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**LADAKH ROCKS AND MINERALS
PRESERVATION, STUDY AND MUSEUM LEH**

(Under the Trust Registered No. 616/173)



★ Ladakh is a land of rareness with its significant unique, peculiar topography and highest altitude plateau region in northern India, straddling the mountain range of Himalayan and Karakorum.

★ Geologically the Ladakh region from north to south can be divided into five tectonic belts i.e. Karakoram, shayok, Ladakh granite belt, the India belt and the suru crystalline belt. These belts represent a unique assemblage of rock types from pre-Cambrian to tertiary age. The most significant feature of the belt is the presence of melange zone occurs along the plate boundary of Asian and Indian plates.

★ The Ladakh granitoid body could be the remobilised product of the subduction zone. The Puga / Lato Sanku and the pashkyum thrusts are the two major thrusts which delineate the Indus tectonic belt from other belts in the south and north respectively.

★ The rocks of the region criss crossed with pegmatitic and other veins which are normally the carrier of minerals. The sedimentary rocks are also fossiliferous.

★ The Zaskar range consists of mainly marine sediments.

★ Hence the vein in this area may be filled with valuable minerals and fossils in abundance to depict that barren colorful ranges of the mountains of Ladakh.

★ This aspect demands further attention. However, the "Trust" viz LADAKH ROCKS AND MINERALS PRESERVATION STUDY AND MUSEUM LEH has taken keen interest and initiative in the matter after touring nook and corner of the region and it has collected hundreds of minerals, precious stones, semi-precious stones and fossils from the rocks and mountains of Ladakh and preserving those safely in the museum's cabinets and displaying in the interest of one and all.

★ Like all the other places of attraction in Ladakh, the museum too is another feather in the cap of the pride of Ladakh, which is definitely and undoubtedly going to prove a unique experience and exploration during the visit to Ladakh, hence one should not miss the opportunity to pay a visit to the museum near Samkar Gumpa, Leh to have glimpses of rare species of minerals and precious stones.

★ Descriptions of some of the species are given in the photograph of the brochure.

Emerald: (Precious beryl) (From Ladakh)

Emerald is a rare and one of the most precious beryl, derives its beautiful green colour due



to the presence of chromium and vanadium. According to scientifically based definition emerald is the chrome rich variety of Beryl. These qualities combine with its fine colours make it a desirable gemstone. Emerald forms deep in the earth's crust. It most commonly occurs in granites and pegmatites.

Chemical composition: Beryllium aluminum Silicate
Hardness: 7.50 TO 8 **Specific gravity:** 2.71

Aquamarine (Beryl) From Ladakh



Aquamarine is a precious stone a kind of Beryl (mineral). Most valuable colour are sky blue. Aquamarine meaning is "water of see" because the colour of aquamarine is like see water.

Chemical composition is:
Beryllium aluminum silicate.
Hardness is : 7.5 to 8
Density is : 2.68 to 2.74

Garnet (pyrope) From Ladakh

Garnet is the semi precious stone. It is about nine kinds. This



Garnet called pyrope. The blood- red colour of garnet is due to its iron and chromium content.

Chemical composition: Magnesium Aluminum Silicate
Hardness: 7.50 **Specific gravity:** 3.80 to 4

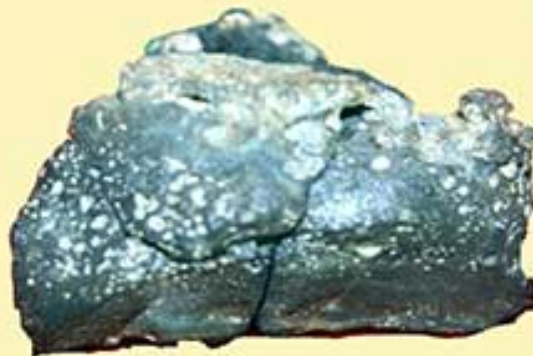


Calcite Rose: (From Ladakh)

The name of calcite (KAL-site) is derived from Greek word for lime. Lime stones are massive bodies of sedimentary calcite. Contain identifiable coral and shell fossils. Calcite deposited around hot springs. Calcite specimens may exhibit fluorescence, Phosphorescence, Thermo luminescence and triboluminescence. It dissolves in water.

Chemical composition: calcium carbonates

Hardness: 3 ***Specific gravity:*** 2.71



Meteorite: (From Ladakh)

Meteorites are objects that fall to Earth from space. But these are difficult to collect because it goes deep in to the earth crush when it struck on the ground. More than 3000 meteorites land on Earth every year. Most falls in the sea, but a handful are seen to fall on land. There are three main types of meteorite: stony, iron, and stony-iron. Meteorites are very precious.

Hardness: 4 to 5 ***Specific gravity:*** 7 to 8

Fulgurite: Thunder bold (From Ladakh)

Fulgurite is a ramifying (branch out in many directions) or branching tube having fused silica or silicates which is formed by the action of lightning striking on sandy soil.

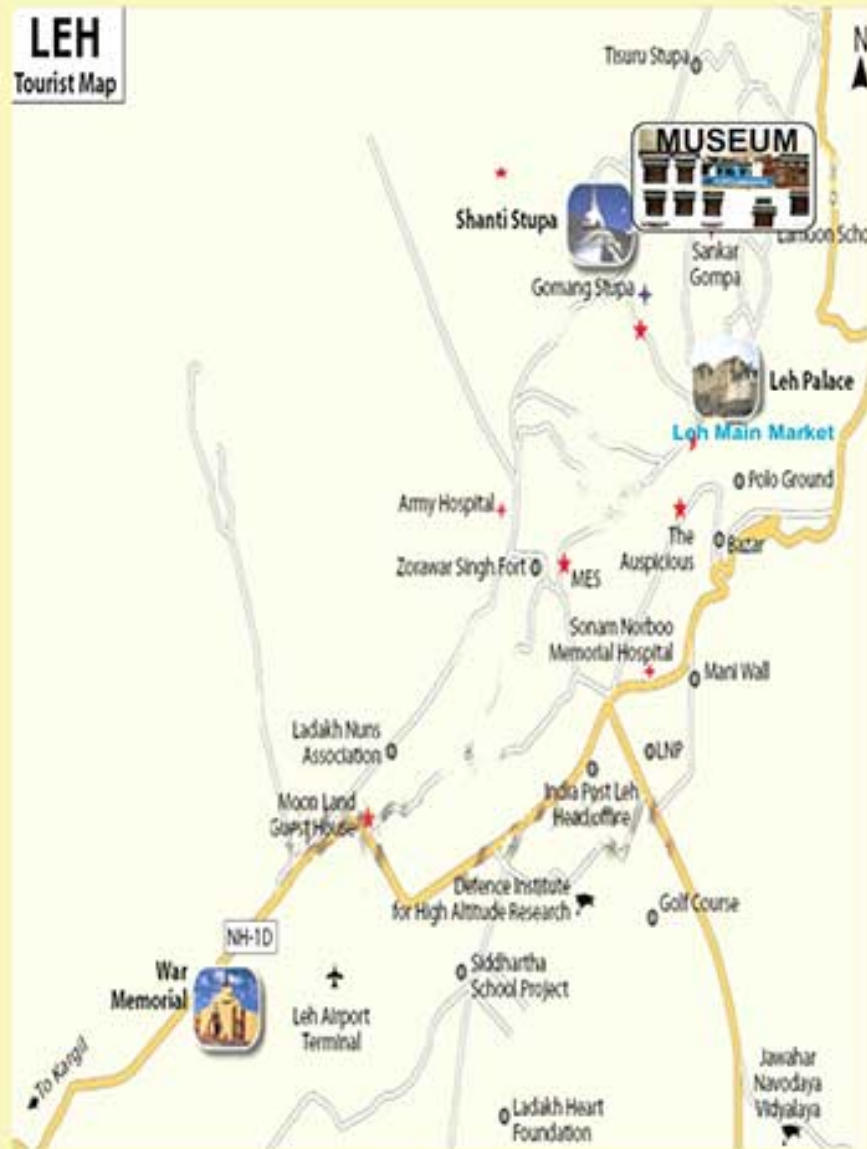


Natural structure of human face (Like alien fossil)



Natural image of sun and moon

LEH
Tourist Map



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