Snow Leopard Expedition

Delhi - Narkanda - Kalpa - Tabo - Chicham/Kaza - Sangla - Shimla - Delhi

Tour PackagesCustomised

Tour Basics •

Duration: 11 Days 10 Nights	**Route:** Delhi - Narkanda - Kalpa - Tabo - Chicham/Kaza - Sangla - Shimla - Delhi

Delhi — 11D 10NShimla — 9D 8N

About This Trip •

The Snow Leopard Expedition in Spiti Valley is a professionally curated 10-day winter wildlife experience that takes you through the breathtaking landscapes of Spiti Valley. Operated during the prime winter months of December to March, this expedition offers a rare and responsible opportunity to observe the elusive snow leopard in its natural habitat. Beginning with a comfortable overnight journey from Delhi, the route passes through Shimla, Kalpa, and Tabo, before reaching the remote high-altitude village of Chicham, strategically located above 14,000 feet near Kibber, at the heart of snow leopard territory. Participants will be guided by expert local trackers across snow-covered terrains to set up vantage points for wildlife observation, with chances also to encounter other rare Himalayan species such as Blue Sheep, Tibetan Wolves, Red Foxes, and Golden Eagles. The experience focuses more on patient wildlife tracking than strenuous trekking, with accommodations arranged in authentic, warm Spitian homestays. This expedition is ideal for those with a moderate fitness level and a deep respect for nature, offering not only the possibility of a snow leopard sighting but also a profound connection to the raw, silent beauty of Spiti’s winter wilderness.

What activities are included in the Snow Leopard Expedition in Spiti Valley?

The Snow Leopard Expedition in Spiti Valley is a thoughtfully designed experience that goes beyond simply spotting wildlife. It combines exploration, learning, and cultural immersion, offering participants a unique adventure in one of India's remotest and high-altitude regions. Here’s what you can expect during the expedition:

Snow Leopard Tracking with Expert Guides in Spiti Valley

Follow the footsteps of the elusive “Ghost of the Mountains” with the help of seasoned local wildlife trackers and spotters, who have a deep understanding of the terrain and animal behaviour.

Wildlife Spotting in Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary
Apart from snow leopards, you get a chance to observe rare Himalayan species like Blue Sheep, Red Foxes, Himalayan Griffons, Golden Eagles, and Tibetan Wolves in their natural habitat.

Scenic Hikes & Observation Walks
Participate in short hikes through snow-laden valleys and ridges to reach vantage points used for wildlife observation, typically located above the villages of Chicham and Kibber.

Use of High-Quality Spotting Equipment

Binoculars, spotting scopes, and walkie-talkies are provided or available for rent for an immersive and professional wildlife tracking experience.

Photography & Filming Opportunities
Capture breathtaking landscapes and wildlife sightings under expert guidance, ideal for photographers, filmmakers, and nature documentarians.

Acclimatisation Walks & Orientation
Gentle acclimatisation walks help your body adjust to the high altitude while guides brief you about wildlife patterns, conservation, and daily plans.

Cultural Immersion & Village Visits
Stay in local homestays, engage with Spitian families, learn about their sustainable winter lifestyles, traditional food, and customs.

Conservation Learning & Storytelling Evenings
Discover local conservation efforts, learn about snow leopard ecology, and enjoy engaging wildlife stories and folklore during warm, indoor group sessions.

Stargazing in High-Altitude Clear Skies
On clear nights, enjoy views of the Milky Way and the night sky from one of the highest inhabited villages in the world.

Stay Categories & Options •

Basic	Persons: 1	INR 174,999.00	~~INR 184,999.00~~	Save INR 10,000.00
Basic	Persons: 2	INR 85,999.00	~~INR 95,999.00~~	Save INR

Basic	Persons: 4	INR 65,999.00	~~INR 75,999.00~~	Save INR 10,000.00
Basic	Persons: 1	INR 172,999.00	~~INR 182,999.00~~	Save INR 10,000.00
Basic	Persons: 2	INR 84,999.00	~~INR 94,999.00~~	Save INR 10,000.00
Basic	Persons: 4	INR 64,999.00	~~INR 74,999.00~~	Save INR 10,000.00

Itinerary •

Day 1: Pick up at Delhi | Dist: 342 km | 09-10 hours

- You will meet one of our representatives at the pickup location in Delhi.
- The journey to Shimla will be an overnight one.
- Enjoy the journey in a comfortable, air-conditioned Volvo bus, ensuring a relaxing travel experience.

Meals: Nil

Night: Overnight Journey

Day 2: Shimla to Kalpa | Dist: 241 km | Time: 07 to 08 hrs

- After breakfast, begin your drive from Shimla towards the picturesque village of Kalpa.
- Upon reaching Kalpa, you will check into the homestay.
- After settling in, get ready to explore the stunning Kalpa Valley.

Meals: Dinner

Night: Stay at the Hotel in Kalpa

Day 3: Kalpa to Tabo | Dist: 148 km | Time: 6 to 7 hrs

- Enjoy a breakfast to start the day.
- We will then depart for Tabo.
- En route, stop at Khab, the confluence point of the Sutlej and Spiti rivers.
- Visit the serene Nako Lake, beautifully bordered by willow and poplar trees.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Homestay in Tabo

Day 4: Snow Leopard Scanning | Time: After breakfast till evening

- Begin the day with a delicious breakfast to fuel up for the adventure ahead.
- Days 4 to 8 are dedicated to the thrilling adventure of snow leopard expedition spotting in the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, guided by expert trackers across high-altitude terrain.
- Set out on a guided hike through the stunning landscapes of Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Experience the thrill of walking in the footsteps of one of the world’s most mysterious big cats.
- Stay alert and keep your gear ready, sightings can occur at any time!

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (packed) and Dinner

Night: Stay at the Homestay in Kaza/Chicham

Day 9: Kaza to Sangla | Dist: 235 Kms | Time: 07 to 08 hrs

- Start the day with an early breakfast to get a head start on the journey.

- Depart for the scenic town of Sangla.
- On reaching Sangla, check into your hotel and settle in.
- The rest of the day is free for you to explore nearby attractions at your own pace.
- Enjoy discovering Kalpa’s charm through a relaxed self-guided visit.

Meals: Breakfast and Dinner

Night: Stay at Hotel/Homestay in Sangla

Day 10: Sangla to Shimla | Dist: 226 km | Time: 07 to 08 hrs

- Wake up to breathtaking views of the beautiful Sangla Valley.
- Head out to explore Chitkul, the last inhabited village near the Indo-Tibet border, known for having some of the cleanest air in the world.
- After a wholesome breakfast, begin your return drive to Shimla.
- Enjoy a scenic road trip as you pass through charming towns and picturesque landscapes, including Karcham, Rampur, Narkanda, and Theog, offering breathtaking views at every turn.
- Upon reaching Shimla, board the overnight Volvo bus back to Delhi.

Meals: Breakfast

Night: Overnight Journey by AC Semi Sleeper Bus

Day 11: Reached Delhi | Dist: 342 kms | Time: 09 to10 hrs

- Arrive back in Delhi by early morning, marking the end of your memorable journey.

Meals: Nil

Night: Overnight Journey

Inclusions •

Accommodation will be arranged on a twin- or triple-sharing basis, depending on the homestay or hotel listed in the itinerary.

During the Snow Leopard tracking phase, all three meals, breakfast, lunch, and dinner, will be provided.

Meals will be served as outlined in the day-wise itinerary.

All travel will be by a non-air-conditioned vehicle for the entire duration of the trip.

You will be guided by a highly trained and experienced wildlife expert for snow leopard tracking and spotting, ensuring a safe and informative journey.

All required travel permits for restricted areas in the region are included in the package.

The expedition also includes the assistance of a spotter (scanner) and a porter to support the snow leopard tracking experience.

Fees for optional adventure activities or add-ons are not included in the standard package.

Exclusions •

Photography charges at specific landmarks or monuments are not included.

An additional 5% GST will be applicable on the total package cost.

Entry tickets to monasteries and historical sites are not part of the package unless specified.

Foreign nationals are required to bear the cost of Inner Line Permits separately.

Any personal expenses due to early trip termination or withdrawal after the journey begins will not be reimbursed.

Costs arising from unexpected events such as landslides, blocked roads, or adverse weather conditions are not covered.

Anything not explicitly listed under the “Cost Inclusions” section is excluded.

Charges for room heaters, if needed, will be extra and payable directly at the property.

Travel insurance is not included in the package and must be arranged independently.

FAQs •

Q: Is there a lot of trekking and hiking required to spot a snow leopard?

A: No, trekking is moderate. Most sightings involve short hikes to set up viewing points; it’s more about patience and observation than long treks.

Q: What type of clothing is required for the tour?

A: Layered winter clothing is essential. Bring thermal inners, insulated jackets, snow boots, gloves, woollen socks, beanies, and UV-protected sunglasses.

Q: Are any documents needed for the Snow Leopard Expedition?

A: Yes, a valid government-issued photo ID (like Aadhaar, passport, or driver's license) is required. Foreign nationals may need an Inner Line Permit.

Q: Are there high-altitude problems in Spiti?

A: Yes, due to elevations above 14,000 ft, mild altitude sickness (headache, nausea, fatigue) is possible; proper acclimatisation and hydration help.

Q: What is the qualification of the outdoor leader provided to us?

A: All outdoor leaders are experienced in high-altitude travel, trained in basic first aid, and accompanied by local wildlife trackers with deep regional knowledge.

Q: Is it safe for women?

A: Yes, the expedition is safe for solo women travellers. Hosts and guides are professionally vetted, and homestays are with trusted local families.

Q: What do you do in case of an emergency?

A: Basic first aid and oxygen support are available. In severe cases, evacuation to the nearest medical facility (Kaza or Shimla) is arranged promptly.

Q: What is the temperature like there?

A: Winter temperatures range from 5°C to -25°C, especially at night. Days are sunny but extremely cold; proper winter gear is essential.

Q: Is it technically challenging?

A: No, it is not technically demanding. However, cold temperatures and high altitudes require basic physical fitness and mental preparedness.

Q: What is the best spot for the Snow Leopard Expedition?

A: Chicham and Kibber in Spiti Valley are among the top snow leopard hotspots in India.

Q: What are the chances of seeing snow leopards?

A: While sightings are never guaranteed, success rates in Spiti are high during winter, with many groups reporting sightings during 4–8 day stays.

Get in Touch •

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