

Snow Leopard Photography Tour



Photo by Simon Steiner

Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary around Chicham in Spiti valley, Himachal Pradesh, India

It is a dream for every wildlife lover or photographer to find the Shan, the ghost of the mountains. In this remote valley with Chicham being one of the earth highest motorable settlements it is possible to see the elusive Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*). The Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary includes an area of 2'220 km². The elevation range of this sanctuary is 3,600–6,800 m above mean sea level. It is situated in the cold desert area of the Himalayas, and has the unique flora and fauna characteristic. Most of the moisture is provided by snow. The winter is extremely cold, temperature can go as low as -30° Celcius.

Beside the big cat it has many more animals to spot like the Ibex, Bluesheep, Red Fox or even a Wolf. Also, many birds like the Lammergeier, Golden Eagle, Himalayan vulture and Snow Cocks live there. During the winter months the possibility to spot Snow Leopards is much better because their prey leaves for lower altitudes and the predator follows it. Tracks in the snow also helps to find the very well camouflages Snow Leopard.

The BBC documentary "Big Cats", the Netflix series "Animals" and other movies were filmed in the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.

Join this expedition and explore one of the most breath-taking region of the world. Find more information below:

Contact:

Tanzin Dorje

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Call or whatsapp

E-Mail: tandorje695@gmail.com

Tanzin was born August 27th 1990 in Chicham and lives together with his wife and his daughter in the village. During the summer month he is working on his farmland and as trekking guide. During winter he is a experienced wildlife guide and well known for tracking animals. He knows the region perfectly, therefore he will bring you to the best spots to possibly see the Snow Leopard and other wildlife. He speaks English, Hindi and Ladhaki.



Itinerary:

1st day

Pick-up at the airport in Chandigarh

Chandigarh – Rampur (2'100 m altitude), Distance 180 km, 8 to 9 hours drive

Overnight stay in a hotel

2nd day

Rampur – Nako Tabo (3'900 m altitude), Distance 250 km, 9 to 10 hours drive

Overnight stay at homestay

3rd day

Tabo – Kaza – Kibber village – Chicham (4'270 m altitude), Distance 90 km, 4 to 5 hours drive

Overnight stay at Everaster homestay in Chicham

4th day

Rest day. Explore Kibber village and Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary

Overnight stay at Everaster homestay in Chicham

5th to 8th day

Hiking and following the elusive Snow Leopard around Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary.

Snow Leopard tracking guides and porters will accompany you to the best spots.

Overnight stays at “Everaster” homestay in Chicham

9th day

Chicham – Tabo – Rampur, Distance 340 km, 13 to 15 hours drive

Overnight stay in a hotel

10th day

Rampur – Chandigarh, Distance 180 km, 8 to 9 hours drive

Drop off at the airport in Chandigarh

Included in the Package:

Drive in a car or a small travel bus from Chandigarh airport to Chicham and back

2 nights in a hotel in Rampur

1 night at homestay in Tabo

6 nights at “Everaster” homestay in Chicham

Food and drinks (tea, water)

Permit for foreign travellers for Spiti valley

Package cost:

70'700 INR (Indian Rupees) per person

Note that these costs will be applicable when 6 adults are attending the tour.

Possible departing dates every year from January 1st to April 5th.

“Everaster” homestay in Chicham:

This charming homestay will be your home during your stay. It is situated in the small village of Chicham on about 4’270 m altitude.



<p>Mammal Checklist: Snow Leopard (<i>Panthera uncia</i>) Tibetan Wolf (<i>Canis lupus chanco</i>) Red Fox (<i>Vulpes vulpes</i>) Siberian ibex (<i>Capra sibirica</i>) Bharal (<i>Pseudois nayaur</i>) Himalayan Marmot (<i>Marmota himalayana</i>) Mouse Hare (<i>Ochotona roylei</i>) Tibetan Woolly Hare (<i>Lepus oiostolus</i>) etc-</p>	<p>Bird Checklist: Himalayan Griffon (<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>) Lammergeier (<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>) Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) Chukar partridge (<i>Alectoris chukar</i>) Himalayan snowcock (<i>Tetraogallus himalayensis</i>) Yellow-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax graculus</i>) Red-billed chough (<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>) Snow Pigeon (<i>Columba leuconota</i>) Common magpie (<i>Pica pica</i>) Robin accentor (<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>) Spotted rosefinch (<i>Carpodacus rubicilla severtzovi</i>) Tibetan snowfinch (<i>Montifringilla adamsi</i>) etc.</p>
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Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*), photo by Simon Steiner

See the trip report of one of the customers: [Link](#)