

Ladakh- In Search of Snow Leopard

Winter (12 Days / 10 Nts)



When it comes to spotting snow leopards in the wild, the best place to go is Ladakh. This arid, lofty region ranges in altitude from 3,300m-6,000m and is home to an incredible variety of wildlife.

“White Ghosts” “Mountain Cats” “Ghost Cat”, whatever you want to call them, Snow leopards can be best spotted during the harsh winter months of Ladakh.

This is the time when mountain goats like Bharal descend to the valley in search of food, leaving trails for snowcats to follow. Snow leopard Spotting is a game of patience and persistence.

Altitude : 3,000 meters (9,842 feet) to over 4,100 meters (13,450 feet).

Temperature : -25°C to +6°C

Difficulty Level : No physical exertion, the extreme cold makes it challenging.

Starting and Ending Point: The expedition begins and ends in Leh, the capital of Ladakh.

Base Camp: Customized based on preferences

Best Time : Jan till early March

Day:1 Arrive Delhi.

Traditional welcome with Marigold Garlanding at the airport by ILH Tours Representative & transfer to Hotel.

Dinner & overnight stay at Hotel.

Day:2 Delhi / Leh (By Morning Flight)

Early morning transfer to Airport to board flight for Leh – The Capitol of Ladakh.

Arrive Leh, where you will be given a warm traditional Ladakh style welcome by extending white scarf. Transfer to your pre booked Hotel.

Recognised as one of the most remote places in the world, Ladakh's extraordinary landscapes and Buddhist culture and history makes it unlike any other place in India. Sparsely populated with huge and expansive mountains, Ladakh is a cold desert that has one of the world's greatest rivers flowing through it – the Indus.

As Leh sits at 3,474 m (11,400 ft), it is a great place to gently acclimatise to the high altitude without over-exerting yourself. Spending two and a half days here is the minimum medical requirement as you will soon be travelling to a higher altitude where you will be doing a fair amount of walking.

Complete day rest for acclimatization (it is very important for those coming from lower altitude) to Leh's high altitude of 3450 mtrs.

Hot lunch at the Hotel. You may opt for a easy evening walk/stroll in the Leh Market for orientation & can have meal outside.

Overnight stay at Hotel.

(Meals Included : Breakfast + Lunch)

Day:3 Leh

Relaxed Breakfast at Hotel.

Today you will explore the ancient town of Leh, a fascinating labyrinth of winding streets and quaint bazaars.

Enjoy the unique culture – Leh is very Tibetan; the national dress, 'stovepipe' hats and felt boots with turned-up toes are evident wherever you look.

Visit the Leh Palace, which dominates the town, and is very reminiscent of Tibetan Buddhist monasteries.

Time permitting, you may visit the Thiksey Monastery. Located on a hill-lock with formidable views of the Indus river Valley, Thiksey is especially noteworthy for its gigantic, seated statue of the Maitreya and is also known for its assembly hall (Dukhang) which houses hundreds of rectangular prayer books, stacked between wooden covers, and bound in silk.

Evening, return back to Hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay at Hotel.

(Meals Included : Breakfast + Dinner)

Day:4 Leh - Ulley / Saspotsey / Yangthang

After a leisurely, embark on an adventure of a lifetime as we set out on a picturesque drive to a remote village in Sham or Markha Valley, a journey that will take approx 1½ ~ 2 hours. The place will be at a varying altitude of around 12800~13000 ft (3860~4000 mtrs)

Upon arrival, we will be greeted with warm hospitality at our pre-booked homestay.

After savoring a delicious lunch, you may settle down in your rooms. You can do short walks around & sense the territory that you would be exploring for next 5 days in exciting quest to spot the majestic snow leopard.

Overnight stay at Hotel.

(Meals Included : Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner)

Day:5~9 (Tracking Snow Leopard)

Every day of our adventure is centered around spotting wildlife, with a focus on the rare and majestic Snow Leopard. We start our day early, fueled by breakfast, and then gather to discuss reports of potential sightings and activity in various locations such as Hemis Shukpachan, Ulley, Yangthang, and Saspotsey.

We enjoy meals and hot beverages at the spotting sites, braving the cold weather with the help of our dedicated guide and spotters who work tirelessly from dawn till dusk.

They keenly observe the landscape, eager to catch a glimpse of the elusive feline. If a snow leopard is spotted, we quickly inform our guests via Walky Talky sets and accompany them to the location for unforgettable photography opportunities.

Apart from snow leopard, these areas are great for finding bharal, urial, wolf and Himalayan fox. It's also excellent ibex country and there are few more evocative sights than a magnificently horned male ibex standing vigil on an impossibly narrow outcropping, a few thousand feet over a plunging cliff.

As the sun sets, we come together to savor the day's memories, exchange stories, and indulge in a sumptuous meal crafted by our generous hosts in their customary dining space, Chantsa. This warm and inviting atmosphere offers yet another chance to immerse ourselves in the rich local culture.

Every evening, we return to our accommodations, where we served the meals to keep us well-fed and prepared for the adventures of the following day.

All nights in Homestay with Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

(Meals Included : Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner)

Day:6 Day: 10 Saspotsey / Ulley / Yangthang – Leh

After savoring a hearty breakfast, we reluctantly bid adieu to the picturesque landscapes and diverse wildlife of the village we stayed, as we embark on our return journey to Leh. Our experiences and encounters during the expedition, particularly with the majestic snow leopard, leave us with a deep sense of satisfaction and fulfillment.

After reaching Leh, we will settle into our hotel to rest and relax following our exciting trip. The accommodation comfort and familiarity offer a comforting break as we move from the wild back to civilization. It is also time to connect with families back home and checking photos.

Evening free to stroll in the mail Leh Bazaar for some souvenir shopping.

Overnight stay at Hotel.

(Meals : Breakfast + Lunch + Dinner)

Day: 11 Leh / Delhi (By Flight) – Departure

In time transfer to airport to board flight for Delhi.

Arrive Delhi you will be transferred to your Hotel booked for day use, where you can freshen up before your onward flight later this evening Or you may stay overnight for the flight next morning, depending on your flight timings.

Day: 12 Arrive Home

LAND PACKAGE COST		
Min No. of Paying Pax	Category I	Category II
02~03 Paying Pax		
04~05 Paying Pax		
06~08 Paying Pax		
SGL Room Supplement		
Delhi / Leh / Delhi Airfare in Economy Class Supplement		
Supplement for Accompanying German Speaking Guide from Delhi		

HOTELS Envisaged or SIMILAR			
Destination	Category I	Category II	Nights
Delhi	Pride Plaza / Lemon Tree	Roseate House / Hyatt Andaaaz	01
Leh	Tshokar Retreat	Grand Dragon	02
Village	Home Stay	Lodge	06
Leh	Tshokar Retreat	Grand Dragon	01
Delhi	Pride Plaza / Lemon Tree	Roseate House / Hyatt Andaaaz	Wash & Change

PACKAGE INCLUDES

- Accommodation on Double sharing basis for 10 Nights.
- Daily Breakfast
- All Meals during stay at Snow Leopard Home stay and 01 Lunch & 01 Dinner at Hotel in Leh.
- Toyota Crysta for transfers & sightseeing in Leh as per the itinerary.
- Local Jeep for in & around wildlife sighting during stay at Homestay / Lodge.
- Accompanying English Speaking Guide cum Naturalist from Leh to Leh.
- On location lunch and tea/coffee during Snow Leopard explorations.
- Highly experienced spotters/trackers for wildlife sightseeing trips.
- Shared scopes and binoculars.
- Interaction and tea party with local family.
- Entrance fees of Fort & Monastery etc.
- Conservation & Environment Fee & Inner Line Permit.
- Room for wash & change before final departure from Delhi
- All applicable taxes as on date.

PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDES

- Any Air fare & Travel / Medical Insurance
- Tips & Gratitude
- Any meals other than those specified in included cost.
- Expenses of personal nature such as tips, telephone calls, laundry, liquor, still or video camera etc.
- Alcoholic beverages. (other then the complimentary local wine Chang)
- Laundry services.
- Any damages or losses incurred to equipment during the stay will be charged at replacement or repair cost.
- Any personal expenses, such as souvenir shopping etc.
- Medical expenses or emergency evacuation.
- Any additional activities or excursions.