

We would like to highlight why our itinerary is so different as compared to other Snow Leopard trips that operate in this region.

### **Ulley vs. Rumbak**

As you see we explore the region around Ulley instead of Rumbak which has become overcrowded over the years . In Ulley the Snow Leopard Conservation had trained one of the villagers Norbu as a tracker and helped him set up a home stay. Norbu had also established a terrific reputation for his tracking skills. Ulley is a remote hamlet of 7 houses at the head of the valley, situated at about 13,000 feet. It' wild and remote locations means that you are surrounded by wildlife with Ibex and Himalayan fox, snow cock, lammergeier, Himalayan Griffon, golden eagles and much else constantly present and visible from the house itself.

The wildlife sightings are not limited to snow leopards and blue sheep as at Rumbak but you also have Ibex, urial, fox and most excitingly wolves here. On one occasion our guests watched 4 wolves for about 6 hours feeding on a young dzo they had killed about 100 yards from the house. Several times clients have spotted leopards from or close to the house. Last season sightings for the Ulley operation were at least as good as from Rumbak - with the added bonus of greater variety of wildlife seen.

To sum up: Rumbak (Husing) remains an excellent place to see snow leopards but is often crowded and unpleasant whereas Ulley is small, quiet and exclusive with almost equal chances of sighting leopards. Rumbak is focused only on snow leopards while at Ulley you have excellent chances of seeing an exciting range of mammals and birds including wolves and lammergeier; Rumbak and Ulley are quite far apart; Ulley offers a much larger area to explore and search in with most travel done by car with a variable amount of walking/tracking depending on personal preference and fitness; Ulley is considerably more comfortable than Rumbak allowing people to stay longer in the field.

### **Guide /Spotters**

Our local Guide is one of Ladakh's most distinguished residents. His family name Zipata was given as a title to his great grandfather – a renowned sculptor and artist whose work can be seen in many of Ladakh's major monasteries. His grandfather was Ladakh's first ordained Moravian priest. It is a legacy that gives our guide that

extra edge of insight into the history and culture of his high Himalayan homeland. He has been a founder trustee of the Snow Leopard Conservancy India and is now the Managing Trustee. He is an active member of various societies in Leh but perhaps is best known for his work as head of the REWA Society which provides physiotherapy for poor disabled children especially in the remoter parts of Ladakh.

### **Accommodation**

You will be staying at the Snow leopard lodge – To my mind the biggest bonus is the fact that you have virtually exclusive access to this amazing area by staying at the lodge and apart from being more comfortable than camping out in sub-zero temperatures – puts money directly into local hands and strengthens the constituency of the snow leopard. The lodge will be your base for your stay searching for snow leopards and other high altitude wildlife. The lodge consists of 4 bedrooms, built separately from the main house with a dining room and kitchen – all in the same low stone built building. Add to this the huge difference in comfort, warmth etc which allows guests to stay longer thus maximising chances of a sighting.