Are you up for a *real* adventure in your life?

Not group tour stuff but the real deal -- *genuine* adventure.

This is true High Adventure in both senses of the word – for our entire experience is going to be *over two miles high* (11,000ft/3,400m) – and it's in a hidden region of remotest Asia where the world's most exotic culture still exists... that of *Tibet*.

We have driven many thousands of kilometers crisscrossing Chinese-Occupied Tibet, however the true Tibetan culture cannot be found inside Tibet.

Yet there's a part of Tibet that the British, when they ruled India, prevented China from capturing. Monasteries over a thousand years old still flourish there today.



There's nothing like it on earth – and in the remotest part of it is *The Grand Canyon of the Himalayas*.

Running its Class IV and V rapids is one of the greatest whitewater experiences on our planet.

We will be a group of 8-12 adventures on this journey.

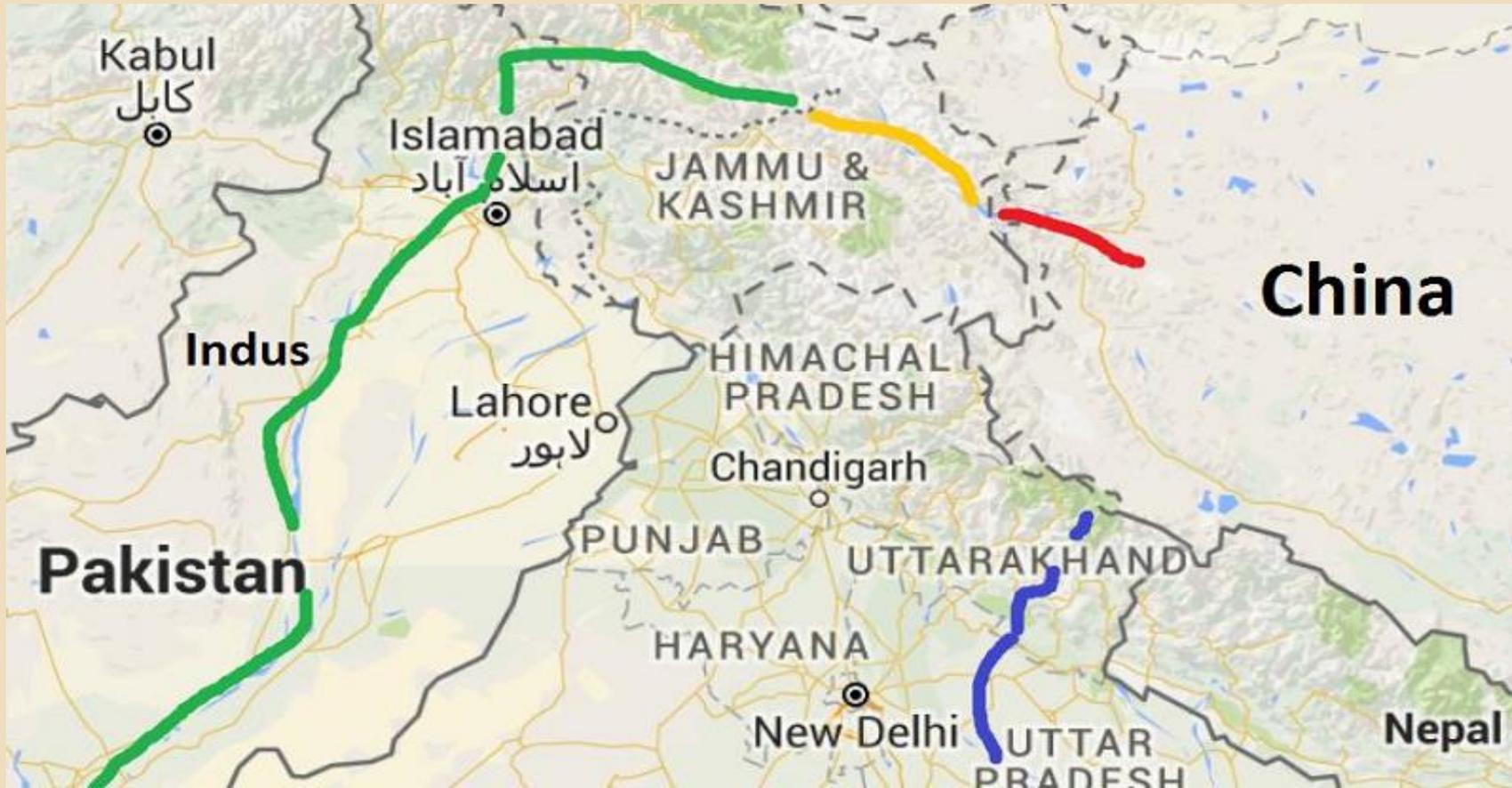
This is the High Adventure of Indian Tibet.



Is it in the Himalayas? Yes and No. That is, it's centered *between* the Himalayas and the great mountain range beyond them, the Karakorum.

It is the region and surrounding area of the *Upper Indus River* as it flows out of Chinese Tibet and before it crosses into Pakistan, in the far northwest corner of India.

See the section in yellow in the map. (Note: the blue-purple is the Upper Ganges River.)



So, let's have the high adventure of Indian Tibet become a part of your life. Here we go...

Day 1 – July 30, 2023 - Sunday You arrive in New Delhi, India, preferably in the morning. Note: all expedition members must arrive in New Delhi by this day, no later.

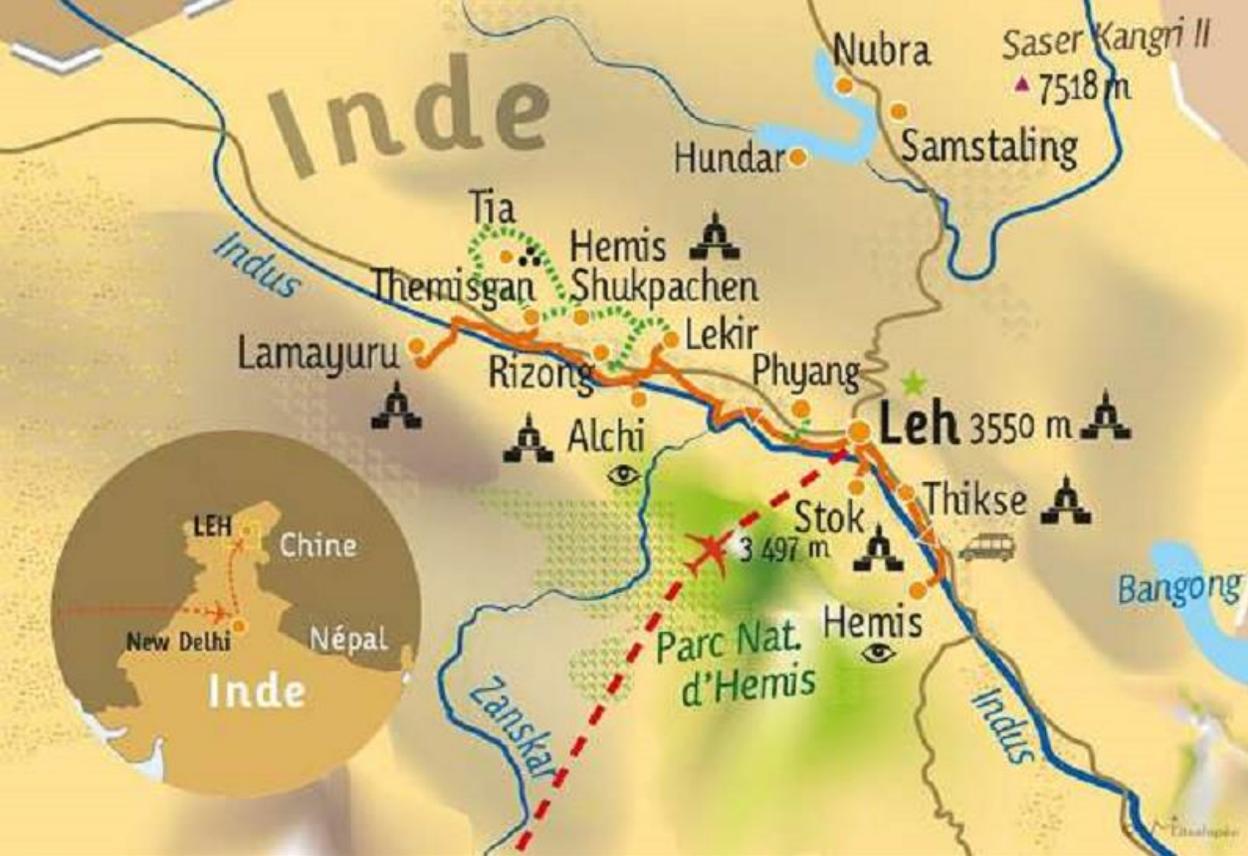
You are met at the airport and transferred to [The Oberoi](#), the iconic 5-star luxury hotel in India's capital.



This afternoon we'll explore the city's famous sights such as *The Red Fort*, (left) court of the Mughal Emperors... and the *Akshardham Temple* celebrating millennia of Indian culture (right)



Tonight is our Welcome Reception and Dinner. Our friend of many years, India's most famous mountaineer, [Colonel Narendra "Bull" Kumar](#), after whom the Line of Control border of Ladakh with Pakistan is named – the *Kumar Line* – the pioneer of river running in India, is invited to join us!



Day 2

Early this morning we fly to *Leh*, capital of Ladakh, Indian Tibet. Our route takes us over the Himalaya mountains.

Upon arrival we transfer to the [*Zen Ladakh Resort*](#), Leh's finest.



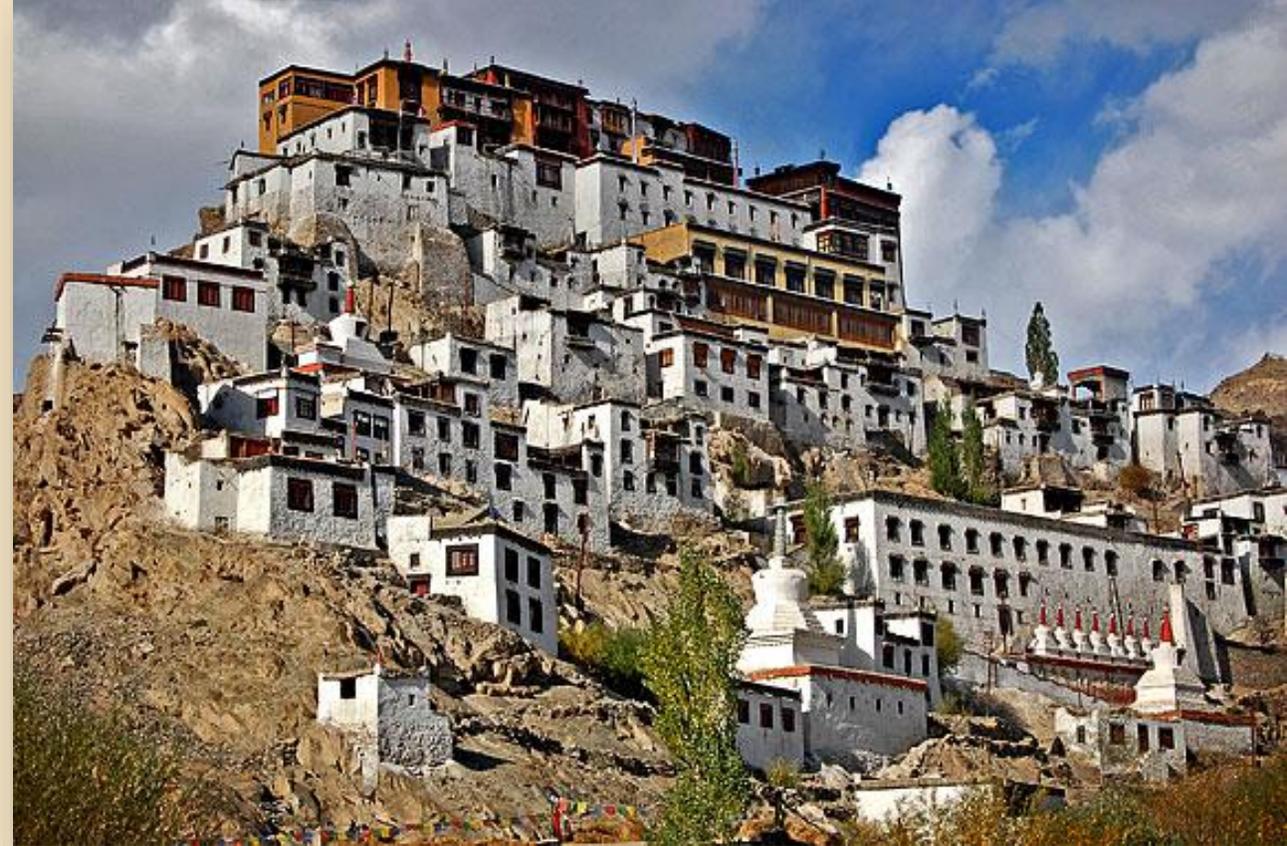
We'll spend the day taking it easy – we're at 11,600 feet/3550 meters – luxuriating in the spa or strolling through this ancient trading post for camel and yak caravans of yore traversing the Karakorum mountains to the Silk Road in China.



Days 3 & 4

Tibetans who live in the region of the Upper Indus and surrounding side valleys call it *Ladakh*, the Land of High Passes.

It is wholly Tibetan – here you will find real Tibetan culture truly alive and thriving, replete with astoundingly spectacular Tibetan monasteries or *gompas*.



We spend two days exploring these gompas and visiting with the Tibetan *lamas* or monks who reside in them.

The gompas are many centuries old and house stunning arrays of illuminated *tankhas* (sacred scrolls), wall paintings, scriptures, and gold-leaf statues in the prayer halls.

A visit to *Thikse gompa* can be overwhelming...

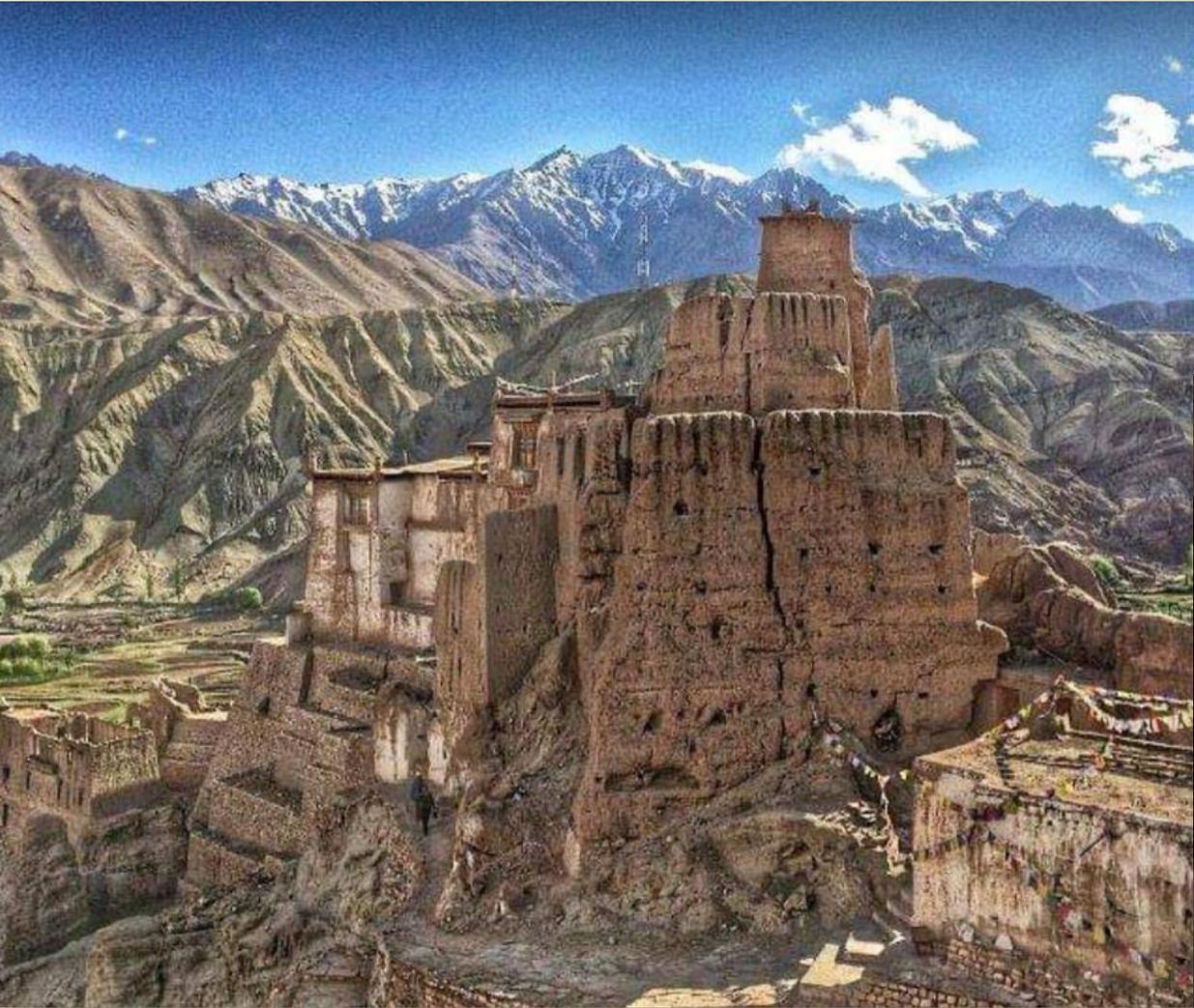
The same with *The Tiger's Nose*, Stakna gumpa.



Or Hemis gompa...



This is Basgo gumpa where many Bollywood movies have been filmed.



And ancient Leh Palace and the *Leh gompa* hovering high above:



We end each day relaxing at the indoor pool, exercising at the health club, or retiring to the bar at the Zen Ladakh Resort before dinner.

Day 5 - Today we head down river with visits to *Likir gompa* with its huge gilded statue of *Sakyamuni*, the historical Buddha (ca. 5th century BC).

Likir is the center of the *Gelugpa* or Yellow Hat sect of Tibetan Buddhism, founded by lama Tsonkhapa (1357-1419).

The current *Dalai Lama* is Gelugpa.



Next we hike up to *Rizong* gompa, which looks like it's glued to the side of vertical cliff.



The kids at Rizong are wonderfully friendly.

We finish at *The Shrine of Alchi*, a thousand year-old temple complex housing enormous gorgeously decorated wooden statues and sculptures of Tibetan deities and saints.



At day's end, we check in to the nearby “beautiful and comfortable” [Ule Ethnic Resort](#) -- rated Excellent by [TripAdvisor](#).



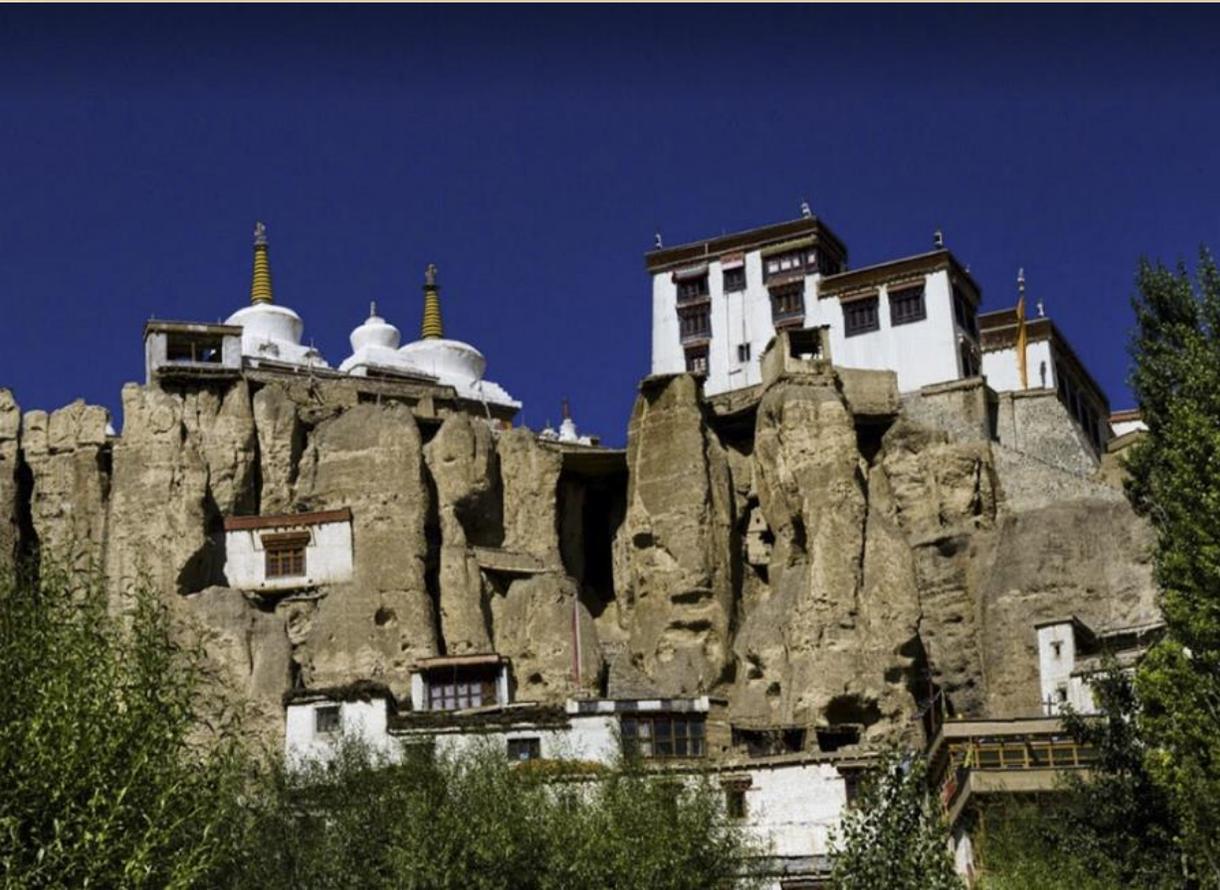
Day 6

Today we leave the Indus River, driving up into the Himalayas to Moonland. Yes, that's what the landscape is known as, looking like you've landed on the Moon. It's a fabulous road to get there – the *Kashmir-Ladakh* “*Highway*.” In the glare of the noonday sun, you can see why it looks like the Moon.



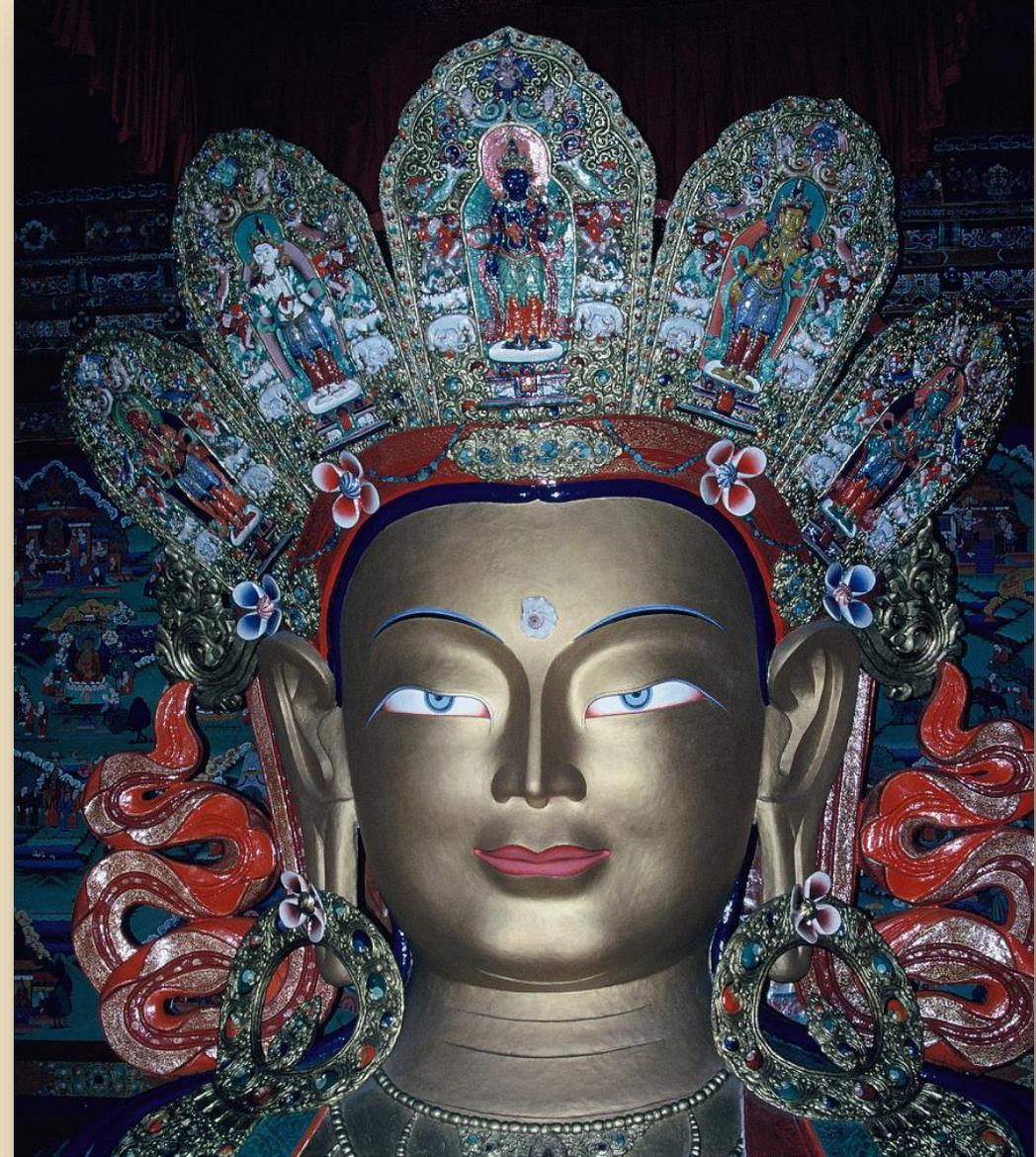
And right in the middle of this moonscape is the most magical, the most mysterious, and the most ancient Tibetan gompa of all – *Lamayuru*.

We check in to Lamayuru's only A Class hotel, the brand new [Hotel Moonland](#). It's right next to the famous gompa – here's our view:



Lamayuru is older than Tibetan Buddhism, founded as a *Bön* monastery, the original religion of shamanism and animism in Tibet. The founder of Tibetan Buddhism was the monk *Padmasambhava* (ca. 750 AD), the adherents to whom are known as *Nyingma*, the Red Hat sect. Lamayuru is Red Hat.

Thus we see massive statues here of “the second Buddha,” Padmasambhava, below.



And the *Maitreya Buddha*, the Buddha of the Future.

It is at Lamayuru that we get to learn from the Nyingma lamas of the founding and teachings of Tibetan Buddhism. We'll spend the day here, and far into the evening if you like.



Day 7

We spend the morning to complete our exploration of Lamayuru, then afternoon we're on the road again. We'll never forget this magic place.



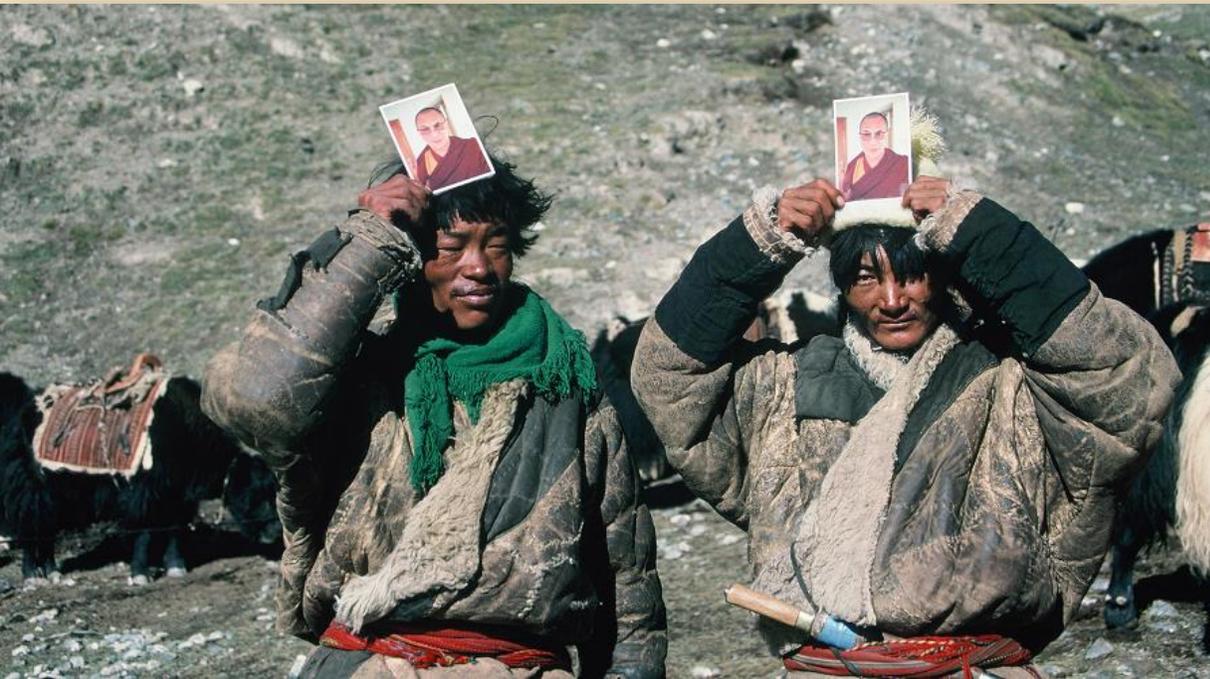
We crest the Himalayas at the *Fatu La* (13,500 ft), to arrive at the town of *Kargil* close to the Pakistan border by late afternoon. We stay at Kargil's best, the [Hotel D'Zojila](#). Time for a good night's rest as we're up early tomorrow morning.

Day 8

On the other side of the Zaskar Himalayas is the remotest region of Ladakh called *Zaskar*. The only road to it is from Kargil. It's really a 4WD track and it will take a while negotiating it into the Zaskar Valley.

When we do, we meet our first Tibetan nomads who live here. The women wear their wealth on their heads in a turquoise-studded *perak* headdress.

The men are overjoyed to be gifted with a picture of the Dalai Lama.



When we set up our campsite, we'll enjoy a cup of yak butter tea with them by the campfire. The setting could not be more magnificent with the massive Himalayan twin peaks of Nun and Kun (both above 23,000 ft) towering above.



Day 9

You're among Tibetan nomads tending their yak herds here, so don't be surprised to wake up in the dawn light with curious nomad kids peering inside your tent.



Breaking camp, we pay a visit to the *Rangdum gompa* perched on a small hill in the middle of the valley.

Here we see god-statues we have never seen before.



To enter the heart of the Zanskar, we must cross over the 14,450 ft *Pensi La* above the gigantic *Drang-Drung Glacier* surrounded by Himalayan giants over 20,000 feet high.



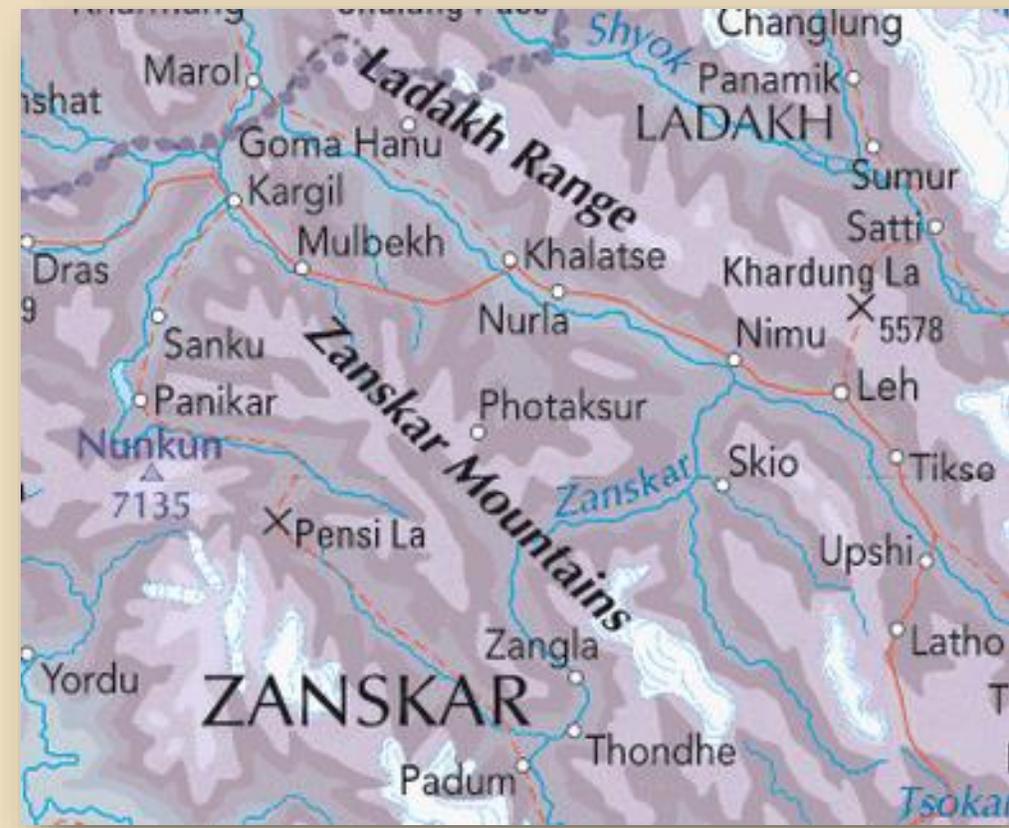
At day's end, we reach the only town in the Zanskar, *Padum*. We stay at the comfortable [Hotel Rigyal](#).

Days 10 - 11- 12 - 13

Today's the day – we start *Running the Zaskar, the Grand Canyon of the Himalayas* – one of the truly great whitewater adventures in the world.

The extraordinary Zaskar River from source to confluence with the Indus is over two miles high and flows straight through the crest of the Zaskar Himalayas.

This is a self-contained expedition on the river - which means you carry all your gear with you on the boats. You live in expedition tents on the pristine beaches lining the Zaskar and we eat our meals by the roaring river-side.



We begin with an early morning visit to the gompa of *Karsha* stacked up a cliffside above Padum. Here we'll receive the blessing of the lamas for good fortune on the Zanskar.



At Zangla, a tiny hamlet past Padum, the villagers have strung a rope bridge across the river. We just have to cross it.



As we reach the entrance to the Zanskar Gorge, it's easy to be overwhelmed by what we see.



Quickly we meet Class IV rapids.



Our campsites are set in scenic spots like this spectacular waterfall where we can take breaks hiking around the area.



We'll make sure everyone is well fed!



Even in the middle of the gorge, we'll discover ledges where families create a living during the summer.

They've even built a rope and plank bridge across one of the narrowest sections.



It is in those narrow sections that we find Class V rapids – a ride you never forget.



Upon reaching the confluence of the Zaskar with the Upper Indus...

We'll understand why many consider running the Zaskar is the premier whitewater experience on our planet. After take out at the confluence, we return to Leh and the Zen Ladakh Resort to celebrate what we've experienced, a true thrill of a lifetime.



Day 14 Saturday August 12, 2023

This is Departure Day. We take the early morning flight from Leh back to Delhi, get a day room at the Oberoi, and celebrate yet again at our Farewell Dinner.

Most all international flights out of Delhi depart at midnight hours, so this must be *adieu*, “*bon voyage*” until our next adventure together.

In our *exploration of Indian Tibet and running the Zaskar this August*, what we’ll see, learn, and unforgettably experience is far, far more than this small glimpse in these photos.

You will have been on a High Adventure. To participate, you need no special skills, just normal good health and condition, capable of being at between 10,000 and 12,000 feet (3,000-3,700 meters) altitude while in Ladakh.

We hope you join us and make this extraordinary high adventure a part of your life.



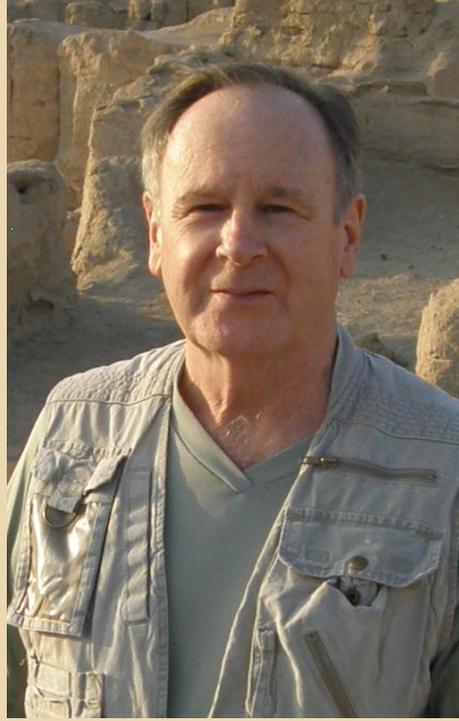
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Brandon Wheeler



Jack Wheeler



Edward Windsor

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Meet Our Expedition Leadership Team - WWX

Welcome to our world of exploration and adventure! We look forward to sharing extraordinary expeditions with you. We know that these experiences deepen our lives in countless ways and create lifelong memories to treasure and share. Join us to experience it for yourself!

Jack Wheeler has traveled to every country in the world. He started out as the youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer's Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole.

Jack founded **Wheeler Expeditions in 1976**, which has conducted exclusive and bespoke expeditions to unusual destinations across the globe for over 40 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married **Ms. Rebel Holiday** in St Tropez, France, who is a partner in the business. Wheeler Expeditions was a classic family business, working with their two grown sons: Brandon Holiday Wheeler and Jackson Holiday Wheeler.

Brandon Holiday Wheeler, has traveled to over 90 countries on 6 continents for the past 32 years and has been leading international expeditions for over a decade. He has summited 13 mountains, along with his many adventures skydiving, scuba diving, and flying. He has lived, studied, worked, and volunteered in multiple countries and participated in their diverse cultures, finding value in learning about their distinct worldviews.

Edward Windsor, Lord Downpatrick, (“Eddy Downpatrick”) Eddy is an explorer and adventurer who takes great pleasure in designing and guiding exclusive expeditions. Eddy’s experience, intellect, and great passion for exploring our wondrous planet and sharing it led to the formation of **Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions (“WWX”)**. In addition to extensive travel, Eddy is a mountaineer, avid hiker, skier, cold-water swimmer, linguist, and is adept on a horse. This opens an even wider range of travel experiences for WWX Client-Members, with “invitation-only,” exclusive events from Eddy’s uniquely broad network.

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INDIAN TIBET – HIGH ADVENTURE DETAILS

Dates: Sunday, July 30 to Saturday, August 12, 2023

To Register: [WWX Indian Tibet High Adventure 2023](#)

Cost per person: \$9,750. Deposit \$3,750 per person upon registration.
payments with balance due by May 15, 2023.

This is an all-inclusive, top-quality private expedition with highly-rated professional river rafting partners that we have worked with since the 1990's. This adventure is unique in what we experience, how we experience it, and in value.

Cost Includes: All inclusive of best available accommodations, all quality meals with group (breakfast, lunch, dinner); all activities and excursions in the itinerary from Sunday, July 30 to Saturday, August 12, 2023. All transfers and transportation. Also included is all equipment and gear, rafting equipment, rafting guides, safety kayakers, life jackets and helmets, wet suits with splash jackets and sleeping bags. All camping equipment.

Cost Excludes: Visa fees (US \$25 cash per person on arrival at airport), international airfares, services and activities not with group or in itinerary. Personal expenditures such as: gifts, alcohol, gratuities. We recommend trip insurance.

Contact: Explore@WheelerWindsorExpeditions.com



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Payment, Refunds, Cancellation: \$9,750. Deposit \$3,750 per person upon registration, then payments with balance due by May 15, 2023. Refund of payment on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you. India is open for travelers. As of Nov 2022, there is no vaccine and no other requirement for tourists. In the event that entry rules of India prevent entry, dates will be rescheduled. **Note:** We always recommend “Cancel for Any Reason” trip cancellation insurance.

International airfare: If you do not have your own travel agent, we can recommend one. They can assist you with travel insurance that protects your trip.

Note on Visas & Health: We will provide information for your visas and travel requirements in advance.

Important Caveat: *Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. Due to the vagaries of travel in this region and of adventure travel in general, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. Participants are expected to accept this, and to maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.*

Contact us if questions about this extraordinary adventure: Explore@WheelerWindsorExpeditions.com

Email us if you'd like to discuss and we'll send you a to schedule a call!

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Our mission is to guide you to live an adventurous life by designing and leading unique, engaging journeys integrating culture, history, and adventure.

Contact us:

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