



L A D A K H

Astrophotography Tour 2024



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Astrophotography, also known as astronomical imaging, is an art of capturing astronomical objects, celestial events and area of the night sky.

Besides being able to record the details of extended objects such as the Moon, Sun, and planets, astrophotography has the ability to image objects invisible to the human eye such as dim stars, nebulae, and galaxies.

Nonetheless still one of the most underrated forms of photography, Astrophotography is a beautiful yet a daunting art form. It is an amalgamation of passion, dedication, hard-work, skill, and above all, patience.

Join us to shoot the Milky-way from one of the darkest sites in India, L A D A K H!!

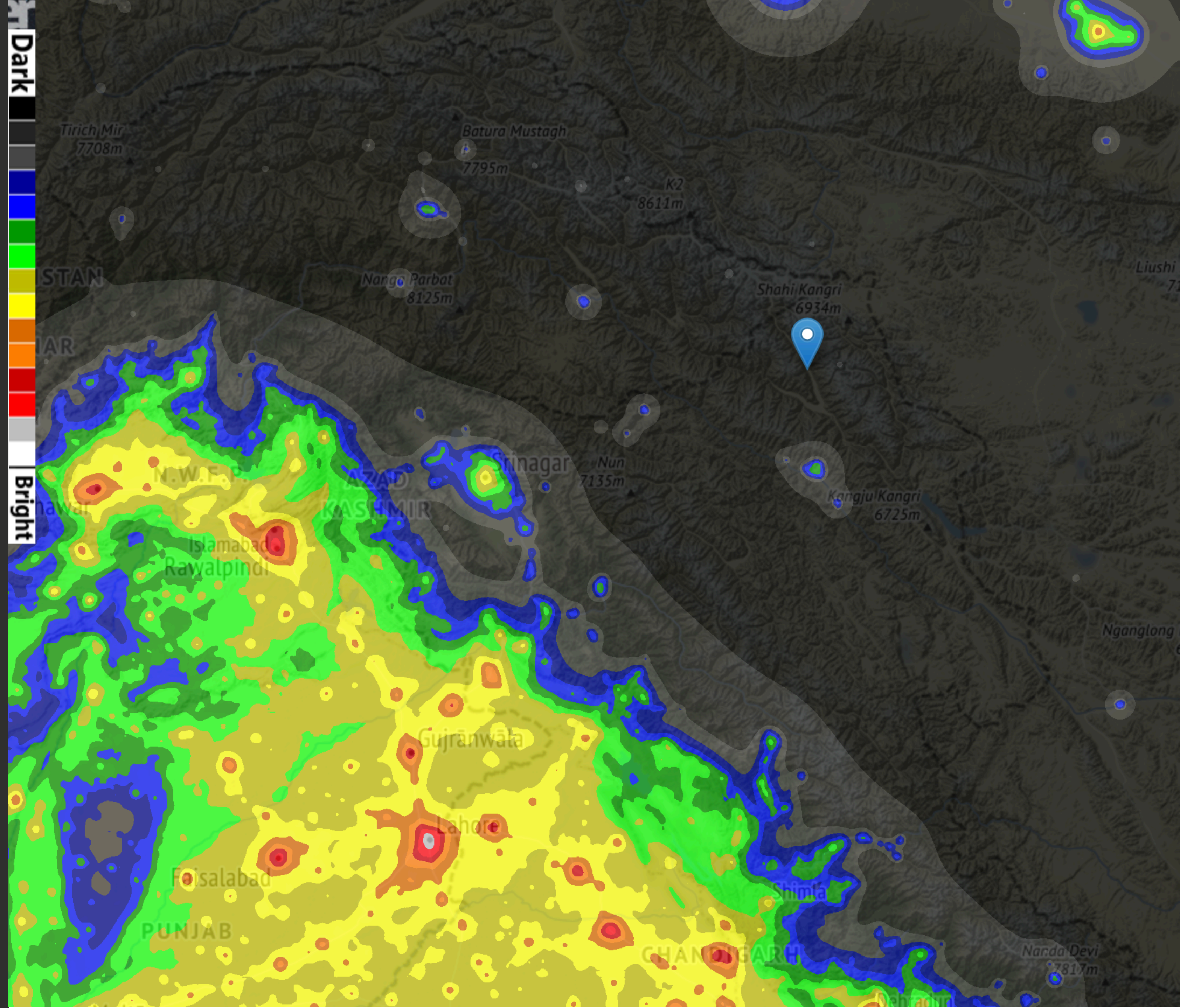


Why LADAKH?

There something that 80% of the people on earth haven't and will not witness. Its our **Milkyway** galaxy!

Away from light pollution with a clear sky, Ladakh is one of the best places to stargaze and see the Milkyway.

High altitude, low levels of water vapour in the air and the lack of light pollution make it one of the best dark sky environments on Earth. Seen from space at night, Ladakh, the least-populated region of India, is just a black splodge.



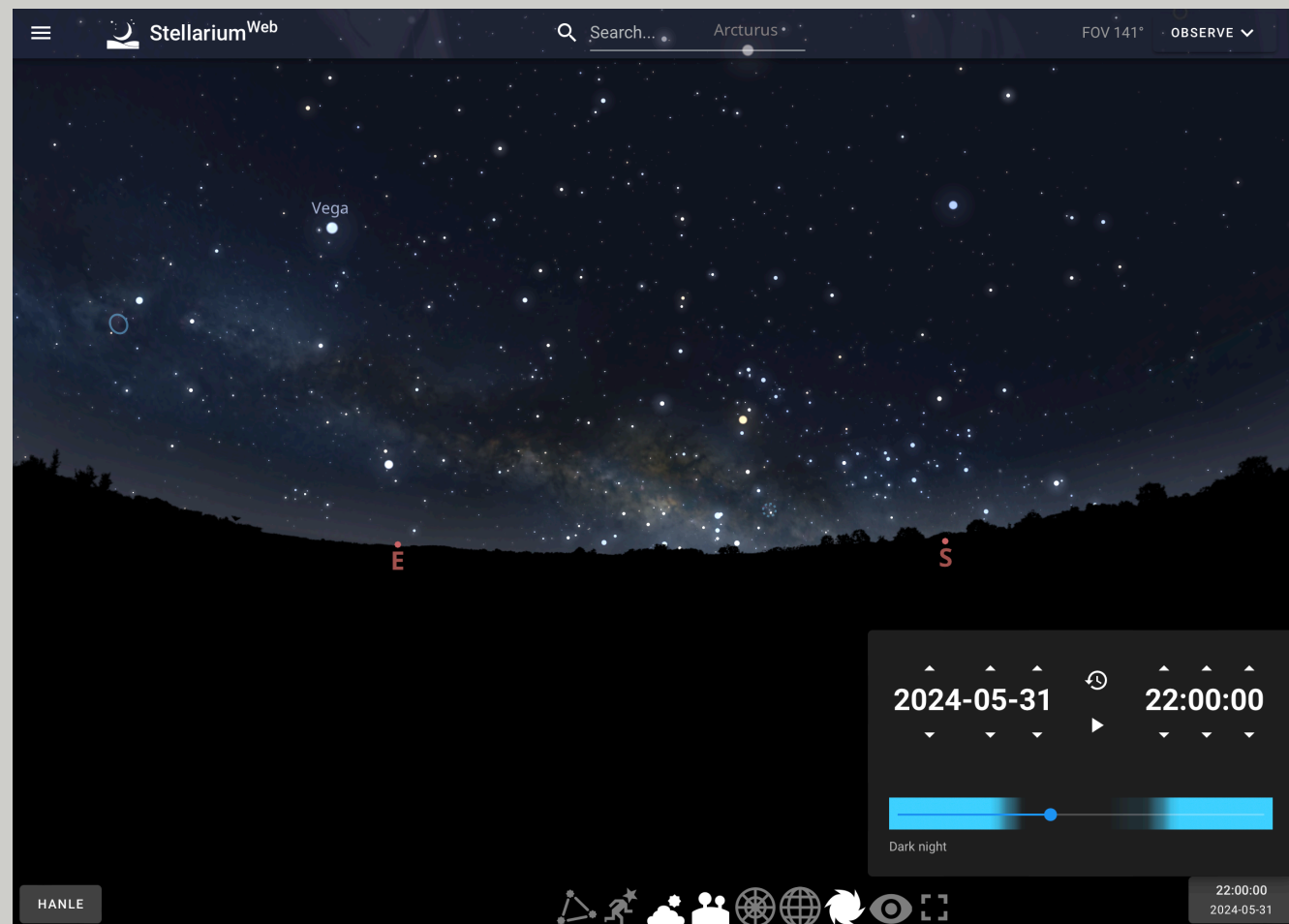
Why June 2024?

Preparation and planning are two of the most important aspects of Milky Way photography. Knowing the moon phase, how much light pollution to expect, where the Milky Way arm will align and what the weather will be like are some of the biggest factors to a successful outing

The best time to photograph the Milky Way is during a “new moon,” a phase in which the moon is almost completely dark. During this timeframe, the galaxy’s light won’t have to compete with the light of the moon in the sky. The Milky Way changes positions in the night sky throughout the year, which means that some nights it’s clearly visible for up to five hours, while other nights it’s only visible for a few minutes or not at all.

We have done the brainstorming on this, thinking about different compositions with the Galactic Centre in the southeast, south or southwest. Hence we have selected these dates for travel when the Galactic core will be the brightest, moon will not interrupt your photos and weather would be mostly clear.

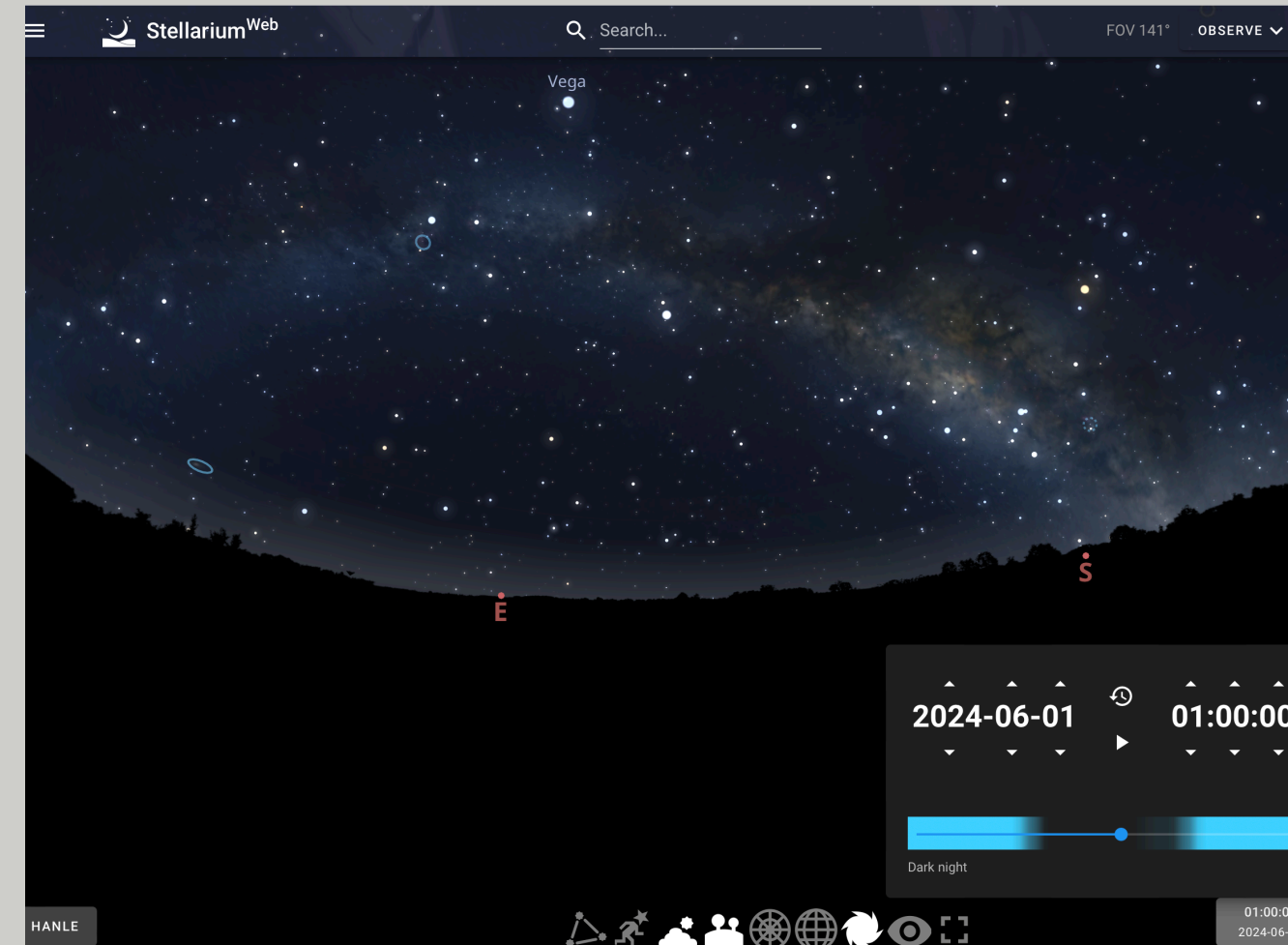




Galaxy Rising!

That simply means you don't have to wait for hours to have a glimpse of the Galaxy!

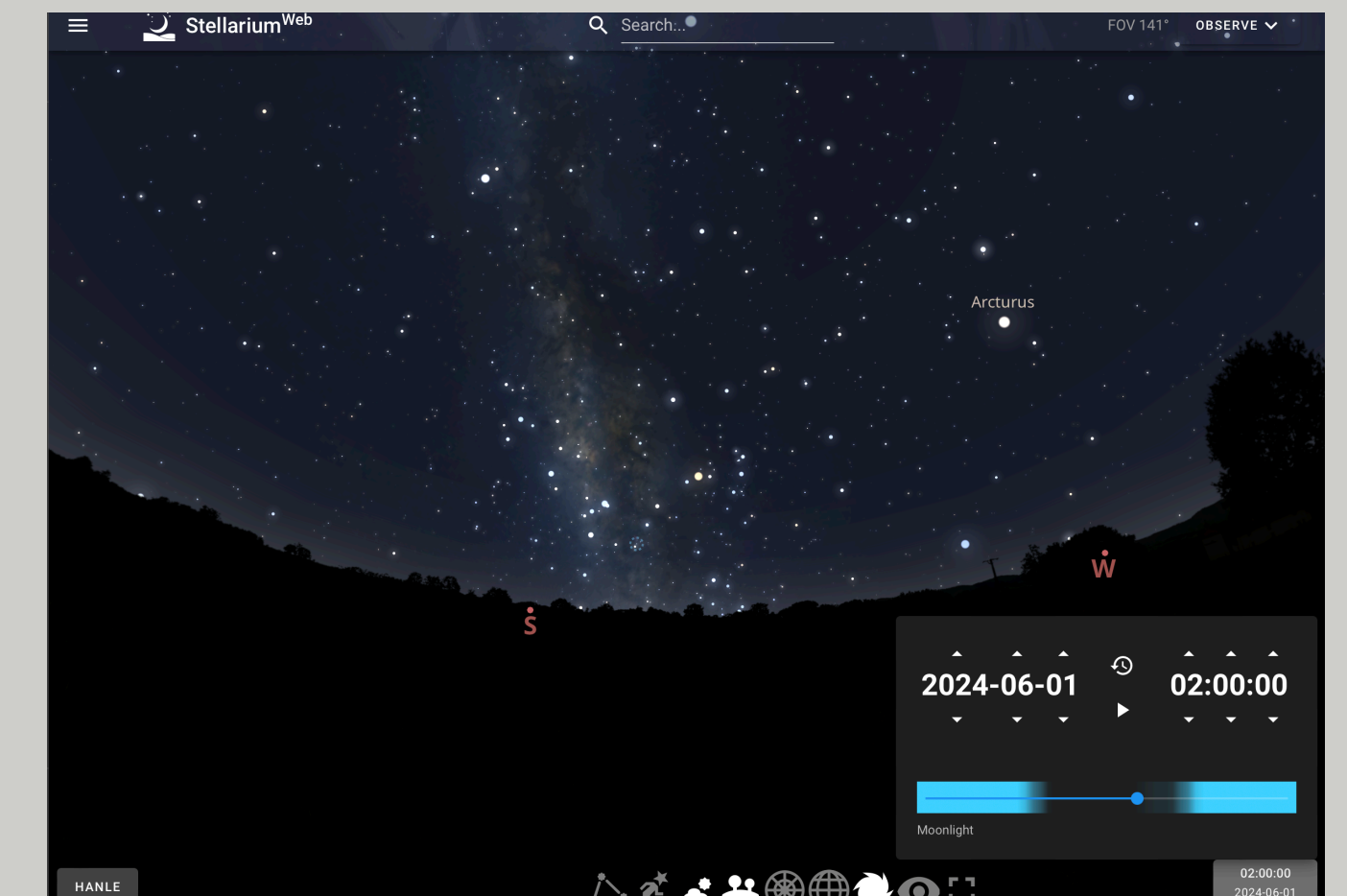
Right after we finish our dinner, we can set up the Camera and capture the beautiful time-lapse of the rising Milky Way Galaxy!



The beautiful Panoramic view!

The Milky Way will reach that point at 2 am where you can see the beautiful panoramic view of the galaxy overhead.

This would be the perfect opportunity to try your hand at Panoramic shots!



Milky Way for your Instagram stories!

Just before winding up your setup after an eventful night, you get an opportunity to see the vertical band of the Milky Way.

Shoot some stunning vertical images for your Phone wallpaper and IG stories.

Why with Saleel?

Saleel has been involved in photography for more than a decade now, including Wildlife and Astrophotography. With his expertise he chooses the best places for photography.

Anyone who has been indulging in astrophotography in the past would immediately exclaim and jump to appreciate the value of selection of areas and landscape. Saleel promises you a trip of a lifetime across one of the most inspiring and photographically rich locations on our planet – L A D A K H !!

When asked about his Love for Astrophotography Saleel said “ My first distinct memory of watching the stars or the Milkyway was during my herping tours. We in cities don't know how the night sky actually looks like. Milkyway existed for us only in textbooks.

We never knew we can see the Polar star, Jupiter, nebula and all such celestial objects. That caught my interest for Astrophotography. Astrophotography is an extension of what our eyes can see and beyond. We are constrained by limited sensitivity as our eyes flicker many times a Minute. But with a camera, we can open the shutter for more than 20-30 seconds and showcase more beautiful nightscape.”

During the expeditions, don't forget to ask Saleel to share his many secrets which have allowed him to click such amazing photographs!

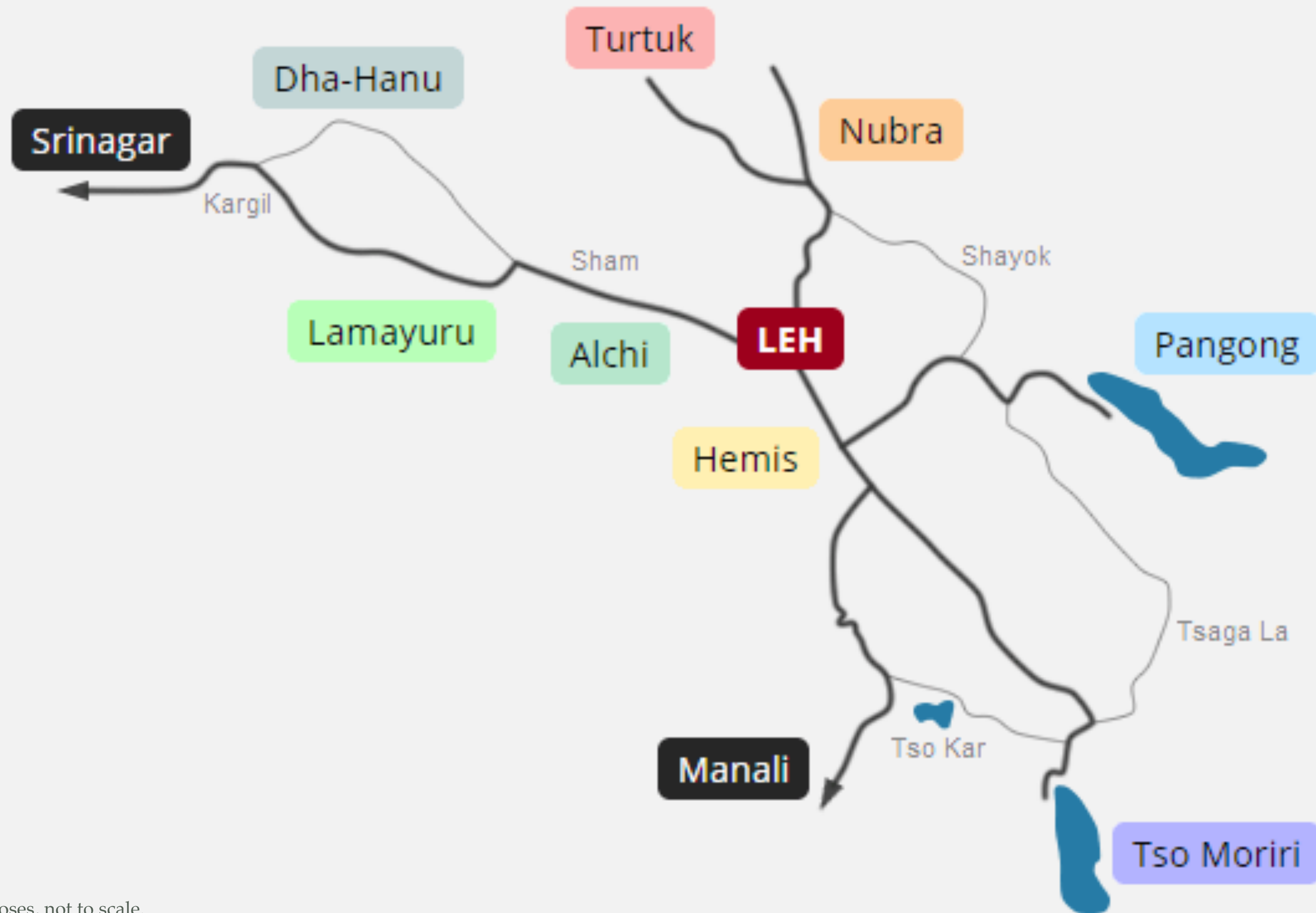


Techniques you can discuss and master during the Tour

- Locating the Pole star with help of constellations
- Locating the Milky Way with help of constellations
- How to shoot the Milky Way
- How to shoot Milky Way Panorama
- How to shoot Star-trails
- How to shoot Time-lapse
- How to process the Milky Way Photographs
- How to process the Milky Way Time-lapse
- How to stack the Milky Way photos to reduce Noise
- How to use the Sky tracker for longer exposures
- Introduction to Deep-sky astrophotography



LADAKH - ROAD MAP



Travel Plan

Day 1



Arrival at Leh

Day 2



Leh - Sumoor

Day 3



Sumoor

Day 4



Sumoor - Merak

Day 5



Merak - Hanle

Day 6



Hanle

Day 7



Hanle - Leh

Day 8



Leh Airport Drop



Arrival at Leh

Leh the joint capital and largest town of the union territory of Ladakh in India. Leh, located in the Leh district, was also the historical capital of the Kingdom of Ladakh, the seat of which was in the Leh Palace , the former residence of the royal family of Ladakh. Leh is at an altitude of 3,524 m (11,562 ft),

Arrive at Kushok Bakula Rimpochhe Airport at Leh, under own arrangements, we receive you at the Leh airport. And drive around few kms to reach our traditional Ladakhi stay, anchored near the banks of Indus River.

Spend your most memorable day with cool breeze, soothing the skin of the denizens of cities from the plains. The musical notes of the gurgling water of the River Indus make the best medical relaxant.

Rest and acclimatise to prepare yourself physically to explore the sky for next one week, which you may have never seen before; absolute clear sky as there is no pollution here.



11,562 ft



20 Mins



Leh



L | D

Leh

Sumoor

Sumoor

Merak

Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 1



Leh to Sumoor

Nubra Valley is one of the most beautiful corners of Ladakh . The road from Leh to Sumoor is around 115km and takes about 5-6 hours from Leh. The route takes you over the spectacular Khardung La Pass – along the highest motorable road in the world – and up to heights of 5,600m. The views are breathtaking would be an understatement.

Khardung La – the highest motorable road in the world. At the top of the pass, chai, obligatory photo by the signs, and sights of the mountain-side festooned with Tibetan prayer flags await.

Descending from the pass and winding through the mountains, the view of the Shyok river and Nubra Valley suddenly comes into view. Two thirds sand and soft mud and one third water, to the eye it can be hard to determine where the water begins and ends. After crossing the Shyok river you arrive on the outskirts of the village of Sumoor in Nubra Valley.



DAY 2



10,000 ft



3.5 Hrs



Sumoor



B | L | D

Sumoor

Sumoor is a small village in Nubian valley. Unlike Hunder and other spots in Nubra Valley, Sumur is quiet, peaceful and lesser known.

Attractions:

Sand Dunes are the most attractive part as they are intact as anyone hardly visits.. you know the importance of those sand lines. Yarab Tso is a beautiful lake amidst of mountains.

Photographic View :

Sumoor is known for its untouched Sand-dunes on the river bed, where you can get you white sand shots. On the other hand it has yellow green fields with backdrop of snow clad mountains makes it picture perfect. We can also hike to the picturesque Yarab Tso lake. We would spend 2 nights in this picturesque village to shoot in sand dunes and nearby serene areas.



10,000 ft



1 Hr



Sumoor



B | L | D

Leh

Sumoor

Sumoor

Merak

Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 3



Merak : Gem of Pangong

Merak is a village situated on the southern banks of Pangong Tso. An hour drive from start of the lake away from the nearby villages of Spangmik and Man which are filled with people and tents, adding light noise, commotion and spoiling the photographic beauty of the lake and the night sky.

Photographic view:

Merak has some serene view of snow clad mountains and Pangong lake which will give you some heavenly photographs of star filled sky. We would be spending 1night star-gazing in absolute silence and also witnessed the sun-rise if you wish.

Attractions :

Also there is a space observatory being constructed at a distance of 3 kms from the village. In 2018 a telescope was installed to study solar chromosphere. The new installation named as Indian Astronomical Observatory, Merak.

Leh

Sumoor

Sumoor

Merak

Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 4



13,940 ft



6.5 Hrs



Merak



B | L | D



Hanle

Hanle in the Changthang region of Ladakh is one of the most beautiful, enchanting, calm, and soul losing places in India. Away from the crowd, it is a quiet little village that offers some of the best views that you can get during your trip. One such extremely close to the Indo-China border and hidden in the lap of mighty Himalayas is the small village of Hanle.

Hanle village is one of the high altitudes villages in Ladakh at a staggering altitude close to 4300 Meters.

Photographic view:

Hanle is a cold desert. As you move towards Hanle, the size of the mountains starts to decrease, and you start witnessing a series of small mountains clustered together.

Attractions :

Hanle is the home of the 17th century Hanle monastery which belongs to the Tibetan Drukpa Kagyu branch of Tibetan Buddhism and also to the Indian Astronomical Observatory, which is one of the world's highest astronomical observatories.



14,764 ft



3.5 Hrs



Hanle



B | L | D

Leh

Sumoor

Sumoor

Merak

Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 5



Hanle

Indian Astronomical Observatory, Hanle is one of the world's highest observatory in the world at a staggering height of 4500 Mtrs. The Hanle Observatory is operated by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru.

IAO is one of the world's highest located sites for optical, infrared and gamma-ray telescopes. It has highest optical telescope in the world, with an installed telescope of about 2.01 meters (6.5 feet) diameter and situated at an elevation of 4,500 meters (14,764 ft).

Hanle was chosen for the telescope site among 6 candidate sites across India because of its clear weather after a rigorous weather analysis was done on cloud cover, relative humidity, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, rain/snow fall. The observatory having a 2.01 optical infrared telescope known as Himalayan Chandra Telescope (HCT) and The High Altitude Gamma Ray Telescope (HAGAR) is an atmospheric Cerenkov experiment with 7 telescopes setup in 2008. Each telescope has 7 mirrors with a total area of 4.4 square meters, remotely controlled from Bangalore through Satellite Link.

Leh

Sumoor

Sumoor

Merak

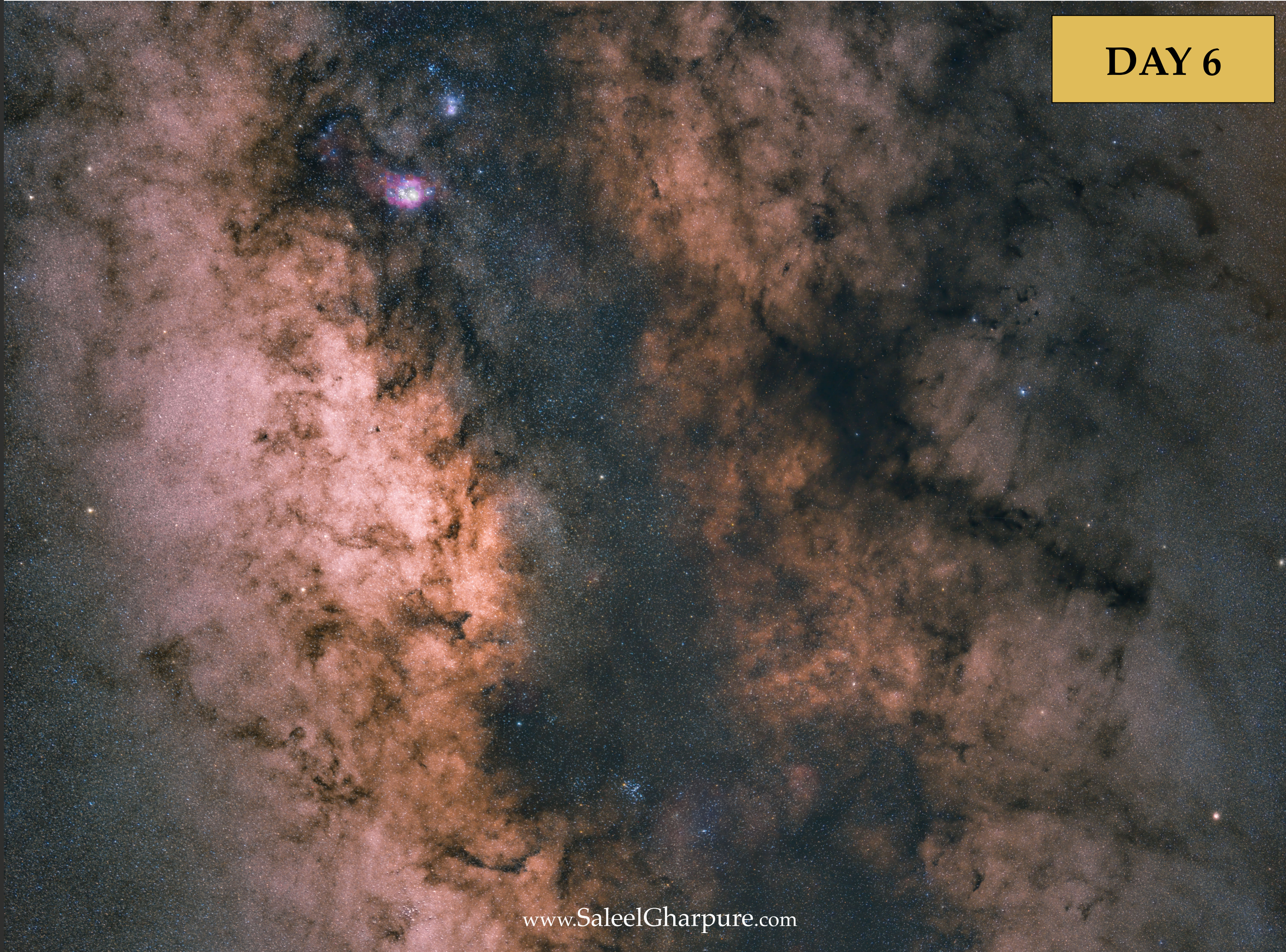
Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 6



14,764 ft



1.5 Hrs



Hanle



B | L | D

Leh

Photographic view:

The city is located on the bank of the Indus. The mountains dominate the landscape around. There shall be no stray light or minimal to supplement your night shoot and a wonderful location. One of the most ideal locations to shoot the sky filled with stars beyond count and above all enjoy exhilarating holiday. It's that heaven on earth where one can fill heart and camera memory cards.

Attractions:

We know you may crave for an unusual subject in foreground which has never been part of your astrophotography before. Let us select a location or subject to shoot the sky.



11, 562 ft



5.5 Hrs



Leh



B | L | D

Leh

Sumoor

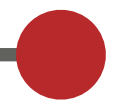
Sumoor

Merak

Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 7



Leh

We won't mind spending another day in this vastness of the barren land and huge mountains keeps you in its lap, its one of the best places to embrace and enjoy the warmth of Mother Nature.

One can only feel it and hard to capture it by any means. But all good things have to end for it to begin again.

We pack our bags with memories and memory cards with photographs.

Home calling guys !! But just until we travel again !!

As Saleel always says

“The best is yet to to come”



11, 562 ft



20 Mins



N / A



N / A

Leh

Sumoor

Sumoor

Merak

Hanle

Hanle

Leh



DAY 8



Recommended Equipment

- * Camera with full Manual control
(extra camera will be an advantage)
- * Intervalometer
- * Wide-angle lens
(extra camera will be an advantage)
- * Sturdy tripod with Ball head
- * Extra batteries
- * Extra memory cards
- * Powerbank
- * A torchlight with red light
- * Flash light (if needed)
- * Sky tracker (if needed)
- * Laser light



Connect with us well in advance if you wish to rent any of the above equipment for the tour!



1 Jun 2024 - 8 Jun 2024



Only 7 Participants



**INR 42,000 Per person
+ GST @5%
Total : 44,100**

INCUSIONS

- ◆ Stay on twin/triple sharing as per availability in Homestays / Hotels
- ◆ Leh Airport pickup, all surface transfers, Leh Airport drop
- ◆ All meals from Lunch on Day 1 to Breakfast on Day 8
- ◆ Inner-line permits if any, Toll, Parking etc.
- ◆ On-field and In-door photography guidance
- ◆ Use of vehicles at night during the shoot

EXCLUSIONS

- ◆ Air Ticket to Leh and Back
- ◆ Entry fees and camera charges for Monasteries and Museums if any
- ◆ Any sightseeing which is not a part of the itinerary
- ◆ Any expenses of personal nature
- ◆ Cost incidental to any change in the itinerary / stay on account of flight cancellation due to bad weather, illness, roadblocks or any factors beyond our control
- ◆ Optional activities like rafting, double hump camel riding, etc.
- ◆ Anything not specifically mentioned under the prices included above



1 Jun 2024 - 8 Jun 2024



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+ GST @5%

Total : 44,100

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Sighting of the celestial objects including the Milky Way can **NOT** be guaranteed. TUT will not be held responsible in case of low / no visibility of the celestial objects due to bad weather conditions.

- Itinerary is subject to change without any prior notice in case of unavoidable circumstances.
- The organiser will not be responsible for any loss or damage to luggage or valuables.
- In case of any damage done by the participant, the cost will be solely borne by him/her.
- In case of any changes in the entrance fees / safari charges / entry tickets / camera charges or hike in any of it, it will be payable extra by the participants equally.
- The organiser will not be held responsible for your visa related issues.
- Organisers have all rights to claim any additional expenses borne due to delay / breakdown of vehicles / Strikes / riots / and any natural calamities.
- In any unlikely conditions, if you are not able to join the rest of the group, at any predefined locations, then all the expenses until joining the group would be borne by you entirely.
- Any change due to force majeure including weather condition / strike / war / VIP movement and security, heavy rush at sightseeing places, road traffic congestion etc., are not in our control.
- Any personal injury, sickness, accident, loss, delay, discomfort, consequential loss and/or damage or any damage to baggage or personal effects howsoever caused shall be your sole responsibility.
- Participants are requested to take care of their valuables and personal belongings on tour. In case, if a guest forgets their valuables or personal belongings on tour, we will not be liable to bring the items back.

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