

DHARAMSHALA - HIKING IN THE DHAULADHAR HIMALAYA

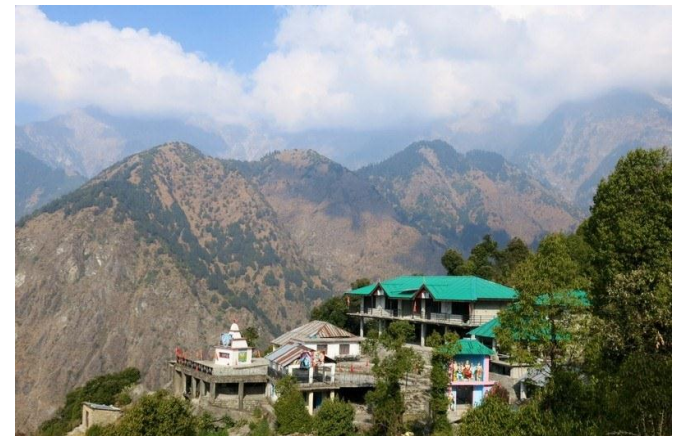
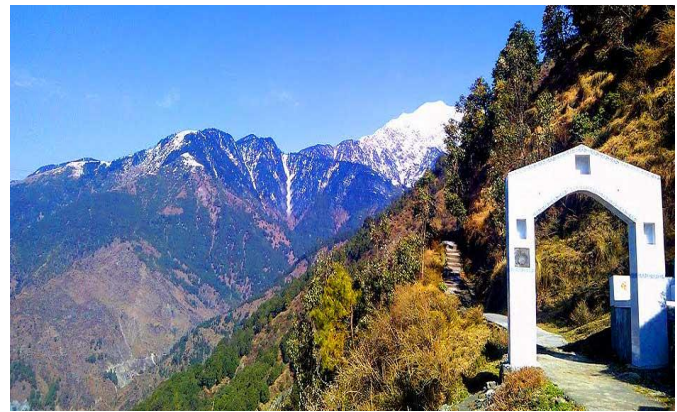
(February 9 – 13, 2025 (Sunday to Thursday) | 5 Days / 4 Nights)

The snow-clad Dhauladhar ranges of the Himalaya form a magnificent backdrop to the hill resort of Dharamshala, the principal township of Kangra district. It is home to HH “The Dalai Lama”, the spiritual leader of Tibet. If we are fortunate, we may get an audience with the 14th Dalai Lama, now a global leader.

Tremendous emphasis on safety, meticulous planning, “Eco sense” and of course, fun form the foundation of all our trips. Add to that efficient staff, state of the art equipment and excellent camp cuisine and you have a typical Snow Leopard Adventures Eco tour.

The town with its dense pine & deodar forests, numerous streams and nearby snowline is a beautiful place. Lower Dharamshala (1380m) is a busy commercial centre while upper Dharamshala (1830m) with Mcleodganj and Forsytheganj dotted with colonial buildings retains a British flavor.

Dhauladhar mountain ranges are different from any other mountain range in the Himalaya. It is the outer most part of Himalaya Mountains and the rock faces of this granite range are so sharply cut that they fail to hold snow for long. Due to this you see snow only in the gullies and on top.





FEB 9, 2025 /SUNDAY

DAY 1 DUBAI - DELHI

(By Flight AI 996 Dep. 00:05 AM/ Arr. 04:45 AM)

DELHI – DHARAMSHALA

(By Flight 6E 7483, Dep. 08:20 AM/ Arr. 10:00 AM + Sightseeing)

- Arrive in Delhi early morning at IGI airport Terminal 3. Meet and greet by Snow Leopard Adventures Trip Leader at arrival lounge and transfer to IGI airport Terminal 1 for onward connecting flight to Dharamshala (**Note:** Terminal 1 is 20 minutes drive from Terminal 3).
- Upon arrival at Gaggal airport, meet with the local team and drive to the hotel en route stopping for a short walk through the tea estate and to visit the tea factory. Tea was introduced in Kangra valley in 1854. Of late organic tea farming has become fairly popular in this region.

Dharamshala is the seat of the Tibetan Government in exile and the residence of His Holiness 'The Dalai Lama' who fled from Tibet. Due to Buddhist influence, the place is also known as "Little Lhasa". The spinning prayer wheels and fluttering prayer flags spread messages of peace and harmony.

- On arrival at Upper Dharamshala (McLeodganj), we check in at the hotel followed by lunch.
- Post lunch, we proceed for a walking tour of McLeod Ganj. We walk for about 20 minutes and visit Tsuglakhang Complex and the Buddhist museum. During the walk we get to see Buddhist monks and nuns doing prayer and chanting holy hymns.

Tsuglakhang complex houses Namgyal monastery and the residence of H.H. Dalai Lama. The main temple has a large statue of Sakyamuni Buddha and Padmasambhava and Avlokiteshwara. Kalachakra Temple in the complex has green Tara statue and precious wall thanka paintings.

- Here we have an interaction with Buddhist monks. If fortunate, we may even get an audience with H.H. the Dalai Lama.
- Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel in Dharamshala

FEB 10, 2025/ MONDAY

DAY 2 IN DHARAMSHALA

(Day Hike: Gunna Devi Temple, 6 hrs - Hrs)

- Today after breakfast, we start our day hike to Gunna Devi Temple (2400 m) which is about 12 kms/ 6 - 7 hours. After a short ascent through a cedar forest, we reach Dharamkot from where it is a level walk through the forest to Bahl village inhabited by the Gaddi Shepherd tribe. En-route we come across a Buddhist Stupa and some Buddhist meditation huts.
- From Bahl village it is a steep ascent for an hour and half to reach Gunna Devi, a small Hindu temple in the middle of the forest. From Gunna Devi we get wonderful views of the snow-covered peaks of the Dhauladhar mountain range including Bhimghasturi pass.
- Later in the afternoon, we walk back on the same trail back to the hotel.
- Dinner and Overnight stay in Dharamshala hotel



FEB 11, 2025/ TUESDAY
DAY 3 IN DHARAMSHALA

(Sightseeing)

- Today after breakfast at the hotel, we proceed for a day tour of Dharamshala.
- Our day tour starts with the visit to St. John's Church which showcases colonial architecture. This is followed by a visit to the Tibet Museum and Norbulingka.

St. John's Church is dedicated to Lord Elgin, one of the viceroys of India, who is buried on its grounds. Although the church's bell tower was destroyed in the 1905 earthquake, the rest of the building remained undamaged. In 1915, a new bell tower was constructed, and a bell imported from England was installed.

The Tibet Museum was established to preserve Tibet's history and its vision for the future through texts, pictorial descriptions, and videos. The museum is divided into two sections: the first floor details the Chinese occupation of Tibet and its consequences, while the second section showcases Tibet's past and its aspirations for the future.

Norbulingka was the summer palace of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Norbulingka has been established as a center for learning and preserving traditional Tibetan art and craft. Visitors have the opportunity to observe artists creating traditional artifacts.

The Doll Museum and the Buddhist temple at Norbulingka are worth a visit.

- After enjoying lunch at Norbulingka, we visit Genden Choeling Nunnery, where we can join nuns in their prayer. The afternoon prayer is always followed by a debate among the nuns. Debate is a traditional method of learning Buddhist philosophy.
- Dinner and overnight stay at the hotel in Dharamshala

FEB 12, 2025/WEDNESDAY
DAY 4 IN DHARAMSHALA

(Day Hike: Gallu Devi Temple, 5 Hrs)

- After an early breakfast today, we will begin our day hike to Gallu Devi Temple, which will take approximately 2 hours 30 minutes.

Nestled on a hilltop above Dharamkot at an altitude of 2,100 meters, Gallu Devi Temple in Mcleodganj is a Hindu temple. This picturesque spot, surrounded by cedar trees and red rhododendrons, is ideal for nature enthusiasts. It offers a perfect setting for a picnic lunch.

- We spend some time at the temple and explore the surrounding area.
- Later we walk back downhill for about 2 hours to reach our hotel.
- Celebration dinner and overnight stay in Dharamshala hotel.



FEB 13, 2025/ THURSDAY

DAY 5

**DHARAMSHALA – DELHI
DELHI - DUBAI**

(By Flight 6E 7484, Dep. 10:20 hrs/ Arr. 11:50 hrs)

(By Flight AI 915, Dep. 16:35 hrs/ Arr. 19:00 hrs)

- Post breakfast, transfer to Gaggal airport in time to board flight back to Delhi.
- Upon arrival at IGI airport Terminal 1, meet with the waiting vehicle and transfer to IGI airport Terminal 3 for onward connecting flight back home.

----- ADVENTURE ENDS -----

NOTE: In India, reporting time at the airport for all International flights is 3 hrs before flight departure time.