Ladakh's Snow Leopards

Naturetrek Tour Report

18th February – 2nd March 2025







Snow Leopard



Scenic



Scenic

Tour report by Snehaa Sundaram, photos by Snehaa Sundaram and Ann and Peter Smith



Naturetrek Mingledown Barn

Wolf's Lane

Chawton

Alton

Hampshire

GU34 3HJ

UK

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

Tour Participants: Snehaa Sundaram (leader) with three Naturetrek clients

Summary

This 13-day Ladakh journey had everything one can love about the mountains - wildlife, culture, and the surreal beauty of these breathtaking landscapes. Guests arrived in New Delhi on the morning of February 18th before heading up to Leh, where we spent two days acclimatizing and exploring monasteries. But an unexpected surprise awaited us on Day 2—a possible Snow Leopard sighting with a kill in Ney. Without a second thought, we set off, spending an entire day observing the elusive ghost of the mountains. Watching the cat from as close as 100 meters, completely at ease with our presence, was a surreal moment for the group. A curious Red Fox made an appearance, cautiously approaching the kill but keeping its distance from the big cat.

The following day was all about Ladakh's rich heritage—we explored Thiksey Monastery, admired ancient petroglyphs, and scanned the riverbanks for high-altitude birds like the Ibisbill, Bearded Vulture, Red-billed Chough, and Great Rosefinch. Once we felt ready for the cold and thin air, we set off for Ulley—where the real adventure began.

Perched high in the mountains, our cozy and secluded homestay was a warm welcome, with a fantastic team and skilled local spotters. The next few days were a thrilling mix of scanning ridgelines, following fresh tracks, and listening keenly for distant calls. We found Snow Leopard tracks and scrapes along a frozen stream, and one evening, we even heard the unmistakable mating calls of a Snow Leopard—signaling the start of the season. Alongside this, we had thrilling Wolf sightings in Hemis Shukpachan and Yangthang, where we watched one lazily stretch before disappearing over a ridge.

The journey was just as much about Ladakh's birdlife as it was about its apex predators. Brown Dippers bobbed in icy streams, Plain Mountain Finches moved in mesmerizing flocks, a striking White-browed Tit-Warbler made a special appearance, and raptors like the Peregrine Falcon and Golden Eagle soared against the Himalayan backdrop. The Asiatic Ibex herds and Ladakh Urials kept us on our toes, moving lower due to the snowfall and offering fantastic sightings.

Beyond wildlife, our timing was perfect for the Dosmoche Festival at Likir Monastery. The monastery courtyard came alive with masked dances, the hum of chants, and the vibrant colours of traditional Ladakhi attire. Locals, wrapped in blankets, spun their prayer wheels as they watched the performances—a beautiful celebration marking the end of the Tibetan New Year.

Even our drive back to Leh was full of surprises—five Urials crossing a frozen stream, a murmuration of 60 Brandt's Mountain Finches, and Chukar Partridges striking perfect poses against the snow.

Then came the snow. Heavy overnight snowfall (5-6 inches) on Day 11 led to flight cancellations, giving us an extra day to explore Leh under fresh snow. We made the most of it—wandering through the market, sending postcards from the post office, and picking up saffron tea to take back home.

As the skies finally cleared, we headed back to Delhi. Over a farewell dinner at Pride Plaza, we reflected on all the unforgettable moments—the Snow Leopard sighting, the Wolves, the festival, the vast landscapes, and the

incredible people we met along the way. Ladakh, once again, proved to be raw, unpredictable, and absolutely unforgettable.

Highlights from the trip:

- Snow Leopard sighting: Observed with a kill from just 100 meters away
- Mammals spotted: Red Fox, Himalayan Wolf, Asiatic Ibex, Ladakh Urial, and Blue Sheep
- Birds recorded: 24 species, including Bearded Vulture, White-browed Tit-Warbler, Ibisbill, and Golden Eagle

A truly successful journey into Ladakh's wild heart.

Day 1

Tuesday 18th February

-12C, Blue skies and sunny

The guests arrived at New Delhi Airport at 1:15 AM and were transferred directly to the domestic terminal. I received them at the departure gate of the New Delhi Domestic Terminal for our flight to Leh, scheduled for 6:50 AM. After introductions and a brief orientation, we boarded our flight, which landed in Leh 45 minutes late.

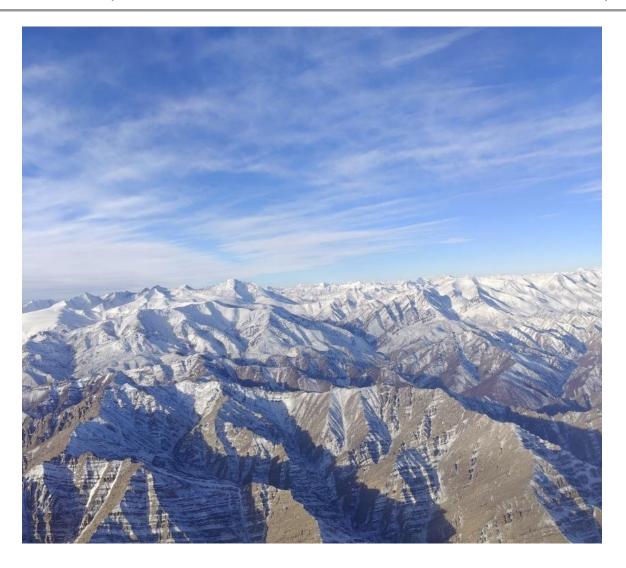
Flying over the snow-clad Himalayas, this is one of the most scenic flights, and I had briefed the guests to keep an eye out for breathtaking views and photo opportunities. The blue streams and white mountains made for stunning visuals—an incredible start to the exciting journey ahead.

At Leh Airport, the guests filled out forms regarding their stay, and after collecting our bags, we were welcomed by the local team, who escorted us to Tsokar Retreat. The temperature on arrival was -12°C. Our hotel, Tsokar Retreat, was conveniently located near the market, just a 15-minute drive from the airport. After checking in, we went to our rooms, which were spacious, heated, and comfortable.

Everyone settled in and met at 1:30 pm for lunch in the dining area in the basement. After lunch, I briefed the guests on the importance of adequate rest and hydration for altitude acclimatization. Following a good afternoon rest, we reconvened at 5:30 pm for tea and an orientation session. I provided an overview of the landscape, the wildlife we would be looking out for, and the plan for the next two days in Leh for acclimatization.

Our plan included visiting Thiksey Monastery, birdwatching along the Indus River, and having a relaxed day.

Dinner was served at 7:00 pm, after which we retired for the night.



Day 2

Wednesday 19th February

-10C Sunny, Little wind

After a good night's rest, the morning began with exciting news—a Snow Leopard and its cub had been spotted on a kill in Rumbak, about 2.5 hours away. After discussing with the local team, our guide, Morup, suggested trying our luck and heading for the sighting. The guests were informed to prepare their gear and equipment for a full day out.

We had breakfast at 8:30 am and left the hotel with packed lunches. Just 30 minutes after leaving Leh, we received a call from Morup about another Snow Leopard sighting in Ney, a village 2.5 hours away. This was a male Snow Leopard that had made a kill - a Dzo (a hybrid of Yak and domestic cattle). The sighting was at a much closer range. Excited by this incredible opportunity, we immediately changed our route and headed toward Ney.

We arrived at Ney by 11:00 am and found several other wildlife enthusiasts already watching the big cat, which was resting among the rocks. The kill had been made right next to a house. To avoid the crowd and get a better vantage point, we moved to a quieter spot where we had a private view of the sleeping Leopard, about 400 meters away.

Our local team of four set up scopes, and we could see a part of the Leopard - its belly well camouflaged among the rocks. As we watched, a Red Fox approached the carcass, cautiously inspecting it. Aware of the Leopard's presence above, the Fox moved carefully, taking a few sniffs of the Dzo before wandering away. It was fascinating to watch this natural interaction unfold, a rare and thrilling moment in the wild.

The Snow Leopard occasionally emerged from its resting spot to bask in the sun, preening itself for long periods. Bloodstains from the hunt were visible on its fur as it meticulously cleaned itself.

We had our packed lunch along with some hot vegetable rice generously offered by a local family. While waiting, we observed Chukars foraging in the open fields, a Great Rosefinch, a majestic Bearded Vulture soaring above us, a Robin Accentor, and a Golden Eagle perched on the opposite ridge before taking flight.

Around 5:00 pm, an ideal time when Snow Leopards typically begin moving as sunset approaches—the Leopard started waking up. I moved closer to the stream in front for a different photographic angle as it began descending. We quickly set up scopes and readied our cameras. The Leopard seemed intent on approaching its kill but remained cautious of our presence. It took slow, deliberate steps and even attempted to chase away a Eurasian Magpie.

After some time, to our amazement, it moved even closer and, to our utter disbelief, sat just 100 meters in front of us. It was a spectacular moment—this elusive, shy big cat was relaxed, sitting in full view, yet perfectly camouflaged against the rocky landscape. I reminded the guests to truly cherish this rare experience.

We took several pictures, soaking in the once-in-a-lifetime sighting. As darkness set in, we left the Snow Leopard undisturbed and returned to Leh for dinner. Over our meal, we shared our personal highlights of the day before retiring for the night on an unforgettable note.



Thursday 20th February

-6C to -12 C Cloudy & Windy

After breakfast at 8:00 am, we planned a relaxed day to visit Thiksey Monastery, explore some petroglyphs, and do some birding along the Indus River. This was our last day to acclimatize before heading to Ulley.

At 9:30 am, with tea and cookies packed for the road, we set off for Thiksey Monastery, a 20-minute drive, accompanied by our local guide, Jigmat. From the parking area, a short hike up the old stairs led us to the monastery. The guests enjoyed learning about Buddhism and the history of the monastery, which closely resembles Tibet's Potala Palace. The stunning twelve-story complex is adorned with intricate Thangka paintings, statues, and wall murals. We spent a good three hours exploring Ladakhi Buddhist culture, ending with a spectacular aerial view of Leh and the Indus River from the monastery's terrace. Flocks of Red-billed and Alpine Choughs circled the complex, while Hill Pigeons and Eurasian Magpies nested in the Poplars.

After a refreshing cup of tea with a scenic view, we headed toward the riverside near Stakna to see ancient petroglyphs depicting Ibex, Snow Leopards, and hunting scenes. The area was lined with Sea Buckthorn bushes along the river.

Next, we drove to Choglamsar Bridge and explored the riverbed in search of the well-camouflaged Ibisbill. However, with numerous street dogs moving along the riverbank, we weren't too confident about spotting it. Instead, we observed Red-billed Choughs, Hill Pigeons, and a pair of Ruddy Shelducks.

By 2:00 pm, we returned to the hotel for a hearty lunch, where we also spotted Cinereous Tits and House Sparrows in the garden. After a short afternoon rest, we headed to Leh Market at 4:30 pm (a 10-minute drive) for some shopping. Since it was winter, many shops were closed, but the guests picked up pashmina shawls, magnets, and postcards.

The day was cloudy and windy, but we decided to visit Shanti Stupa at 5:30 PM, even though we didn't expect a sunset view. The structure stood out in its pristine white magnificence, and the panoramic view from the top was breathtaking.

We returned to the hotel by 6:30 pm, met for dinner, and discussed the plan for the next day as we prepared for our journey to Ulley. With excitement for the upcoming adventure, we retired for the night.

Ladakh's Snow Leopards Tour Report





Day 4

Friday 21st February

-5C Sunny and blue skies

It was a bright, sunny morning with clear blue skies. We met for breakfast at 8:00 am, excited for the adventure ahead as we journeyed to Ulley in search of more wildlife. By 9:30 am, with our bags packed, we set off.

Our first stop was at Leh Palace for some quick photos before continuing. Ulley sits 500 meters higher than Leh, and the drive was incredibly scenic. Along the way, we paused at the Indus-Zanskar confluence, where the blue waters were breathtaking, with patches of melting ice floating on the surface. A large flock of Alpine Choughs caught our attention, their striking yellow bills standing out against the landscape. We also spotted Horned Larks by the roadside.

As we ascended the winding roads, we stopped at Basgo, where Jigmat shared the history of the ancient kingdom that once ruled the region. Here, we had great sightings of Güldenstädt's Redstarts and Chukars.

Entering Saspochey, we paused at a vantage point to scan the valleys for Urials. Instead, we were rewarded with a spectacular sighting of a Bearded Vulture soaring majestically in front of us.

By 12:00 pm, we arrived at our homestay—Snow Leopard Trails Homestay—a cozy, warm retreat with a fireplace in the dining area. After settling into our rooms, we met for lunch at 2:00 pm. The local spotters had already begun scanning the mountains, and we caught sight of a herd of Asiatic Ibex.

At 3:30 pm, we took a short stroll around the homestay. We spotted a pair of Golden Eagles, and soon after, we found the Ibex herd again, this time getting a closer look at their impressive white saddlebacks. There were at least 29 individuals, including males, females, and young ones, grazing on the rugged slopes. The wind had picked up, making the cold even sharper.

While exploring the arid mountain flora, we noticed several shrubs known locally as Longze (*Acantholimon lycopodioides*), their dried red stems bright against the landscape, with delicate pink flowers blooming across the slopes.

By 5:00 pm, we returned to the homestay for tea while the spotters continued scanning. Dinner was served at 7:00 pm, a simple yet fresh meal—after which we gathered for a checklist session and an engaging discussion about Ladakh's wildlife and conservation efforts across India.

It had been a fulfilling day, and we eagerly looked forward to what the next morning would bring.

Day 5

Saturday 22nd February

-12C Sunny and windy, Occasional clouds

The day began with the first light as we scanned the area from the lodge premises. The Ibex herd had moved higher up the slopes, silhouetted against the morning sun. It looked like a bright and promising day.

After a hearty breakfast, at 9:15 am, we received exciting news—Wolves had been sighted in Hemis Schupachen, a neighbouring valley. Without wasting time, we set off, scanning the landscape along the way. By 10:15 am, we arrived at the location and soon spotted three Wolves resting about 500 meters away.



Curled up next to each other for warmth, they occasionally stretched and glanced in our direction. The alpha Wolf stood out with striking grey markings, white patches, and distinct orange ears. Another had a beautiful reddish summer coat coming in, and the third was noticeably grey all over.

The homestay team kindly brought us lunch to the spot, and we enjoyed a picnic meal while watching the Wolves—a truly special moment. Across the opposite slope, a herd of Urials—around 12 individuals—grazed peacefully on the open terrain.

By 3:00 pm, the Wolves stirred, stretching before moving towards the other side of the ridge. We quickly drove around to get a better view, but by 4:00 pm, they had disappeared into the vast landscape.

On our way back to the homestay, we continued scanning the terrain before dusk. Alongside the day's incredible mammal sightings, we also observed Chukars—allowing guests to capture some fantastic photographs. We also spotted Eurasian Magpies, Red-billed Choughs, and Robin Accentors.

Tired but thrilled after an unforgettable day, we gathered for dinner at 7:00 pm, sharing our highlights of the day's sightings before heading to bed, eager for what tomorrow would bring.

Day 6

Sunday 23rd February

-12C Sunny & Blue skies

Spotters began scanning the valley at first light. We had breakfast at 8:30 am, and by then, we received news of fresh Snow Leopard tracks leading toward Spango Valley.

As we scanned the area, we spotted Chukar partridges, Güldenstädt's Redstarts, and Brown Accentors near the stream. We then drove to Hemis Schupachen again, where the temperature had dropped to a freezing -12°C, with strong winds adding to the chill. While searching for tracks and signs, we found abundant Wolf scat and bones, along with an old Snow Leopard scat—suggesting that predators frequently used this pathway to move between valleys.

Further along, we came across two male Ibex resting on a ridge, providing guests with excellent photography opportunities as their silhouettes stood out against the deep blue sky. We continued our journey, driving up to the Dakmar Caves to scan the other side of the valley.

There, we spotted a herd of Urials and were treated to a breathtaking display by a pair of Golden Eagles performing their courtship dance. They circled high in the sky, making sudden, shallow dives—an incredible aerial performance to witness. We had lunch with a stunning view from the mountaintop and were lucky to observe Himalayan Griffon Vultures soaring overhead.

The mountains displayed hues of purple, green, yellow, and pink—a mesmerizing sight. While waiting, we also noticed vibrant lichen on the rocks in striking shades of orange, yellow, and black.

Later in the day, we spotted a herd of female and young Ibex, taking time to observe their behaviour. Returning to the homestay by 4:00 pm, we continued scanning from the premises. A Golden Eagle perched in the distance, and the Ibex numbers seemed to have doubled—we counted at least 40 individuals resting and grazing.

Other sightings included Chukars, a Bearded Vulture, and Robin Accentors. As the sun set over the mountains, we gathered for our checklist session and dinner. Tonight, guests had the opportunity to try some delicious local Ladakhi dishes, sharing stories and reflections before resting for the night.

Ladakh's Snow Leopards Tour Report



Day 7

Monday 24th February

-8C Warmer and blue skies

Hoping for a snow leopard sighting today, we set off after breakfast, driving towards Mangyu Valley (about an hour away) via Rong. The journey was spectacular, with narrow mountain passes and breathtaking views.

In Rong, we stopped by a stream where we spotted a Brown Dipper. Guests were thrilled, capturing some great photos as we watched the bird dive and feed along the water. Along the drive, we also observed Güldenstädt's Redstarts, Brown Accentors, and large flocks of Plain Mountain Finches. A brief but exciting sighting of a White-browed Tit-Babbler in the bushes near the stream added to the list.

Upon reaching Mangyu, we drove up to a vantage point to scan the landscape. A small group of 5–6 Blue Sheep grazed high up on the snow-capped peaks. The day was relatively warm, and we took short strolls around the area, though the temperature (-8°C) seemed to limit wildlife movement.

On our way back down, we paused to scan the slopes and found some Ibex. The Indus River shimmered in a stunning glacial blue under the sunlight, and we stopped by a bridge to admire its beauty. A pair of Bearded Vultures soared overhead, and the highlight of the day was a sighting of a Blue Whistling Thrush.

As the evening approached, we started our drive back, hoping for a last-minute sighting. The spotters scanned several areas along the way, but luck wasn't on our side today. We reached the lodge in time for dinner, reflecting on the day's sightings and looking forward to what tomorrow might bring.

Tuesday 25th February

-12 to -15C Snowfall and cloudy

A cloudy and windy morning began with scanning the slopes, anticipating some exciting news. After breakfast, we received word of fresh Snow Leopard tracks moving towards Ulley from Spango. Eager to investigate, we set off to track the elusive cat.

Upon reaching the location, we climbed down to a frozen stream, where we found Snow Leopard tracks and scrape markings along the river and ice. The tracks led along the river and onto the road towards Ulley village, a promising sign of recent movement.

As we examined the tracks, a call came through on the radio. Wolves had been sighted in Yangthang. We quickly drove to the village and were rewarded with a beautiful sighting of a lone Wolf perched atop a cliff. We watched as it stretched leisurely, much like a domestic dog, before making its way down the other side and disappearing. Determined to catch another glimpse, we repositioned ourselves and followed the Wolf's movement, stopping at multiple vantage points until it finally vanished into the rugged terrain.

During our explorations, we also spotted a variety of birds, including a Brown Dipper by the stream, Chukar, Bearded Vulture, Common Kestrel, Peregrine Falcon, Eurasian Magpie, Red-billed Chough, Alpine Chough, Cinereous Tit, Güldenstädt's Redstart, Robin Accentor, and Plain Mountain Finch.

By midday, the weather took a sudden turn—snow began to fall, accompanied by strong winds. We returned to the homestay to warm up and enjoy lunch while watching the valley slowly turn white under a fresh blanket of snow.

Post-lunch, we hiked down behind the homestay to scan the opposite slopes, hoping for movement. A Golden Eagle perched majestically against the skyline, its feathers ruffling in the wind as it surveyed the valley. Hand warmers and foot warmers kept us comfortable as we patiently scanned the slopes through the snowfall.

By 5:30 pm, with no further sightings, we headed back indoors to warm up. The day ended with our usual checklist session, followed by a cozy dinner before turning in for the night, hopeful for what lay ahead.

Wednesday 26th February

-8C Snowfall and cloudy

We were out scanning the valley post-sunrise. Heavy snowfall overnight had turned everything white, and the Ibex herd had moved lower due to the snow. Around 9 am, after breakfast, we planned a drive to Likir Monastery for the Dosmoche Festival, a two-day Buddhist festival celebrated in Leh, Likir, and Diskit monasteries. This marks the end of Tibetan New Year celebrations, where traditional masked dances take place as a way of purifying the town from evil spirits and praying for peace and prosperity in the coming year.

The drive to Likir took about an hour, moving slowly through winding, snow-covered roads. People from nearby villages were also making their way to the monastery, wrapped in layers, eager to be part of the celebrations. When we reached, we found a good spot to witness the festival. Despite the snow, the monastery courtyard was packed with families sat on mats, bundled in blankets, watching the performances unfold.



Several masked dancers, dressed in vibrant traditional attire, performed in rhythmic movements, bowing to the monks. The air was filled with the sound of chanting and prayer wheels spinning as people watched in awe. The guests were thrilled, capturing some incredible photographs while taking in the energy of the place.

After spending a good amount of time at the festival, we stopped outside the monastery for lunch. The snowfall had picked up, and visibility was getting poor, so we decided to head back soon.

On the way, we stopped at Saspochey for a quick scan and spotted a White-browed Tit-Warbler moving through the bushes. A special sighting! Guests managed to get a few record shots before it disappeared into the thickets.

Further down, we found some old Snow Leopard scat and decided to wait and scan the area. Suddenly, a deep call echoed through the valley—it sounded like a Snow Leopard mating call! We stood in complete silence, ears and eyes focused. After 15–20 minutes, we heard it again, but this time from the other side of the ridge. Snow leopard mating season had just begun!

Excited, we continued scanning, making several stops along the way, even as the snowfall got heavier and visibility worsened. Our spotters stayed persistent, searching every slope and ridge.

During the day, we also spotted Güldenstädt's Redstart, Brown Dipper, Robin Accentor, and Plain Mountain Finch.

It was our last night, but with the sound of the Snow Leopard call still fresh in our minds, we hadn't lost hope yet.

Day 10

Thursday 27th February

-10C cloudy & snowfall

Heavy snowfall through the night had turned the valley into a pristine white expanse. We woke up to a foggy morning and tried scanning through the mist. A pair of Himalayan Snowcocks were calling continuously—seemingly enjoying the temperature drop to -10°C.

Post-breakfast, we watched 25 Ibex skilfully climbing uphill before heading out to Spango Valley for one last attempt at spotting a Snow Leopard and some birding. But with visibility still poor, we decided to pack up post-lunch and slowly make our way back to Leh, scanning along the way.

By 2 pm, we had our bags packed, thanked the homestay team for their warmth and hospitality, and set off. Driving through Rong Valley, we spotted five Urials gracefully crossing the road and pausing by the stream to watch us. Just then, a flock of 60 small finch-like birds murmured in synchronized flight before settling on the road. Brandt's Mountain Finches! A fantastic sighting. Along the way, 10–12 Chukars posed beautifully, while Güldenstädt's Redstarts flitted about in good numbers.

We made a stop at Alchi Monastery to admire the ancient wall paintings. The monastery was nearly empty—it was the second day of Dosmoche, and most of the village had gone to Likir for the celebrations. Driving further, we saw petroglyphs along the strikingly blue Indus River, a reminder of the region's rich history.

We finally reached Leh around 6:30 pm, checking into Tsokar Retreat just as light snowfall began. The cold was setting in, but inside, there was a warm sense of fulfilment.

After completing the checklist, we reminisced about the incredible moments from the trip—especially our Snow Leopard encounters. It was hard to believe the journey had come to an end, but we were leaving with so many unforgettable memories.

Guests were briefed about airport formalities for the next day, and after a final dinner together, we called it a night.



Day 11

Friday 28th February

-12C snow

The morning had a surprise in store for us—5–6 inches of fresh snow overnight, and it was still coming down. Around 7 am, we received news that all flights from Leh had been cancelled due to bad weather. With the help of the office, we rearranged our flights for the next day and booked another night at Tsokar Lodge.

Several other guests, also stranded due to cancellations, gathered at the hotel, watching the snowfall and making the most of the unexpected extra day.

By 2 pm, after lunch, we decided to take a short drive to the market. Snow-clearing machines were at work, but we saw many vehicles getting stuck along the way. We managed to reach the post office, where guests sent postcards to family and friends—a lovely way to share memories from this incredible journey.

A quick stop at the market allowed us to pick up some Saffron Tea to take back home. With snow still falling, we slowly made our way back to the hotel, embracing the extra time in this winter wonderland.

Saturday 1st March

29C

We had breakfast in the morning, ran through the airport baggage specifics, and departed around 10 am. The skies were clear, the sun was out, and we were hopeful that flights would finally take off.

By 11 am, we reached the busy airport, packed with travellers who had missed their flights the previous day. Security formalities took some time, but everything went smoothly. Our flight, arriving from Delhi, was on schedule, and by 1 pm, we were on board, heading back. We landed at Delhi Airport by 3 pm, where we were met and dropped off at Pride Plaza Aerocity.

While waiting in Delhi traffic, we spotted some Common Mynas, Bank Mynas, Black Kites, and Rose-ringed Parakeets—a small reminder that nature exists even in the busiest cities.

Later, at 7 pm, I met the guests at Pride Plaza for a farewell dinner. We enjoyed some local Indian snacks, classic dishes, and indulgent desserts. It was a great meal after a long day, and we spent time reflecting on the incredible memories from the past 10 days.

With the next day's plans in place, we called it a night, bringing this unforgettable journey to a close.

Day 13

Sunday 2nd March

28C

After breakfast, I picked up the guests at 7:30 am, and we left for Delhi International Airport to catch their 10:50 am flight to Heathrow.

At the airport, we exchanged goodbyes—a bittersweet moment after an incredible journey together. The guests departed, carrying with them unforgettable memories of Ladakh, its breathtaking landscapes, and the incredible wildlife we encountered.

With that, the journey came to an end, but the experiences will stay with us forever.

Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit www.naturetrek.co.uk to sign up.

Social Media

We're social! Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and be the first to hear about the launch of new tours, offers and exciting sightings and photos from our recently returned holidays.



Species lists

Mammals

Common name	Scientific name	February 2025										
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
Asiatic Ibex	Capra sibirica				√		√	√	√		√	
Ladakh Urial	Ovis vignei					√	√	√			√	
Snow Leopard	Panthera uncia		√									
Red Fox	Vulpes vulpes		√									
Himalayan/Tibetan Wolf	Canis himalayensis					√			√			
Blue Sheep/ Bharal	Pseudois nayaur							√				

Birds (H = Heard only)

Common name		February 2025									
	Scientific name	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Ruddy Shelduck	Tadorna ferruginea			√							
Himalayan Snowcock	Tetraogallus himalayensis		√		√	√	√	√	√	√	✓
Chukar Partridge	Alectoris chukar										
Hill Pigeon	Columba rupestris			√						√	√
Bearded Vulture	Gypaetus barbatus		√		√			√	√		√
Himalayan Vulture	Gyps himalayensis						√				
Golden Eagle	Aquila chrysaetos				√		√		√		√
Common Kestrel	Falco tinnunculus								√		
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus								√		
Eurasian Magpie	Pica pica	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
Red-billed Chough	Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax			√		√	√	√	√		√
Alpine Chough	Pyrrhocorax graculus				√				√		
Cinereous Tit	Parus cinereus	√		√	√				√	√	√
Horned Lark	Eremophila alpestris				/						

Common name	Scientific name	February 2025										
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
White-browed Tit- warbler	Leptopoecile sophiae							√		√		
Blue Whistling Thrush	Myophonus caeruleus											
Güldenstädt's Redstart	Phoenicurus erythrogastrus				√		√	√	√	√	√	
Brown Dipper	Cinclus pallasii							√	√	√	√	
House Sparrow	Passer domesticus			√								
Robin Accentor	Prunella rubeculoides		√			√	√		√	√	√	
Brown Accentor	Prunella fulvescens						√	√				
Plain Mountain Finch	Leucosticte nemoricola							√	√	√		
Great Rosefinch	Carpodacus rubicilla		√									
Brandt's Mountain Finch	Leucosticte brandti										✓	