

# SEEK A SNOW LEOPARD, SPITI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Feb 18- 25, 2017

12 nights 13 days



Photo from thewildlifeofindia.com

Known throughout the world for its beautiful fur and shy, elusive behavior, the endangered snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*) is found in the rugged mountains of Central Asia. Snow leopards are perfectly adapted to the cold, barren landscape of their high-altitude home, but human threats have created an uncertain future for the cats. Despite a range of over 2 million km<sup>2</sup>, there are only between 4,000 and 6,500 snow leopards left in the wild.

On this trip we search for a snow leopard in the highlands of Spiti valley. Rudyard Kipling describes Spiti in "Kim" in these words: "At last they entered a world within a world - a valley of leagues where the high hills were fashioned of the mere rubble and refuse from off the knees of the mountains... Surely the Gods live here. The valleys of Kullu and Lahaul bound Spiti, locally pronounced "Piti", on its south and west; the region of Ladakh lies to the north and the Kalpa valley lies to the southeast. Geologically and archaeologically, Spiti is a living museum. The mountains are devoid of any vegetation and erosion by wind, sun and snow over thousands of years has laid bare the rocks. The rugged and rocky mountain slopes sweep down to the riverbeds giving the landscape a moon-like appearance.

From Chandigarh, we go via Shimla and Rampur to Kaza- headquarters of Spiti. From here we head out to Kibber, and then into the back-of-the beyond wilder parts of the Spitian Himalayas where we track Snow Leopards.

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Dates:                       | Feb 09-21, 2014   |
| Starting point:              | Chandigarh railway station (1050 hrs) or airport (1145 hrs)       |
| End point:                   | Kalka railway station (1600 hrs) or Chandigarh airport (1750 hrs) |
| No of tracking days:         | 6   |
| Total road distance covered: | 1200 kms  |
| Highest point:               | Kibber (4205M)  |
| Grade:                       | Moderate- Strenuous   |
| Meals:                       | lunch on day 1 to lunch on day 13                                 |
| Group size:                  | 4-8   |
| Permits required             | Permits are required for foreigners                               |

**D01: Chandigarh- Thanedar- 6 hrs**

Leave from Chandigarh between 1100-1200 hrs and drive to Thanedar. Reach Thanedar at around 1800hrs. Check into retreat and rest.

**D02: Thanedar- Kalpa- 6 hrs**

Leave for Kalpa after breakfast. Drive along River Sutlej for most of the way. Reach Kalpa in the evening. Check into the hotel for the night. Kalpa is famous for its apple and chilgoza plantations and offers an unparalleled view of the Kinner Kailash. Night stay in hotel.

**D03: Kalpa- Kaza- 8-9 hrs**

We leave early in the morning after breakfast and head to Kaza. Here the landscape changes from lush green to complete barren. Reach Kaza in the evening. Stay the night in a local homestay.

**D04: Kaza- Kibber- 1 hr**

Day for acclimatization. Also meet the Nature conservation foundation to gather information on snow leopard. Night stay in a homestay.

**D05: Kibber- Tashigang- 6 hrs hike**

We leave for Tashigang after breakfast. Camp overnight.

**D6-10: Tashigang- Dinam- Rongolon**

We spend next 6 days tracking snow leopard in Tashigang, Dinam and Rongolon area of Spiti.

**D11: Rongolon- Kibber- Tabo- 3 hrs hike and 2.5 hrs drive**

**D12: Tabo- Thanedar- 10-11 hrs**

**D13: Drop at Kalka/ Chandigarh- 6 hrs**

**Cost per person on twin share:**

**Cost includes:**

1. Accommodation on twin / triple share as per details below.
2. Transport from Chandigarh- Chandigarh.
3. Trekking arrangements for 5 nights 6 days with kitchen and trek support and staff.
4. All applicable taxes.

**Accommodation:**

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Thanedar:     | Banjara Retreat or similar  |
| Kalpa:        | Kinner villa or HPTDC hotel |
| Kaza, Kibber: | Homestay                    |
| On tracking:  | Camping/ Homestay           |
| Tabo:         | Homestay                    |

**List of things to bring:**

1. Backpack with supporting frame.
2. Sleeping bag (should be good for -20-30 degrees centigrade)
3. A small day backpack to carry water, food, jacket and camera
4. Hiking shoes- you need good traction in shoes and these should be at least water resistant. Forclaz 500 is a good. Your shoes should be well broken-in and not new.
5. 3 pairs of lowers (no jeans) with at least one of these should be quick drying pants.
6. 4-5 full sleeves T-shirts
7. A fleece jacket
8. A full sleeve thick jacket
9. Underclothing
10. 2 pairs of thermal inners
11. 3-4 pairs of sports socks. 3-4 pairs of woolen socks
12. Woolen cap/ balaclava that covers the ears
13. Woolen gloves + waterproof gloves or waterproof gloves with good fleece lining.
14. Sun glasses- ones that are 100% UV protected and cover your eyes completely. No blue colored sunglass. Sunglasses prevent snow blindness. People who wear spectacles should use contact lenses or photo- chromatic glasses.
15. A woolen head-scarf or muffler
16. Trekking pole.
17. Light towel (should be quick drying kind).
18. Lip balm
19. Cold cream and sun screen lotion (SPF 40+).
20. 2 Water bottles (1 L each). The insulated water bottles are good but even normal water bottles will suffice. Please do not carry throwaway plastics.
21. Flash light with extra set of cells (head lamps preferable).
22. Personal toilet kit (minimal) and toilet paper.
23. Personal medicine kit containing: diamox, crepe bandage, band aids, ORS packets and any personal medication that you might be using.
24. Small repair kit consisting of safety pins, needle, thread and string.
25. Camera, memory-cards, batteries etc (carry enough spare batteries. Electricity is not available on the slopes.
26. Water proof backpack liner else put all belongings in polythene and put in backpack.

- ***The hikes itself are not very demanding in terms of gradient but it is demanding as you will be walking in high altitude and a lot of it in snow. Mornings and evenings are likely to be in sub-zero temperatures.***
- ***Leave your denims behind – these are ill suited for treks and add weight.***

- Do not carry disposable plastic bottles like (Bisleri, Aquafina), plastic wrapped/packaged items. Try not to bring any non bio-degradable material.



# BOOKING, PAYMENT AND CANCELLATION POLICY

## CONFIRMATION:

100% advance to confirm booking.

## CANCELLATION CHARGE:

Minimum : 20% of full amount.

Less than two weeks of arrival date (or tour start date) : 50% of full amount.

Less than one week of arrival date (or tour start date) : Full amount.

## PAYMENT MODES & METHODS:

1. ONLINE TRANSFER into our **current** accounts in Axis Bank **or** Standard Chartered Bank
2. DIRECT CHEQUE DEPOSIT into our **current** accounts in Axis Bank **or** Standard Chartered Bank at any branch/ATM in India
3. DIRECT CASH DEPOSIT, into our **current** account at any branch in India
4. By CASH or CHEQUE handed over personally (or by your rep) AT OUR DELHI OFFICE
5. OUTSTATION CHEQUE payments are acceptable **only if** they are delivered (or we get a scan of the bank deposit slip) at least 4 working days before the payment due date.
6. OUTSTATION PAYMENTS by a **Payable at Delhi** DD sent to our Delhi Office by courier/post.

**IMP:** CHEQUE / DD to be made in **favour of** "**Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.**"

### AXIS BANK:

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : 015010200017806
- Branch address : K-12; Green Park Main; New Delhi - 110016
- Branch Code : UTIB0000015 (for direct cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code : UTIB0000015 (for online transfer)

### STANDARD CHARTERED BANK:

- A/c name : Banjara Camps & Retreats Pvt. Ltd.
- A/c no. : 525-0-509-319-3
- Branch address : 10 Sansad Marg; New Delhi - 110 001
- Branch Code : SCBL0036027 ( for direct cash/ cheque deposit)
- IFSC Code: : SCBL0036027 (for online transfer)



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