



Are you passionate about snow leopards? Has a trip to Mongolia been lingering on your bucket list? Would an opportunity to experience snow leopard research and monitoring first-hand be a **dream come true?** If so, then we have just the trip for you! I recently returned from an incredible expedition to our research station in the South Gobi this fall with three intrepid snow leopard supporters. The excursion was such a success that we are organizing another trip for this spring. Our snow leopard research team heads to the field in April, and I am looking for 3 - 6 people to join us there **from April 25 to May 6, 2019.**

Secure your spot by March 1, 2019.

Contact Jennifer Snell Rullman – for questions or to secure your spot
jennifer@snowleopard.org or 206-718-6236

Trip Highlights:

1. **Stay in beautiful traditional yurts** in the heart of the South Gobi Desert's snow leopard range for an exclusive 4-day/5-night stay at the Snow Leopard Trust's research base camp, the world's only long-term ecological study focused on snow leopards.
2. Observe and **take part, side-by-side with world-renowned snow leopard conservation and research experts**; share in discussions, learn and participate first hand in what it takes to study and preserve this species.
3. Daily explorations to the field, including, **installing motion sensor wildlife cameras**, assisting in the set-up and monitoring of live capture traps for snow leopards and ibex, and participating in other wildlife monitoring activities where needed.
4. **Visit local nomadic herding families** participating in community-based conservation programs to protect snow leopards. Experience how these herders live, the challenges they face, and how conservation programs benefit their community.





We have provided this rare opportunity only once before. Here are a few of the comments:

“Thank you *all* for contributing to make the experience so magnificent. I didn’t want to leave and would turn around and go back tomorrow, if I could.” Elizabeth Brill 2018

“Our trip was the most extraordinary experience I’ve had in my life and I’m grateful that I got to share it with you.” C. Sakach 2018

5. Morning wildlife drives with our researchers to try to observe key wildlife species from these remote mountains, such as Lammergeier, golden eagle, demoiselle crane, red-billed chough, black-eared kite, Pallas’s sandgrouse, Altai snow cock, Chukar, Pallas’s pika, black-tailed gazelle (if we are lucky!), red fox, argali, and ibex. **This April trip overlaps with prime bird migration through the Gobi**
6. Visit to Hustai National Park – home to the Takhi (Przewalski wild horses), to see this endangered horse species—**one of the world’s last remaining truly wild horse species**--roaming freely on rolling hills of beautiful Mongolia. The Park covers a vast area providing visitors a variety of outdoor activities to enjoy, including Takhi and bird watching, hiking, horseback riding, photography, and visiting ancient stone monuments.
7. Explore the capital of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, visiting shops, restaurants and the ancient Gandantegchinlen Monastery.

Dates: April 25 – May 6, 2019

Location: Base Camp, South Gobi Desert, Mongolia

Positions: We can accommodate up to 6 people on this trip.

Cost: \$17,500/person. Price includes all costs once you have arrived in Mongolia (local transportation, hotels, food, drink, etc.) **Airfare to Mongolia is not included.**

Donation	\$10,000/person	Your donation goes directly to support our long-term ecological study in Mongolia – this portion is completely tax deductible.
Travel Costs	\$7500/person	This covers all costs while in country including lodging, local travel, food, etc. <i>(Slight adjustment may occur depending on number of people)</i>
Airfare to Mongolia	Not included	
Total Cost	\$17,500/person plus airfare	



Background:

This trip is a rare opportunity to join our science team at our Long Term Ecological Study (LTES) base camp as they carry out their research. The research station is located in the Tost Nature Reserve, a new Protected Area created specifically for snow leopards. The reserve, which is 7,400 km² in size, is the first reserve in Mongolia specifically designated to protect snow leopards and is home to our longest running community-based conservation programs. It is the only place on the globe where you can find such a robust and long -running snow leopard research program – and to date we have tracked more than 20 snow leopards in these mountains. **We currently have nine snow leopards and three ibex with GPS collars that we are tracking daily.** Now is your chance to literally follow in their footsteps!

Please note that we hope to finalize the participant list by **March 1st** and selection for the trip will be first come, first serve. If you are interested in participating, please let me know and I can share more details about the trip and we can discuss if this trip is right for you. I look forward to taking you to walk in the footsteps of snow leopards in the South Gobi!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jennifer Snell Rullman".

Jennifer Snell Rullman
Assistant Conservation Director
Snow Leopard Trust

