

HIMALAYAN SNOW LEOPARD



Day 1 : Arrive New Delhi

Upon arrival at New Delhi airport transfer to your hotel and time to relax from the flight.

Day 2 : New Delhi - Leh

In the morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Leh. The city was an important stopover on trade routes along the Indus Valley between Tibet to the east, Kashmir to the west and also between India and China for centuries. On arrival transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure for acclimatization to the altitude and climate.

Day 3 : Leh Palace

Leh is situated in a very scenic part of India as it is bounded by two of the world's biggest mountain ranges which are home to numerous monasteries and palaces. It is the joint capital and largest town of the union territory of Ladakh. This is one of the best areas to see the elusive Snow Leopard and a host of other animals. The scenery and people live here are equally fascinating and part of the experience. The visit to the famous Leh Palace today is scheduled right before sunset in order to best photograph the Shanti Stupa from a distance. The Palace is the former residence of the royal family of Ladakh, built in the same style and about the same time as the Potala Palace in Tibet

Day 4 : Leh - Ulley

After an early breakfast drive west today on the road to Kargil and Srinagar following the Indus River. You pass through the small town of Nimmu where the Zaskar River meets the Indus. After you head north to Likir, one of Ladakh's famous Buddhist monasteries. This is all snow leopard country. The landscape here is even bigger, more expansive and open, until you turn off onto a road, winding up a narrow valley, following a stream called the Ulley Chhu. Smaller valleys intersect and the guides have their heads craned all the time, scanning the hill sides and the skyline for any silhouette. This is excellent Ibex country and there are few more evocative sights than a magnificently horned male Ibex standing vigil on some impossibly narrow out cropping, a few thousand feet over a plunging cliff.

Day 5 : Ulley Snow Leopard Expedition

Today spend the full day exploring and photograph the wildlife in the area. Due to the rugged terrain of the Himalayas most of the herbivores are related to the agile footed sheep

and goats. They can move easily through the mountainous regions of the Himalayas from one pasture to the next. During the winter months the Ibex move down to lower altitudes where there is food and they are followed by the Snow Leopards and other predators like the Tibetan Wolf. These ungulates form the primary Snow Leopards diet and it is through the movements of these ungulates and trails left by the Snow Leopard moving across habitats that it is possible to track them and improve the chance to see these rare animals in their natural environment. Other than Snow Leopards the area has a good number of species like Yak (wild Ox), Ibex, Tibetan Wolf and the Red Fox.

Day 6 : Ulley Snow Leopard Expedition

In the morning after breakfast the day's plan is discussed based on the findings of the spotters from earlier that morning. If you wish you can join the spotters on their early morning outing. Based on the information and distances given the excursions are organized accordingly to reach the vantage points or possible sighting areas. Lunch is either at the lodge or in the field based on the day's plan. After returning to the lodge in the evening you have a debrief with the naturalists in the common area over tea and coffee. Every day here holds a unique adventure and unforgettable experiences.

Day 7 : Ulley - Leh

It is time to leave Ulley and drive back to Leh., the capital of Ladakh. The scenery and wildlife along the way are breathtaking. On arrival in Leh transfer to your hotel. The people of Leh are ethnic Tibetan, speaking Ladakhi, a Tibetic language. Ladakh, sometimes referred to as Little Tibet, is home to one of the purest remaining examples of the Tibetan Buddhist culture. Visitors experience here a preindustrial culture, beautiful Buddhist monasteries in the scenic setting of the dramatic mountain vistas. The Tibetan market is a good place to buy little jewelery, souvenirs, and various other goods.

Day 8 : Leh - Delhi

After breakfast today transfer to the Leh airport for your flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi welcome and transfer to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure and a good opportunity to explore India's capital on your own. The bustling city offers a wide variety of interesting sights, restaurants and shops.

Day 9 : Delhi Departure

After breakfast transfer to the New Delhi airport for your international return flight.