1. **Snow Leopard Lodge**

**Overview :** The Snow Leopard Lodge is the only dedicated wildlife lodge in Ladakh. It began originally as a homestay owned by one of Ladakh’s top snow leopard trackers – Tchewang Norbu – under the auspices of a program initiated by the Snow Leopard Conservancy designed to use tourism as a conservation tool for the preservation of snow leopards and their ecosystem by putting tourism revenue directly into local community.

The Lodge is located in the village of Ulley in West Ladakh, north of the Indus River, at an altitude of about 13,000 feet. It is 2 - 3 hours driving time from Leh. Ulley itself is a hamlet of just 7 houses beyond which are the high summer pastures. This is excellent Ibex country and an area that has only recently been developed for Snow Leopard tracking. It has quickly gained a reputation not just for the high numbers of Snow Leopards but as one of the best areas to see Ibex, Urial, Wolf, Red Fox, Bearded and Himalayan Griffon Vultures and Golden Eagles.

The Snow Leopard lodge is also open in the summer from which to enjoy not just the stunning high altitude fauna, but also the flora of Ladakh, both on foot and using vehicles, guided all the way by our excellent nature guides and spotters.

**Access :** Fly into Leh Town from Delhi. Two-Three hours by road from Leh.

**Sample Itinerary and Day Plan**

* **Day 1-** Fly into Leh. Transfer to the hotel ( 15-30 min ). Check in and relax. 1-2 days to acclimatise.
* **Day 2** – short walks around Leh market or short drives to Thiksey Monastery.
* **Day 3-**Drive to Ulley and check in. Briefing by Lodge manager/naturalist.
* **Day 3-Day 8** - Days at Lodge
* Wake up call at 7 ( in winters – earlier in Summers )
* Breakfast at 8 30
* Day’s plan discussed then based on findings of the Spotters from earlier that morning ( guests can join the spotters early in the morning if they wish to)
* Based on information and distances, **excursions will be organised using the vehicles at the Lodge, coupled with short walks ( easy to medium difficulty ) to vantage points or possible sighting areas.** ( **Mules and porters can be provided if requested in advance** )
* Hot lunch at Lodge or in the field based on day’s plan.
* Return to the Lodge in the evening.
* Debrief in the common area over tea/coffee and snacks.
* Documentary projection or interaction with naturalists in the common area.
* Dinner at Lodge.
* **Day 9**- Check out and drive back to Leh. Check into hotel in Leh.
* **Day 10**-Tansfer to Leh airport and fly back to Delhi.

**Additional:**

* Excursions to sites away from Ulley ( eg. Lamayuru or Alchi) can also be arranged as an included service based on guest choices or sometimes based on information on sightings or big cat movement.
* A day trip towards the villages of Latho – Gya – Meru (road to Taglang La)[ for Bharal, Tibetan Partridge and other lesser wildlife that are seldom seen in the hills around Ulley] is often organised ( if prebooked ) from Leh, before the guests shift to Ulley.
* Pre and Post trip extensions for viewing Brown Bears and other wildlife/historic monuments in the Kargil area are organised from April- November. These expeditions will always be assisted by a tour leader. (Both homestays and camps can be organised based on budgets and guest preferences)

Snow Leopard Lodge in Itineraries (esp. for summer months )

1. As a standalone destination that can be accessed anytime from Leh to add a wilderness and wildlife dimension into an existing itinerary.
2. Can also be included in itineraries that cover Nimmu town or Alchi.
3. Minimum stay recommended – 3 nights ( summers ) , 5-7 nights ( winters )

