

Welcome to India

India is the world's largest democracy and covers an area of 3,287,263 sq km, stretching from the high Himalayas in the North, to the southern tropical rain forests and flanked by the Arabian Sea in the west and the Indian Ocean in the east. In the shape of a triangle, India's topography is greatly varied in that there are deserts and rain forests, much of its land is comprised of fertile river plains and high plateaus. A vast subcontinent of over 1.2 billion people and contains more different languages, religions, races and cultures than any other country in the world. India offers the traveler a multitude of unique experiences ensuring an unforgettable visit. From the vibrant and bustling markets and extravagant festivals to the serenity of a mountain retreat, India is a destination that will touch your soul.

Highlights of the Itinerary:

- The isolated barren wilderness of Ladakh with the snow-capped Himalayas mountains, bright blue water lakes, ever-changing sand dunes reminds that you are on the "Roof of the World".
- Enjoy the company of one of the most seasoned Snow Leopard Guide on the entire trip.
- Opportunity to see animals like Snow Leopard, Ibex, Tibetan Antelope, Blue Sheep, Shapo, Tibetan Hare.

The Trans-Himalayan region of Ladakh is one of the last frontiers for wildlife tourism. A winter trip meets the elements head-on in a stunning and apparently bleak landscape. But within these high valleys created by folds of the Great Himalaya is perhaps the highest density of the most elusive of the great cats - the snow leopard. The very name evokes all that is most wild, mysterious and elusive in nature - for this is an animal that comes cloaked not just in the subtle beauty of its own coat but also in all the high drama of the harsh and magnificent environment that it dominates. The Ladakh region is a high altitude cold desert and for the snow leopard to survive it has a prey base of bharal (blue sheep), ibex and marmots. Wolves, foxes and wild dogs are other predators in the same area.

An attractive contrast also lies between these stone-hard mountain people and the gentle and compassionate Buddhism that they practice.



You will have time to visit some of their great monasteries as well as their picturesque villages. Small settlements of Tibetan farmers and their livestock occupy isolated villages on the valley floors.

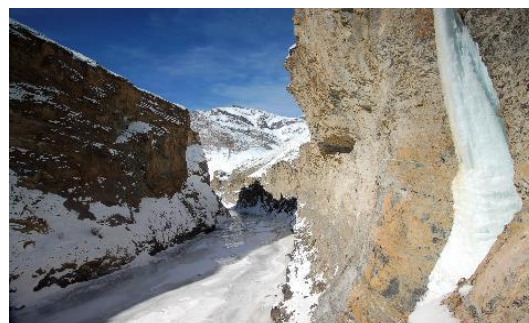
Please note: Please do note that the trek route is one that is based on experience of your leaders and they have full discretion to change it or alter it as per their wish. The weather will also be a crucial factor in deciding which places will eventually be visited and what will be dropped from the program.

The majority of time in Ladakh is spent at elevations of 11,800 feet or higher, with the highest sleeping altitude at 13,000. Anyone with a history of medical problems, particularly cardiac or respiratory, should consult a doctor before considering this trip. We always require a release of liability and medical certificate from our clients.

Specially created for

Wildlife enthusiasts, Photographers

Wildlife Viewing: By vehicle and on foot depending on location of wildlife. Reasonable fitness required. All excursions guided by naturalists and expert spotters/trackers.



THE ITINERARY

2022	SERVICE	ACCOMMODATION
Day 1	Meet and Greet at New Delhi's International Airport	
6 th March	Transfer from Delhi airport to the Hotel	
	Overnight - Trident Hotel, Gurgaon	Superior Garden View Room - Breakfast included
Day 2	Early morning flight to Leh	
7 th March	Baggage allowance 15 Kgs per passenger - (Economy Class)	
	Arrive Leh and transfer to the Grand Dragon Hotel	
	Rest of the day is at leisure to acclimatize	
	Overnight - Grand Dragon Hotel, Leh	Premier room - Meals Included
Day 3	Half day sightseeing in and around Leh	
8 th March	Overnight - Grand Dragon Hotel, Leh	Premier room - Meals Included
Day 4	Check out and drive 2 hrs 30 mins to Ulley	
9 th March	Overnight - Snow Leopard Lodge, Ulley	Standard Room - Meals Included
Day 5-10 10 th to 15 th March	Explore the valley's looking for Snow leopard and other animals found in this region	
	Overnights - Snow Leopard Lodge, Ulley	Standard Room - Meals Included
Day 11	Drive back to Leh visiting Alchi Monastery enroute	
16 th March	Overnight - Grand Dragon Hotel, Leh	Premier room - Meals Included

Day 12	Morning transfer to Leh Airport for flight back to Delhi	
17 th March	Baggage allowance 15 kgs per passenger - (Economy Class)	
	On arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to the Trident Hotel, Gurgaon - Day use room	Superior Garden View Room - Room only basis
	Later transfer to international airport in the evening for onward flight	

ENTRY/VISA REQUIREMENTS

All international visitors to India are required to have a valid passport and visa.

Travellers from all countries need a visa.

Enquire about this from the Indian diplomatic Representatives abroad OR apply online at

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

Boarding or immigration can be denied if there is a mismatch of passport details mentioned on the visa letter issued by the Government of India and the passport presented at these checks.

The passport has to be valid for a minimum of 6 months AFTER the departure date from India and at least 2 (two) clear pages available in the passport for immigration stamping.

SATELLITE PHONES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN INDIA

“The Government of India has banned the use of Satellite Phones across the country - it is a criminal offence to be in possession of such a phone and use of the same as well in India.”

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1- NEW DELHI

Sunday, 6th March 2022

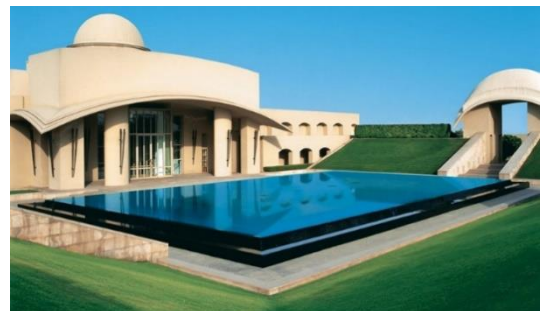
Upon your arrival in bustling Delhi, you will be met by Rob Barbour, your private guide from Epic Private Journeys. Afterwards, you will be chauffeured to the Trident Hotel, Gurgaon.

In the heart of bustling Gurgaon, Delhi NCR, lies an oasis where you can smell the fresh grass, hear the birds sing and simply pause for pleasure. Trident, Gurgaon welcomes you in its warm embrace with magnificence and style.

Designed by Thai architect, Lek Bunag, Trident, Gurgaon is low-rise and spread over seven acres. The hotel blends the natural elements and luxury of space, water and light into its design. You will also find influences of Moroccan, Mughal and Rajasthani style in its architecture.

The beige dome-like traditional exterior houses 136 contemporary rooms and suites, furnished with all the modern amenities for discerning guests, including complimentary high speed Internet for up to four devices. Trident, Gurgaon ranks amongst the best hotels in Gurgaon, Delhi NCR.

Overnight - **The Trident Hotel, Gurgaon** - Superior Garden View Room
- Bed and breakfast basis



Day 2 - NEW DELHI/LEH

Monday, 7th March 2022

This morning you will be met and transferred to the Delhi airport for your flight to Leh. **Luggage restricted to 15 kgs per person.**

Upon arrival at Leh Airport you will be met by your expedition leader and transferred to your hotel.

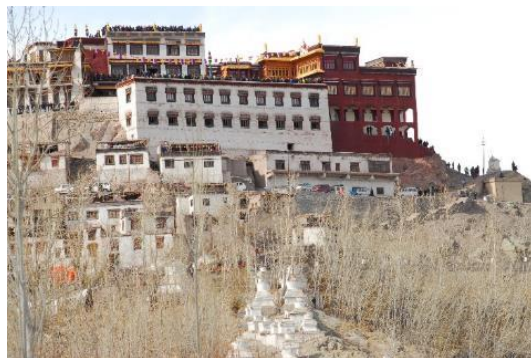
Located in the heart of the ancient city of Leh, The Grand Dragon Hotel, Ladakh is amongst the first luxury hotels in Ladakh. The hotel is decorated magnificently with handmade paintings by Gulam Mustafa (First modern Artist of Ladakh) around every corner, and fixtures that are reminiscent of royalty. The entire hotel is wheelchair accessible, for providing differently abled guests with a comfortable sojourn.

The hotel is also centrally heated and solar powered, not only ensuring warmth but also ensuring that all the services are eco-friendly.

The rest of the day is at leisure to acclimatise to the high altitude and rarefied air. Leh is at 11,400 feet and the flight up from the plains means that you have to acclimatise gently without pushing yourself.

The 2 days scheduled here is the minimum required as you will be going to a higher altitude and will be doing a fair amount of walking. At some point over the next few days in Leh, you will meet with staff from the Snow Leopard Conservancy for a briefing on the history of snow leopard conservation in Ladakh with insight given into the current threats to snow leopards and the strategies adopted to combat these threats.

Overnight - **The Grand Dragon Hotel, Leh** - Premier Room - All meals



Day 3 - LEH

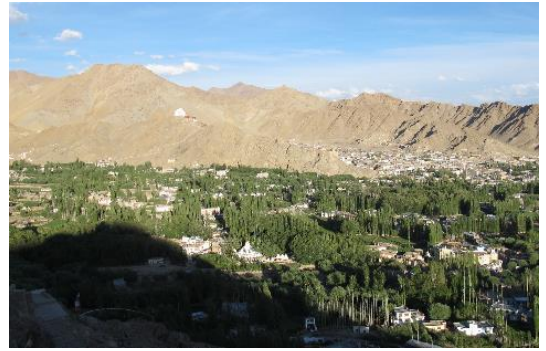
Tuesday, 8th March 2022

Today you set out for an extraordinary drive east heading towards Taglang La and the villages of Gya, Lhato and Meru.

It's a fantastic drive taking you away from the Valley of the Indus up a subsidiary valley to an extraordinary area even by Ladakhi's standards that marks the line where the Indian mainland collided with and drove under the Asian land mass.

There is some dramatic scenery here and you have a chance of sighting wildlife including blue sheep, golden eagles and bearded vultures. Rafts of red-billed choughs perform synchronised aerobatics and in the fallow fields you have the chance of seeing the very beautiful Tibetan Partridge and the more common Chukor partridge.

Overnight - **The Grand Dragon Hotel, Leh** - Premier Room - All meals



Days 4 to 10 - ULLEY (SNOW LEOPARD LODGE)

Wednesday, 9th March 2020 to Tuesday, 15th March 2022

You drive west today on the road to Kargil and Srinagar, generally following the Indus River. You pass through the small town of Nimmu - one of the most important in Ladakh, where the Zaskar river meets the Indus. After a little over an hour you head north on a road marked to Likir - one of Ladakh's famous Buddhist monasteries.

This is all snow leopard country. The landscape here is even bigger, more expansive and open, until you turn off onto a dirt road, winding up a narrow valley, following a stream called the Ulley Chhu. Smaller valleys intersect and the guides have their heads craned all the time, scanning the hill sides and the skyline for any silhouette. This is excellent Ibex country and there are few more evocative sights than a magnificently horned male Ibex standing vigil on some impossibly narrow outcropping, a few thousand feet over a plunging cliff.

You will be staying at the Snow Leopard Lodge in Ulley. The home stay consists of 5 bedrooms, built separately from the main house with a dining room and kitchen - all in the same low stone-built building. Add to this the interest of living with a Ladakhi family in the depths of winter and understanding their life-style and you have a very special experience in store - especially sharing the large and warm kitchens that are the heart of a Ladakhi home in winter and resplendent with brass, copper and silver ornaments.

Settle in on arrival and acclimatise to the higher altitude of Ulley. You will be based here over 7 nights. You will explore 3 valleys, which, apart from snow leopards, are great for finding urial, Ibex, wolf and Himalayan fox.

Over the next few days you explore the area on foot and SUV's with your expert guide. You will be amazed at the sheer dedication and commitment he brings to his trade and the effort he makes to ensure that his guests leave happy. Your guide will interact closely with the local people and use the network of local intelligence to narrow down the likely sites. In the process there will also be plenty of opportunity for you to get insights into local folklore, as well as learn about local customs and traditions.

Overnights - Snow Leopard Lodge Ulley - Standard Room - All meals



Day 11 - ULLEY/LEH

Wednesday, 16th March 2022

This morning, after breakfast, you say your goodbyes to your host and drive back to Leh town.

En-route you visit the Alchi monastery. Alchi Gompa is located near the small village of Saspol. It is one of the earliest monasteries built in Ladakh, dating from the 11th century. Because it was built before the invading wars began in the 15th century, Alchi was built on lowlands, rather than on a hilltop as others were, in order to protect them from marauding armies.

After the visit, you carry on your journey to Leh.

Overnight - **The Grand Dragon Hotel** - Premier Room - All meals



Day 12 - LEH/DELHI

Thursday, 17th March 2022

Today you connect to your morning flight to Delhi. **Luggage is restricted to 15 kgs per person.**

Upon arrival, you will be driven to the Trident Gurgaon Hotel (close to the airport), where day use rooms have been booked so that you can freshen up before your homeward flight later this evening.

End of Arrangements



Flights

DATE/DAY	FROM/TO	FLIGHT NUMBER	TIME
7 March 2022	Delhi to Leh	TBA	TBA
17 March 2022	Leh to Delhi	TBA	TBA

Accommodation

DATE	DESTINATION	ACCOMMODATION	DETAILS
6 March 22	New Delhi	Trident Gurgaon Hotel	Superior Garden View Room - Bed & Breakfast
7/8 March 22	Leh	Grand Dragon	Premier Room - Meals Included
9-15 March 22	Ulley	Snow Leopard Lodge	Standard Room - Meals Included
16 March 22	Leh	Grand Dragon	Premier Room - Meals Included
17 March 22	Delhi	Trident Gurgaon Hotel	Superior Garden View Room - Room only

What's included:

- Meals as mentioned in itinerary
- Internal flights in economy (Baggage Allowance 15 Kgs per passenger)-Guest can pre-purchase excess baggage on request at an extra cost.
- Day 1 in Delhi hotel on Bed and Breakfast
- All sightseeing activities in Ladakh as mentioned.
- Entrance fee in monasteries
- Transportation for snow leopard sightings
- Donation fee for snow leopard conservation
- Services of a Tour leader from Day 2-11 in Ladakh only
- Visit to Snow Leopard Conservancy

What's not included:

- Any International Airfare / Airport taxes
- Any change in tax structure resulting from the hike in published tariff.
- Any expenses of personal nature including alcohol, laundry, gratuities etc.
- Medical /Travel Insurances
- Any expenses arising due to unavoidable circumstances beyond our control.

Itinerary Cost

- per person in US dollars based on twin share
- based on a minimum of 6 people travelling

RATES	
Per person sharing	8,900 USD per person
Single Supplement	3,650 USD per single

Flights

DATE/DAY	FROM/TO	FLIGHT NUMBER	TIME
7 March 2022	Delhi to Leh	TBA	TBA
17 March 2022	Leh to Delhi	TBA	TBA

Accommodation

DATE	DESTINATION	ACCOMMODATION	DETAILS
Day 01	New Delhi	Trident Gurgaon Hotel	Superior Garden view Room - Bed & Breakfast
Day 02/3	Leh	Grand Dragon	Premier Room - Meals Included
Day 4-10	Ulley	Ulley Snow Leopard Lodge	Standard Room - Meals Included
Day 11	Leh	Grand Dragon	Premier Room - Meals Included
Day 12	Delhi	Trident Gurgaon Hotel	Superior Garden view Room - Room only

What's included:

- Rob Barbour as private guide throughout
- Meals as mentioned in itinerary
- Internal flights in economy (Baggage Allowance 15 Kgs per passenger)-Guest can pre-purchase excess baggage on request at an extra cost.
- Day 1 in Delhi hotel on Bed and Breakfast
- All sightseeing activities in Ladakh as mentioned.
- Entrance fee in monasteries
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The Details are in the fine print

- Prices are subject to change as per change in Government / Hotel / Airline policy without prior notice.
- Rates include only those items specified in your itinerary.
- Please note, the names of hotels mentioned in our proposal only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey the confirmations to you on receipt of your acceptance. However in the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available at the time of initiating the reservations, we shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement/reduction whatever applicable) to you.
- Hotel Check-In 1400 hours, Check-out time 1200 NOON
- In case on any currency fluctuations or amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. The due increase or decrease will be communicated accordingly.
- Until such time as confirmation of services is received from &Beyond South Asia this is a Quotation only and is subject to availability as no reservations have been made.
- The rates quoted are subject to change without prior warning, should there be any increases in Park Fees, Fuel, Sales Tax or VAT, third party services, or any other circumstances beyond our control in the regions featured in this quote/booking.
- All guests must take out comprehensive travel insurance covering them for personal effects, personal accident, medical and emergency travel expenses, cancellation and curtailment.
- In order to comply with international insurance requirements all airline tickets must clearly show the passenger's title, surname, name and initial (as indicated in their passport). As this applies to both scheduled and charter flights we would be grateful if you could provide us with this information at the time of confirmation. Your internal flights have been organized by us. While we take the maximum care to ensure a safe and comfortable journey for you Epic is not responsible for the fitness of the carriers or the safety standards of the carrier company.
- In order to comply with International Insurance requirements Epic can only reserve seats, be it on a provisional or confirmed basis, on both domestic/scheduled or charter flights.
- Please note that airfares may increase between time of booking, time of payment and the ticket being issued. Any costs incurred due to amendments will not be borne by Epic.
- Epic cannot be held responsible should airlines discontinue flights on certain routings or change scheduled timetables, resulting in missed connections etc. Should an amendment in a routing or itinerary be necessary we will re-quote you accordingly
- Dietary Requirements: All dietary requirements can be catered for. When making your reservation, please advise us of any specific dietary requirements that you may have and these will be communicated through to the respective establishment.
- Gratuities: Tipping is at your discretion. However management of the establishment will be able to assist with guidelines.

PAYMENT & CANCELLATION POLICY

- 1. 30% Non-refundable deposit to be remitted to confirm your booking**
- 2. 70% of the balance payment to be remitted 60 days prior to arrival**

Booking made within 60 days of arrival	100% payment at the time of booking (within 72 hours) (non-refundable)
Booking made more than 61 days prior to arrival	30% payment at the time of booking (within 7 days) and balance 70% due 60 days prior to arrival
Cancellation 60 days or more prior to arrival	Loss of deposit (30%)
Cancellation less than 60 days of arrival	100% cancellation charge

Epic reserves the right to cancel all services booked should full payment not be received 60 days prior to arrival date.

Kindly note that payments may be processed with Visa or MasterCard or Amex may incur a 2.8% fee. Payments may also be paid directly into Epic's US dollar bank account.

CONTACT DETAILS

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