

In Search of the Snow Leopard

Delhi – Leh – Zingchan – Husing – Zingchan – Leh - Delhi

Trip Details

Date 16 February – 1 March 2022* (14 Days 13 Nights)

(Appx. dates only - subject to change)

Accommodations & Meals: As below

Group Size: 10 Traveler Limit

Difficulty: Moderate to Strenuous

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16 February - Arrive Delhi

On arrival in India you will be greeted and escorted by Indo Asia Tour's Executive to your hotel. *(Rooms will be available from 1400 Hrs)*

In its 3000 years of existence; seven cities have risen where the present capital of India stands. Here you'll encounter a fascinating blend of the ancient and the contemporary. Where government buildings, medieval palaces and bazaars exist beside a modern metropolis, Delhi is a city waiting to be explored.

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla

Meals: None

17 February – Explore Delhi

After breakfast full day city tour of Old & New Delhi which includes the following:

Red Fort: The 17th century imposing fortress built in red sandstone is surrounded by a huge 33m high boundary wall. Inside are exquisite palaces and beautiful gardens.

Jama Masjid: Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque) made of red sandstone and white marble. It is India's largest mosque where more than 20,000 people can kneel in prayer at one time, the interior of the prayer hall is divided into aisles by arches. The walls and floors are of marble inlay panels.

Raj Ghat: Visit the Raj Ghat on the banks of the river Yamuna is Mahatma Gandhi's Memorial, where he was cremated following his assassination in January 1948. The memorial lies in the midst of landscaped gardens and made of a simple square platform of black marble inscribed with his last words "Hey Ram".

India Gate and Government Buildings: Drive through Lutyens Delhi and see India Gate which commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in the 1st world war. Photo stop at Rashtrapati Bhawan once the Viceroy's residence is now the official residence of the President of India.

Humayun's Tomb: Visit the Humayun's Tomb, built by his wife Haji Begum in the 16th. Century, an early example of Mughal architecture considered the predecessor of the Taj Mahal.

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza New Delhi Okhla

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

18 February – Fly from Delhi to Leh

After breakfast transfer to airport to connect flight for Leh

Take an hour spectacular flight to Leh over the Trans-Himalayas and Zaskar ranges into Leh. The airport is at 11,500 ft above sea Level. You will be transfer to hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure for acclimatization, afternoon stroll around Leh market.

Accommodation: Singge Palace or similar

Meals: Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner

19 February – Explore Leh

Today we will visit Spitok Monastery; oldest part was founded in the 15th CE. The Monastery belongs to Yellow hat School of Tibetan Buddhism. There are about 30 monks reside in the monastery. You could visit several temples, which dedicated to different Deities. Most famous ones are Crown Buddha and 21 Taras which was brought from Tibet. On the way you could stop at Hall of fame, a small Museum to display arms and picture of Indian war history.

Back to Hotel for Lunch, afternoon a gradual hike to the Shanti stupa on hill top located in Changspa built by Japanese in 1984. You can get a good orientation and ideal for picturing the Leh valley and the Ladakh range.

Accommodation: Singge Palace or similar

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch/ Dinner

20 February – Explore Leh

After breakfast drive to visit the Ladakh most famous monasteries, (Shey-Thiksey-Hemis), Shey used to be the capital of Ladakh until 16th century. Visit the most Popular 12 mtrs high Copper gilded statue of Buddha built in 1640. Continue to Thiksey monastery belongs to yellow hat school of Tibetan Buddhism. It is the largest Monastery in Ladakh, about 90 monks live here. The Morning Prayer held with sun rise by all monks is a peaceful and soothing atmosphere never to be missed. From Thiksey drive to Hemis monastery, located at the southern bank of Indus River.

Hemis is the Largest and most famous monastery of Ladakh, there are many interesting statues and painting to see inside the chapel and the newly open museum has the thousand year old collection of frescos and statues.

Accommodation: Singge Palace or similar

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch/ Dinner

21 February – Leh to Zingchan to Husing

Today post breakfast drive to Zingchan about an hour drive along the Indus river to Zingchan then Trek to Husing for about 2 hrs. This will be your base for next 4 days while searching for the endangered snow leopard. Beside Snow leopard one could get to see Blue sheeps and Ladakh ural. Beside wild sheep good chances to spot Golden Eagle, Lammergeyer, Snow cock, Partridges and finches.

Husing is located between Rumbak and Zingchen villages in the Hemis high altitude national park, National park covers an area of 3200 sq kms. Our camp will be set up in a narrow gorge on the bank of Rumbak stream.

Accommodation: Campsite

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch / Dinner



SNOW LEOPARD

22 February – Begin Search for Snow Leopard in Husing

Today we will search for Snow Leopard for 4 to 5 Hours of trek at an altitude of 3800 meters. Trek up to Husing nallah which is known for frequent snow leopard movements, trail takes you through a narrow gorge where you may spot your first blue sheep, which are the main source of prey for the elusive cats. You will also witness fresh signs of snow leopard rock scents along this trail. The camp is located around 50 minutes from Zingchen, surrounded by rugged broken slopes at a junction where two side valleys meet - a good place for sighting snow leopards.

Accommodation: Campsite

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch / Dinner

23 February – Continue Search in Husing

Morning trek up to Tarbung and Kharlung Valley (**4 to 5 Hours at 3800 m**) looking for snow leopard signs and possible sightings. Tarbung is also known for frequent snow leopard movements. Spend day looking for snow leopards and prey animals around the valley. Overnight in tents in Junction camp.

Accommodation: Campsite

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch/ Dinner

24 February – Continue Search in Rumbak

Trek up to Rumbak Sumdo (4 to 5 hours of trek) 4050 Meters where the narrow gorge suddenly opens into a wide valley surrounded by high mountains including the mighty Stok Kangri at 6120mts. Trek further up to Rumbak, which is a small hamlet of few houses situated at an altitude of 4050m. The whole of this day is dedicated to exploring the Rumbak Valley. Afternoon return to the sumdo to look for cats in the opposite valley. Overnight in Rumbak.

Accommodation: Campsite

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch/ Dinner

25 February – Continue search in Rumbak

Trek up to Yurutse (**4 to 5 Hours of trek at an altitude of 4200 Meters**) which lies at the base of Gandala pass to the West past Sumdo. This area serves as an ideal habitat for the Tibetan Argali/ Great Tibetan sheep and also known for sightings of Tibetan wolf (depending on cat movement). Later in the afternoon walk back to camp. Overnight in tent at Rumbak.

Accommodation: Campsite

Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch/ Dinner

26 February – Husing – Zingchan - Leh

Morning walk down to Husing/Tarbung. Later trek back to Zingchen via the same route and drive back to Leh. Overnight in Leh Hotel.

Accommodation: Singge Palace or similar

Meals: Breakfast

27 February – Leh

Today enjoy the festival "Likir Dosmochey."

Dosmoche, also known as the "Festival of Scapegoat" is one of the most popular prayer festivals of Ladakh. The two day festival (we will attend for the first day) is the largest Buddhist 'winter gathering' in Leh. Sacred mask dances, which is known as Cham dance are carried out in the courtyard of the old chapel, which is below the gates of the Leh Palace.

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight in the hotel
Accommodation: Singge Palace or similar
Meals: Breakfast/ Lunch/ Dinner

28 February – Leh to Delhi

Morning transfer to Leh airport to connect flight for Delhi. Accommodation: Pride Plaza Hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

1 March – Delhi Departure

In time transfer to Delhi airport to connect flight for onward destination

Meals: Breakfast

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End of Services

Note: The best time to witness snow leopard in Ladakh will be in the month of January, February and mid-March. These are the coldest months in Ladakh with very cold temperatures. Our trips are specially planned to optimize your chances of seeing snow leopards, namely when they are lower down in the valleys following the domestic flocks and prey. At these months most passes will still be snow bound, the nights are very cold and even during the day the temperature drops when out of the sun.

Airfare Supplement:

Delhi / Leh / Delhi USD \$305.00 per person in economy class

Airfare cost is subject to change.

Check in luggage 20 Kg per person.

Cost Includes	Cost does not include
* Double / twin room / tents on sharing basis	X Any airfares.
* Daily breakfast & Dinner in Delhi. And Full board in Leh & Ladakh part.	X Any airport taxes.
* All land transfers and sightseeing using air-conditioned Indian made Mini coach in Delhi and Non AC Toyota Innova's / Similar in Leh & Ladakh portion (03 Pax per car).	X Any expenditure of personal nature such as drinks, tips, laundry, telephone charges etc.
* Services of English Speaking accompanying tour Escort from arrival till departure of the guests (<i>Tour escort will not stay in the same hotels in Delhi & Leh</i>)	X Any new tax imposed by the Govt.
* Monument entrance fees as per the Program.	X Any optional activities mentioned in the program
* Inclusions in Leh & Ladakh portion - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Naturalist at Camps.• All Camping Equipments Like Tents, Sleeping Bag, Mattress & Toilet Tents.• All Entrance fees, Wild Life Fees.• Binocular + Spotting Scope as per group size.• All meals at Camp.• English speaking guide, Cook, Helper throughout the trek.• All Kitchen utilities with staff as per group size.• Camping Fees.	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hot Water Bags in Camps.• Oxygen Cylinder.	
* Currently applicable taxes & Service Tax	