



excursions in phyang

phyang is situated in a south-facing valley that gets its waters from glaciers in the ladakh range. if you have some spare time, this beautiful valley is worth a visit.

if you plan day trips from leh, then phyang village is your destination! it is easily reachable by public transport or rented transport facilities.

sightseeing in the valley of phyang

the **phyang gompa** is the biggest *drigung* monastery in ladakh. it was build in the 15th century by king tashi namgyal and is home to about fifty monks. the rooms can be visited, but don't forget to bring a torch as some of them are quite dark. with some luck you may assist the *puja*, a morning prayer (at around 6 am), at which the monks participate.



this year, the **mask dances (*chams*)** at phyang gompa are held on july 21 and 22, 2017. the participation of the locals, the carved masks and beautiful silk costumes of the monks make it a festival of colors. do not miss this opportunity to experience the richness of ladakh's religious heritage!

for the walk and the visit of the 800 year-old **guru lakhang** you have to calculate around 2 to 3 hours through the village. it is said that this is the place where guru padmasambhava did meditate. it is a small temple with wall paintings, below the ruined castles of phyang. from here, you can enjoy a scenic view over the village.

climb to the ruined **castles of phyang**. this is a great place with wonderful view over the entire village, towards lasirimo-la (link into nubra valley) in leh range and towards the indus valley or zanskar range. the snow-covered peak is stok khangri, with 6,123 m the highest peak around leh.

ideal trekking point: phyang is a destination on three popular and entertaining trekking routes. from here, you can acclimatize for/end the mystic nubra valley trek via lasermo-la, the historical sham trek or the highlander bokbok-la trekking. check our website for more details.

HIDDEN NORTH guesthouse is the **ideal accommodation** if you plan to stay some days, to acclimatize after your arrival in leh or to start/end your trekking. it is the only guesthouse in the village.

some say it is a home away from home, some call it a little paradise. the accommodation is reachable by public bus, and other means of transport. it is about 30 walking minutes away from the monastery.

travelers will find here a peaceful atmosphere, clean rooms and home-cooked meals. backpackers can set up their tents on the nearby camping site. HIDDEN NORTH guesthouse is recommended by tripadvisor and lonely planet.



phyang is a natural village. the fields are surrounded by bushes, dog roses and trees. there are three wetlands adorned with springs where domesticated animals are grazing. sometimes, territorial fights between dzos and yaks can be observed. the village stream offers fresh water and cools, especially when the summer days are hot.

traditional field work: in spring, the inhabitants start their field work using *dzos*, cross-breedings of yaks and cows, to bring the field fertilizer and for ploughing. the locals grow different crops and vegetables. harvest time is in late august or beginning of september. the locals sing while cutting their crops. then, threshing starts with the help of animals.

for the patient visitor, phyang is also a great spot for the **observation of wild animals.** resident and migratory birds, ibexes and other mammals, rodents, etc. can often be seen descending from the mountains in search for food and water. during winter, snowleopards sightings have been recorded, too.

