



NOMADIC SKIES

VILLAGES OF THE SNOW LEOPARD



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY LED CONSERVATION AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION

A unique 18 day journey exploring the illusive
Snow Leopard and understanding its cultural
significance and spiritual importance among
the high Himalayan communities of
remote Dolpo in NW Nepal.



"Their trek is a shared experience with a community not just a hike through a wonderful landscape."
ANNE INCE



"Interactions with locals definitely felt for real, almost as if we were part of a BBC documentary on the indigenous peoples of Dolpo. So many unique experiences."
JEANETTE ARNOTT

Join a small group conservation journey led by an international team leader and community conservationists on an exploration of the Snow leopard in the pristine and little visited valleys of Dolpo deep in the High Himalaya of Nepal. We will explore the habitats of the snow leopard, gaining a deeper appreciation of these beautiful and endangered animals with local experts who will show us the trails and signs of the snow leopard (possibly giving us a chance to see these illusive animals).

We will spend time with the Dolpo-pa people who live in an area reputed to have one of the largest concentrations of snow leopards in the world. We will hear the experiences, stories and beliefs around the snow leopard by the fireside of local Tibetan houses, in the stunning monasteries and with the elders and spiritual leader of the area. A journey that will provide a unique and valuable insight into the opportunities and challenges of conservation.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

This journey is being undertaken to support local conservationists, Tshiring Lhamu Lama and Sonam Choekyi Lama to develop community-led snow leopard and environmental conservation and cultural preservation in stunning and little visited high Himalayan valleys. Our journey itself will be supporting Tshiring and Sonam's work but will also provide finances for local community led conservation.

THE LOCATION: DOLPO IN REMOTE NORTH-WESTERN NEPAL

Brought to international attention by the cult 80s travel book 'The Snow Leopard' by author Peter Matthiessen, Dolpo today is a stunning area of High Himalayan Nepal, little visited by tourists and within Nepal's largest National Park – Shey Phoksundo. Our journey will take us deep into the High Himalaya and involve a trek from the Hindu Hill villages to the mountain communities of Tibetan influenced culture and ancient Bon religion. A journey through hidden valleys of the Himalaya, among snow capped peaks, beside emerald green and ethereal Phoksundo Lake, to traditional Tibetan villages and cultures and to the habitats of the illusive snow leopard.

OUR JOURNEY: 18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS

- An exploration of the cultural sites of the Kathmandu Valley
- Two internal flights to Dolpo – including a spectacular journey on a 20 seater plane through the High Himalaya to our trek starting point.
- 12 night camp trekking journey- a slow trekking journey that gives us time for deeper exploration and cultural interaction with our partner communities.
- Linking to community leopard spotters who will take us to the habitat of the snow leopard, identify the signs of snow leopard, the wildlife that supports snow leopards (musk deer and bharal – blue sheep), and checking the camera traps in the area and viewing the stunning footage that these cameras are regularly capturing. With local expertise, there may be a possibility to glimpse the illusive leopards – although this of course cannot be guaranteed.

- Staying beside little visited, traditional and beautiful Tibetan villages of Pungmo, Ringmo and Rike and being hosted by the communities to explore their relationships with snow leopards.
- Spending time with the lamas and traditional healers (Amchi) of the ancient Bon religion, including the stunning Trasung Choeling lakeside monastery, and exploring local culture and beliefs around the natural environment and The snow leopard. Our relationship with the monks of Trasung Choeling often result in us being invited to participate or view ceremonies taking place at the monastery or in the local communities.
- Our journey will be led by an experienced international guide and local community guides and conservationists.

TRAVELING SLOWER, DEEPER AND BETTER

While our treks involve some days of relatively strenuous walking (culminating in the lakeside village of Ringmo at 3800 metres altitude) we ensure that our itinerary has space for deeper exploration and interaction. In our key villages we will spend multiple nights allowing us to explore local habitats and local culture.

"An extremely well-planned and well-led trek, with interest and activity in every day, from the streets and temples of Kathmandu to the dramatic V-shaped gorges of Dolpo which we trekked through, and the villages we passed by or stayed in, and the various locals we met, and on a couple of occasions, sang and danced with."

JOHN SHADE



JOURNEY DETAILS:

Group size:

8 to 10 people

Length:

18 days (17 nights)

Accommodation:

5 nights hotel and 12 nights camping

Porterage:

Baggage carried by mule during the trek

Transport from Kathmandu:

2 internal flights to and from Dolpo (4 in total)

Costs:

See our website for current prices

SUMMARY ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu (overnight Kathmandu)

Day 2: Explore Kathmandu – process trekking permits (overnight Kathmandu)

Day 3: Explore Kathmandu – afternoon flight to Nepalgunj (overnight Nepalgunj)

Day 4: Flight to Juphal, short trek to Thuli Bheri River Camp (camp night 1: Thuli Bheri)

Day 5: Trek to Chhepka (camp night 2: Chhepka)

Day 6: Trek to Rechi (camp night 3: Rechi)

Day 7: Short trek to Rike (camp night 4: Rike)

Day 8: Snow leopard and cultural exploration Rike (camp night 5: Rike)

Day 9: Short trek to Ringmo (camp night 6 Ringmo)

Day 10: Snow leopard and cultural exploration Ringmo (camp night 7: Ringmo)

Day 11: Trek to Pungmo (camp night 8: Pungmo)

Day 12: Snow leopard and cultural exploration in Pungmo (camp night 9: Pungmo)

Day 13: Trek to Chhepka (camp night 10: Chhepka)

Day 14: Trek to Kagni (camp night 11: Shyangta)

Day 15: Trek to Juphal (camp night 12: Juphal)

Day 16: Fly to Kathmandu (night Kathmandu)

Day 17: Kathmandu (night Kathmandu)

Day 18: Fly out of Kathmandu



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