



IN SEARCH OF THE SNOW LEOPARD

Tour Dates | 19th February 2017

Hot cocoa, cold snow, bright lights and a legend to follow, Winter couldn't get any better. While they come across as quite an epic, these rare species have inhabited the valley of Rumbak for many a decennium. Elusive and mysterious, all of science cannot describe the majesty of these amazing beasts. Tracking the magnificent Snow Leopard is a feat in itself. Are you game?

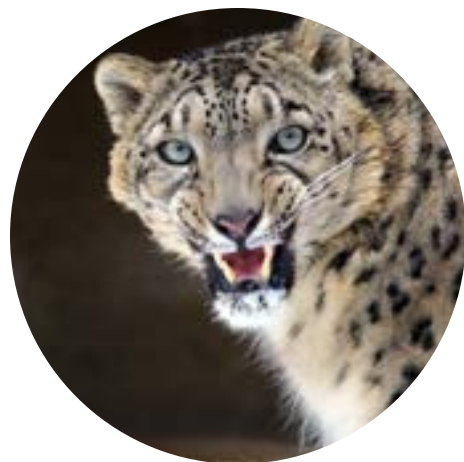
Starting from ₹ 27,599*

For information and bookings

write to adventure@coxandkings.com or call us on 1800 123 6898

OVERVIEW

Active (For those who lead an active life and are of reasonably good health. Actively involved in some sports - hiking, rafting, mountain biking, etc. Able to push themselves to next level when required. Involved in healthy living - yoga, gym, running, cycling daily. Ideally for those who would like to challenge themselves with a few longer and more demanding trekking days on high altitudes.)



HIGHLIGHTS

- Trekking at Husing.
- Sightseeing and shopping at Leh.
- Tracking the snow leopard.
- Camping in the snow.

INCLUSIONS

- 07 Nights accommodation (03 nights in guesthouse + 04 nights in camp).
- Arrival transfer on day 01 & departure transfer on day 08.
- Half day Local sightseeing in Leh on Day 02.
- Snow Leopard tracking in Husing.
- Local English speaking trek guide/expedition guide throughout the trip.
- Cooking staff, Ponies, kitchen staff, quality food, tentage like kitchen/mess tent, table, chairs and all kitchen cutlery.
- 7 Breakfasts, 7 Lunches and 7 Dinners.
- Basic First aid kit, Oxygen cylinder.
- Travel Insurance

EXCLUSIONS

- International/Domestic Airfare.
- Airport Taxes./ Visas
- All optional additional tours or activities during free time.
- Transportation outside of the tour program.
- Personal expenses (Sleeping bags, Laundry, mineral water, soft or alcoholic drinks, telephone calls etc).
- Tips.
- Costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, landslides, road conditions and any other circumstances beyond our control.
- Government Service Tax of 4.50% payable to Govt. of India.

TOUR ITINERARY

Day 1 – ARRIVE IN LEH (3500 Mts)

Take the skies at dawn over the snow-capped Himalayas for a descent into winter wonderland- Leh. All the magic will take some getting used to. The muggles call it acclimatization, you might as well find it to be charming your socks off. Cover up though and be part of the magic with an evening soiree in the light of the Himalayas.

Day 2: LEH

Mornings at Leh are spell-binding. A consequence of ecstatic wand waving, Leh Palace will make for a great venture. Race up to the top for a panoramic view of the beatific mountains. Another vantage point and a symbol of world peace, the Shanti Stupa is just a 15 minute climb away. Getting to the top will leave you breathless in all sense of the term. The guided tour will also take you to the fluttering prayer flags at Shankar Gompa. Exuding another-world calm, by mid day you might leave with a new perspective. The next half of the day could be spent sipping on the promised hot cocoa at a book café or shopping for Tibetan antiques in the main market. Meeting locals is the most enticing way to join in the enchantments.

Day 3: DRIVE TO ZINGCHEN; TREK TO HUSING (3700 mts).

Wake up to a heavenly morn. Today we leave Leh and drive across the mighty Indus towards Zingchen. Follow the trail from Phe to the entrance of the stunning Rumbak Gorge. At an impressive altitude of 3050 mts the trail will take you into the narrow gorge. Some lucky charms might set your course towards the Snow Leopard and the rare Blue Sheep. Camp the night at our base camp at Husing and just keep believing.

Day 4: HUSING

This part of the trip is called trekking. While you may not know the lay of the land as well as the snow leopard, our expert wildlife guides sure do. In and around the Husing, Tarbuns and Rumbak Valleys in Hemis National Park, they will maximize your chances of catching a glimpse of the Snow leopard as well as various other mammals and birds like the Tibetan Ibex, Bharal (Blue Sheep), Wolf, Red Fox, Ladakhi Urial and the Lynx. Make the most of the ice age and all its fascinating creatures during the day and camp the night in the hope of spotting the most elusive one.

Day 5: HUSING

Combine the sheer power of belief with clever investigative strategies to unfold a wild brand of mystical understanding of the mountainous slopes. Some clues which might help: The extreme winter forces the Snow Leopard and other animals down from the high altitudes they normally inhabit, which is why the Hemis National Park is your best bet. While instincts yield great results normally, it's best to remember the location you're at before heading awry. Your base camp is on a major Snow Leopard corridor so don't let the night fool your perception of reality into dreams.

Day 6: HUSING

Strap on your fancy binoculars and head out for a day walk around the Rumbak Valley. Explore the area around Rumbak Sumdo and Yurutse (4,400m), well known for its sightings of Argali Sheep. Get into the mind of the predator. It's a double hunt on the slopes today. Take a tip or two from those adept at survival techniques. Patient diligence is a great chance. Look for a sign, Sid the sloth might help.

Day 7: Trek Husing to Zingchen; Drive to Leh

Trek back to Zingchen in a flurry of nature's spells. Every magic has its secret. You just got very close to yours. Drive back to your hotel in Leh, this spell will last way beyond midnight.

Day 8: DEPART LEH.

Bid adieu to Leh with your own epic tale. You now know the bewitching stuff of legends.

This day-to-day schedule above should be taken only as a general guide. It is not possible to guarantee that any of our trips would run exactly according to the proposed itinerary. A variety of factors, including adverse weather conditions and difficulties with transportation, on this trek, can lead to enforced changes.

Is this trip for me?

This is not a walk in the park. It is a tough trek which is made tougher because of the complexities arising from the high altitude and low temperatures. You will have to be at least moderately fit to complete this trip. However, the fitter you are, the more you will enjoy the trek. We highly recommend that you embark on a fitness program.

What about the Altitude?

Altitude can and does affect everyone differently. No two bodies react the same and indeed even the same person can react differently at altitude depending on circumstances. Being fit helps your body to recover from the long hikes quickly thus allowing your body to acclimatize faster. Coupled with this, walking slowly all the time is another sure way of giving you the most comfortable experience at high altitude. All treks will carry with them oxygen cylinders and other treatments necessary for helping you if you develop symptoms of altitude sickness.

What will the weather be like?

Weather is highly unpredictable at high altitudes. Average day time temperature is 1 to 4 degrees and night time temperatures could drop to -11 degrees. If it snows, the temperatures could go lower. The things mentioned in your checklist will be adequate to protect you from the low temperatures.

What type of food will be provided on the trek?

Your breakfast will include bread, eggs, tea/coffee, jam, butter, corn flakes, Porridge, local Ladakhi bread etc. Both vegetarian and non-vegetarian meal options will be available in camps for dinner. Lunch will be mostly vegetarian. Dinner will be served with 4-5 dishes in mix like Dal, vegetable curries, chicken or mutton, Rice & Chapatis and Chinese food as well.

Where will I be staying?

You will be staying in dome type imported North Face 2 man sleeping tents and a guesthouse in Leh

What to carry?

We will use ponies to carry your luggage on this trek. Your main luggage should be carried in a duffel bag or rucksack. Avoid trolley bags or suitcases at all costs, as these will make it harder for the ponies to carry. Please restrict your luggage to 12kgs per person. You will have to carry a day pack with you - to carry things that you will need during the day, such as your camera, water bottle, sweets, an extra jacket etc.

Clothes/Equipment Checklist

The following is a list of things that we suggest that you take with you. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list, rather it is intended to act as a reminder of those items that we feel are essential for your comfort and convenience. However we recognize that you may have your own personal preferences for clothing which may be equally as suitable.

- 1. Sleeping bag
- 2. Sleeping bag liner
- 3. Day pack (25-30 Liter bag to carry a water bottle, sunscreen, a warm layer, a rain jacket, camera etc.
- 4. Trekking Boots
- 5. Camp shoes
- 6. Socks (At least 3 pairs)
- 7. Waterproof Jacket (Down)
- 8. Rain jacket
- 9. Fleece/down pants
- 10. Trekking shirt
- 11. Trekking pants
- 12. Warm jumpers
- 13. Underwear (3 to 4 pairs)
- 14. Warm hat (Has to cover your ears)
- 15. Trekking poles (Optional but recommended)
- 16. Sunglasses (100% UV protection)
- 17. Warm and waterproof Gloves or mittens.
- 18. Water Bottle / Hydration bladder/ Pee Bottle
- 19. Head Torch and extra set of batteries
- 20. Towel
- 21. Sunblock (SPF 50)
- 22. Sun hat
- 23. Bandana
- 24. Personal Medication if any
- 25. Water Purification (to purify mid-day bottles filled in a stream)
- 26. Camera (You'll be able to charge our camera several times during the trek on solar unit when staying in villages. Direct payment basis)
- 27. Small Padlock
- 28. Wash bag and toiletries
- 29. Snacks (chocolates, Dry fruit, Energy bars etc.

What if I fall sick?

We keep an emergency medical kit with us containing almost all basic medicines including tablets for high altitude sickness, Oxygen cylinder in case of any emergency. Please carry personal medicines as advised by your doctor.

Is there any restriction on the amount of luggage I'm allowed to carry?

As mentioned before, keep it light. We will have ponies to carry your main luggage. Please limit the weight of your main luggage to around 12kgs. Also carry duffel bags or rucksacks instead of trolley bags or suitcases.

How many crew members will be travelling with me?

Rest assured that experienced trekking staff will be assisting you on this journey. This includes cooks, helpers, ponies as per the group size and an experienced snow leopard trek guide.

How many people will be travelling with me on this trek?

We have a maximum group size of 16 for this trek.

Is tipping compulsory?

It will be highly appreciated if you can factor in some money for tipping.

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