

— INDIA —

THE HIMALAYAS

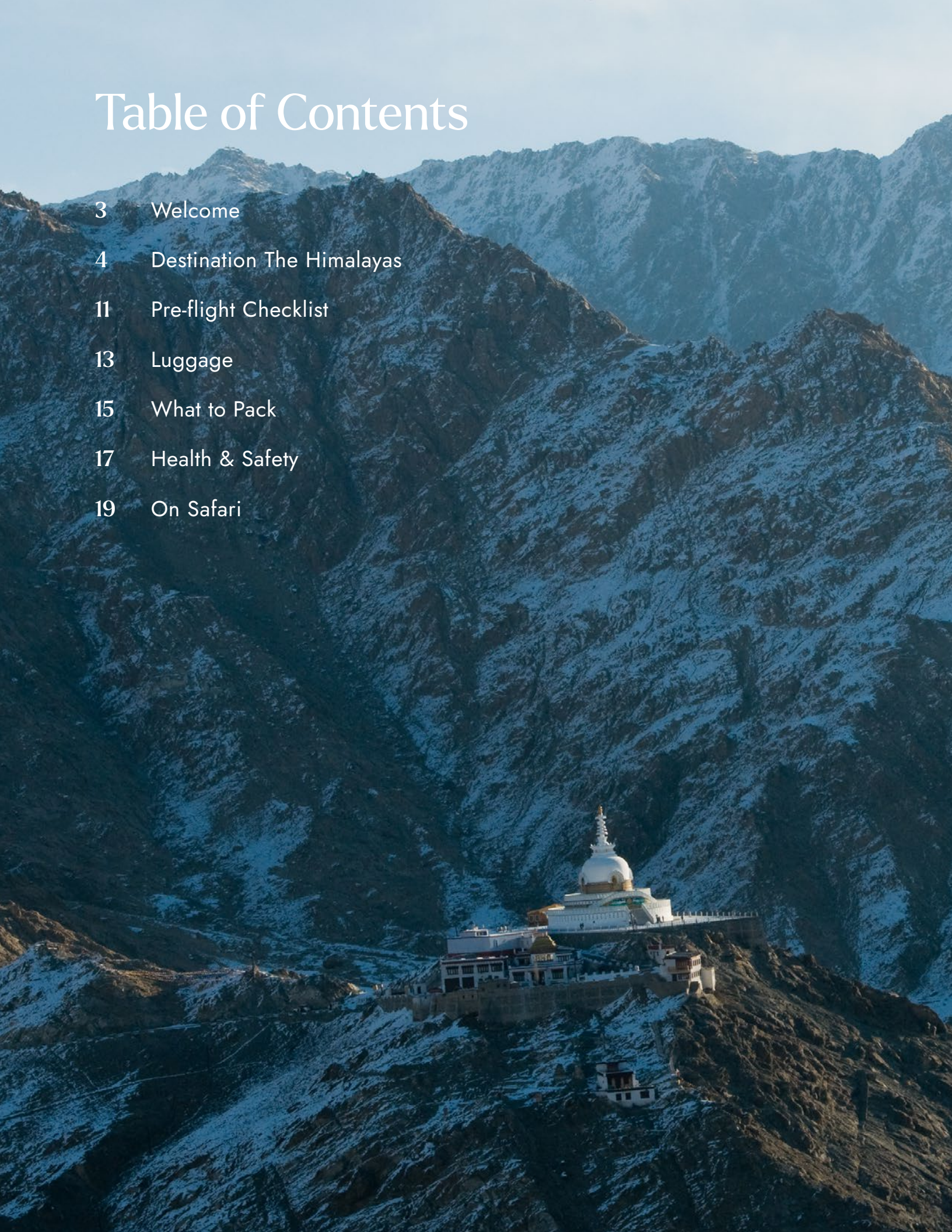
THE REWILD WAY



REWILD
SAFARISSM

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Welcome!

We are excited and grateful you have entrusted us to guide and support you on your journey. Please consider this guidebook essential instructions for your upcoming adventure.

Refer to it for everything from passport and visa instructions to tipping etiquette, as well as important health, safety, and conservation information.

At Rewild Safaris, our “what” is providing sustainable luxury for travelers and continuing our growth as a leader in conservation-centered premium travel. Our “why” is to inspire traveler commitment to wildlife protection, preservation, and the rehabilitation of the wild.

We hope to help “rewild” your soul and spirit through these life-changing escapes from an overdeveloped world, to profoundly connect you to the wild, and inspire support for vital global conservation efforts.

By joining us on this adventure, you are helping to protect India’s incredible wildlife and support sustainable tourism. Together, we can ensure these wild spaces thrive for generations to come. So let the rewilding begin!



Tom LaRock
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER



James Ward
CHIEF EXPLORATIONS OFFICER



DESTINATION THE HIMALAYAS



IN THE REALM OF MOUNTAINS, THE GHOST ROAMS.

The Himalayas rise in silence—vast ridges of ice and stone, winds carrying the snap of prayer flags, valleys carved by time itself. It is here, in this remote and unforgiving wilderness, that the elusive snow leopard moves unseen. To follow its trail is to step into a world where endurance, patience, and reverence guide every moment.

Along the way, ancient monasteries cling to cliffsides, their chants echoing through the thin mountain air—reminders of a culture shaped by devotion, resilience, and harmony with nature. Days are marked by the crunch of snow underfoot, the stillness of high passes, and the eternal hope of glimpsing the ghost of the mountains.

This is not just a safari, but a pilgrimage into the heights, where the Himalayas humble with their immensity, where spirit and landscape intertwine, and where the rarest encounter leaves an imprint that endures long after the mountains fade from view.

India Wild Facts



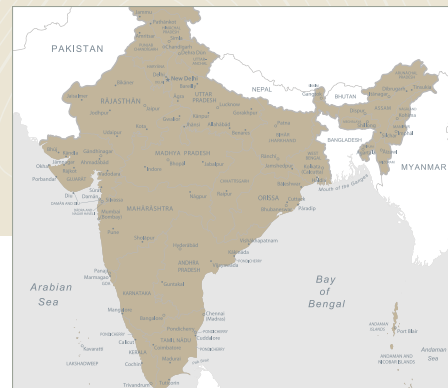
TIME ZONE

India is on Indian Standard Time (IST) across the whole country, which is GMT +5:30. The country stays on the same time all year—there's no Daylight-Saving Time to worry about.



LANGUAGES

India has hundreds of languages, but Hindi and English are the most widely spoken at the national level. **"Namaste"** (with palms together) is a respectful and universal greeting across the country. Otherwise, a simple **"Hello"** in everyday interactions is common.



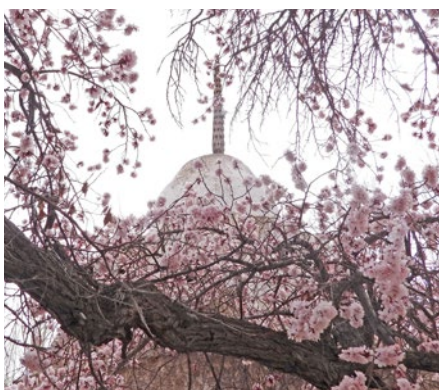
GEOGRAPHY

Stretching from the snow-capped Himalayas in the north to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean in the south, India is bordered by Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar. Its vast landscapes span deserts, fertile plains, tropical forests, river valleys, and coastlines, creating a land of remarkable geographic diversity.



CLIMATE

October to March: The prime window for tracking snow leopards in Ladakh, Spiti Valley, and Hemis National Park. Winter drives prey species like blue sheep and ibex into lower valleys, increasing chances of sightings. Days are cold, often below freezing, and nights can plunge well below -4°F / -20°C, especially from **December to February**. Clear skies and stark mountain landscapes make this the best time for snow leopard safaris, though conditions are demanding.



CURRENCY

The Indian Rupee (INR) is the official currency. Credit and debit cards are generally accepted, though smaller businesses often prefer cash. In rural areas, smaller towns, and wildlife lodges, carrying local currency is essential. US dollars are not accepted for purchases; however, they may be accepted for tipping. ATMs are common in urban centers, but less reliable in remote areas. Always carry intact Rupee notes, as damaged or dirty ones may be refused.

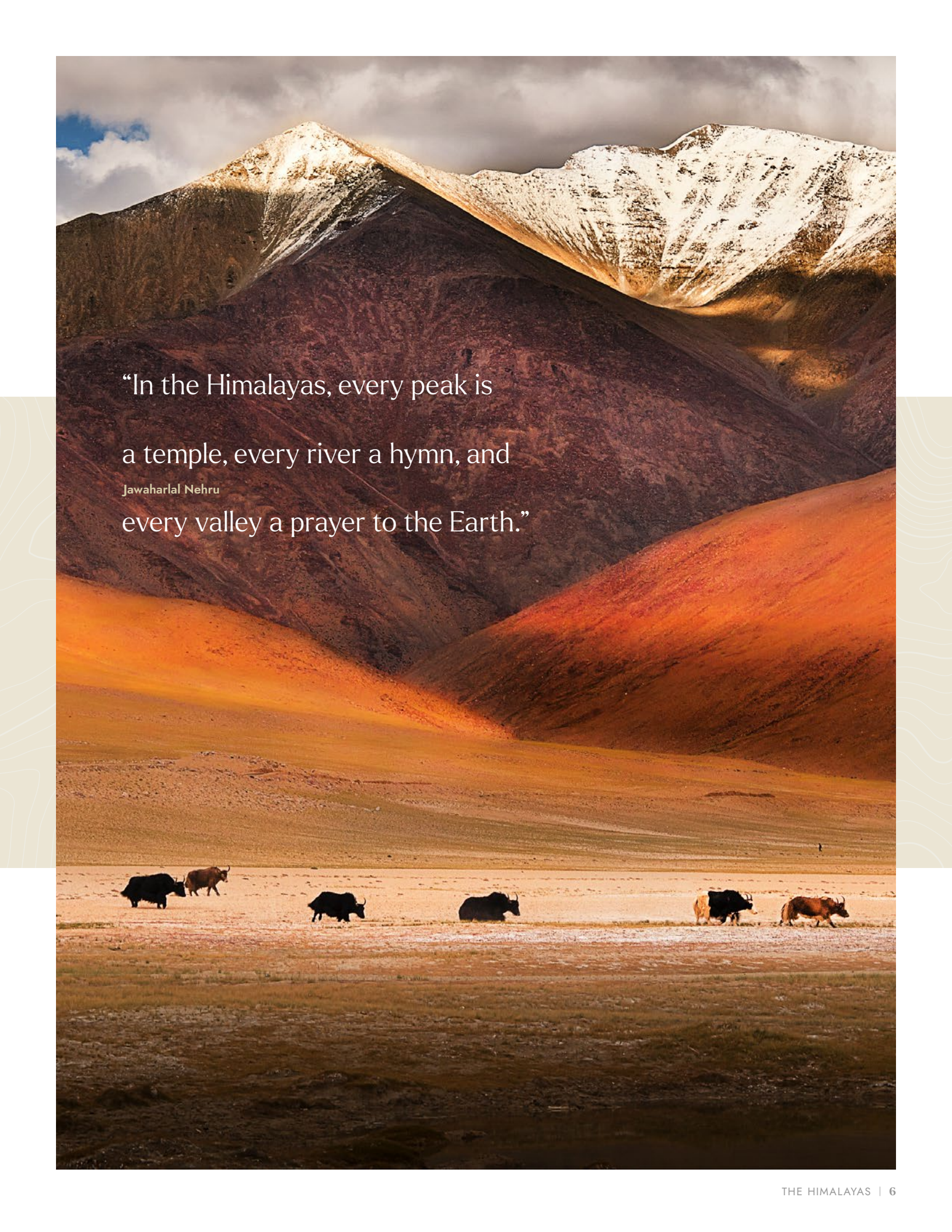
Note: The Rupee is a closed currency—you cannot bring it in or out of India.



FINDS

The Himalayan regions are known for pashmina shawls, warm woolens, Tibetan carpets, and thangka paintings. Markets also offer prayer flags, silver and turquoise jewelry, handmade paper goods, and teas from Darjeeling or Kangra.

Note: Avoid ivory, animal skins, and endangered species products. Antiques and religious artifacts may not be exported. Authentic pashmina is costly. Buy only from reputable sellers to avoid imitations.

A full-page photograph of a Himalayan landscape. In the background, jagged mountain peaks are partially covered in snow, with some sections in shadow. The middle ground features steep, barren slopes of reddish-brown earth. The foreground is a wide, flat valley floor with sparse, dry vegetation. Several yaks are grazing in the valley. The sky is filled with heavy, grey clouds, with a small patch of blue visible on the left.

“In the Himalayas, every peak is
a temple, every river a hymn, and
Jawaharlal Nehru
every valley a prayer to the Earth.”

Wildlife & Safari Highlights

In the high Himalayas, the wilderness feels vast, raw, and humbling. Here, amid windswept ridges and frozen valleys, the elusive snow leopard roams; silent, powerful, and rarely seen. Tracking this “ghost of the mountains” is a journey of patience and reverence, as blue sheep graze on steep cliffs, golden eagles wheel overhead, and prayer flags ripple against endless skies.

This is India’s ultimate high-altitude adventure. A safari not of abundance, but of rarity, where the search itself is as profound as the sighting. In the shadow of the Himalayas, every step is a reminder of nature’s resilience and mystery.





Conservation: Literally, A Way of Life

India is at the forefront of snow leopard conservation, protecting these elusive “ghosts of the mountains” across the vast landscapes of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh. These high-altitude ranges are not only home to the snow leopard but also to a rich tapestry of wildlife, from Himalayan ibex and blue sheep to golden eagles and red foxes.

Conservation in India’s snow leopard habitats is powered by a remarkable blend of science, policy, and community partnership. From the Government of India’s Project Snow Leopard to grassroots organizations like the Snow Leopard Trust and the Nature Conservation Foundation, initiatives focus on both protecting fragile mountain ecosystems and ensuring that pastoralist communities thrive. Community-led eco-tourism, livestock insurance schemes, and predator-proof corrals help reduce conflict and turn local people into guardians of the species.

Through these integrated efforts, India demonstrates how coexistence can succeed even in the harshest landscapes on Earth. Protecting the snow leopard safeguards entire watersheds and ecosystems on which millions downstream depend, making its survival a global priority as well as a national responsibility.



~500

snow leopards
estimated in India

25+

protected areas

5

protected snow
leopard landscapes





Getting the Shots

James Ward, our Chief Explorations Officer, is also a professional wildlife and conservation photographer. Here are a few tips he'd like you to consider.

Catch the mist, catch the moment: Morning light in the Himalayas is sharp and fleeting. Careful exposure is key to balancing the brilliance of snow with the cat's near-invisible camouflage. Late afternoon brings softer tones, framing both predator and peaks in a warm, cinematic glow.

Know your light, know your lens: Snow leopards are most often sighted from a distance—anywhere between 300 meters to over a kilometer away, moving across high ridges or rocky slopes. A long telephoto lens (400mm or greater), paired with a 1.4x or 2x extender, is essential to bring these distant movements into focus. Use a fast shutter speed to freeze the leopard's stride across those far-off ridges and adjust ISO to handle the deep shadows cast by cliffs and narrow valleys. As dusk settles and light fades quickly, slower shutters can capture the mood and immensity of the landscape as powerfully as the wildlife itself.

Steady your shot: Distances in Ladakh are immense, and stability is everything. A sturdy tripod offers precision when waiting for hours on a ridge, while a monopod provides flexibility for faster repositioning on uneven terrain. Whichever you choose, anchor yourself against the wind for steadiness.

Downwind and down low: In these mountains, positioning is everything. Work closely with your guides to line up along ridgelines where snow leopards may pass, and whenever possible, shoot from lower angles to emphasize the drama of scale and isolation.

Silence is golden: The Himalayas carry sound for miles. Move slowly, speak softly, and keep your shutter silent.

Frame the full story: Let the mountains speak. A snow leopard etched against sunrise, a trail of blue sheep across a snowy slope, or a monastery nestled in the cliffs—each frame tells a story not just of an animal, but of a sacred, untamed wilderness.

Respect the wild: Follow your trackers' lead and tread lightly. The best images are born of stillness, of humility before the mountains, and reverence for the ghost that moves among them.



Local Flavors

India's cuisine is as diverse as its landscapes, with each region offering distinctive flavors, spices, and traditions. From Delhi's bustling markets filled with kebabs, curries, and fragrant street food, to the Himalayan highlands where Tibetan influences shape warming dishes like momos, thukpa, and butter tea, every stop on your journey offers a taste of place and culture. Here are some dishes you may encounter along the way:

Paratha & Chole Bhature: Delhi staples, from flaky flatbreads to rich chickpea curries

Masala Chai: spiced tea served across India, perfect at dawn or dusk

Momos: Himalayan dumplings filled with vegetables or meat, often served with chili sauce

Thukpa: hearty noodle soup, a comforting high-altitude favorite

Butter Tea: salty, warming tea made with yak butter, unique to Himalayan regions



When not to be adventurous:

- **Drink only bottled, purified, or filtered water.** Avoid tap water, ice cubes, and unpasteurized juices
- **Fruit & vegetables:** Avoid raw salads & prepared fruit (peeled) outside of your safari accommodations
- **Street food:** Avoid unless recommended by your guide
- **Dairy:** Avoid raw milk or unpasteurized products outside of your safari accommodations

If you have any dietary restrictions, make sure to include them on your safari registration

PRE-FLIGHT CHECKLIST



Entry Requirements

- Valid, signed passport
- Passport is valid for at least six months after arrival
- At least two blank pages in passport
- Passport name matches your booking exactly
- Yellow fever vaccination certificate if you have traveled through a country where the disease is endemic
- Proof of Tourist Travel: Travelers may be asked to present itinerary and/or to demonstrate sufficient funds for their stay
- Printed copy of your eVisa
- **Digital Arrival Card:** All foreign visitors can complete the e-Arrival Card online **WITHIN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL**. Complete via the official portal: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/>

Share with us: Provide Rewild Safaris with a copy of your valid passport during your safari registration or, send via encrypted link: <https://rewildsafaris.com/passport-upload/>



Visas

US, Canada, UK and EU passport holders require an e-tourist visa to enter India.

The eVisa should be applied for a minimum of 4 days, but not more than 30 days before your arrival. The cost is between 10–25 USD depending on the time of year.

Use India's official eVisa portal to apply: <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>

Additionally, as mentioned above, travelers can complete a [Digital Arrival Card](#) within three days before their arrival in India. Travelers are encouraged to save and print a copy to present, if necessary, on arrival. We encourage travelers to utilize the online arrival card system to avoid delays on arrival.

PASSPORT TIPS



- ✓ Carry your passport securely and keep it with you at all times.
- ✓ Expedited Services: Use professional passport services if you need a fast renewal.
- ✓ Carry color photocopies of your passport's photo page at all times.
- ✓ Lost Passport? Report it immediately to the nearest embassy or consulate. Your photocopy can speed up replacement.

FLIGHT TIPS



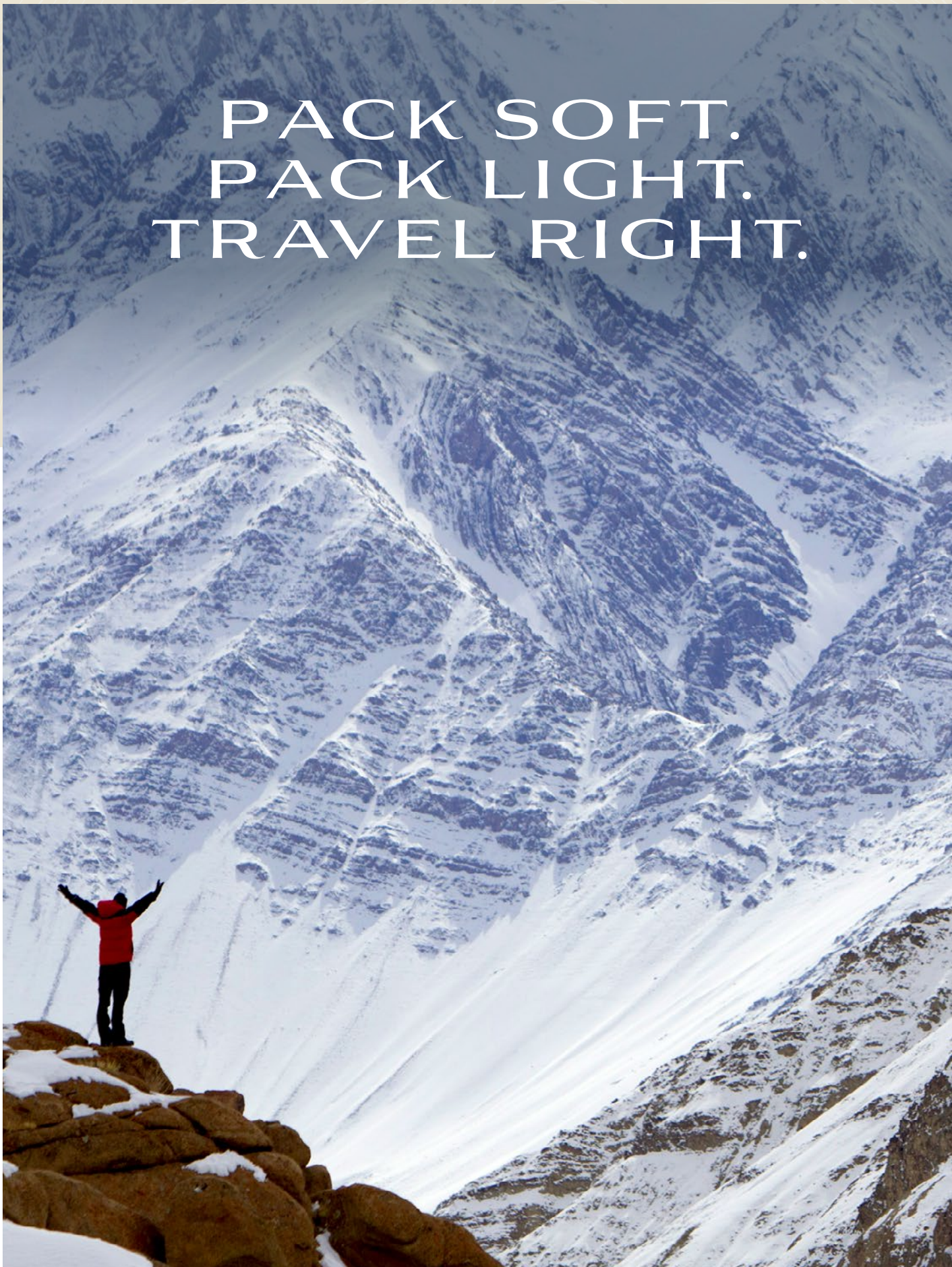
- ✓ Book early: Reserve flights ahead of time for the best prices and seat options
- ✓ Allow extra time: We recommend allowing 2 - 3 hours before your international departures and for connections
- ✓ Early arrival: Consider arriving a day early in case of delays and to acclimate to your destination

Booking Flights

Please book and purchase your international flights to and from the airports listed for the beginning and end of your safari itinerary. Once you arrive, we'll handle all local travel for the duration of your safari.

IMPORTANT: Once you've booked your flights, forward your confirmation to support@rewildsafaris.com so our India team can coordinate a seamless safari.

PACK SOFT.
PACK LIGHT.
TRAVEL RIGHT.



Your Carry On

THE ESSENTIALS

- Passport
- Photocopies of your passport's photo page in a separate compartment
- Medications
- Cameras and Devices (plus memory cards, extra batteries, chargers, lens cleaning supplies)
- Change of clothes (in case of luggage delay)
- Spare eyeglasses or contacts (with a copy of your prescription)
- Credit Cards and Cash
- Printed color copy of DAC & Visa

Luggage Limits

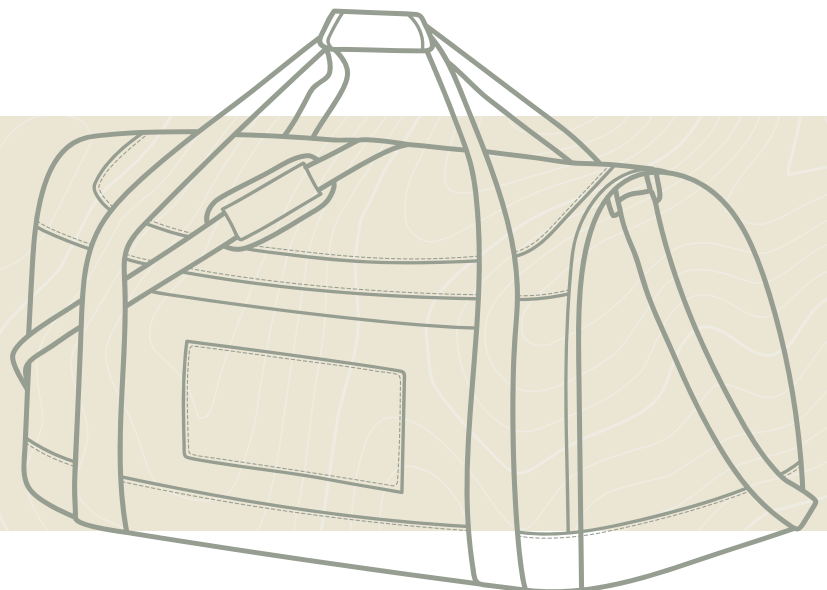
- For safaris that include light aircraft flights, passengers are entitled to one piece of checked luggage and one carry-on item only
- Maximum checked in luggage weight is 15kg (33lbs)
- Maximum hand luggage is 7kg (15lbs)
- For excess baggage, additional seats can be bought prior to departure or at check-in or fees can be paid at check-in

Recommended checked luggage for your travels will be gifted to you by Rewild Safaris.

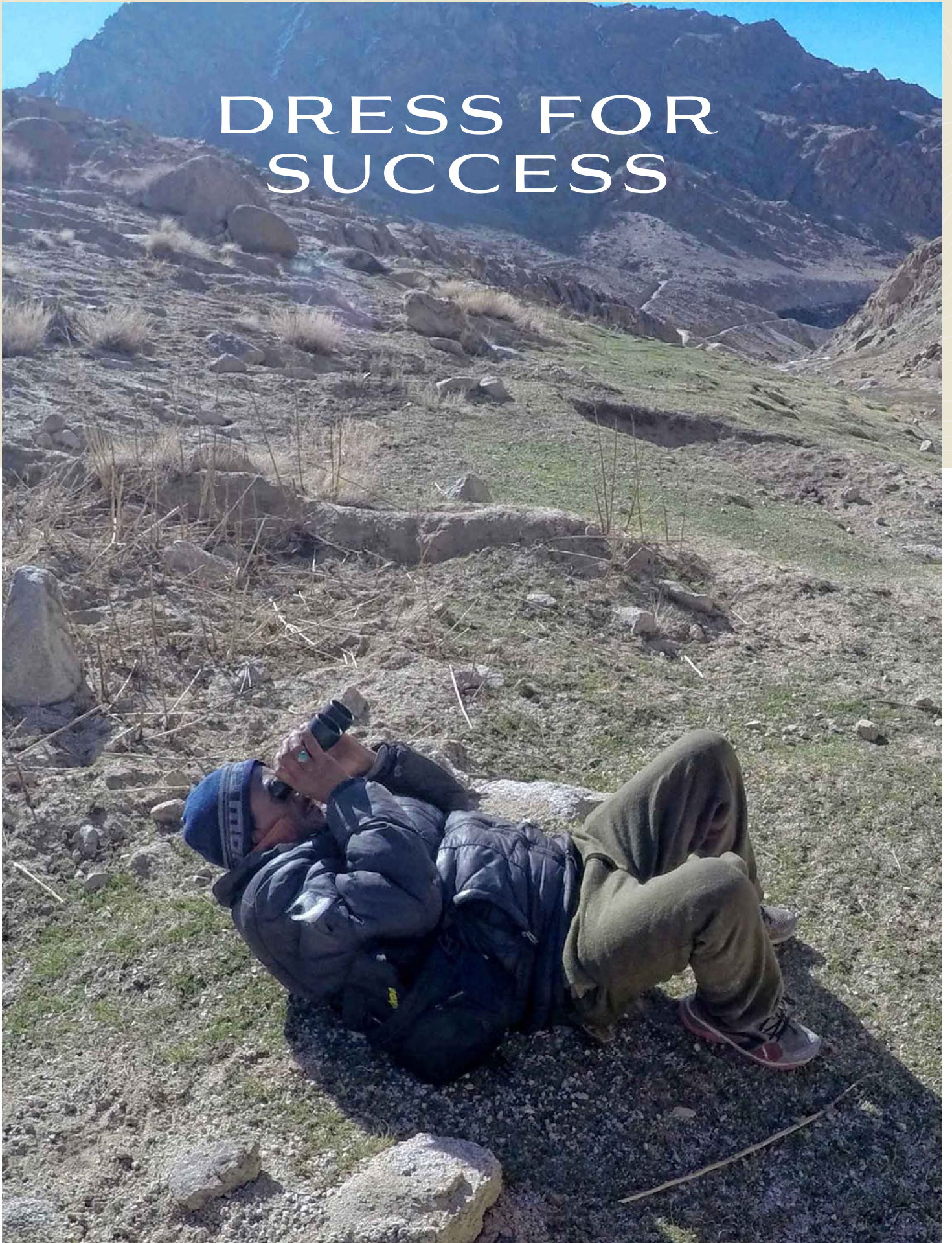
WARNING



- ! Satellite phones & GPS trackers are not allowed in India.
- Carrying them is illegal and can result in imprisonment and heavy fines.
- ! Drones are not allowed to be flown by foreigners in country
- and aren't permitted to be flown by anyone in National Parks—do not bring drones with you.



DRESS FOR SUCCESS



What to Pack

CLOTHING

- Always respect local dress codes—ask your guide for advice during your safari
- Neutral colored layers (grey, beige, khaki, muted greens & browns) to blend in with the environment & be respectful in sacred spaces
- **Do not wear** camouflage (military use only) or bright colors
- Heavy winter jacket/parka (essential for sub-zero temperatures)
- Base layers—thermal tops and bottoms
- Mid layers—heavy fleece or thin down jacket—this must fit comfortably under your heavy winter jacket, soft shell fleece lined pants
- Warm pants—snow pants, wind resistant
- Warm gloves—liner gloves + insulated outer gloves or mittens
- Waterproof jacket & pants—in case of snow
- Warm hat—beanie or earflap hat
- Hat for sun protection
- Balaclava / buff / warm scarf
- Thick, warm wool socks
- Sturdy winter trekking boots (waterproof, insulated, broken in)
- Hiking boots (spring only)
- Casual, closed shoes for lodge
- UV protective, polarized sunglasses
- Conservative, respectful clothing for religious and traditional settings: scarf/shawl, loose clothing that covers shoulders & knees—many sites require long pants & long-sleeved shirts
- Optional: Swimwear—some lodges and hotels will have swimming pools or spas



OTHER ESSENTIALS

- Travel adapters: Electrical sockets are typically **Type D** but can also be **Type M and C**. A universal adapter is recommended. Voltage is 230V and 50Hz. If your device does not support 230V, you will need a voltage converter.
- Good binoculars or spotting scope for wildlife viewing
- High-SPF sunscreen and lip balm
- Daypack
- Insect repellent—needed for areas outside the Himalayas
- Headlamp and small flashlight
- Medications, including a small first-aid kit
- Device chargers
- Extra batteries for your camera and devices—the cold saps batteries faster!
- Trekking poles
- Reusable water bottle
- Altitude sickness medication
- Electrolytes
- Moisturizer & eye drops
- Optional: Hand/foot warmers

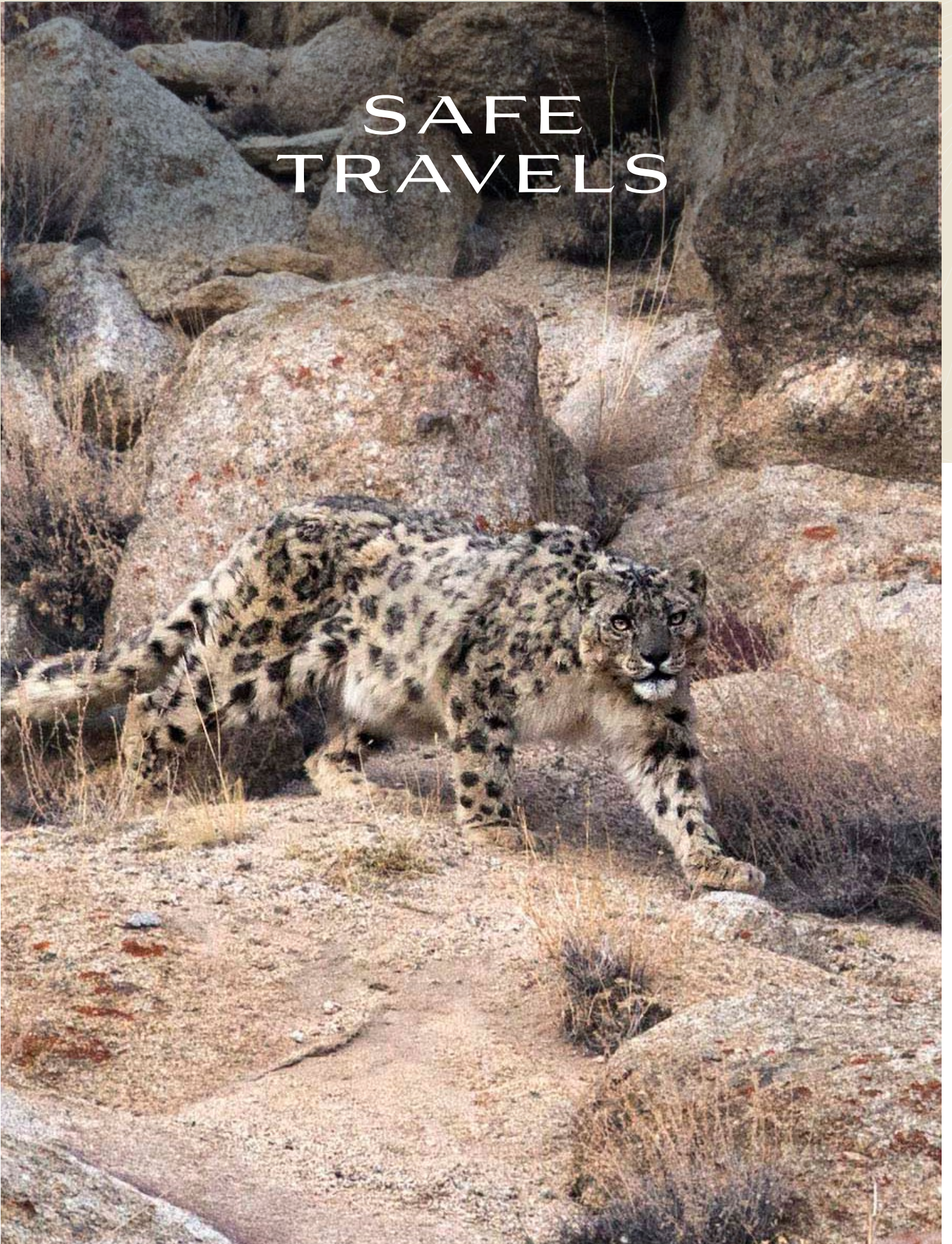
CLOTHING TIPS



Some suggestions for upscale performance (and fashionable) safari gear:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| ✓ Patagonia | ✓ Arc'teryx |
| ✓ Orvis | ✓ LL Bean |
| ✓ Fjallraven | ✓ Tilley Endurables |

SAFE TRAVELS



Health & Safety

VACCINATIONS AND MEDICATIONS

Consult your doctor or travel clinic at least six months before departure. Inform them of everywhere you're visiting, your current medications and conditions. Bring enough of your prescription medicines in their original packaging. It's also a good idea to pack medications for digestive discomfort, itching and rashes—just in case.

ALTITUDE AWARENESS

This safari goes above 3000 meters / 9,800 feet where it is common for travelers to experience some adverse health effects due to the altitude—regardless of your age, gender and fitness. Altitude sickness has the potential to affect all trekkers from 2500m and higher. You will ascend slowly to give our bodies plenty of time to adjust to the smaller quantities of oxygen in the air. However, it is important to be aware of the normal altitude symptoms that you may encounter, but not worry about:

- Periods of sleeplessness
- Occasional loss of appetite
- Vivid, wild dreams at around 2500-3800m altitude
- Unexpected momentary shortness of breath, day and night
- Periodic breathing that wakes you occasionally
- Stuffy nose
- Dry cough develops
- Mild headache

If you feel unwell, even mildly nauseous, dizzy, or just “off”, you should inform your group leader right away. Open communication helps us monitor your well-being, respond quickly to any concerns, and ensure the best possible experience for both you and the group.

HEALTH TIPS



- ✓ Stay hydrated—carry a reusable water bottle and consider electrolytes
- ✓ Drink only bottled or treated water—including for brushing your teeth
- ✓ Eat mindfully—ease into local cuisine to avoid digestive upset
- ✓ Protect yourself from the sun—use sunscreen, wear a hat & sunglasses always
- ✓ Altitude awareness—Ascend slowly, rest on arrival, watch for symptoms



ASK ABOUT

- **Altitude:** Certain medical conditions can worsen at high altitude and are difficult to treat on site. It is essential to discuss any pre-existing conditions with your doctor. Preventative medications for altitude sickness may be recommended to help your body acclimatize and reduce symptoms. Always seek medical advice before taking any medication.
- **Malaria prevention medication:** You might have to start taking it before you travel
- **Vaccinations:** Share your itinerary with your doctor or travel clinic for accurate vaccination requirements or recommendations
- **Medication restrictions:** Some destinations have requirements, restrictions & penalties for traveling with certain medications.

Check the CDC website (US) or your local government travel advisory website for up-to-date information on your destination/s.
<https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>



ON YOUR SAFARI



Good to Know

TRAVEL SMART

It's always wise to take basic precautions when traveling internationally: Be aware of your surroundings, especially in areas frequented by tourists. Do not leave your food or drink unattended. Being alert is a good way to help ensure a safe and enjoyable trip.

Check for travel advisory updates on your local government website. For the US: <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel/travel-advisories.html>

HEALTH CARE IN INDIA

While India has excellent hospitals and modern medical facilities in major cities, many safari parks and Himalayan regions are far from advanced healthcare. In the event of an emergency, medical evacuation services are available but may not be immediate due to distance, terrain, or weather. Lodges, camps, and trekking operators can usually provide basic first aid, but guides and staff should be relied upon only for initial assistance, not full medical care.

Note: Travel insurance is compulsory for this safari. We require that, at a minimum, you are covered for medical expenses including emergency repatriation. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Remember, this travel qualifies as "high-altitude" for several insurance providers, and your current insurance may not cover it.

VALUABLES AND PACKING

Keep valuables with you or in safes when available. Travel light for easier mobility and smoother transfers.

CPAP MACHINES

Some lodges run on solar or generators with limited hours. If you need one, consider purchasing a portable, battery-powered model to take with you. If you can only use a CPAP that requires overnight electricity, contact us at support@rewildsafaris.com to ensure that the lodges and camps on your itinerary can accommodate your needs.

STAYING CONNECTED

As a state, The Union Territory of Ladakh does not allow outside state prepaid phone connections to work. This means pre-paid SIM cards you may acquire in any other state of India will not work. Phones with SIM cards from outside India will also not connect to any network. Your international phones will resume connecting to a phone network as soon as you fly out to other parts of India. Our hotel partner in Leh, the Grand Dragon, has good Wi-Fi connectivity in all rooms and through the hotel. The camp is ringed by high mountains and only gets spotty 2G service on one Indian cell phone operator, BSNL. If internet is critically needed, a team member can drive you out from camp for about 30 minutes and create a hot spot for you.



Good to Know

ETIQUETTE

Respect India's extraordinary wildlife, environment and culture by following these guidelines:

- Respect cultural norms—dress modestly in villages and temples
- Ask before photographing people
- Stay quiet and avoid sudden movements to reduce stress on wildlife
- Keep a safe distance from all wildlife.
- Do not touch or feed wildlife.
- Do not touch or remove anything from the environment (rocks, plants, flowers, cultural markers)

- Do not litter; avoid single-use plastics where possible
- Rewild Safaris has a strict no smoking/no vaping policy
- Follow your guide's instructions at all times
- Conserve resources like water and electricity, especially in eco-lodges and solar-powered camps
- Silence phones and devices during treks
- Drones are not permitted
- Follow the "Leave No Trace" principle

TIPS ON TIPPING



Per person, per day, USD:

Airport Representative: INR 300–INR 500 (USD 4-7) per arrival or departure transfer

Driver: INR 300–400 (USD 4-5) per airport transfer

Local Guide: INR 1500-2000 (USD 20-25) for half day/full day city tours

Driver: INR 500 (USD 6-7) for half day/full day city tours

Hotel bellhop: INR 100-200 per service

Restaurants: Approx. 10% of your billed amount (meals not included in safari)

LADAKH:

Tipping for this part of your safari can be pooled together or split. The recommended range is from \$600 - \$1000 USD with an average of ~\$800 being typical. This is then distributed among trackers, camp staff, drivers, porters and leaders.

Breakdown:

Group Leader: \$25 - \$45 USD per person, per day

Guides/trackers/spotters: \$10 - \$15 USD per person, per day

Camp staff: \$150 - \$300 USD per person, total

Porters: \$8 - \$10 USD per person, per day

Driver: \$10 USD per person, per trip



It's Go Time!

Thank you for choosing Rewild Safaris. This journey not only offers incredible wildlife and landscapes but also supports conservation efforts in India. Your trip makes a difference by helping preserve these ecosystems and uplift local communities.

The mountains are calling—get ready for an unforgettable journey into the Himalayas!

