



7 Useful Tips for a Self Drive to Leh – Ladakh

The self-drive to Leh Ladakh is a dream drive for hundreds of adventurers all around the globe. As soon as the Leh – Ladakh season gets into full swing in May to September months, adventure lovers prepare themselves to go over the roof of the world via the adventurous roads of Manali – Leh Highway and Srinagar – Leh Highway. Let's look at seven handy tips for your upcoming expedition to Ladakh that you might want to keep always in mind.

1

Over-confidence is your biggest enemy, so keep it away on Ladakh self-drive!

You could be the master of driving in the plains, but the route to Ladakh is a different ball game. You need to respect the difficulty and be extra careful. You might have to get down from your car to move a stone so that it does not hit the underbelly to be cautious with your speeds on these roads. Ladakh, if not anything, teaches you humility.

2

Never rush through any tricky section of the road on Ladakh drive

Carefully analyze the delicate parts by parking your vehicle aside and judging the situation. Try to see how other cars are crossing that section or inspect the trouble section on your foot. Then finally go for it. Rushing through the tricky parts on a Ladakh drive can end up in trouble.

3

Know your car or vehicle well

It is crucial to know about your car or vehicle, especially with hatchbacks and sedans due to low ground clearance. When you take a small vehicle to Ladakh, you need to know which parts of the underbelly of your car you might need to protect especially oil sump and which sections you can let have some scratches on it.

4

Avoid using heaters

Use of heaters should be avoided at any cost especially at the high altitude places like Manali – Leh Highway and Ladakh because the warm air by heater destroys the levels of oxygen content present inside and can make breathing very difficult and aggravate the AMS Symptoms.



5

Do not drink and drive

Not only is it a legal offense and reduce your thinking capacity and concentration, but it also affects your acclimatization rate, which is very important on a Ladakh trip. So, PLEASE do not mix drinks with your self-drive road trip to Leh Ladakh.

6

Help other travelers in need

You must always help other people stuck on their way with whatever you can offer, be it a lift, push, pull, fuel, spares, rope, etc. because help is always hard to find at remote routes of Ladakh. Do not forget, this can happen to you at the very next turn, and it does not feel much good when someone comes after hours and passes by without offering any help on your dream Ladakh drive.

7

Carry essentials and other spare parts On a self-drive to Ladakh trip, one should always try to carry:

- Basic Toolkit including Jack and Spanner
- Air Compressor and Foot pump
- Hydraulic Jack
- Spare Tyre (Check for puncture before leaving)
- Puncture Repair Kit
- Screwdriver Set
- Torchlight
- Jump Start Cables
- Spare Bulbs
- Tow Away Rope approx. 3-6 Ton Capacity
- 1-2 Jerry Cans / Coke Bottles to carry spare fuel
- Funnel
- Spare Coolant and Engine Oil
- A Long Stick/Rod
- A Shovel and a Hammer
- 2-3 Packs of M-Seal and Quick Fix/Fevi-Quick/Elfy
- Plenty of Drinking Water and Snacks/Dry Fruits
- A water bottle to refill water and to save our environment.

Himalayan Travel Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



#SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles