

The twin destinations – Mount Kailash and the calm waters of The Lake Manasarovar, considered the most sacred and revered pilgrimage for Hindus, Jains and Buddhists – lie in the southwestern part of Tibet. According to legend, you have to be called by the divine to perform The Holy Kailash Manasarovar Yatra. The first Heli Yatra was experimented in The Year 2000 and over the years we have improved in infrastructure and have launched fixed Heli departures for Year 2010.

We are pleased to inform that we are the ONLY Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Operator having our associated chain of hotels / guest houses / Fixed Camps at Prayang, Mansarovar , Dirapuk and Zuthulpuk which no other operator has.

AS PER RECENT REGULATIONS, INDIAN PILGRIMS ABOVE 70 YRS. ARE NOT ALLOWED TO UNDERTAKE KAILASH YATRA.

Why to visit Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa?

- 1) Your half of the stay is in most luxurious hotels.
- 2) There is hardly any back-tracking as you enter via Lhasa and exit via Kodari.
- 3) Your energy remains conserved till you reach Mansarovar because the road via Lhasa is metallic (most of the way).
- 4) You can see Tibet also - the land of Dalai Lama.
- 5) While flying Kathmandu / Lhasa, you can have aerial view of Mount Everest (weather permitting).

Oriental Vacations and Journey's advantages during Kailash Yatra:

- The only Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Tour Operator to have its associated guest houses / hotels / fixed camps in Prayang / Mansarovar, Dirapuk and Zuthulpuk hence guaranteed comfort.
- Services of an accompanying experienced Nepalese escort through out Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Land Cruiser.
- Pure vegetarian meals prepared by our expert chefs well experienced in cooking Gujarati, North and South Indian cuisine - ample variety during meals (except during Kailash parikarma).
- Gemow bag / medical oxygen cylinders / first aid kit during Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Land Cruiser.
- Down jacket on returnable basis to all pilgrims.
- Duffel bag to each pilgrim.
- Yatra completion certificate to all successful pilgrims who undertake the Holy Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Jeep.
- ZERO casualty record since its inception - the best in the industry on Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Land cruisers / Jeeps from Nepal side as well!

The tour cost for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa for 2011 is as below:

Indian Passport Holders:

INRs 1,76,999/- per person on twin sharing basis

INRs 1,86,999/- per person on single occupancy basis

Foreign Passport Holders / NRIs:

US\$ 4,699 per person on twin sharing basis

US\$ 4,899 per person on single occupancy basis

VISA Fee supplement for US Passport Holders would be US\$ 120 per person

(Twin sharing / single occupancy will only be applicable in Kathmandu, Lhasa, Shigatse, Lhatse and Zhangmu only whereas at all other places, dormitory / twin / triple sharing accommodation would be provided)

The above cost for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa for 2011 includes:

- Airport / Hotel / Airport transfers in Kathmandu and Lhasa as applicable.
- Three nights accommodation on twin sharing basis at 5* Hotel in Kathmandu (**Soaltee Crowne Plaza / equivalent** with daily breakfast, lunch and dinner (pure vegetarian)).

- Three nights accommodation on sharing basis in Lhasa at **Hotel Brahamputra / Four Points Sheraton / Hotel Mansarovar / Hotel Lhasa (North / South Wing)** with attached toilet facility.
- One night accommodation on sharing basis in Shigatse at **Hotel Shigatse / Mansarovar** with attached toilet facility.
- One night accommodation on sharing basis in Lhatse at **Hotel Shanghai** with attached toilet facility.
- Two night accommodation in **New Hotel Saga or equivalent** on sharing basis in Saga with attached toilet facility.
- Two night accommodation in **Prayang Parmarth Guest House** on sharing basis in Prayang with common toilet facility.
- One night accommodation at **Parmarth Chui Gompa Guest House** (basic guest house) at Mansarovar without toilet / shower facility.
- One night accommodation in **basic guest house (New Hotel Darchen)** in Darchen without toilet / shower facility.
- One night accommodation at **Dirapuk Hotel** (best available hotel / guest house) at Dirapuk without toilet / shower facility.
- One night accommodation at Zuthulpuk in **tented camps (fixed)** without toilet / shower facility.
- One night accommodation on sharing basis in Zhangmu at **Hotel Zhangmu** with attached toilet facility **OR at Nyalam Hotel in Nyalam** with common toilet **if your group is being clubbed with Fixed Departure overland tour.**
- Camping arrangement backed by Nepalese Sherpa crew on full board basis – except inside Nepal, all the meals in Lhasa, Shigatse and Shanghai would be provided in local restaurants however breakfast shall be served in respective hotels and from Saga and onwards meals shall be cooked and provided by our Sherpa staff – all meals through out the Kailash Mansarovar via Lhasa Tour shall be pure vegetarian.
- Services of an English speaking Nepalese team leader and an English speaking Tibetan guide from Lhasa Airport onwards.
- Transportation inside Lhasa by a private coach however Lhasa onwards by Deluxe 4500 CC Japanese Land Cruiser (4 pax per land cruiser).
- One half day sightseeing tour of Kathmandu valley.
- Transportation Tibet Border (Kodari) / Kathmandu by a Non A/c Coach.
- Hiring charge of Sleeping Bags.
- A support truck to carry food / camping equipments etc. from Saga onwards.
- Necessary Yak & Yak men to carry your luggage (one piece per person only) for Kailash Kora.
- Applicable entrance fees to visit Monasteries.
- Normal Tibet Entry Visa fee.
- One duffel bag per person.
- One down jacket per person on returnable basis.
- Yatra completion certificate to each pilgrim.
- Insurance for our sherpa team / team leader.

The above cost for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa for 2011 excludes:

- Travel & medical insurance – **we strongly recommend that one should take insurance coverage to cope up with any eventuality.**
- Rescue evacuation cost in case of emergency.
- Insurgent fee approx. INR 500 per person.
- Extra cost in the event of landslide for hiring additional transportation or portorage on The Arniko Highway (INR 500 - 700) per person.
- Expanses of personal nature viz. soft / hard beverages, photography charges, portorage at the airports / hotels, laundry, tips, telephone calls etc.
- Yak / Pony hiring charges for riding during Kailash Parikarma
- Anything not specifically mentioned in the clause, **“The above cost includes”.**

Booking Conditions for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa for 2011:

- Booking shall be accepted with a non-refundable deposit of **INR 50,000 per person**. Balance payment should be paid at least 30 days before the trip departure. Payment should be made by bank transfer to our INR or Foreign Currency Account or should be made by INR draft favoring "**Oriental Vacations and Journeys Pvt. Ltd.**" payable at Delhi.
- Passport copy with minimum 6 months validity.
- Letter from a doctor certifying that the participant is fit to undertake this pilgrimage.
- Booking **MUST** be made minimum 2 months prior to each departure date.
- Booking Form duly filled up.

Cancellation Policy for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa for 2011:

- Once a booking is made, the deposit fee is non-refundable.
- Cancellation made 30 days before the departure date – 35 % of total package cost
- Cancellation made 15 days before the departure date – 75 % total package cost.
- No refunds for any cancellation made within 15 days from date of travel.

Special Notes for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa for 2011:

- We strongly advise to keep a provision of 1 - 2 extra days to overcome any delays.
- Due to the nature of travel, there is always the possibility of change in the schedule. The Tour Operator or its associates shall not be liable for any such delays.
- We or our associate agents have the right to change the Itinerary in the event of adverse weather condition or any unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.
- The Group will be required to follow the itinerary strictly. The entire Group will enter & exit together as per schedule.
- In case of adverse weather conditions or technical snags with the flights, there could be a possibility of flights being un-operational for a couple of days, under such circumstances, every effort shall be made to provide them lodging / boarding etc. and the best available efforts shall be made to make alternate arrangements if possible however under such circumstances, all additional charges (if any) shall be borne by the guests.

Detailed itinerary for 18 Days tour to Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa (4WD Vehicles):

Tailor-made tour for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via Lhasa

Day 01 Arrival Kathmandu

Take off for The Kailash Yatra!

Arrive Kathmandu. Upon arrival, you will be met by our representative at the Tribhuvan International Airport who will assist you to transfer to your pre-booked hotel, en route visit Pashupatinath Temple – the abode of Lord Shiva. Overnight at **Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza or equivalent in Kathmandu.**

Day 02 Temple visit in Kathmandu

After breakfast, proceed for a half day sightseeing tour of Pashupatinath Temple and Boudhnath Stupa.

Proceed for **OPTIONAL** Muktinath Darshan after breakfast to worship Lord Vishnu. Evening free in Kathmandu. Overnight at **Hotel Soaltee Crowne Plaza or equivalent in Kathmandu.**

Day 03 Fly Kathmandu to Lhasa (3650 m) 1 hr. 30 minutes flight

After breakfast, we will transfer the group to Tribhuvan International Airport to board Air China's Flight to Lhasa. Upon arrival at Gonggar Airport, the group shall be met by our local representative and transfer provided to your hotel in Lhasa. The group will reach the Hotel in about 2 hrs. The first day will be spent resting to acclimatize with the altitude because Kathmandu is at 1200 m above sea level and Lhasa is at 3650 m. So it needs some time to acclimatize with the altitude. **Overnight at Hotel Brahmputra or Four Points by Sheraton in Lhasa.**

Day 04 Lhasa - Visit Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and Barkhor Street

Jokhang Temple: The Jokhang temple, a massive building consisting of three floors and an open roof all filled with chapels and chambers, has undergone extensive reconstructions and additions since the 7th century, particularly during the 17th century reign of the fifth Dalai Lama. While parts of the existing temple structure date from earlier times, most of the murals are from the 18th and 19th centuries and few statues (with the notable exception of the Jowo Sakyamuni) are older than the 1980's. The temple was sacked several times during Mongol incursions but its worst treatment has been at the hands of the Chinese since their occupation of Tibet in 1959. The Jokhang is the most celebrated temple in Tibet. Because the temple is not controlled by a particular sect of Tibetan Buddhism it attracts adherents of all the sects as well as followers of Bon-Po, Tibet's indigenous religion. Three pilgrimage circuits exist in Lhasa, each directing pilgrims to the Jowo Sakyamuni statue: the Lingkhor, which encircles the city's sacred district; the Barkhor, which encloses the Jokhang temple; and the Nangkhor, a ritual corridor inside the Jokhang. Every day throughout the year hundreds of pilgrims circumambulate each of these three circuits. Some pilgrims will cover the entire distance by prostrating every few feet, and others will walk slowly, chanting sacred mantras and spinning hand-held prayer wheels. For more than a thousand years millions of pilgrims have trod these sacred paths with devotion in their hearts; this cumulative focusing of intention and love has charged the Jokhang with an enormously powerful field of sanctity.

Barkhor Street: The center of the old Lhasa, Barkhor is a circular street, which is the oldest street in Lhasa and remains very traditional. It is a place where Tibetan culture, economy, religion and arts assemble and a place to which a visit must be paid. It was said that in the seventh century when Songtsen Gampo, the first Tibetan King (617 or ?-650) who unified Tibet, married Chinese Princess Wencheng and Nepal princess Tritsun. Later Princess Tritsun built Jokhang Temple to accommodate the Jowo Sakyamuni aged 12 brought to Tibet by Princess Wencheng. Barkhor is the road which pilgrims tramped out around Jokhang Temple through centuries. Buddhist pilgrims walk or progress by body-lengths along the street clockwise every day into deep night. They comprise most of Lhasa's floating population.

Potala Palace: Potala was the winter palace of the Dalailama, which was originally built in the 7th century by the king Sotsen Gampo and rebuilt to the present size by the 5th Dalai lama in the 17th century. Built in the mid-18th century by the 7th Dalailama, Norbulingka, the Jewel Park was the Dalai lama's summer palace, it covers 100 acres with palaces, pavilions and a zoo. **Overnight at Hotel Brahmaputra or Hotel Lhasa in Lhasa.**

Day 05 In Lhasa visiting Norbulinka Palace and Drepung Monastery

After breakfast, visit Norbulinka Palace and Drepung Monastery.

Norbulingka Palace: Norbulingka, meaning Jewel Park, was Dalai Lama's summer palace since the Seventh. Its light-hearted air makes it less demanding than most sights in Lhasa. The Norbulinka is well worth a visit at festival times and public holidays. On Shoton Festival, the park is crowded with picnickers, and traditional Tibetan opera performances are also held there. Khamsum Zilnon is a very eye-catching building behind the main gate. It was originally a Han style pavilion and later changed into a theater where the Dalai Lamas watched Tibetan opera. Tsokyl Potrang is a group of buildings on water. Dalai Lamas used to read in a hall of the palace. In 1922, the Thirteenth Dalai Lama began to build his Golden Lingka and Chensel Potrang, which is located at the back of the woods. Various flowers, grasses and trees were planted around. The palace was heavily painted with murals, which bear strong Han characteristics. Takten Migyur Potrang, meaning Eternal Palace in Tibetan, was completed in 1956 for the Fourteenth Dalai Lama. Though it is called New Summer Palace, it is a very traditional architecture except for its interior modern facilities. In the palace there are many splendid murals painted by a Fourteenth Dalai Lama's painter. The topics of the murals include Tibetan officials, Sakyamuni preaching under a Bodhi tree, and Tibetan history from its founding by the Holy Monkey, the vicissitudes of Tubo Kingdom (633-844) and Tibetan Buddhism to Panchen Lama and Dalai Lama's interviews with Chairman Mao Zedong in Beijing. The present Dalai Lama's private apartment is also on view, remaining untouched. In a little sutra hall, there is a Dalai Lama's throne which is wrapped in gold foils and decorated with gems.

Drepung Monastery: It was established near Lhasa, Tibet in 1416 by Choje Tashi Palden. It had four departments, of which Loseling, or "The Hermitage of the Radiant Mind," was the largest, housing more than three quarters of Drepung's ten to fifteen thousand monks. Drepung Loseling was especially close to the Dalai Lama incarnations; the Second Dalai Lama made his residence here in 1494, and subsequent incarnations maintained this link. After the Chinese Communist invasion of Tibet in 1959 and the forced closure and destruction of its 6,500 monasteries, some 250 monks from Loseling managed to escape the holocaust and rebuild their institution in Karnataka State, South India. The traditional training program was thus preserved. Over the years many more young spiritual aspirants have

fled Chinese-occupied Tibet and sought entrance into the monastery, thus helping to preserve their traditional culture. The number of monks presently in the re-established Drepung Loseling has increased to more than 2,500. **Overnight at Hotel Brahmaputra or Hotel Lhasa in Lhasa.**

Day 06 Drive to Shigatse (3900 m) - 350 km/ 7-8 hrs.

After breakfast, visit Norbulinka Palace and later drive to Shigatse. Shigatse is the second biggest city in Tibet, 90KMs away from Gyantse. The famous Tashillunpo Monastery in Shigatse, seat of the Panchan Lama, one of the six important Gelupa Monasteries in China, was built in 1447 by the first Dalailama. Overnight at **Hotel Shigatse or Hotel Mansarovar** in Shigatse.

Day 07 Drive from Shigatse to Lhatse (4350 m) 308 km. / 6 - 7 hrs.

After early breakfast, leave for Lhatse (308 km. / 6 - 7 hrs). Packed lunch will be served en route. Arrive at Lhatse. Dinner and overnight at **Hotel Shanghai.**

Day 08 Drive from Lhatse to Saga (4640 m) 300 km. / 8 - 9 hrs.

After early breakfast, leave for Saga (300 km. / 8 - 9 hrs.). Packed lunch will be served en route. Dinner and overnight at **Hotel Saga or equivalent.**

Day 09 Drive Saga to Prayang (4750 m) 255 kms/ 6 - 7 hrs. drive

After breakfast, drive to Paryang (4750 m) 255 kms/ 6 - 7 hrs. drive through the windswept territory passing many villages and camps of Yak herders with distance view of snow capped mountains. On this day the road is quite flat, hence the drive will be comfortable compared to other days. **Overnight at Guest House / Prayang Parmarth Ashram.**

Day 10 Drive Prayang to Chui Gompa with Mansarovar Parikarma (4560 m) 223 km/ 5 - 6 hrs. drive

After breakfast, drive to Mayum River for 112 km and have lunch. Thereafter drive to Hor Quo (4560 m) 223 km/ 5 - 6 hrs. We continue driving crossing Mayum La pass (5200 m) and arrive at Hor Quo. Today is the day of lifetime, as we will have the first sight (darshan) of Holy Mt. Kailash and Holy Lake Mansarovar. We will continue by doing Mansarovar Parikarma by Jeep. Stay in a guest house on the bank of Holy Mansarovar Lake. **Overnight at guest house.**

Day 11 Drive to Darchen (4620 m) and trek to Asthaphath

After breakfast, it is a day for Puja & Holy bath in the holy lake. Later, drive to Darchen (4620 m). Darchen is located beneath the majestic holy Mount Kailash, a small village with couple of guesthouses. During the auspicious pilgrimage time, this place will be flooded with Pilgrims with hundreds of tents all around. Darchen, the beginning and end point of the Kora. Trek to Serrlung Monastery to visit Asthaphath which offers an excellent view of Nandi Parvat and Mount Kailash. **Overnight at guest house.**

Day 12 Drive to Tarboche (13 km) and trek to Dirapuk (4860 m) 7 km/ 5 - 6 hrs.

After breakfast, drive approx. 13 Kms. to Tarboche, the trek starting point of Kailash Parikrama. Tarboche is also known as the outer "Asthaphath". The first day of our Kora is a gradual walk with multitudes of other local pilgrims chanting and praying. The trail leads us to few ups and downs till we reach our camp/guest house at Dirapuk (4860 m) 7 km/ 5 - 6 hours trek. Camping on the nice grassy meadows with a view of Kailash, north west face. Those not feeling themselves fit to continue parikarma will drive back to Darchen and wait for the Parikarma group to return. **Overnight at Camp / Parmarth Dirapuk Hotel.**

Day 13 Trek to Zuthulphuk (4760 m) 18 km/ 9 - 10 hrs.

Today our circumbulation (Kora) leads to much higher side of the holy path just beneath the Holy Mount Kailash. The walk will bring us to one of the highest point at Drolma La, 5,200 m. before descending to the gradual field towards Zuthulphuk for the overnight stay after 5-6 hours walk. Zuthulphuk (4760 m) 18 km/ 9 - 10 hrs.

After early breakfast, group will set off as the sun's rays break over the ridges above. After the footbridge the trail rises up a rocky slope. Take this gently but steadily. It soon reaches a level walk. The peak of Mount Kailash rises to the right

and can now be seen linked to a long spur, which joins the eastern ridge. This is the top edge of the glacial valley from which the Lhachu ("Divine River") flows.

This day is the climax of this holy journey & is the most difficult day of our journey. One has to pass through Drolma La Pass – 5200 m - highest altitude on this tour. Physically it is the most arduous day. At the pass is a large boulder depicting Tara, festooned with prayer flags. Here too Tibetans leave a memento of themselves such as a tooth, a lock of hair or even a personal snapshot.

After perhaps 30 minutes, we descend a steep, rock-strewn path to the valley below. Just below the pass is Lake Tu-je Chenpo Dzingbu (Gauri Kund) i.e. "The Pool of Great Compassion". Take great care now because it is easy to sprain your ankle or worse. You must negotiate steep staircases down to a snowfield. The only way down is to jump from boulder to boulder across a large rock fall. On the ridge above is a formations known as the Lekyi Ta-ra ("Axe of Karma"), as though one's moment ripen in an accident, suffering or death.

A final steep descending staircase brings you to the valley floor. From here it is still about 5 hours to the day's destination with no shelter in between. It is vitally important to remain on the right hand side of the river, the West bank. If not, you will get trapped, unable to cross it. The walk now becomes very pleasant and relaxing (as long as the weather is clear and there is no howling gale.) The path follows the gentle slope of the valley over grassy fields and clear brooks for several Kilometers before it narrows and turns further south to merge with another valley before reaching Zuthulphuk, the "Miracle Cave" of Milarepa. **Overnight in Fixed Tents.**

Day 14 Zuthulphuk to Darchen trek 10 km/ 4 - 5 hrs. and drive to Hor Quo (4750 m)

The morning can be spent exploring the caves and visiting the temples and shrine that has been built around Milarepa's cave. A married elderly couple supervises the temple, which is usually an active residence for over half a dozen Tibetan devotees, helpers, or relatives who continuously busy themselves with the tasks of maintaining the buildings. One imagines Milarepa's disciples meditating here. Many of the caves contain meditation platforms, self-contained by dry stonewalls which divide them from their cooking partitions and entrance areas. It is well worth the short climb up to these caves before beginning the final stage of the trek. The winding gradual tracks finally ends our holy pilgrimage walk 10 km/ 4 - 5 hrs. Once we reach at the trek end point near Darchen, our land cruisers will be waiting to take the group back to Mansarovar for a final holy Dip at Manasarovar (Those who could not do parikarma shall be waiting at Hor Quo for the remaining group members to come back. **Overnight at a guest house in Hor Quo.**

OR

If the road condition shall not be good as expected keeping in mind the developments taking place in the region, then the group shall move on to Prayang after returning from Parikarma rather than staying for an overnight at Hor Quo. Whatever the case be, no. of nights shall remain unchanged.

Day 14 Zuthulphuk to Darchen trek 10 km/ 4 - 5 hrs. and drive to Prayang (4750 m)

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One imagines Milarepa's disciples meditating here. Many of the caves contain meditation platforms, self-contained by dry stonewalls which divide them from their cooking partitions and entrance areas. It is well worth the short climb up to these caves before beginning the final stage of the trek. The winding gradual tracks finally ends our holy pilgrimage walk 10 km/ 4 - 5 hrs. Once we reach at the trek end point near Darchen, our land cruisers will be waiting to take the group back to Prayang by tracing our footsteps returning home leaving the Holy place. (Those who could not do parikarma would be waiting to welcome other group members at this point). **Overnight at Parmarth Prayang Ashram.**

Day 15 Drive Horquo / Prayang to Saga (4600 m) 6 - 7 hrs. drive

After breakfast, drive to Saga. **Overnight at Hotel Saga.**

Day 16 Drive Saga to Nyalam (3700 m) 240 Kms./ 6 - 7 hours drive

After breakfast, drive to Nyalam. **Overnight at Hotel Nyalam or similar.**

Day 17 Drive Nyalam to Kathmandu

Arrive downhill to Zhangmu & Friendship Bridge where transportation awaits for our final leg of journey to Kathmandu (150 Kms)/ 8 - 9 Hrs. After reaching Friendship Bridge, we'll be leaving our Tibet side vehicles on the other side of border and will walk for approximately 15 minutes towards Nepal Immigration Post where our coach for Nepal would be waiting for us. Our Border guide will assist us to shift our belongings towards Nepal Side of the bridge. Overnight at Hotel in Kathmandu.

Day 18 Fly back to your home with memories of Mount Kailash & Holy Lake Mansarovar

After breakfast, free for souvenir shopping and other independent activities. In time transfer to International Airport to board your onward flight else you may extend your stay in Nepal to visit Muktinath Temple or Manokamna Temple or just relaxing.

Departure Dates for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Tour 2011 via Lhasa

As of now, there are NO FIXED DEPARTURE DATES FOR KAILASH MANSAROVAR YATRA 2011 VIA LHASA however the group can operate on any specific date of your choice subject to Air China's Flight operation from Kathmandu, as of now Air China operate flights Kathmandu / Lhasa on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. We require minimum 8 persons to operate this group.

Travel Tips for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Tour 2011 via Lhasa

Visa & Documentation:

All foreign nationals willing to undertake Kailash Mansarovar Yatra including Indians require a VISA to enter Tibet. One must be in possession of a valid passport for another six months to obtain Chinese VISA. We will require a scanned copy of your passport at the time of booking the trip which should be at least 45 days in advance). In case of Indian passport holders, **we shall require original passport in New Delhi approx. 15 days prior to group's arrival date in Kathmandu so as to apply for the group VISA in India** however passports of Foreign nationals shall be required in Kathmandu itself as their VISA shall be applied in Kathmandu – Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu issues VISA only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please note that Chinese Embassy in New Delhi accepts VISA applications between 1030 - 1130 hrs. from Monday to Friday (excluding holidays). **The VISA is not stamped on your passport rather it will be on a separate piece of paper issued by Chinese Embassy because it shall be a Group VISA. Please note that to obtain Chinese (Tibet) VISA in India, there should be a group of minimum 5 passengers traveling together as a group – entry / exit dates for all group members should be same.**

Accommodation:

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra falls probably in the world's most remote part. Most of the times, you would be away from modern civilization. One must be well equipped and self contained. The group shall overnight in trekking style camps for one night only in Zuthulpuk. Use of candles inside the tents is strictly prohibited as tents and sleeping bags might catch fire due to any negligence. If your tents / sleeping bags are damaged due to misuse by candles or other incendiary articles, we will expect replacement/ reimbursement of the loss from you. Therefore we suggest you to use torch light inside the tents.

Guest house accommodation wherever available will be very simple with a cozy room (dormitory at most of the places) with common bathrooms and toilets. Hot water will be provided in every room for refreshing and for drinking by our Sherpa team.

- Nyalam Hotel has common toilet facility whereas Zhangmu Hotel has attached toilet facility.
- Hotels in Lhasa, Shigatse and Lhatse have attached toilet facility however breakfast served over there would be Tibetan style.

- Prayang guest house has common toilet facility however hot water bathing facility may be available at an additional cost on direct payment basis to the caretaker.
- New Hotel Saga or equivalent in Saga have attached toilet facility however hot water is available by buckets only between 2000 – 2100 hrs.
- Guest house in Darchen does not have toilet / shower facility – one will have to use either our toilet tent or shall use the open space to answer the call of nature.
- Chui Gompa Guest house at Mansarovar is without toilet / shower facility – one will have to use either our toilet tent or shall use the open space to answer the call of nature.
- Dirapuk Hotel is without toilet / shower facility – one will have to use common toilet tent.
- Zuthulpuk camps (fixed / movable) are without toilet / shower facility – one will have to use common toilet tent or shall use the open space to answer the call of nature.

Food:

The food will be supplied from our side from Saga and onwards including breakfast, lunch & dinner with occasional tea break. While camping or while in guest houses, meals would be served to you in our dining tent. This tent also serves as our meeting place & living hall. Toilet tents will be put up near the campsite, wherever feasible. Pressurized Lamp shall be used to lighten camp area. Bed tea will be served in your tent/guest house with a wake-up call. Hot breakfast will be set at dining tent. Once Sherpa team pack-up their equipments, please get one thermos flask filled with hot water for en route journey and then you'll move to your next destination. A light packed lunch will be served on the way. The food will be very simple and pure vegetarian. While staying at Hotels, except breakfast all the meals shall be arranged and served in outside local restaurants.

Transportation:

From Kodari Border till Kathmandu, the transportation will be provided by Non A/c tourist bus or van depending upon your group strength. In the event of any landslide, the best available mode of transport will be used for which guests will have to pay additional charges as applicable. From Lhasa onwards you will be provided 4500 CC Land Cruiser (4 wheel drive) for 4 persons in each jeep. If the road between Friendship Bridge and Zhangmu gets washed away, we may have to trek for about 2 hrs. There will be a separate support truck to carry the camping equipments and sherpa staff members. During the Kailash Parikrama, we will provide Yaks to carry the camping & your personal heavy gears (one bag per person only). A Yak or Poly can be hired for you to ride on direct payment basis. (Yaks are not well domesticated and trained to ride on it). Transportation in Lhasa shall be by a Non A/c coach – group appropriate.

Guide/ Escort:

A Tibetan/ English speaking guide will escort the group through out the trip including few Nepali staffs for the camping.

Clothing & Accessories:

Tibet is a dry cold country as such weather may change unexpectedly at any time. Plan your clothing in a way that you can wear layers of clothes. Depending upon the season, during June, July, August till September, day time will be pleasant and quite warm with about 15-20 degree Celsius, during afternoon time 1-4 pm can be windy. The morning and evening will be chilly between minus 2 to 0 degree Celsius. We recommend to carry **one warm thick pull-over, one thin pull-over, two warm pants, two light loose cotton pants, one warm windproof cotton jacket, four cotton sleeve T-shirts, two thermal under pants, two thermal vests, one rain coat, one pair each of light tennis shoes & light rubber sandal, six pairs of warm woolen socks, one light cotton or silk scarf, one large cotton or silk scarf, one pair of warm gloves, soft paper tissues, monkey cap & sun hat, two towels, Wind - Rain Jacket and a sun hat.** Proper clothing will be required for both extremes of climate, for hot sun when trekking through the lower foothills to freezing temperatures at night while camping in the high valleys. Well fitting, comfortable shoes are preferred over normal shoes.

Toilet Items:

Soap, towel, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, comb, sanitary protection & toilet paper roll etc.

Accessories:

Sun glass (UV protected), sun cream (20 spf or more), chip-stick, water bottle (1 Lt.), empty plastic bags, camera & film, Repair kit (needle, thread, tape, cloth pin, safety pins etc.), Flashlight / Torch with extra batteries, pocket knife, lighter, note book & pen, head torch, small lock, 4 passport size photographs, a copy of your insurance policy (if any), reading material, walkman with tapes and spare batteries, personal medical kit.

Photography:

As Tibet gets very bright sunlight due to thin air so taking photographs can be quite glare. We recommend you to take the advice from the photographic shop while purchasing the film rolls for Tibet. Taking photographs inside monastery will be charged as per monastery rule. Please ask your guide before taking photographs inside the monastery. Taking photographs at Army Camps/Check-points is strictly prohibited.

A 35 mm system with interchangeable lens will allow you to get the best shots in most situations. A wide angle [28-35mm] and a telephoto [80-200mm] are very useful. Skylight filters protect your lens [skylight IB] and a polarizing filter is useful for snow scenes. A brush for cleaning your lens is important and your camera and lens need to be in protective cases. Kodak chrome 64 is excellent for slides and for prints, 100 ASA film is suitable. Faster films may be needed. 12 rolls of film are not too many for the enthusiast.

Optional:

Ski stick or a normal stick (one can also purchase it at Darchen), neck pillow, face mask (10), games like Cards, chess etc. for the evenings and an umbrella.

Equipment on Trip:

We also provide Dining Tent, Kitchen Tent, Toilet Tents, Dining Tables, Folding Chairs and full kitchen utensils. We will provide Sleeping Bag and Foam Mattress for bed. Duffel bag and down jackets are also provided however if you wish , you may carry your own too.

Medicine:

We suggest you to bring your own first aid kit with adequate medication regarding altitude sickness, nausea, dehydration and some painkillers.

Be careful not to catch a cold. It is better to be over-clothed than under protected. En route avoid taking bath or drinking water from lakes, streams or rivers as your body is not conditioned for this. Since the dry cold winds tend to make the nose dry, keep your nose smooth by applying Vaseline. Keep your feet dry, never let it get wet. Keep your boots inside tents to keep them dry. Wearing cotton and wool socks in combination would be the best. Face, feet and hands must be well protected. Request your doctor to prescribe effective medicines to cover the following: **Fever, Body and joint pains, Cold, Cough, Sore throat, Headache, Acidity, Stomach cramps, Vomiting, Dysentery, Loose motion, Constipation, Diarrhea, Swelling, Muscle Pulls & Sore eyes.**

In addition to the medicines for above, your first aid kit should include following: Vaseline, Band Aid, Cotton, Badge roll, Dettol, Mouth freshner, Nose inhaler, Toilet paper, Rubber bands, Dust cover (face mask), Cough drops, Lip balm, Amritanjan/Vicks/ Shi-chu /Tiger- balm, Elastoplast, Adhesive tape, 4" crepe bandage & OAS powder - useful for adding to your water bottle and for fluid replacing purposes.

Make a separate pouch for the first aid kit with a list of medicines and their appropriate usage. It is advised to carry glucose and glucose based items (mints, toffees, mini chocolates bars for periodical consumption at high altitude for energy. Multi-vitamin and vitamin C tablets are required for daily consumption as a routine.

Altitude Sickness:

Acute mountain sickness is a frequent problem in the Himalayan region. The altitude of the peaks and trails between them are among highest on earth. Acclimatization to altitude above 3000 meters takes time. The body undergoes a number of physiological changes some of which are immediate like increased pulse rate & respiratory rate. Others appear more slowly over a period of weeks like the change in acid base balance and production of extra red blood cells. These changes plus the effect of intense sunlight, walking hard & dehydration may cause a number of mild vague symptoms such as Loss of appetite, fatigue, headache, nausea, dizziness, palpitations, sleeplessness, mild shortness of breath with exercise.

The best treatment is prevention! Avoid rapid ascents; take acclimatization symptoms seriously using rest days or diamox tablets. If symptoms are severe and the patient is ill DESCEND IMMEDIATELY, 300 meters of descent or more should be sought. This usually gives rapid improvement.

To minimize altitude sickness, never rush into things, walk slowly and firmly. The uneven ground, steep slopes and slushy banks are full of potholes. Do not combine walking and sightseeing together. Inspect your track in front and trek slowly.

Physical Fitness:

Before booking for this Kailash Mansarovar Yatra trip with us, clients should be in sound good health preparation for this trip. We advise bit of exercise like morning or evening walk or jogging. Each pilgrim should ensure that he/she is medically fit and is not suffering from high-blood pressure, diabetes, asthma, heart disease or epilepsy since such conditions might prove fatal at high altitudes. **Medical fitness is of utmost importance.** Pilgrims should complete the medical tests and seek expert medical opinion regarding their fitness to undertake the pilgrimage at high altitude from their respective doctor.

We would require a medical certificate from every individual stating that the person traveling is not suffering from any such disease as mentioned above and is fit to travel at high altitudes.

Insurance & Emergency Expenses :

We highly recommend all clients to be insured against medical, accidents & necessary emergency evacuation. Please ensure that your insurance covers evacuation at high altitudes. Also be informed that air evacuation (evacuation by helicopter) is not possible in Tibet as such guest requiring emergency evacuation will be transferred by surface to nearest evacuation point in Nepal side after giving the necessary first aid. Any Emergency arrangement other than regular straight forward tour itinerary service should be borne by the clients themselves.

Please note that our Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Tour Package does not include any rescue or evacuation expenses in emergencies hence it is advised to be properly insured.

General Considerations while packing for Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Pilgrimage Tour 2011 via Lhasa:

Keep the weight and bulk down to a minimum. Baggage allowance on most international flights is 20 Kg's/44 lbs. You will only need two changes of clothes for Kathmandu. In Tibet, it is important to dress in layers. When it is hot you will only be wearing a base layer, when it gets colder you can add to this until you are wearing most of your clothes! During Kailash Parikarma, one bag per person would be carried on Yak. It is advisable to carry your stuff in a duffel bag rather than suitcase or other normal bags. Following points must be kept in mind while preparing for & during the Holy Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

Before starting Mount Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:

- 1) If you are asthmatic or have any kind of breathing problem, you should not travel.
 - 2) Take advise of your doctor before undertaking this high altitude pilgrimage & always keep your usual/prescribed medicines (if any) along with beside basic medicines for fever, nausea, dehydration, vomiting body ache and headache
 - 3) Use very strong and rough bags to pack your belongings & don't keep the fragile items in your bag which has to be carried on the Yak. A duffel bag is advisable.
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- 4) Don't forget to carry some eatables like sweets, chocolates, glucose, candies, mints, khakra, laddu / pinni etc.
- 5) If possible, engage yourself in some fitness exercise like aerobics every morning.
- 6) Don't expect all luxury on this tour however as far as possible, our Sherpa team will ensure you the best journey/stay with us in this tough terrain.
- 7) It is always advisable to insure yourself against personal loss, injury/accident, death and emergency evacuation. Make sure that your policy covers Emergency Evacuation by Helicopter at high altitude treks.
- 8) As there is no Hindu Temple at Holy Lake and Mt. Kailash as such no priest is available. If you want some spiritual activity to be performed, please make sure that your personal priest accompany you from your own country or from Nepal. Do carry essential Havan Samagri, Havan Kunds etc. if you are willing to engage yourself in some spiritual ceremony like Havan (Yagna).
- 9) If possible, arrange your Chinese Yuans (which you might require to buy some souvenir or to pay for pony etc.) in your own country or in Nepal as on the borders, exchange rate might differ. Alternately, you can carry US\$ with you which can be easily converted but Indian Currency notes are not acceptable in Tibet. Do not carry Indian Currency Notes of 500 & 1000 denominations as these are not acceptable in Nepal and can not be exchanged.
- 10) Upon arrival at immigration desk at Tribhuvan International Airport, please request the immigration officer to put an entry stamp in your passport otherwise you'll have to unnecessarily pay INR 500-1000 at Tibet immigration.
- 11) Don't take too much of clothes along with.

Prior to Mount Kailash Parikarma:

- 1) Start taking DIAMOX atleast 2 days before starting your journey - once every morning after the breakfast. It should be taken for 3-6 days. This is to minimize altitude sickness.
- 2) Drink atleast 3 litres of mineral water everyday till you complete the Holy Yatra.
- 3) Avoid riding Yak during Kailash Parikarma. A pony is preferred over Yak.
- 4) Advise your requirements for Pony Hiring (available at an additional cost) to your tour guide atleast a day before the beginning of Parikarma.

During Mount Kailash Parikarma:

- 1) Walk gradually, don't compete with any one and never loose your temper as this is going to be the toughest journey you could have ever made so far.
- 2) In case you feel any kind of breathlessness during parikarma, immediately inform our tour guide or sherpa staff & follow their advise.
- 3) On the second day of parikarma, you come across the maximum height at Dolmala Pass where Oxygen level is very low as such don't stop/wait there for more than 5 minutes.
- 4) During parikarma, you'll come across rivers and streams, you must wash your face occasionally with cold water. Avoid drinking water from streams or rivers enroute.
- 5) As far as possible, try to walk. But, if you are riding a pony during parikarma, make sure that you hold it properly.
- 6) On the second day of parikarma, you will see several clothes lying on the rocks, please don't touch the same.
- 7) Guard yourself from slipping or falling to prevent fractures, sprains and muscle pulls.
- 8) Do not combine walking and sightseeing together. Inspect your track in front and trek slowly.
- 9) Travel in the group and do not leave any one behind unless escorted.

While on the Holy Mansarovar Lake:

- 1) Don't take a Holy dip in Holy Mansarovar Lake while it is windy.
- 2) Never take a dip in Rakshas Tal (Lake) as its not auspicious.
- 3) If you face altitude sickness, do not proceed for parikarma because once you leave Mansarovar or Darchen and wish to come back from Parikarma due to any reason, there are no facilities available like stretcher etc. Even for Helicopter evacuation, it may take minimum 10 hrs. to a couple of days depending upon weather conditions.
- 4) Don't forget to collect some stones from The Holy Lake as each stone is treated as "Shivlinga".

General during Kailash Yatra:

- 1) If you smoke or consume alcohol, avoid it throughout the journey.
 - 2) Eat as much as you could but avoid overeating.
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- 3) Satellite phone being provided by us on use and pay basis is primarily to facilitate you during any emergency as such avoid making calls to your well wishers because charging facilities for satellite batteries are very limited and in case of excess usage, the satellite phone might be useless at the time of any emergency.
 - 4) While in tents, make sure that it is properly zipped and your luggage (which is kept inside the tent) is not touching the tent's outer surface otherwise in case of rain you might find water inside your tent.
 - 5) Try to be in your own tents while its too windy or sunny.
 - 6) While staying in the guest house, avoid using public toilets (if available) as these are very dirty. It is advisable to use open area or our own toilet tents for toilet purpose.
 - 7) Travel during Kailash Yatra with the TEAM SPIRIT and help your group members in case of any need or emergency.
 - 8) Please do not expect excellent vehicles in Tibet. The terrain being rough, vehicles are bound to break down but do not panic, the drivers are expert enough to repair it. Repair may take few minutes to a couple of hours but please maintain patience as we can not leave group members behind.
 - 9) As tents and other camping equipments move in trucks, it will take about 2 hours for our sherpa team to pitch-in tents once they reach camp site. Please have patience as truck speed can not be matched with your land cruiser's speed.
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