

# Land of the Snow Leopard

## And Traditional Life in an Ancient Buddhist Culture

Ladakh, India  
Aug. 30 - Sept. 14, 2012

KarmaQuest and the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) present a special opportunity for adventuresome members and friends of the San Francisco Zoological Gardens.

- The chance of a lifetime to track a wild snow leopard...
- A chance at survival for the endangered cat...
- Extra income for the mountain villagers who promise not to harm the leopards in exchange for your visit to their homestay.

This trip takes you high into the Western Himalaya where some of the best preserved Tibetan art culture remain. It is where some of



the last remaining snow leopards on earth make a home amidst their blue sheep prey, human shepherds, and tourists.

Your journey begins with a spectacular flight from Delhi to Leh. While you acclimatize to the altitude, you will explore Leh and take an overnight tour along the Indus River gorge to the Buddhist monasteries of Alchi and Liker.

Your Hemis National Park adventure begins with a leisurely day-hike to the picturesque village of Rumbak (elev. 12,500 ft.), where you will be hosted for 2 days and 3 nights by a Ladakhi family in their simple, clean traditional home (see photos).

You will be introduced to the community and learn about SLC's programs.

You will be treated to traditional foods and have the opportunity to partake in farming, butter-making or English lessons with the children, gaining new friends and insight into another way of life.

While you will be very lucky to see a snow leopard during the warm months, our guides will show you

tracks and other signs made by these magnificent cats. You may also see blue sheep, ibex and the impressive argali sheep, along with golden eagles, snow cocks and other unusual birds protected in Hemis National Park.

The colorful, vertical strata of ancient landscapes pierce the sky in dramatic, wind-eroded formations, and the slopes are carpeted with summer wildflowers.

Following your return hike from Rumbak, and an overnight in Leh, you will visit the beautiful, remote Nubra Valley, driving over the 18,380-ft Khardungla pass (claimed as the world's highest motorable road). Nubra, opened to tourists only in 1994, lies along Central Asia's ancient Silk Trade

If you would like more information, or to sign up for this trip, please contact KarmaQuest at 650-560-0101  
karmaquest@earthlink.net  
www.KarmaQuests.com

Route. In Nubra you will visit a 515-year-old monastery, and take a safari on double humped Bactrian camels.

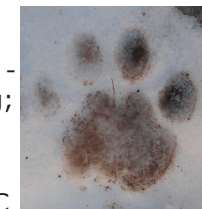
This special offering is timed to coincide with the Ladakh Festival, which will occur on your first day in Leh.

You will be accompanied on the trip by a Ladakhi snow leopard expert and a KarmaQuest director.



We ask each participant to agree to the following terms:

- Doctor's health clearance and Rx for *Diamox* (which helps with altitude adjustment);
- Self-coverage medical and medivac insurance;
- One month physical training --minimum exercise -- 1 hr per day walking;
- Signed release of liability for KarmaQuest and SLC



*The trip surpassed our expectations. Everything was a great experience for us, including meeting Ladakhi people and having fresh food on the trek.*

-John and Cathy Yee

*The most frequent question I am asked is, 'Would you do it again?' My answer is, 'In a minute!'*

-Mary Herrmann