Discovering Our Planet Together



Land of the Snow Leopard

Explore the Indian Himalaya's Alpine Heights on a Search for One of Earth's Rarest Cats

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Trip Details:

Days
10 Days / Jan–Apr

Price
From $10995 (+Air)

Land of the Snow Leopard

Explore the Indian Himalaya's Alpine Heights on a Search for One of Earth's Rarest Cats

The Himalayas have long held allure for adventurers, and in the world's highest mountains, no creature is more captivating than the snow leopard. This elegant feline, with its rosette-spotted silver coat, patrols lofty ridges in the world's most forbidding altitudes. Agile and solitary, built for hunting bharal and ibex, it uses its long, thick tail for balance and warding off winter's cold bite, traversing snowfields on broad paws that serve as snowshoes and pad rocky landings after a 50-foot pounce onto unwitting prey. From our optimally situated base—a strategically located luxury ecolodge—search for these mysterious cats in the heights of Ladakh. In this former Silk Road kingdom in northern India, a vibrant Tibetan Buddhist culture thrives. Icy peaks tower above whitewashed monasteries and vibrant prayer flags flutter atop mountain passes. Here, our wilderness quest in search of the elusive snow leopard awaits.

Trip Highlights

Track Elusive Snow Leopards with Top Spotters & Guides

With our naturalist Expedition Leader and top local trackers, search for snow leopards and other Himalayan wildlife including bharal, urial, ibex and wolves

Discover Ladakh's Rich Tibetan Buddhist Heritage

Explore the Himalayan landscape and local culture of Ladakh as we visit villages, monasteries and passes adorned with prayer flags

Stay at the Region's Only Luxury Ecolodge

Our deluxe lodge features panoramic windows with views of ice-capped mountains, en suite hot showers and radiant floor heating—and it's for our use alone

Ready to Book? Call an Adventure Specialist at 800-543-8917



Land of the Snow Leopard Itinerary

Explore the Indian Himalaya's Alpine Heights on a Search for One of Earth's Rarest Cats

Itinerary at a Glance

Day 1	New Delhi
Day 2	New Delhi / Leh
Day 3	Leh
Days 4–8	Rumbak
Day 9	Rumbak / Leh
Day 10	Leh / New Delhi



Day 1

New Delhi

Gather in Delhi before your journey into the Himalaya

- Join your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner and preview of the adventure ahead

Arrive at the international airport in India's capital of Delhi and transfer to our upscale 5-star hotel. This evening, join our Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner and preview of our journey into the Indian Himalaya and the realm of *Panthera uncia*, the snow leopard.

Please note: *Starting in 2028, Day 1 accommodations will be at Taj Mahal Hotel New Delhi instead of Roseate House New Delhi.*

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Day 2

New Delhi / Leh

Fly into Ladakh, the land of high passes

- Arrive amid the dramatic Himalayan landscapes of Ladakh at 11,500 feet
- Begin acclimatizing in Leh, a historic crossroads of Tibet, Kashmir and the Silk Road
- Take in Himalayan views from a regal hotel built in traditional Ladakhi style

Early this morning, we head to the airport to board our flight north to the former Himalayan kingdom of Ladakh. This is one of India's least-populated regions, known for its austere landscape dominated by dramatic peaks, monasteries filled with golden Buddhas, and the elusive snow leopards that prowl the heights of these rocky, arid mountain environs. Once we touch down at 11,500 feet in the Ladakhi capital of Leh, our high-altitude acclimatization begins. For centuries, Leh was a crossroads for Indus Valley trade between Tibet, Kashmir, India and China—routes that carried salt, cashmere wool, indigo and silk. The local people are ethnic Tibetans who speak Ladakhi, and Buddhism and Islam have co-existed peacefully here since the 8th century. Our lodging in the heart of this ancient city sits in the shadow of an unoccupied 17th-century palace designed to evoke the Dalai Lama's former residence in Lhasa—the famous Potala Palace. The rest of the day is at leisure as we settle in and adjust to the high elevation.

Day 3

Leh

Receive a monk's blessing in the monasteries of Little Tibet

- Cross high mountain passes draped with colorful prayer flags
- Visit Thiksey Monastery for a traditional blessing
- Watch for blue sheep, golden eagles and bearded vultures in the Indus Valley

Today we travel into the rugged rural area surrouding Leh in the Indus River Valley. It's easy to see why this enclave at the northern tip of India is often called "Little Tibet," as we cross passes marked with colorful prayer flags below towering Himalayan peaks. As we travel, be on the lookout for blue sheep, golden eagles and bearded vultures. A highlight is a visit to Thiksey Monastery, where we participate in a monk blessing ceremony. After lunch, there's time to rest for a bit as we continue to acclimatize. Later this afternoon, those who wish may join a visit to a local market to observe daily commerce in this traditional setting.

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Days 4–8

Rumbak

Track the gray ghost of the Himalaya

- Search Hemis National Park with expert local spotters for elusive snow leopards
- Scan alpine ridges for bharal, urial, Tibetan wolves and other mountain wildlife
- Stay at a traditional Ladakhi ecolodge that supports local livelihoods and snow leopard conservation

Following the Indus River westward, our route takes us deep into the snow leopard's realm. The Rumbak region is the gateway to a wild and austere landscape ruled by the “gray ghost of the mountains”—a name given to the snow leopard by local people for its elusive and enigmatic nature. Our private ecolodge was recently constructed using traditional Ladakhi techniques and materials, including stone, mud and timber, chosen for their natural insulating properties. Among the very finest accommodations in this remote region, it features radiant floor heating, hot running water and double-glazed windows for warmth. The lodge is set on a plateau with panoramic views of the snow-crowned mountains and Rumbak River below. The nearby village of Rumbak, population 250, is a short walk away.

Over the next five days, we search the alpine heights in and around Hemis National Park, which holds the highest density of snow leopards in any protected area in the world—about 200 individuals. These trans-Himalayan cats have evolved to thrive in some of Earth’s harshest alpine terrain, mostly above treeline and up to 18,000 feet in elevation. In addition to snow leopards, this habitat supports three large ungulates—bharal (blue sheep), urial (mountain sheep) and rarely seen ibex—along with fox, hare, pika and packs of Tibetan wolves.

For our best chance to see snow leopards, we rely on the expertise and keen eyes of a team of top local spotters, plus our naturalist Expedition Leader. These seasoned trackers scour the landscape early each morning to help us plan our route for the day, increasing our luck of seeing these cats whose camouflage helps them blend in seamlessly with their environs. We also maintain radio contact with trackers throughout the day, so we know when snow leopards wander into our area. Private vehicles maximize our flexibility to move to where the snow leopards are. Typically, we spot them on high ridges around our lodge or within a short walk from the vehicles, but longer hikes are available for those who wish. In between excursions, the lodge offers a cozy respite where we can warm up with hot chai. Nearby are Ladakhi cultural sites including Buddhist temples and monasteries, which we visit if time allows.

Day 9

Rumbak / Leh

Search the mountains once more before returning to Leh

- Spend a final morning scanning the slopes around Rumbak for wildlife
- Return to Leh with time to explore, depending on conditions and wildlife activity
- Gather with your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a farewell dinner

After breakfast, enjoy a final morning in Rumbak, soaking in the peace and solitude of this alpine domain. Soon, it's time to say farewell to our gracious Ladakhi hosts whose lodge enterprise is helping to enhance protection for snow leopards in the area. These regal cats face threats from habitat loss due to climate change, reduced prey, poaching and human conflict. Yet we leave knowing that our presence here makes a difference for their future, with the value of our economic contribution and our advocacy on their behalf. Back in Leh, have lunch at our hotel. There may be time to do some last-minute shopping afterward if markets are open. Later this evening, share highlights and reflections over a farewell dinner.

Day 10

Leh / New Delhi

Return to Delhi after your snow leopard expedition

- Fly from Ladakh to Delhi
- Relax at your hotel before evening homeward flights

Fly from Leh to Delhi this morning and continue to our hotel where an overnight room is reserved. A delicious lunch awaits at the hotel, followed by time to relax among landscaped gardens and pools. A transfer to the international airport is included to meet departing flights this evening.

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Land of the Snow Leopard Accommodations

Explore the Indian Himalaya's Alpine Heights on a Search for One of Earth's Rarest Cats



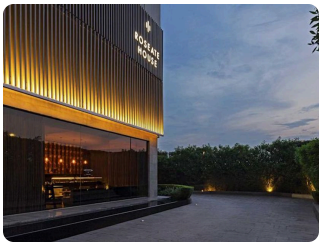
House of Rumbak Wildlife Lodge

Located at 12,800 feet above sea level and offering excellent proximity for snow leopard tracking, this new ecolodge provides a warm and cozy base exclusively for Nat Hab guests.



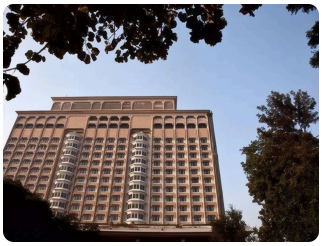
The Grand Dragon Ladakh

In the heart of ancient Leh, enjoy the luxuries of Ladakh's premier 5-star hotel, combining elements of traditional Ladakhi art and culture with state-of-the-art amenities and expansive views of snowcapped peaks.



Roseate House New Delhi

A modern sanctuary in New Delhi’s vibrant Aerocity, Roseate House is a luxurious urban retreat, offering contemporary rooms, world-class dining, and personalized service—all just minutes from the airport and metro station.



Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

One of the most distinguished in India's leafy capital district, this 5-star hotel is a New Delhi landmark, with elegant interiors and finely appointed rooms reflecting traditional Mughal heritage in art, antiques and ambiance.

For detailed descriptions, visit nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/india-snow-leopard-tour/accommodations.

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The Ultimate Quest to See Snow Leopards in the Wild

Land of the Snow Leopard

The remote Himalaya of Northern India is one of the world's most captivating travel destinations. But getting to far-flung places like Ladakh in winter can be daunting. And if you want the best odds of seeing elusive snow leopards, you must have access to superlative guides. This is an expedition of a lifetime you need our expertise for!

1 **An Intensive Focus on Snow Leopards**

Based at our private lodge in snow leopard territory, we spend five days with the finest trackers and naturalist guides. Spotters attempt to locate the snow leopards each morning and stay in constant radio contact regarding their movement. Private vehicles allow maximum flexibility to seek out snow leopards and other wildlife such as Tibetan wolves, urial, blue sheep, ibex and lammergeiers.

2 **A Small Group is Essential for a Fruitful Search**

With no more than 11 travelers, our small group has a quiet presence, upping our chances of encountering snow leopards and other wildlife. And since we have the additional support of local guides from the lodge, there will be opportunities for longer hikes for those who prefer a more active adventure.

3 **Our Private Expedition Lodge is an Optimal Base**

Our environmentally conscious ecolodge, for our exclusive use, provides outstanding comfort in this remote high-altitude area, with en suite bathrooms, hot running water, radiant floor heating and gourmet meals. Built in the region's traditional architectural style, the lodge's fine details plus proximity to snow leopards and other Himalayan wildlife are the ultimate in luxury.

4 **India's Finest Naturalist Guides**

Our India Expedition Leaders average more than 15 years' experience—with top-level training including resources from WWF scientists. You won't find more knowledgeable, personable or enthusiastic guides than those who are proud to work for us. Our philosophy is simple: a nature adventure is only as good as the guide who leads it, so we provide the very best! **See Expedition Leader bios** with traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

5 **Local Guides & Expert Trackers Improve Odds for Sightings**

We maximize chances of seeing snow leopards by relying upon local guides who are deeply familiar with this terrain and the cats' behavior. Our spotters search the landscape for signs of snow leopards early each morning, and we plan our days with the utmost flexibility so we can follow their paths accordingly. Sightings often happen on high ridges surrounding our lodge, or within a short walk from our vehicles.

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6 **Encounter Ladakh's Tibetan Buddhist Culture**

While Ladakh is part of India, it truly stands apart. Ladakhis gained status as a separate union territory in 2019, and this Himalayan state is often referred to as "Little Tibet." Ethnic Tibetans have been largely left alone in this remote mountain environment, where their cultural and spiritual traditions thrive. Their long and vibrant Buddhist history is on display in roadside prayer flags and ancient monasteries where monks reside and practice. Absorb Ladakh's cultural sites in a quiet, non-touristy way, including our stay among yak-herding locals in the small Himalayan village of Mangyu.

7 **Our Presence Directly Helps Protect Snow Leopards**

Snow leopards are a vulnerable species under threat from habitat loss, retaliatory killings, poaching and climate change. Their range continues to decline from human settlement, while a warming climate is on target to diminish up to 30% of their traditional terrain. Responsible nature tourism is part of the solution. As conservation travelers, the investment we make to view Ladakh's snow leopards benefits local communities. Our being there creates an incentive to protect wild creatures they share the land with. In addition, we will make a donation to the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust for each traveler on this journey.

8 **Our Quality-Value Guarantee Insures Your India Snow Leopard Expedition**

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you receive our exclusive quality value guarantee that promises we will meet the high expectations we set forth in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most ambitious guarantee made by any adventure travel company. **Read our important promise**.

9 **Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey**

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.

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Dates & Pricing Summary:

Price
From $10995 (+Air)

Group Size
Limited to 11 Travelers

Land of the Snow Leopard Dates, Pricing & Info

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2027 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Feb 9 - Feb 18, 2027	**$11395** +internal air	
Feb 19 - Mar 1, 2027	**$13395** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Feb 25 - Mar 6, 2027	**$11395** +internal air	
Mar 2 - Mar 11, 2027	**$11395** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Mar 19 - Mar 29, 2027	**$13395** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Mar 30 - Apr 9, 2027	**$13395** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 10 - Apr 20, 2027	**$13395** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 16 - Apr 25, 2027	**$10995** +internal air	

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Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Apr 21 - Apr 30, 2027	**$11395** +internal air	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available

2028 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
Jan 30 - Feb 8, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Feb 9 - Feb 18, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Feb 19 - Feb 29, 2028	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Mar 1 - Mar 10, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Mar 11 - Mar 20, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Mar 17 - Mar 27, 2028	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Mar 24 - Apr 2, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Mar 29 - Apr 8, 2028	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 4 - Apr 13, 2028	**From $10995** +internal air	
Apr 9 - Apr 19, 2028	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 15 - Apr 25, 2028	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition

2029 Departures

Departure – Return	Pricing	Notes
Prices and dates not confirmed for 2029		
Jan 31 - Feb 9, 2029	**From $10995** +internal air	
Feb 10 - Feb 19, 2029	**From $10995** +internal air	
Feb 20 - Mar 2, 2029	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Feb 27 - Mar 8, 2029	**From $10995** +internal air	

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Departure – Return Prices and dates not confirmed for 2029	Pricing	Notes
Mar 12 - Mar 21, 2029	**From $10995** +internal air	
Mar 18 - Mar 28, 2029	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Mar 25 - Apr 3, 2029	**From $10995** +internal air	
Mar 30 - Apr 9, 2029	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 5 - Apr 14, 2029	**From $10995** +internal air	
Apr 10 - Apr 20, 2029	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition
Apr 16 - Apr 26, 2029	**From $12895** +internal air	Photo Expedition

See https://www.nathab.com/asia-adventure-travel/india-snow-leopard-tour/dates-fees for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s), local guides, spotters and lodge staff, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through lunch on final day, local wine and beer at dinner while at the Snow Leopard Lodge, some gratuities, VIP airport arrival and departure service, airport transfers on Day 1 and final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages (other than those listed above), some gratuities, passport and visa fees, optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline excess baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.

Internal air: All flights within the itinerary (this will be listed separately on our invoicing).

Important Information About This Trip

Our snow leopard journey is a conservation-focused wildlife expedition for intrepid travelers with a desire for deeper discovery, and an awareness that staying in proximity to wilderness and wildlife is the ultimate luxury. To search for snow leopards we'll spend five nights in the best area at the best time of year for potential sightings, but there are no guarantees we will see this elusive animal. Most sightings are in the distance, on mountain ridges and seen through scopes—thrilling nonetheless! This is the Himalayan winter, and weather and high-altitude conditions can sometimes be hostile. Essential requirements for travel in Ladakh include flexibility, a sense of humor, a true spirit of adventure, and an openness to the unexpected.

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Accommodations

Because of its location and the staff's commitment to our guests, our Private Snow Leopard Lodge offers a comfortable and authentic way to view snow leopards in the wild. Accommodations there are among the highest quality in the region, with twin or queen-sized beds and warm bedding, 24-hour electricity, heated flooring, wood-burning stove heat, and private en suite bathrooms with hot running water. Because it is a small, Ladakhi-style lodge, you will reside in relatively close quarters with fellow travelers. Thus, a flexible and tolerant attitude toward other participants is paramount for the enjoyment of all.

Meals

Meals are hearty and delicious, are they are specially planned and prepared for well in advance. Dietary requirements due to serious medical conditions or strict personal restrictions can be met with ample notice, but must be adhered to while on the adventure.

Communication

There is no Wi-Fi or cell reception at our expedition lodge. There are nearby areas where our guides can drive for cell service.

Wildlife Viewing in Ladakh

When viewing wildlife in Ladakh, guests will be stationary for long periods of time. After reaching the point of a snow leopard sighting and setting up, we may be seated and simply waiting for any wildlife movement for the majority of the morning or afternoon. Hot refreshments and seating will be provided by our lodge for all outings.

Additionally, the distance from which we typically view wildlife on this trip is extremely far—often miles across a valley on the opposite mountainside or on the top of a mountain ridge line. While it's possible sightings can be closer – and unforgettable when they are – typically, we will be viewing wildlife from far away. This is when proper camera equipment and spotter's scopes will help to bring that wildlife into focus, and we will make use of this equipment for all sightings.

Landscape serving as the backdrop can also present challenges when viewing wildlife in Ladakh. These animals are adapted to this mountainous environment and remarkably can blend into the intricate jagged rocks of a mountainside. While the expert eyes of our spotters are well accustomed to spotting wildlife in this setting, it can take patience to spot creatures against the mountains for most visitors.

Safety & Health

Your safety is of paramount importance to us. Toward that end, we provide highly competent guides and local staff with extensive experience in high-altitude terrain. Our Expedition Leaders are thoroughly trained in emergency wilderness first-aid techniques. Ultimately, our guides and local staff make decisions with everyone's comfort and safety in mind, while trying to maximize the adventure experience for each individual. Listening carefully to your Expedition Leader's instructions and directions is ultimately your responsibility, and your astute attention is always in your best interest and that of the group.

Oxygen is available at all times at our expedition lodge. A military hospital is 1 hour away in Leh. Anyone who experiences acute mountain sickness will immediately be taken down to a lower altitude for treatment at the hospital in Leh.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least $250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

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To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in Delhi. Because this is a long international journey with significant travel time and time-zone adjustment, **we recommend that you arrive the night before Day 1** to rest from your travels and begin the trip refreshed. For guests who come in early, our recommended hotel will be included in your pre-departure materials.

If you plan to arrive on Day 1, you should arrive in Delhi by 2 pm in order to participate in an orientation and group welcome dinner beginning at approximately 5:00 pm.

You may depart Delhi any time after 8 pm on the final day.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Nat Hab Air Team can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights' accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



Land of the Snow Leopard Extensions

Explore the Indian Himalaya's Alpine Heights on a Search for One of Earth's Rarest Cats



Icons of North India Extension – Taj Mahal & Beyond

Extend your India adventure with a journey to Agra, where you'll discover the magnificent Taj Mahal at sunrise and sunset, explore the historic Agra Fort, and experience the architectural splendors of the Mughal Empire.

From $1,995



Wild & Ancient Himalaya: Nepal & Bhutan

Explore mountain heights and jungle lowlands on this soulful journey through the cultural and wildlife treasures of two neighboring Himalayan nations—including rhino tracking in Chitwan National Park.

$15095 (+air)



The Grand India Wildlife Adventure

Look for rare Bengal tigers, one-horned rhinos and other endangered animals as we discover India's wild side on an exploration of three premier national parks. You won't find a richer Indian nature safari!

$13895 (+air)



India Tiger Safari

As spring gives way to early summer, temperatures rise, crowds dissipate, and tigers appear more readily. Explore Tadoba National Park, a rising star in India’s renowned collection of tiger parks.

$9895

Natural Habitat & WWF: Discovering Our Planet Together

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