Ladakh Apricot Blossom

Leh - Nubra - Turtuk - Pangong Tso - Leh

Tour Packages

Tour Basics •

Duration: 07 Days 06 Nights	**Route:** Leh - Nubra - Turtuk - Pangong Tso - Leh

Leh — 7D 6N

About This Trip •

While most travellers associate Ladakh with high-altitude summer road trips and rugged, barren landscapes, the region guards a breathtaking springtime secret. Every April, the cold desert transforms into a vibrant canvas of pink and white as millions of apricot trees burst into full bloom.

Known locally as Chuli Mentok (Apricot Flower), the Ladakh Apricot Blossom Festival is rapidly becoming one of the most sought-after cultural and eco-tourism events in India. Whether you are a photographer, a slow traveller, or a culture enthusiast, here is everything you need to know about experiencing Ladakh in the spring.

What is the Ladakh Apricot Blossom Festival?

Introduced to the arid region over a century ago, the apricot (or *Chuli* in Ladakhi) has become an integral part of Ladakh's culture and economy. The region is famously home to Raktsey Karpo, recognised as one of the sweetest varieties of apricots in the world.

To celebrate the onset of spring and the survival through a harsh winter, the UT Ladakh Tourism Department curates an annual festival. The event features:

- Traditional Folk Performances: Music, mask dances, and storytelling by local tribes.
- Local Handicraft Exhibitions: Showcasing Ladakhi textiles, jewellery, and art.
- Culinary Experiences: Tasting apricot jams, juices, dried apricots, and traditional Ladakhi meals.

- Orchard Walks: Guided tours through blooming valleys alongside the Indus and Shyok rivers.

Over the last five years, traveller intent has significantly shifted from crowded summer itineraries to offbeat spring travel. If you are tracking tourism trends, here are the keywords that have dominated search engines regarding this event:

- Consistent 5-Year Keywords: "Best time to visit Ladakh", "Ladakh in April weather", "Leh Ladakh spring tourism", "Turtuk village apricot bloom".
- Currently Trending (2025/2026): "Ladakh Apricot Blossom Festival dates 2026", "Chuli Mentok festival itinerary", "Aryan Valley homestays", "Offbeat Ladakh spring festivals", "Raktsey Karpo Ladakh".

Expected Dates and Best Locations for 2026

Because the bloom is highly dependent on altitude and weather, the festival is celebrated as a moving feast across different microclimates in the Leh and Kargil districts. For 2026, the peak blooming window is expected between April 5th and April 22nd.

If you are planning a trip, these are the top villages to add to your itinerary:

1. Kargil District (Lower Altitudes, Early Bloom)

- Aryan Valley (Garkone, Darchik, Sanjak): Famous for the Indo-Aryan Brokpa tribe, this valley offers a unique blend of ancient culture and dense apricot orchards.
- Hardass and Karkitchu: Known for their incredibly scenic riverside blooms.

2. Leh District & Nubra Valley (Slightly Later Bloom)

- Sham Valley (Alchi, Saspol, Skurbuchan, Domkhar): Easily accessible from Leh, offering stunning contrasts between ancient monasteries and pink blossoms.
- Nubra Valley (Turtuk, Sumoor): Turtuk, the last village on the India-Pakistan border, is renowned for its Balti culture and arguably the most dramatic apricot orchard landscapes in the region.

Why Visit Ladakh During the Apricot Blossom Season?

- Fewer Crowds: April is considered the shoulder season. You get to experience the raw beauty of the Himalayas without the heavy summer tourist traffic.
- Photographer’s Paradise: The visual contrast of delicate baby-pink flowers against the stark, towering brown mountains and crystal-clear blue skies is unmatched.
- Authentic Village Tourism: The festival actively promotes rural homestays, allowing you to interact directly with local farmers, artisans, and families, ensuring your travel footprint supports the local micro-economy.
- Pleasant Daytime Weather: While nights are still freezing (often dropping to 0°C or below), daytime temperatures hover between a comfortable 8°C and 15°C.

Travel Tips for April in Ladakh

1. Fly In: High mountain passes like the Manali-Leh highway are usually closed in April due to snow. Flying directly into Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport in Leh is the safest and most reliable option.
2. Acclimatise: Because you are flying into a high altitude (3,500+ meters), mandate a strict 24 to 48 hours of complete rest in Leh before travelling to lower valleys like Sham or Aryan.
3. Pack in Layers: The transition from a sunny afternoon to a freezing night is rapid. Bring thermals, windproof jackets, and good walking boots.

Stay Categories & Options •

Double Sharing	Persons: 2	INR 31,500.00	~~INR 35,500.00~~	Save INR 4,000.00
Triple Sharing	Persons: 3	INR 27,500.00	~~INR 30,999.00~~	Save INR 3,499.00

Itinerary •

Day 1: Arrival in Leh – Local Exploration | Dist: 10 km to 12 km | Altitude: 3300 m to 2600 m

- Upon arrival at Leh Airport, our representative will warmly welcome you.
- After that, you'll check in at your hotel.
- After some time to relax and acclimatise, head out to explore key landmarks such as Leh Palace, Shanti Stupa, and the vibrant Leh Market.
- In the evening, enjoy a stroll around the local area before returning to the hotel for dinner.

Meals: Dinner
Night: Stay at the hotel in Leh

Day 2: Sham Valley Sightseeing | Dist: 70 km to 90 km | Altitude: 3300 m to 2600 m

- Begin your day with a delicious breakfast, then head out for a full day of exploring.
- Today's highlights include visits to the Hall of Fame, Spituk Monastery, Gurudwara Pathar Sahib, the intriguing Magnetic Hill, the confluence point at Sangam, and the Rafting Point.
- After a day of exploration, head back to the hotel in the evening for a relaxing dinner and a restful night.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Night: Stay at the hotel in Leh

Day 3: Leh to Nubra Valley | Dist: 160 km | Altitude: 3500 m to 5354 m

- Today, you'll embark on a scenic drive to Nubra Valley, crossing Khardung La Pass, one of the world's highest motorable roads.
- Once you arrive in Nubra Valley, begin your exploration with a visit to the ancient Diskit Monastery, followed by a stroll through Diskit Village and Hunder Village.
- Discover the unique landscape of the Sand Dunes and ride the rare double-humped Bactrian camels.
- Later in the day, check into your accommodation and spend a relaxing evening amidst the serene beauty of Nubra Valley."
- Later, check into your accommodation in Nubra Valley.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Camp/homestay in Nubra Valley

Day 4: Excursion to Turtuk – The Last Village of India | Dist: 70 km | Altitude: 3100 m to 3214 m

- Today, set out early from Hunder for a scenic 85-kilometre drive to Turtuk, one of India’s northernmost villages and a gateway to the unique Balti culture.
- Turtuk, famously called 'The Last Village of India,' offers a unique blend of rich heritage and breathtaking scenery.
- Begin your visit to Turtuk village, Tyakshi village, and Thang village.
- Take the time to explore the village, meet the locals, and immerse yourself in the serene surroundings.
- In the evening, return to Nubra Valley and relax at your camp or homestay in Hunder.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Night: Stay at the Camp/Homestay in Nubra Valley

Day 5: Nubra Valley to Pangong | Dist: 200 km | Altitude: 3100 m to 4814 m

- Wake up to the breathtaking views of the Karakoram mountains and enjoy a hearty breakfast.
- Afterwards, begin your journey toward Pangong Tso, the stunning high-altitude saltwater lake renowned for its ever-changing shades of blue.
- En route, pass through the picturesque villages of Shayok River, Durbuk, and Pangong Lake, soaking in the rugged beauty of Ladakh’s remote landscapes.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Night: Stay at the camp Pangong Tso

Day 6: Pangong to Leh | Dist: 150 km | Altitude: 3215 m to 5362 m

- Post-breakfast, drive back to Leh via the breathtaking Changla Pass, among the world's highest motorable roads.
- Along the way, you'll visit Shey Palace, stop by the iconic Rancho School from 3 Idiots, and explore the grand Thiksey Monastery, known for its stunning hilltop location and spiritual significance.
- By evening, you'll arrive in Leh and check into your hotel for a comfortable stay.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner
Night: Stay at the hotel in Leh

Day 7: Departure

- Begin your return to Leh after breakfast, crossing the picturesque Changla Pass, one of the highest drivable roads in the world.
- Carrying memories to last a lifetime, you'll proceed to Leh Airport for your onward flight.

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Meals: Breakfast
Night: Nil
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Inclusions •

Meals as per the itinerary.

Stay on dual/triple sharing.

Vehicle for sightseeing & excursions as per the itinerary.

Pick-up and drop-off services from Leh Airport.

The entire trip from Leh to Leh will be by car.

Driver Charges, Toll Tax, Parking Charges, etc.

Inner line permits.

Ladakh environment fee and applicable taxes.

Exclusions •

Room Heater cost, Oxygen Cylinder, and Bonfire.

GST 5%.

Flight.

Fees for any adventure activity.

Dedicated Tour Guide.

Any entrance fee to the monastery and monuments.

Any kind of personal expenses.

Any additional use of vehicles beyond the planned itinerary will incur extra charges.

Any kind of drink (alcoholic, mineral water, aerated).

Heater Charges.

Additional costs due to itinerary or stay changes caused by flight cancellations, bad weather, health issues, roadblocks, or other uncontrollable factors.

Anything not mentioned under the head.

In the Ladakh region, AC will not be operational in the cab.

FAQs •

Q: What exactly is the Apricot Blossom Festival?

A:

Locally known as **Chuli Mentok**, the festival celebrates the brief, magical window when millions of apricot trees bloom across Ladakh's valleys, turning the stark desert landscape into a sea of pink and white. Organized by UT Ladakh Tourism, the event highlights local culture with traditional music, folk dances, handicraft exhibitions, and tastings of local apricot products, including the world-famous *Raktsey Karpo* variety.

Q: When are the dates for the 2026 festival?

A:

The bloom is a natural phenomenon and is highly weather-dependent, but peak blossoming generally happens between **early April and early May**. For 2026, official festival events and curated tours are largely concentrated between **April 10th and April 30th**. Because the bloom rolls across different altitudes, lower valleys (like Kargil and the Aryan Valley) bloom first, followed by slightly higher regions (like Nubra Valley and Turtuk).

Q: What is the weather like in April, and what should I pack?

A:

April marks the transition from winter to spring.

Daytime: Pleasantly cool, usually ranging between **5°C and 15°C** in the sun.

Nighttime: Still freezing, often dropping to **0°C or lower**. **Packing essentials:** You must pack for both extremes. Bring thermals, a heavy windproof/waterproof jacket, comfortable walking boots, sunglasses, and high-SPF sunscreen, as the high-altitude sun is intense.

Q: How do I get to Ladakh in April? Are the roads open?

A:

The safest and most reliable way to reach Ladakh in April is to **fly directly into Leh** (Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport). High-altitude overland routes, such as the Manali-Leh Highway, are typically still closed due to heavy winter snow and usually do not open until late May or early June.

Q: Do I need special permits to attend the festival?

A:

Yes. Just like standard summer travel to Ladakh, Indian citizens need an **Inner Line Permit (ILP)**, and foreign nationals need a **Protected Area Permit (PAP)** to visit restricted regions where the blossoms are most prominent, such as Nubra Valley, Turtuk, and the Aryan Valley. These can be easily arranged online or through your accommodation/travel agent once you arrive in Leh.

Q: Do I need to worry about altitude sickness?

A:

Leh sits at an altitude of roughly 3,500 meters (11,500 feet). Because you are flying in from much lower elevations, **a strict 24 to 48 hours of complete rest upon arrival is mandatory** to let your body acclimatise. Skipping this rest period can lead to Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), regardless of your age or physical fitness level.

Get in Touch •

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