

AUTUMN LADAKH ASTRO LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP

With **MANAS DAS**
& **RANIT DHOLEY**

You will learn:

1. Golden and blue hour landscape photography.
2. Star trail with both advanced cameras and smartphones.
3. Milky way core and Cygnus region.
4. Light painting and steel wool photography.
5. Shooting in flat light and monochrome landscape.
6. Aperture blend and long exposure in daylight landscape.
7. There will be dedicated post processing & group discussion session during the workshop and the following topics will be covered
 - Noise reduction through stacking
 - Time blending, focus stacking and exposure stacking and blending
 - Post processing of Astro photography
 - Post processing of day light landscape photography

Duration of the Tour
Sept 8th - Sept 16th



Manas Das: +91-9875303351, +91-8130330627
Ranit dholey: +91-9337002820, +91-7602067193



Manas Das: im.manas.das.1995@gmail.com
Ranit dholey: ranitrkd7@gmail.com

MEET YOUR MENTORS



 **d_underrated_photographer**  **Manas Das**

Manas Das is a Delhi based architect and a self taught photographer who started his photography journey in 2014 as a freelance architecture and interior photographer while he was a student of architecture. Over the period of time he developed interest in Himalayan landscape and the night sky photography. Since last 4 years he travelled many known and unknown nooks and corners of Himalayas to capture the story of its landscape and the mesmerizing beauty of the night skies. His works got published multiple times on prestigious magazines such as discover India, tripoto community along with some local newspapers. He also loves to click various festivals of India along with the streets and daily life stories of places he visits.



 **ranitdholey**  **Ranit Dholey**

Ranit is a Kolkata based self taught photographer with a diploma in Fine Arts and a bTech in Electrical Engineering. He started out with his first camera in 2016 as a street and landscape photographer and moved into professional wedding photography as well through the years. From the get go, even before he ever touched his first DSLR, landscape oil painting was one of his favorite genres, which nicely fit into the paradigm of landscape photography, which utilises many of the same techniques. Ranit has extensive travel experience in Eastern India, from the Himalayan foothills to the entirety of the Eastern coastline and especially loves photographing mountainscapes. His work has been published in Landscape Photography Magazine, Incredible India, Tripoto, Sigma India, PetaPixel and has been exhibited multiple times. Images that he captured also won multiple accolades including the North East Photography Awards and Sony Corporate Photography Contest.



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Why Ladakh?

Ladakh is a rain shadow region, meaning, that the rains do not reach up there in plenty because of the range of trans-Himalayan mountains protecting it from winds bearing the rains. That makes it a cold desert which offers us the best opportunity to capture some stunning astro landscapes. As it is a valley, it offers us a 360° clear view at every direction, giving a photographer ample opportunity to shoot good Astro images. The altitude of Ladakh is very high and because of that it offers a glittering night sky from almost everywhere. Also this area has a bortle-1 night sky which makes it one of the best places for Astrophotography in India. Ladakh also has the India's first Dark Sky Sanctuary situated at Hanle.

Ladakh is definitely one of the stunning location for stargazers. Long straight roads through vast sandy plains present unforgettable glimpses of cold desert and snow-crowned mountains welcome you when you set foot into Ladakh. Bordered on all sides by the Himalayas, Ladakh, has an altitude limiting between 8370 (indus river) feet and 19030 feet (umling la) above sea level, and gets around 300 days of sunshine and 65 days of precipitation in the year, making it one of the coldest deserts in the country. This is also the reason why you can see the sky studded with millions of diamond like stars on clear nights.



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Itinerary (8D/7N)



Day 1 (9th Sept, Saturday): Leh (arrival)

Arrival at Leh. Check into the hotel, freshen up. This will be the first day of acclimatization. At afternoon we will have introduction and then brief everyone on the whole tour and the basics of landscape/astrophotography will be given. Post sunset we will visit Sangam to shoot the milky way core with the confluence. We will get back to the hotel around 10pm.



Day 2 (10th Sept, Sunday): Leh (halt)

After breakfast we will be out for local sightseeing including Shanti Stupa, Leh market, Leh palace, Tsemo Namgyal monastery, Leh palace, Shey and Thiksey monastery. At afternoon we will drive to Stakna monastery to shoot sunset. At night we will shoot astro and be back for the dinner.



Day 3 (11th Sept, Monday): Leh - Merak (Pangong Tso)

After breakfast we will depart from Leh to Merak a small village on the bank of Pangong lake. We will reach Merak by 3pm. Post-lunch we will shoot and enjoy mesmerizing sunset from the bank of Pangong. During night, if weather permits we will shoot stunning night-cape with the lake .



Day 4 (12th Sept, Tuesday): Merak (halt)

This morning, after breakfast we will explore the area. Learn how to scout locations for nightscapes during broad daylight and will spend sufficient time trying to compose images well before nightfall. Our intention, today, will be to hike up a bit high in search of a good vantage point. We will try to shoot early night astro.



Day 5 (13th Sept, Wednesday): Merak - Hanle

We will rise early in the morning to catch the amazing sunrise over Pangong lake. After breakfast we will start our journey to Hanle and reach around 1pm. After lunch, will visit the HCT ,as this location is restricted at night. Post sunset we will shoot near HAGAR telescopes (only if we get permission) and some try milky way reflection shots near the river .



Day 6 (14th Sept, Thursday): Hanle (halt)

This morning, after breakfast we will explore the area. We will visit Henle monastery. We may explore daylight landscape photography by driving to a bit outskirts of the village. During night, we will shoot near Henle monastery and river, again.



Day 7 (15th Sept, Friday): Hanle - Karzok (Tso Moriri)

After breakfast we will depart from Hanle to Karzok. During the daytime we will scout the location for night. At afternoon we will shoot spectacular sunset in and around our place of stay and then we will drive to the bank of the lake and shoot milky way and its reflection on calm water of Tso Moriri.



Day 8 (16th Sept, Saturday): Karzok - Leh

This morning we will depart for Leh. This is going to be the last day of our tour. After having the lunch, we will have a post processing and discussion session on the images that we clicked throughout the tour. At evening we may have a party to commemorate the amazing tour we had. Then we finally pack-up our bags to depart for our homes next



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INCLUSIONS



Accommodation on double/
triple sharing basis.

Food (MAP basis)

Tour guide

Sightseeing

Transportation for sightseeing
& expedition as mentioned in
the itinerary

Necessary permits, GST, toll
tax and parking

Astro-landscape photography
knowledge

One year post processing
support

EXCLUSIONS



Any kind of personal expenses
or extra meal

Anything not mentioned in the
package includes

Additional cost due to road-
blocks, bad weather, ill health
and / or any factors beyond
our control. etc.

Hotel Tips, Laundry, mineral
water, telephone charges &
Heater charges.

Any increase in taxes or fuel,
leading to an increase in
surface transportation and
land arrangements, may come
into effect.

TOUR SUMMARY AND COST

Short itinerary: Leh - Merak - Hanle - Karzok - Leh

Total duration: 8D / 7N (Leh-2 nights, Merak-2 nights, Hanle-2 nights,
Karzok- 1 night)

Pick up and drop location: Leh

Maximum group size: 10 (excluding the mentors & subordinates)

COST: INR 38500/- PER PERSON (EXCLUDING AIRFARE)



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Dealing with High Altitude

DOS



Drink sufficient water to stay hydrated

Keep yourself relaxed and calm to help your body and mind in top shape

Although there will be oxygen cylinders with us, still carry a couple of oxygen cans with you.

Have light and high calorie diet, such as carbohydrates like rice, bread and parathas

Have garlic occasionally or inhale camphor to prevent the chances of AMS

Keep a pulse oxymeter or wear a smart watch to keep an eye on blood oxygen level

DON'TS



Try not to smoke. If you are a regular smoker. Quit atleast for a week

Avoid any kind of alcoholic beverages and drinks. Alcohol dehydrates our body resulting into AMS

Avoid anything that contains caffeine because caffeine also dehydrates the body.

Avoid fried foods. It may add unnecessary fat deposition to your body. The energy required to burn these fats can otherwise be used to enhance the body's metabolism.

Don't skip meals. Take food on time so that you keep nourishing your body



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MENTORS' GALLERY



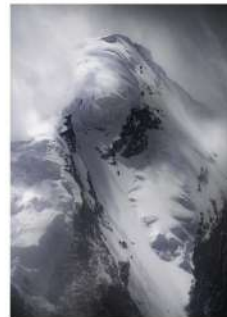
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