



## KarmaQuest Ecotourism and Adventure Travel

### Our Partners in the Field

For a decade KarmaQuest and the [Snow Leopard Conservancy](#) (SLC) have collaborated in operating [WinterQuest for the Snow Leopard](#) trips to Ladakh, India. The success of these trips - with 100% snow leopard sightings on every trip and community support for the cats - takes continued reinforcement.



Bringing young people into the folds of [eco-tourism](#) is an important step toward building sustainable livelihoods and wildlife conservation. SLC-US's mentored affiliate in Ladakh [SLC-IT](#) recently conducted a [nature guide training](#) in Ladakh for youth from areas that experience frequent snow leopard kills of livestock and who haven't completed schooling.

*"The students' energy level was quite infectious as they trekked from Zingchen to Rumbak. They sighted marmots and blue sheep ... and were thrilled to see scats and scrapes of snow leopards. Staying in the Himalayan Homestays in Rumbak at*

Hello and welcome to the [KarmaQuest e-newsletter](#), announcing **two new destinations** -- [Sri Lanka](#) and [Mongolia](#) -- and sharing news from our **social service and conservation** partners in the field.



### Why Sri Lanka?

Moving peacefully forward after a long ethnic war, Sri Lanka remains relatively [unnoticed by world travelers](#). This teardrop-shaped island off the SE coast of India is blessed with [eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites](#); on our trip, you'll visit seven of them. Besides these world-class archaeological sites and ancient Buddhist cities, you'll visit nature reserves and national parks that house some of Asia's last [wild elephants](#), along with [wild buffalo](#), [crocodiles](#), [leopards](#), [exotic birds](#) and [butterflies](#), and much more.

Experience day-in-the-life encounters as you move slowly around the island. [Have your fortune told by an astrologer](#), visit a [spice garden](#) and learn how to [prepare Sri Lankan dishes](#) using coconut, cardamom, curry leaves, turmeric, fennel and of course black pepper which put Sri Lanka on the [spice trade route](#) map of Europeans centuries ago.

Take advantage of a **special reduced price offering** on our February 2016 trip (**offer ends November 30**). Please [contact us](#) now!

### [KarmaQuest Reaches Out to Mongolia](#)

KarmaQuest is launching **two new exciting trips to Mongolia**. [Trek to see the reindeer-herding Tsaachin](#)

night was thoroughly enjoyed by all. At the end ... the trainees danced joyfully in the bus back home."



Snow leopards [reside across the Himalaya](#), into Bhutan. Members of our [Trek for Snow Leopard Conservation in Bhutan](#) observed a snow leopard paw print (*above*) during the 2014 Jomolhari Mountain Festival. In 2015, [festival goers spotted an actual snow leopard](#), as well as a Himalayan black bear, blue sheep and marmots. If you aren't up for trekking, check out our [Nature Quest](#) wildlife tour to Bhutan.

### Earthquake Recovery in Nepal

KarmaQuest has a deep and longtime connection with Nepal. Owners Wendy and Karma Lama lived in Nepal for over 15 years. When the disastrous earthquakes hit in 2015, they jumped to action. As President of the [Chandra Gurung Conservation Trust \(CGCT\)](#), Wendy and fellow Board members raised over \$50,000 for earthquake relief and reconstruction. Thank you very much to all who contributed.



Nearly [nine thousand people died](#) in the Nepal earthquake and over 600,000 homes were fully damaged, leaving countless children orphaned. [Virtue's Children Nepal \(VCN\)](#), on whose Board Wendy also sits, has ramped up its assistance to orphaned and disadvantaged children in Nepal.

[people](#) (*right*) while staying in traditional tee-pees and trying your hand at milking or riding a reindeer. Please see more [amazing photos.](#)



Add an optional excursion to a [Golden Eagle Festival](#), where Kazakh nomads demonstrate their hunting skills. Your visit with the Tsaachin is linked to a [community-based tourism program](#) that shares tourism revenue among families to help stave off more desperate survival strategies.

Our second trip, [Life with the Nomads](#), is equally as dramatic in cultural immersion with diverse natural landscapes. Explore Uvs Lake, a UNESCO site, on day hikes and encounter rich finds of petroglyphs. Learn about [throat singing, ancient music and folk dance traditions](#) that also wear the UNESCO heritage badge.



Traveling into the Altai Mountains, spend two days with Kazakh nomads, [sampling home-made cheese and yogurt products](#) that are the staples of their livestock-based diet. Explore vast pasturelands beneath snow-capped mountains on foot or horseback. After an overnight in UB, travel south to see the "singing" sand

dunes and wind-carved Flaming Red Cliffs, complete [dinosaur skeletons and fossilized dino eggs](#), and the nomadic lifestyle of camel herders.

KarmaQuest Director **Wendy Lama will accompany both trips**, returning to Mongolia following her study of sustainable adventure travel for USAID and the Mongolian government.

### KarmaQuest "Friends" Trips

Every year Wendy and Karma lead selected trips to their favorite destinations. Whereas every KarmaQuest trip benefits from their personal in-country relationships, doors open and things happen when Wendy and Karma add their expertise, cultural insight and inquisitiveness as trip leaders.

**Travel with Wendy or Karma Lama on these 2016 "Friends" Trips**, or ask us to custom design a trip for

## Continuing to Help in Burma



KarmaQuest channels [donations to support the education](#) of orphaned children in Burma, many of whom lost families during the catastrophic Cyclone Nargis. This year, our fall trip will visit and contribute to programs that help disadvantaged rural women as well. Please watch for our report in the next newsletter.

## Educational and Service Learning Trips

We also help broaden the educational horizons of US-based students by designing and operating academic and service learning trips for universities, colleges and high schools.

[Please read](#) more about all of KarmaQuest's partners and how you can help.

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your group at your timing. Please inquire for details:

- [Ancient Sites and Lifestyles of Sri Lanka](#)
- [Temples and Tribes of Burma](#)
- [Trekking Amongst the Tsaachin "Reindeer" People of Mongolia. & Kazakh Eagle Festival](#)
- [Life with the Nomads \(Mongolia\)](#)
- [A World Class Trek--Singalila \(Sikkim India\)](#)
- [A Cultural Tour & Home Visit, Sikkim](#)
- [A Trek for Snow Leopard Conservation \(Bhutan\)](#)
- [A Nature Quest & Festival Tour \(Bhutan\)](#)

Please also see our [other trips](#) to:

Bhutan, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Tibet, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Watch for coverage on our [World Class Trek in Sikkim](#) and our upcoming [trips to Burma](#) in our next newsletter. Please [let us know](#) about what you'd like to read about.



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