

#WomenOnTheMarch Flt Lt. Shivangi Singh + K Kalpana + Jemimah Rodrigues And More...

# TRAVEL + LEISURE

INDIA & SOUTH ASIA

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10 Travel Groups For Female Explorers

# MADHAVAN

A Star For All Time



\$ 4.50 / SLR 450 /  
NPR 35 / MVR 60  
PKR 300 / BTN 200 /  
TAKA 350

COURTESY OF THE GRAND DRAGON, LADAKH

## EPIC OFFERINGS

The Grand Dragon, Ladakh offers luxurious hospitality in the lap of the Himalayas. The property's commitment to sustainability and promoting local culture makes it one of the top choices for seasoned travellers.



Clockwise from here: The Grand Dragon, Ladakh offers luxury and comfort in the lap of the Himalayas; Zasgyath boasts an open terrace with al fresco seating surrounded by the Stok mountain range; guest rooms spot Ladakhi architecture.



**SET UP IN 2007**, The Grand Dragon, Ladakh is one of the first luxury offerings in Leh. The property—the brainchild of the ABDU family who has been in the business since 1974—is one of the preferred hotels for those looking for luxury and comfort in the lap of the Himalayas.

Located minutes away from the airport and in the heart of the city, the property follows an indigenous design policy, featuring the famous Rabsal tradition of Ladakhi architecture. An imposing entrance with intricately carved wood and a traditional Ladakhi welcome await guests at The Grand Dragon. The lobby offers a cosy and intimate lounge with a range of teas, coffees, and light bites. Throughout the property, one can also spot paintings of ancient Ladakhi architecture and culture by Gulam Mustafa, the first modern artist of Ladakh.

There are hints of Ladakhi architecture in the guest rooms too. All the 76 rooms come with sweeping views of the landscape. Inside the rooms, there are modern amenities and the en-suite bathrooms come with heated flooring, modern fittings, and paraben-free amenities.

To ensure guests' comfort during low oxygen and dry climatic conditions, the property has also installed fresh air

systems with humidifiers that infuse fresh air and moisture in the rooms, in addition to central air conditioning. The hotel also offers a pillow menu for a restful sleep.

The property is also well known for its culinary offerings. There's traditional Ladakhi food along with other regional Indian cuisines, as well as pan-Asian and European fare. Apart from its three restaurants—Zasgyath, Tusrabs, and Solja—the property also offers round-the-clock in-room dining service, along with barbecues and bonfires on the lawn, private dining in a traditional set up, and picnic services. Other amenities on the property include a dedicated centre for kids, a fully equipped gym with sauna and

steam rooms, a spa, as well as an in-house doctor for any acclimatisation issues.

The Grand Dragon Ladakh is also committed to reducing its carbon footprint. There is a water filtration plant to provide artisanal water in glass bottles for guest use, inclusion of local ingredients in food preparation, and a special emphasis on the use of bamboo amenities, biodegradable consumables, linen reuse, and non-toxic laundry detergents.

Before you depart, make a pit stop at the Souvenir Store just off the lobby, which houses artifacts from the region that make for a hard-to-resist memento. [thegranddragonladakh.com](http://thegranddragonladakh.com)

—Simrran Gill



Savour traditional Ladakhi cuisine at the property.