



GHOST OF THE HIMALAYAS

In Search of the Elusive Snow Leopard

LOCATION	Spiti Valley
ALTITUDE	4,150 m
DURATION	10 Days · 9 Nights



22 — 31 JANUARY 2027

A KIANG COLLECTIVE EXPEDITION

THE EXPEDITION

Itinerary

Ten days. Nine nights. One ghost.

DAY 01

Fri · 22 Jan

Chandigarh to Rampur

We pick you up from Chandigarh airport and begin your journey into the Himalayas. A scenic 7–8 hour drive through the Sutlej valley brings you to Rampur, where you rest for the night.

DAY 02

Sat · 23 Jan

Rampur to Kaza (or Tabo)

An 8–9 hour drive takes you deeper into Spiti, crossing dramatic landscapes as the altitude climbs to 3,800m. Kaza is your acclimatisation base. Take it easy, hydrate well, and let the mountains settle in. In case of bad weather, we halt at Tabo.

DAY 03

Sun · 24 Jan

Kaza to Chicham

A 1.5-hour drive takes you over the Chicham Bridge, one of Asia's highest motorable suspension bridges, to Chicham village at 4,150m, your home for the expedition. We head out for an easy afternoon walk to begin acquainting ourselves with the landscape.

DAY 04

Mon · 25 Jan

Chicham — Slow Acclimatisation

We take the day slow. Gentle walks around Chicham, getting your eyes and body tuned to the terrain. The altitude is still working on you. Today is about patience and preparation.

DAY 05

Tue · 26 Jan

Snow Leopard Tracking

We head out early with our expert naturalist, scanning cliffs and slopes for fresh pugmarks, scrapes, and the elusive ghost of the mountains.

THE EXPEDITION · CONTINUED

Itinerary

Days six to ten.

DAY 06

Wed · 27 Jan

Snow Leopard Tracking

Another full day in the field, covering the best wildlife corridors in the valley on foot and by vehicle.

DAY 07

Thu · 28 Jan

Snow Leopard Tracking

We continue tracking across the high ridges and frozen valleys. Every day in the field brings new possibilities.

DAY 08

Fri · 29 Jan

Snow Leopard Tracking

Our final tracking day. The patience, the cold, the silences. All of it has been building to moments like this.

DAY 09

Sat · 30 Jan

Chicham to Rampur

We bid farewell to Chicham and make the long drive back to Rampur. We ease back into the comforts of town after a week in the wild.

DAY 10

Sun · 31 Jan

Rampur to Chandigarh

The final drive back to Chandigarh. You leave with memories of one of the rarest and most spectacular wildlife experiences on Earth.

THE WILDLIFE

Mammals and Birds

What lives in the cold desert.

The valleys and ridges around Chicham are among the richest snow leopard habitats in the world. On drives and walks, we search for:

MAMMALS

Snow Leopard
Asiatic Ibex
Blue Sheep (Bharal)
Red Fox
Himalayan Wolf

BIRDS

Golden Eagle
Lammergeier (Bearded Vulture)
Red-billed Chough
Alpine Chough
Himalayan Snowcock

THE PLACE

Spiti and Chicham

A landscape held by silence.

Spiti Valley in the cold desert of Himachal Pradesh is one of the last true wildernesses in India. Chicham, perched at 4,150 m across one of Asia's highest motorable bridges, sits at the heart of snow leopard country.

A stark landscape of frozen streams, ancient gorges, and snow-dusted peaks. In January, the valley is silent, cold, and extraordinary.

"This is winter Spiti at its rawest and most rewarding."



ALTITUDE — 4,150 M

LOCATION — CHICHAM, HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

BEST SEASON — DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY

WHAT TO EXPECT

Before you go

Read this carefully.

BEFORE YOU GO · SIX THINGS

01 Extreme cold

Temperatures routinely drop to minus 25°C and can fall as low as minus 30°C at night. Layered clothing is non-negotiable. A detailed packing list will follow with your booking confirmation.

02 Limited bathing

Daily showers are not recommended during the expedition due to the extreme weather conditions. Water pipes may occasionally freeze, affecting water availability. However, we will always do our best to keep you as comfortable as possible throughout the journey.

03 Altitude

Chicham sits at 4,150 m. Mountain sickness is a real risk. We build in two acclimatisation days for this reason. Hypothermia is also possible if precautions are ignored. Listen to your guides, drink water, move slowly.

04 Mountain weather is unpredictable

Roads can close without warning. Snowfall, landslides, and black ice are all possibilities. Itineraries may shift. Patience is part of the experience.

05 Book flexible return tickets

Please avoid booking a non-refundable return ticket from Chandigarh. We strongly recommend booking a flexible or refundable flight, as weather conditions in the mountains can be unpredictable and road closures are common. It is also advisable to keep a buffer day at the end of your trip to account for any unforeseen delays.

06 Dry toilets are possible

In some homestays and remote stops, dry composting toilets are the only option. They are clean, traditional, and managed with care. Bring your own toilet paper and a small headlamp.

WHAT TO BRING

Packing list

Bring less than you think. Bring warmer than you think.

CLOTHING & GENERAL

Good trekking shoes *(with ankle support)*

30L daypack with rain cover

2 pairs of thermals

1 woollen sweater

2 fleece layers

1 padded jacket

4 quick-dry T-shirts

Dry-fit trekking pants

Sunglasses

Sun hat

Gloves

Balaclava

Woollen cap

2 pairs of woollen socks

Trekking pole *(optional)*

Rain jacket and pants, or poncho

Sunscreen (SPF 50 PA++++) and moisturiser

Light towel

Lip balm or Vaseline

Toilet paper *(avoid wet wipes)*

Toiletries

Reusable plastic covers *(for used clothes)*

Two water bottles or hydration pack

Personal medical kit

CAMERA GEAR (optional)

High-resolution camera body

Telephoto lens, minimum 400mm

Teleconverter (*recommended*)

At least three fully charged batteries

Sturdy tripod

DOCUMENTS

A soft copy of a government photo ID — driver's licence, Aadhar card, or passport — is required for local permits. The original must be carried with you throughout the trip.

A disclaimer form will be sent ahead of the expedition. Print it, read it carefully, fill it in, and sign it. Hand it to your expedition leader at the first day's briefing.

THE TERMS

What's included.

Everything we cover, and what we don't.

INCLUSIONS

Accommodation

From Day 1 to Day 9 on a twin-sharing basis. Three meals a day, including tea, coffee, and snacks.

Transportation

All local transport from Day 1 to Day 10, Chandigarh to Chandigarh.

Naturalist

An expert naturalist who will help us spot snow leopards and other wildlife in the field.

Equipment

Technical equipment including spotting scopes and binoculars, on a shared basis.

Permits

All Inner Line Permits (for both Indian and foreign nationals), photography fees, and community welfare fees.

Safety

A high-altitude medical kit and oxygen cylinder, carried by the expedition team throughout.

EXCLUSIONS

Flight charges

Travel insurance

Personal porter (*available on request*)

Personal expenses

Anything not listed under inclusions

PAYMENT

A non-refundable advance of 25% is required to confirm your booking. The remaining balance must be settled at least 20 days before the expedition begins.

CANCELLATION

Between 11 and 20 days before departure	50%
10 days or fewer before departure	100%

GET IN TOUCH

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We respond within 24 hours.