

# Living with Snow Leopard Itinerary 2027

Dates: Feb 4<sup>th</sup> – Feb 16<sup>th</sup>

Cost: £ 3350 PP all-inclusive within Nepal for 12 nights 13 days.

Accompanied by: Dr Paras Bikram Singh (BIOCOS Nepal).

International travel not included in package.

## **Day 1: Arrival to Kathmandu**

As you arrive, our team ensures a seamless transition into your adventure. You will be welcomed at the airport, transferred to your hotel, and, depending on your arrival time, taken to Swayambhu (Monkey Temple) for an evening walk and dinner. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Swayambhu is famous for its ancient stupa, monasteries, and the Rhesus macaques that inhabit the surrounding forests. Timila Hotel.

At the same time, up at Snow Leopard Haven, the lead ranger and snow leopard scouts will start scanning in three specially chosen locations. Initiating the search at this point maximizes the chance of a sighting of these elusive big cats during your stay.

## **Day 2: Kathmandu to Besishahar**

9:00am pick up from your hotel and a drive to Besishahar which takes about 6-7 hours (172.9km). After approximately 3 hours' drive, a lunch break will be taken at the Brewery (Bier Garten Restaurant). Before and after lunch there will be a tea/coffee break.

Upon arrival in Besishahar, check into the resort. There is leisure time during the over-night stay. During this section of the journey there will be a walk over a suspension bridge. Gate Way Himalayan Resort.

## **Day 3: Besishahar to Chame;**

After breakfast at the hotel in Besishahar, you will be driven to Chame, the district headquarters of Manang.

The journey follows an off-road route, passing through several beautiful locations, including Ngadi, Chamche Waterfall, Octopus Waterfall, Taal Village, Dharapani, and Timang Village. Along the way you will get stunning views of the Manaslu Himalayan Range, with Timang Village offering the best vantage point. The jeep will stop at various locations to ensure you have opportunities to take photographs including tea/coffee breaks. Lunch will be in Taal village, two hours' drive from Besishahar.

The landscape changes significantly as you drive toward Chame, making the journey diverse and refreshing. Approximately 4–5 hours after leaving Besishahar you will arrive in Chame.

Check in at Hotel White Stupa, where you will have dinner and stay overnight. From here, you can enjoy views of Lamjung Himal and sections of the Manaslu Range.

A morning bird watching in the forest and farmlands of Chame will be organised. Your stay in Chame will also help with acclimatization, which is crucial before travelling to higher altitudes. Here, you will truly feel that you are in the heart of the mountains. Hotel White Stupa.

#### **Day 4: Chame to Pisang**

After breakfast at the hotel and a health check-up (blood pressure, oxygen saturation, and pulse rate) in a district-level hospital, you will be driven to Bharatang, where a 2-3 hour leisurely hike to Pisang begins, through the habitat of Musk Deer. You will see latrine sites, which are an indicator as to how these deer are thriving. This is not hard trekking, but essential for acclimatization to altitude. Lunch break will be taken in Dhikurpokhari after trekking an hour from Bharatang.

During this trek, you will begin to experience the transition from the Himalayan to the Trans-Himalayan region.

On arrival in Pisang, check into Hotel Manang Marsyangdi.

Later an optional hike is recommended to Green Lake, where you can enjoy breathtaking views of the Himalayas.

Dinner and overnight stay in Pisang. Hotel Marsyangdi.

#### **Day 5: Pisang to Nagwal to Manang**

After breakfast at the hotel, you will start your day with a trek for two hours through Green Lake, then drive to Qbesi via the upper trail. This section will take approximately 5–6 hours. Lunch break will be in Ngwal, and tea breaks will be taken before and after lunch.

There is a 1.5–3 hours hike before being driven to Manang. Along this route, both while hiking and driving, you will enjoy unobstructed views of the Annapurna Himalayas (Annapurna II, III, and IV), Pisang Peak, and Julu East and West Peaks. The upper trail offers a panoramic view of the entire Annapurna Himalayan Range.

This region receives significantly less rainfall, creating a distinct landscape. Manang Village is situated at an altitude of 3,519m / 11,545ft.

Dinner and overnight stay is at the Hotel Yeti, Manang. Manang is located just behind the Annapurna Himalaya Range, which is the shortest drive back from the back of the Himalayas to Kathmandu and other major cities of Nepal located south of the Himalayas. To the north of Pokhara, we see the Annapurna Himalaya. In Manang, the Annapurna Range stands above the south side of the Neshyang Valley. That means, you will see Annapurna Range on the south of Manang. Hotel Yeti.

#### **Day 6: Manang to Snow Leopard Haven**

After breakfast at Hotel Yeti, you hike to Snow Leopard Haven.

During this hike, there will be bird watching with each bird being identified and listed. Birders visit here to see the White Browed Tit Warbler, as this is the best-known location outside Tibet to see this alpine bird. Snow pigeon, Chukar, Bearded Vulture, Himalayan Griffon, Himalayan Snow Cock, Tibetan Partridge, and other alpine birds are commonly seen in this area.

Once at Snow Leopard Haven, check in, freshen up, and have lunch. In the afternoon there is an overall programme briefing, then an evening visit to the nearest sites where snow leopards have been spotted in the past.

## **Day 7: Snow Leopard Haven**

Scouts start day the day at 5:00am aiming to spot snow leopard. They will then inform the lodge (Snow Leopard Haven) via radio and you will be guided to where the scouts are. A packed lunch will be provided.

After the evening meal, the Lead Ranger and scouts share their stories of snow leopard encounters, including evidence, plus their journey of research and much more.

## **Day 8: Snow Leopard Haven**

**Tracing pug marks.** You will be guided to follow a snow leopard trail. Whilst following the trail, you will be given transparent paper where you will trace a pugmark, which we will frame for you to take home. Additionally you will see urine spray sites of snow leopard and characterize them. The Ranger will explain the sites, during which time other scouts are out scanning the area for snow leopard. Return to Snow Leopard Haven for lunch and a rest.

In the evening (16:00 onward) you will be escorted to snow leopard kill sites, following instruction on codes and conducts. Again scouts are out looking for snow leopards.

## **Day 9: Snow Leopard Haven**

This is a guided day of Alpine bird watching, also counting blue sheep and yak. The day is conducted in a confidential site to maintain its protection. During this time, scouts are scanning the area to spot snow leopards.

## **Day 10: Snow Leopard Haven**

This is a further guided day of Alpine bird watching, also counting blue sheep and yak. The day is conducted in different confidential sites. During this time, scouts are scanning the area to spot snow leopards.

## **Day 11: Snow Leopard Haven to Besishahar**

Hike back to Manang Village after breakfast, continuing bird watching while descending down from 3920m (13000 ft.) to 3540 m (11500 ft.). After taking a coffee break in Manang, drive down to Chame. Lunch at White Stupa, Chame then a drive down to Besishahar.

Enjoy a tea break at Chamche Waterfall and Ngyadi Village.

Check in at Gateway Himalaya Resort at 4:30 PM, followed by a tour closing party.

## **Day 12: Besishahar to Kathmandu**

After breakfast, you will leave Besishahar at approximately 9:30am, driving towards Kathmandu.

Lunch will be taken at Riverside Spring Resort. After an hour and a half drive from the lunch spot, there will be a tea/coffee break before reaching Kathmandu.

In the evening, enjoy a farewell dinner with a Nepalese cultural show.

Hotel Fairfield by Marriot OR Timila

## **Day 13: Departure from Tribhuvan International Airport**

You will be dropped off at the airport according to your flight schedule.

*For those interested in extending their tour, options such as homestays, monastery stays, and visits to UNESCO World Heritage Sites should be considered and booked with Nameste Manang*