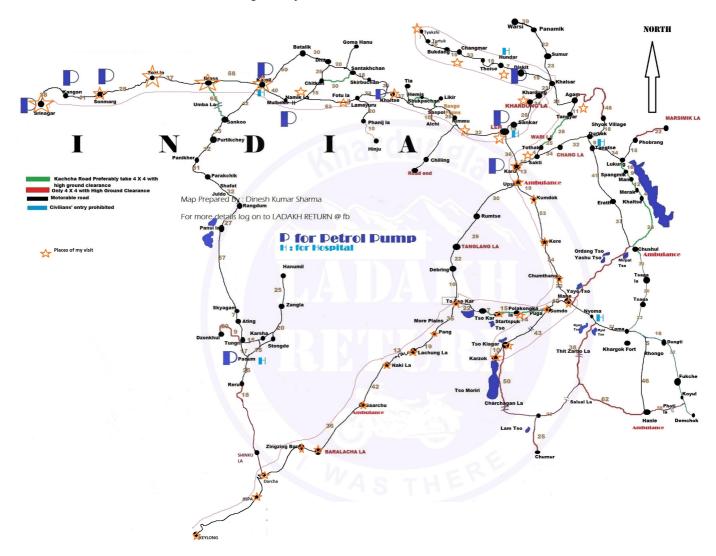
Route

- Ghaziabad-Srinagar-Leh: 1270 kms and 5 nights stay (including 1 night at Leh)
- Leh-Khardungla-Diskit-Turtuk: 245 kms and 1 night stay
- Turtuk-Tsomoriri-Sarchu: 630 kms and 2 night stay
- Sarchu-Manali-Ghaziabad: 780 kms and 3 nights stay



Fuel

- Srinagar-Leh: Srinagar-70kms->Kangan-10kms->Sonamarg-120kms->Kargil-40kms->Mulbekh-85kms->Khaltsi-95->Leh
- Leh-Manali: Tandi (367 kms from Leh), Karu (30 kms from Leh)
- Leh-Turtuk: Diskit (155 kms from Leh), Karu (13 kms before Upshi)

Passes

- Srinagar-Leh route has Zoji La (@11,575ft), 100kms after Srinagar and 15kms before Sonmarg
- Leh-Manali route has 5 passes
 - o Tanglang La (@17,480ft): after crossing 'More plains'. Start descending from here
 - o Lungalacha La (@16,600ft): located some 54kms from Sarchu and 24kms from Pang
 - o Nakee La (@15,647ft): located between Sarchu and Pang
 - o Baralacha La (@16,040ft): in Zanskar range, connecting Lahaul in HP to Ladakh in J&K
 - o Rohtang La (@13,050ft): between the stretch of Marhi and Sissu
- Leh-Nubra route has Khardung La(@17,582ft): highest motorable pass
- Pangong-Leh route has <u>Chang La</u> (@17,590ft): second highest motorable pass

Essentials

- · List of items to carry
- Motorcycle checks before starting the trip

Permits

- Passing Rohtang pass, from Manali requires a permit, can be obtained online
 - o Permit can be obtained two days in advance
 - Private vehicles can cross Rohtang pass before 12 o'clock
 - o There is no need of permit while coming back from Leh
- Leh inner line permit to visit further in Ladakh region, can be obtained online
 - Leh DC office (near polo ground) J&K Tourist Information Center (near car parking) provides permits
 - o Permit office works 9-5PM but applications are accepted up to 3PM only
 - o Pay the inner line permit fees as mentioned in the form
 - o Self attested photocopies of identity, is necessary
 - o Besides permit application form, you need to write an application addressing Leh DC
 - o In the application, you need to mention the places along with the visiting dates
 - Validity of the inner line permit, is 1 week for Indians and 1 week for foreigners
 - o You need to mention all places enroute so that you are not sent back from any post

Pieces of wisdom

- · Always pack before sleeping
- No puncture repair in Leh on Sunday
- Try to avoid a pillion on this ride
- Carry only the most essential items
- Always give way to climbing vehicles
- Control your ego while riding in groups
- · Carry ample cash, while riding at hills
- Tighten your spare fuel can with carrier
- Take small pauses every 1-2 hours to cool down
- Honk on every turn and never drive in wrong lane
- In high altitude regions, avoid staying or sleeping
- Fog light at fronts and reflecting tapes at the back
- Stay friendly with everyone, you encounter while riding
- Remember the cold starting your motorcycle every morning
- Water and food is the key to health, drink and eat wisely
- Switch off your lights to let climbing vehicles see clearly
- Prepaid connections don't work in J&K. Best is BSNL postpaid
- Fill up your tanks every night, to avoid any delay in morning
- Do not ride in the outer most lane, its where the animal roams
- Keep glucose biscuits and ORS liquid at easily accessible place
- Early start is best to avoid any traffic. Avoid riding late hours
- Avoid making pre-bookings; planing don't works mostly on this trip
- In case of any medical emergency, contact the local military camps
- Avoid any bravery while crossing the water streams (nala), take help
- Avoid starting your motorcycle while crossing the water streams (nala)
- Avoid crossing Manali-Rohtang-Koksar on Tuesday, its closed for maintenance
- Keep all necessary documents at an easily traceable place e.g. tank bag etc
- Water streams (nala) are easier to cross in morning, owing to less water flow
- Don't stay long at any high altitude point. Mountain sickness can kill your joy
- Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) symptoms are headache, dizziness, fever or vomiting
- Avoid following any vehicle for long, try to overtake and avoid any pothole/obstacle
- Avoid full tank, keep little bit of air in it. Also keep opening your spare/jerry fuel can

References

- Ladakh Planner by DK Pundit from Ladakh Return forum on Facebook
- Dheeraj Sharma from devilsonwheels.com