

Bungee Jumping

(Guidelines & Regulations)

The Department of Tourism,
The Administration of Union Territory of
Ladakh



BUNGEE JUMPING IN LADAKH

Situated at a height of around 3,000 Mt. above the sea level, Ladakh is a land of high-altitude ranges, picturesque trails, and magnificent vistas comprising high passes and deep gorges. The land is renowned for its unique beauty, which attracts countless visitors from across the globe to this destination renowned for its rich culture and mysterious appeal. The barren landscape of Ladakh provides an opportunity to enjoy a wide range of adventure activities. The area offers its unique taste and meaning to the experience of Trans-Himalayan adventure, besides helping the tourists to create beautiful memories to be treasured for life.

Bungee Jumping as an adventure sport is attracting a lot of tourists in Ladakh. Bungee Jumping is an activity that involves a person jumping from a great height while connected to a large elastic cord. The launching pad is usually erected on a tall structure such as a building or crane, a bridge across a deep ravine, or on a natural geographic feature such as a cliff.

It is also possible to jump from a type of aircraft that can hover above the ground, such as a hot-air balloon or helicopter. The thrill comes from the free-falling and the rebound. When the person jumps, the cord stretches and the jumper flies upwards again as the cord recoils and continues to oscillate up and down until all the kinetic energy is dissipated.

BACKGROUND

The Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh to streamline and promote adventure activities in Ladakh in a regulated manner is issuing the Guidelines & Regulations for carrying out Bungee Jumping. These guidelines shall extend to the whole of the Union Territory of Ladakh and come into force from the date of its notification.

The Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh recommends following the guidelines & regulations for All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) Tours, issued by the Adventure Tour Operators Associations of India (ATOAI) and endorsed by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

These guidelines will act as a defining force with respect to the procedures to be followed, mandatory trainings for guides/instructors, equipment to be used, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), necessary documentation, risk mitigation processes, addressing medical concerns, emergencies, rescue operations, safety briefing, etc. All Adventure Tour Operators (ATOs) shall follow these guidelines while conducting Bungee Jumping in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

VALIDITY

The 'Guidelines & Regulation for Bungee Jumping' will remain valid for five (5) years, from the date of its notification. All Adventure Tour Operators (ATOs) are advised to strictly adhere to the terms and conditions of these guidelines and follow its best implementation for the sustainable development of the adventure tourism ecosystem in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

ENCLOSURES

- Annexure 1 – Guidelines & Regulations for Bungee Jumping in the Union Territory of Ladakh
- Annexure 2 – Implementation Framework for the Union Territory of Ladakh

ANNEXURE 1

GUIDELINES & REGULATIONS FOR BUNGEE JUMPING

1. INTRODUCTION

Bungee Jumping is a land-based extreme adventure sports activity in which the jumper is made to jump from a height with a rubber cord tied to his ankle. It is an extremely dangerous activity if proper precautions are not taken and safety procedures are not followed. However, once the safety procedures are followed and the jump platform is constructed according to safety guidelines this activity is very safe, and the chances of accidents are greatly reduced.

2. GUIDES / INSTRUCTORS

The jump staff particularly the jump masters should be properly trained and have vast experience in this activity. They should possess a calm and mature attitude and have an eye for detail/errors. They require a very high level of physical fitness, self-discipline, excellent communication, and risk management skills, and also the motivation to perform these activities.

3. EQUIPMENT

The equipment used for the Bungee Jump should be certified and procured from reputed companies. The storage and maintenance of the equipment have to be proper. Regular inspection of the equipment should be carried out and records should be maintained. No unauthorized person should have access to the equipment. All the discarded equipment should be removed from the site and destroyed.

Rubber has to be procured from a reputed and recognized source. Its shelf life should be recorded. The rubber has to be stored in a cool dark place and saved from UV rays. Regular inspections should be carried out. Bungee cords should be made by the jump masters and certified. The record of jumps must be maintained.

4. INSPECTIONS & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

The inspection should be done as per the Safety Manual. Daily, weekly and yearly inspections should be carried out and recorded. The record of all inspections should be entered in the safety log to be maintained at the site. Regular maintenance of the equipment being used must be done and recorded.

5. SOPs & OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

Since there are no Indian standards, it is recommended that operations are carried out as per Australian and New Zealand standards. No dilution in these standards is acceptable. The site should have SOPs for operations and rescue drills. The age limit for Bungee Jumping is 12-45 years. The minimum weight allowed for a jump is 40 kg and the maximum weight allowed is 110 kg.

6. DOCUMENTATION

The following documents are required to be maintained at the site:

1. Record of equipment
2. Safety log
3. Maintenance log
4. Record of rubber
5. Jump log
6. Incident folders
7. Medical record
8. First aid kit record
9. Insurance record
10. Staff training record
11. Dossier of jumpmaster

7. RISK MITIGATION

The following measures will reduce the risk factor:

1. Every Jump should be treated as a first jump
2. A highly experienced person should be appointed as the jump master
3. Jump master's word should be final and binding
4. Continuous training of the staff
5. Regular testing of the staff
6. Regular practice of rescue drills
7. Inspection and updating of the equipment
8. Recording of the jumps

9. All incidents are to be reported, discussed, and recorded
10. Updating of safety procedures
11. Motivation and welfare of the staff

8. EMERGENCIES AND RESCUES

The staff should be fully prepared to deal with emergencies and carry out rescue as per the SOP without looking for orders and in a minimum time frame. The following will help in mitigating risk:

1. Awareness of risks
2. Training in rescues
3. First Aid/CPR & other medical training of the staff
4. An Emergency Action Plan should be in position and training for the same provided periodically to the staff
5. Doctor on call
6. Rescue evacuation to be worked out
7. Tie up with local hospital
8. Procedure for reporting incidents
9. Insurance of the jumpers and staff
10. Funds earmarked and available for medical cover
11. Regular briefing of the staff

9. SAFETY BRIEFING

A safety briefing is to be given personally by the jump master and an audio-visual briefing is also recommended. The disclaimer form should be signed by the jumpers. Safety briefing should be repeated before the activity. The safety measures should be displayed in several places prominently.

10. MEDICAL CONCERNS

The medical restrictions should be displayed prominently. Fitness Certificate to be signed by the jumpers. No compromise is to be made in case of any medical problem. Medical restrictions for bungy jumping include:

1. Heart problem
2. High blood pressure
3. Neurological disorder
4. Spondylitis
5. Back issues
6. Recent fracture, surgery, or hospitalization
7. Epilepsy
8. Osteoporosis
9. Pregnancy

11. BASIC MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR GRANT OF RECOGNITION TO OPERATORS

Since there are no Indian standards, it is recommended that operations are carried out as per New Zealand standards (AS/NZS 5848:2000). This standard specifies and gives guidance on the site and site approval, the design, testing, and approval of equipment, the management of the operation, the operating procedures, the emergency provisions and procedures and registration of operating staff of a bungy jumping operation. No Dilution in these standards is acceptable.

It is highly recommended that any outfit, entity, establishment, or company seeking a grant for recognition must fulfill these desirable criteria:

1. The entity must own specialized certified equipment commensurate with the needs of undertaking and running such an operation (listed above).
2. The entity must have qualified personnel (minimum two full-time qualified jump masters) on their payroll (listed above). These personnel must carry the requisite experience in the activity and have valid First Aid & CPR certification.
3. The entity must operate with the required permits/licenses.
4. It is recommended that the entity is registered with the State/UT Tourism Department / recognized by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
5. The entity must have a registered office.
6. The company must follow a strict 'leave no trace policy and conform to high sustainability standards.

ANNEXURE 2 IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE UNION TERRITORY OF LADAKH

1. CONSTITUTION OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh shall, by notification/ order will constitute a 'Technical Committee' for Bungee Jumping with the following members:

Composition of the Technical Committee	
Director (Tourism), UT Ladakh	Chairperson
Chief Wildlife Warden / Representative, Wildlife Department	Member
Principal ISM, Kargil Branch	Member
Principal FCI/ IHM, Leh	Member
Representative of the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)	Member
Representative of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) for Bungee Jumping	Member
Representative of the Ladakh Association for Bungee Jumping	Member
Assistant Director (Tourism), Concerned	Convening Member

2. FUNCTIONS OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The Technical Committee shall meet once every year before the start of the tourist season in the Union Territory of Ladakh, and shall be responsible for the following:

- Inspect and certify the equipment with the operator from a safety point of view.
- Scrutinize the credential of the personnel responsible for conducting Bungee Jumping, the medical fitness of the guide, and conduct their physical test to ascertain their expertise.
- Ensure that the operator and the guide shall follow all safety procedures indicated in their rules.
- Identify new areas for Bungee Jumping in the Union Territory of Ladakh.
- Notify the exact areas where the operation can be safely conducted, considering the area's environmental sensitivity, critical wildlife hotspots and fragile water systems.
- Formulate a plan for containing the environmental impact strictly inside the designated activity area.
- Forecast the potential ecological impacts and ensure a plan for eco-conditioning to minimize the impact and offsetting the potential environmental impact.
- Ensure preparation and implementation of a Risk Management Matrix, and Emergency & Evacuation plan.
- Ensure preparation of a plan for tourist awareness and education.
- Determine the capacity of each area every year before the start of any operation.

3. CONSTITUTION OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE

The Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh shall, by notification/ order will constitute a 'Regulatory Committee' for Bungee Jumping with the following members:

Composition of the Regulatory Committee	
Assistant Director (Tourism), Concerned	Chairperson
Wildlife Warden or Representative, Wildlife Department	Member
Representative of the District Disaster Response Force (DDRF)	Member
Representative of the Chief Medical Officer (CMO)	Member
SHO/Choki of the Concerned Area	Member
Representative of the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) for Bungee Jumping	Member
Representative of the Ladakh Association for Bungee Jumping	Member
Officer in-charge of the Department of Tourism, UT Ladakh at Sub-Division and Tehsils	Convening Member

4. FUNCTIONS OF THE REGULATORY COMMITTEE

The Regulatory Committee shall meet once every year before the start of the tourist season in the Union Territory of Ladakh, and shall be responsible for the following:

- Overall control for regulating the Bungee Jumping operations, in coordination with the concerned stakeholders and associations.
- Surprise inspections during the Bungee Jumping operations to ascertain adherence of the guidelines, assess the quality & condition of equipment being used and assess the ecological impact, to help develop adaptive management strategies. The Regulatory Committee shall constitute a joint inspection or verification team with the Department of Youth Services & Sports, UT Ladakh and Adventure Sports Association, if any.

- Establish a mechanism for receiving and addressing complaints, concerns, and feedback from local communities, tourists, and stakeholders.
- Any other functions concerning Bungee Jumping operations in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

5. CLAIM ON ACCOUNT OF ANY MISHAP

The Department of Tourism, or any other Department/ Authority of the Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh shall, in no way be responsible for any claims on account of any mishap.

6. SHOW CAUSE NOTICE

If any operator, guide, or personnel responsible for conducting Bungee Jumping operations is found to be violating these Guidelines & Regulations for Bungee Jumping, appropriate action shall be taken by the Department of Tourism, Administration of Union Territory of Ladakh.

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