

Chapter 1

It is said that “**In the land of Lama don’t be Gama**”, when I heard the saying for the 1st time, one place came to my mind is that of Leh Ladakh. Lush Green Meadows, barren mountains, blueish lakes from Fables, Gompas dotting the landscape for miles. For whole year COVID-19 swept across the globe wiping away almost half the population, millions jobless and also similar holocaust engulfed India as well. I work at a reputed MNC as HR and settled in Kolkata with my wife and Dad. As COVID swept across India our company announced **Work from Home** there by retaining our most of our JOBS and employees, people at IT were really blessed to be a part of this, most of us had our jobs!! Like others we were also scared to go out of the house amidst the crisis. Until we got ourselves vaccinated with 2nd Dose, till that we literally locked ourselves in closed doors as it was recommended by Govt. Myself including my family started feeling claustrophobic of not able to go out meet other people and scared of getting infected, almost in the month of September, when we (myself and my wife) got ourselves vaccinated with 2nd Dose, we decided to venture out for an adventure and get ourselves rid of seemed like infinite monotonicity. By September most of Indian people got vaccinated and Tourist Destinations started opening their businesses. Like a silver lining, on lazy Sunday morning of September while I was soaking up the Sun on my couch, I got a call from old school buddy Suman Dewan inviting for a sudden plan for Ladakh. I jumped off my couch and without giving a second thought I just said, “Yes, bro ready for this”. Let me introduce you to my close acquaintance Suman Dewan who I call as “Dewan”, a great guy, honest at heart, very hard working, an avid trekker, great photographer, stays with family in a petrol chemical quarter provided accommodation (like studio apartments) where he works. Great pal, known him from school days for his John Abraham like hair style. He has done many trekking adventures and very knowledgeable and quite experienced with these kinds of terrains, who can be more fitted for our little adventure. So, I decided me and my wife along with him and his wife we embark on a Winter Ladakh Journey by 29th October post Durga Puja which is the biggest occasion for Bengalis. I will tell you later about our Durga Puja Festival, and let me tell you going and preparing for Ladakh journey in onset of Winter itself behemoth job itself.

Chapter 2

I will like thank my friend Dewan for all the guidance he provided for preparing for harsh Ladakhi winters. For people who don’t know about Ladakh let me take some time and tell you. Ladakh is a region administered by India as a union territory, and constitutes a part of the larger Kashmir region, which has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan, and China since 1947 Ladakh is bordered by the Tibet Autonomous Region to the east, the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh to the south, both the Indian-administered union territory of Jammu and Kashmir and the Pakistan-administered Gilgit-Baltistan to the west, and the southwest corner of Xinjiang across the Karakoram Pass in the far north. It extends from the Siachen Glacier in the Karakoram range to the north to the main Great Himalayas to the south. The eastern end, consisting of the uninhabited Aksai Chin plains, is claimed

by the Indian Government as part of Ladakh, and has been under Chinese control since 1962.