

The Snow Leopard



- Snow leopards mainly live in northern and central Asia including the Himalayan Mountains. They live mainly in the high alpine areas, above the tree line 18,000 feet up. They are found in 12 countries across the world.
- Snow leopards have thick grey fur with spots on their head, neck and low limbs and rosettes over the rest of their body. They have long thick tails for balancing on rocks and wrapping around their body for protection from the cold. They can jump up to 50 feet in length. Their large furry paws act as snow shoes and padding on rocks.
- The snow leopard is known as the ghost of the mountain because of their solitary nature, it is very rare to see more than one at a time, they don't like to interact with other snow leopards.
- They are approx. 4,080 – 6,590 snow leopards in the world making them extremely rare. They are listed as an endangered species by the International union for conservation of nature.
- When snow leopards have babies, it can be from 1-5 but usually is 2 or 3 cubs, The cubs are born blind but already have thick coats. Their eyes start to open after 7 days and they are dependant on their mum for at least a year while they learn how to survive.
- Unlike other large cats, snow leopards cannot roar, they can mew, growl and yowl. They also make a chuffing noise which is where they blow their nose without opening their mouth.
- Snow leopards can kill prey up to three times their own weight, they eat blue sheep, argali, ibex and pikas.
- The biggest threats to snow leopards are hunting, habitat loss, retaliation killing, poaching and climate change.