# **Chengdu Tibet Nepal Bhutan Tour**

### 16 Days Exclusive & Personalized Journey

An all-encompassing experience of nature, breathtaking scenery, and vibrant culture in the endless journey through the Himalayas.



## **Destination Highlights**

- Chengdu: 2 Nights in Chengdu with Panda base and Leshan Buddha
- Tibet: 4 Nights in Lhasa, Tibet with Potala Palace, Drepung Monastery, Yamdrok-Tsho Lake.
- **Nepal: 5** Nights in Kathmandu with Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Pashupatinath, Boudhanath, Patan, and Pokhara with Sarangkot sunrise over the mountain ranges.
- **Bhutan: 4** Nights in Bhutan with Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Paro Valley, Thimphu with weekend market and Punakha Dzong.

### Customizable Private Tour

- 1. Choose your own departure date
- 2. Select the comfort level of accommodation
- 3. Adjust activities to cater to special interests
- 4. Modify tour duration and any aspect of the tour as needed

Tailor Your Journey with Flexible Dates, Accommodations & Activities

5. Flexible travel route {start from Chengdu (China) and end to Paro (Bhutan/Bangkok) or vice-versa}

# **Trip Highlights**

- Experience a vast difference with geography, culture, and overall lifestyle of this region.
- Visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding and the giant Buddha of Leshan.

- Admire the view of Lhasa with Potala Palace of Dalai Lama.
- Visit Drepung Monastery, the biggest Monastery in Tibet and Norbulingka Palace.
- Fly above Tibet Nepal Bhutan and admire the beauty of Himalayan range.
- Explore the beauty of Pokhara with amazing mountain view from Sarangkot Pokhara.
- Enjoy the ancient **world heritage sites** of Kathmandu.
- Enjoy the delightful valley of **Paro, Thimphu & Punakha**.
- Hike to Paro Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest) in Bhutan.

## **Trip Overview**

The 16-day Chengdu Tibet Nepal Bhutan tour is a meticulously designed vacation package that captivates visitors with its scenic natural, cultural, and spiritual aura. The journey through the hills of authentic Chinese art to the barren shades of Tibet is mesmerizing. Traveling through the stone-patched alleys of Nepal to the magical valleys of Bhutan is beyond magical. Each destination welcomes visitors with pristine beauty wrapped with heavenly surprises. To experience the untouched and pure culture, tradition, and the art of living, Asia Experiences presents you with this tour of a lifetime.

Begin with Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, fondly called the 'Country of Heaven' due to its plains. UNESCO recognized it as a city of gastronomy because of its rich cultural reflection. It is home to the Giant Panda, the national treasure. <u>The Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda</u> Breeding allows visitors to spend a day more closely with the Giant Pandas and their daily routine. Observing these Giant Pandas is fun and relaxing. Learn more about the Giant Pandas during a visit to the Breeding Centre. The ship tour to the 71 m ancient Leshan Giant Buddha is magnificent. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is by far the tallest pre-modern statue in the world. Fine art flourished during the period of the Five Dynasties showcasing the artistic beauty of the town in its aesthetic arrangement. Fly to the 'Roof of the World'-Tibet from here.

Experience the vast geographical and cultural diversity within the same nation. Traveling around the majestic monasteries and palaces brings a sense of warmth to Tibet. The Potala Palace premises, the shrines in Jokhang temple, and the vibrant Barkhor Street, all mesmerize the visitors. The fine Tibetan artwork and the aesthetic architectural structures bound you to appreciate them. Appreciate the people, local cuisine, lifestyle, and spiritual vibe, and embrace the history and devotion in Tibet.

Nepal, a small but beautiful landlocked nation, delights visitors with varied landscapes and culture. Within a short tour, experience the diversity of rich cultural heritages and the bliss of natural scenery. Every street preserves its hidden stories; explore them alongside the friendly locals surrounding you every time. Don't miss out on trying delicious local cuisine.

Bhutan, the hidden Himalayan nation is hardly influenced by modernization and still preserves its authentic culture and traditions. A country that prioritizes Happiness over GDP allures visitors with its pure heart and friendly gestures. The abundant Dzongs and fortresses with impressive architecture showcase the country's deep inclination in arts and architecture. The spiritual aura attained during a visit to the monasteries is

cherished for a lifetime. Bhutan is a perfect gateway for exploring from the trails to <u>Tiger's Nest</u> to the pearl of Paro Valley, walking through the rice fields, and savoring Bhutanese cuisines.

# Your Journey day by day

## Day 01 Arrival in Chengdu

\*Please note that travelers need to obtain a China visa in their home country and collect the Tibet Travel Permit. This permit will be provided in hard copy at your hotel in Chengdu.

After your arrival in Chengdu, you will be approached by our representative. He/She will lead you to your hotel from the airport. *Chengdu is the capital of the Sichuan Province in Western China.* You will have a short briefing and orientation about this whole tour of your hotel. After some rest today you can head out for a short stroll around your hotel. If you have enough spare time today, you can take a short walk exploring the ancient Jinli street. You can try some of the favorite local snacks here. Overnight at a hotel in Chengdu.

### Day 02 Chengdu Tour with Panda base and Leshan Buddha

Today, visit two iconic sites in Sichuan Province. Begin your adventure at the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, a renowned sanctuary established in 1987. This non-profit facility is dedicated to the protection and care of giant pandas, offering visitors a chance to learn about their conservation efforts while observing these lovable creatures in a naturalistic setting.



Next, head to Leshan City, and visit the awe-inspiring Leshan Giant Buddha. Standing 71 meters tall, this UNESCO World Heritage site is a masterpiece of ancient engineering. Construction began in 713 during the Tang Dynasty and took over 91 years to complete. Marvel at its immense scale and rich history as you wrap up this unforgettable experience. Overnight in Chengdu.

### Day 03 Fly to Lhasa and rest for acclimatization

We will take a flight to Tibet today after our breakfast in Chengdu. This flight provides us with some of the magnificent views of Landscape over China. After Landing in Lhasa, you will head straight to your hotel. After some snacks, you can rest for the day here. In the evening, try visiting the local markets of Lhasa and experience the local art of trading. Overnight in Lhasa.

## Day 04 Lhasa Sightseeing Potala and Norbulingka Palace

We will begin the Sightseeing tour of Lhasa, the capital of Tibet today. Kick start the day with a warm Tibetan tea in your hotel. Today's tour constitutes of two significant attractions and some brief stopping in the other destinations. We will visit the former ruling seat of the Dalai Lamas of Tibet, the Potala Palace first today. Potala Palace is an architectural masterpiece, and one can explore the vibrant Tibetan Art and culture here. In the palace premises, you can visit the grand chapels, large courtyards, staterooms, and beautiful gardens. The artistic decorations, sculptures, old paintings, murals and other components of the Palace is mesmerizing here as well. We will head next to visit Norbulingka Palace, the Summer Palace of Dalai Lamas. Alongside the architecture, local houses, and small prayer shrines here, the vast Palace gardens are the most known and popular feature of Norbulingka Palace. We will head towards the Museum in Lhasa where one can know a lot about the culture, artwork, and history of this beautiful state of Tibet. Overnight in Lhasa.



## Day 05 Lhasa Sightseeing Sera-Drepung Monastery, Jokhang Temple, Barkhor Street

We will resume our tour of Lhasa by visiting some of the other best attractions in and around the city. After



our breakfast here, we will head towards the majestic Drepung monastery. It is one of the largest monasteries in Tibet with more than 10,000 monks studied here in the past times. The courtyards, shrines and some of the best architecture makes this monastery a must visit place in Lhasa. After some time here, we will head towards the Sera monastery within a short driving distance from here. Both these monasteries are two of the three major Gelug sect monastery in Tibet. The designs, Murals, and architecture of these monasteries alongside the breathtaking view of the landscape from here is a fantastic combination. From here we will then visit the UNESCO world heritage site, Jokhang Temple. Besides the famous Barkhor Street, this temple is the most significant shrine of Tibetan people. Here, you can have a better view of the local culture, tradition, and everyday lifestyle. You can try some Tibetan delicacies and return to your hotel.

### Day 06 Yamdrok-Tso lake day excursion

After our breakfast at Lhasa, we will start our excursion to Yamdrok-Tso Lake today. This drive of about 3-4 hours is packed with breathtaking landscape, scenery, steep rocky hills, and beautiful mountain flowers. Yamdrok Lake is among the holiest lake of Tibet. Circumambulating the lake is said to help in atoning the past sins. We will have our lunch here and then spend some time in its banks. The peaceful environment alongside the pleasant scenic surrounding of the Yamdrok-Tso Lake makes it more appealing to spend some extra time here. The view of barren hills and snow-capped mountains clearly reflecting in Yamdrok Tso is one to soak in and treasure. In the late afternoon, we will drive back to Lhasa and rest for the day. Overnight at Lhasa

## Day 07 Transfer to Gonggar airport from Lhasa city and Fly to Kathmandu

We will head towards Nepal after our breakfast in Lhasa. The two-hour flight provides us some of the best views of the Himalayas. After Landing in Nepal, our Asia Experiences guide will pick and transfer you to your hotel. You can rest for the day in your hotel. In the Evening head out for a stroll around Thamel tourist market and Ason Local Market. You can also enjoy some authentic Newari and Nepali cuisine here. Overnight at Kathmandu.





### Day 08 Kathmandu Sightseeing

Today will be a complete heritage tour of the Kathmandu valley commencing from the famous **Kathmandu Durbar square** in a walkable distance from your hotel. We can witness a lot about the medieval history, culture, and architecture of the Kathmandu valley here. The shrines and monuments of the square hold many different story and religious importance too. Here, we will also visit the Temple of the living goddess Kumari in our visit. Next, we will head towards the Temple of **Swyambhunath** or also popular as 'The Monkey Temple.' We will hike a while to reach the beautiful dome at the top from where the view of Kathmandu valley is exquisite. From here we will head towards the Hindu Shrine **Pashupatinath** with a short drive. In the banks of the holy Bagmati River, we can explore more than 500 small and big shrines, Shiva Lingams, and Temples. We will head towards the **Boudhanath stupa** next from here. The vast white dome is the biggest stupa of Nepal, and one can experience the influence of Tibetan art on the premises. We will drive back to our hotel in Thamel and rest for the day there. Overnight in Kathmandu.

### Day 09 Fly to touristic city, Pokhara

Take a scheduled scenic flight from Kathmandu to Pokhara which takes approx. 25 minutes. Transfer to the hotel for rest after arriving at Pokhara. Explore nearby tourist places such as Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave and Davis Falls or Devi's Falls. In the evening, explore the lakeside and its surroundings. Attend some live music or folk songs and dance performing restaurants for dinner. Overnight stay in a hotel.

Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave: The Shiva statue inside the cave and a sight of Davis Fall

Davis Falls (Devi's Falls): A scenic white waterfall which is called 'Paatale Chhango' in Nepali

### Day 10 Pokhara Sightseeing

Morning: Early drive to Sarangkot for a stunning sunrise over Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges. Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Sightseeing: Visit Seti Gorge, International Mountain Museum, and enjoy a serene boat ride on Phewa Lake to Tal Barahi Temple, admiring Machhapuchhre views.

Evening: Relax by the lakeside, shop, or explore Pokhara nightlife.

## Day 11 Flight back to Kathmandu and Tour of Bhaktapur Durbar Square

Take a scenic flight back to Kathmandu after breakfast and get transferred to the hotel.



After refreshment, we proceed towards beautiful and ancient Bhaktapur city for sightseeing. This is also listed in the World Heritage site which is one of the best examples of architecture and well-preserved culture. The Durbar Square has several attractions such as the 55-window palace, Nyatpole Temple, Siddhi Laxmi Temple, the Golden Gate, the National Art Museum, and so on. Besides this, get an amazing view of skillful porters making pots, wood carvings, and many handicrafts goods. You can buy some goods if you wish to or like. Also, try the famous Juju Dhau which is King Curd is special curd or yogurt prepared by locals. For memories, click some pictures and back to Kathmandu.

# Day 12 Fly to Paro (Bhutan), Drive to Thimphu and Thimphu sightseeing

As per flight time, we will head towards the Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) and fly to the Paro airport in Bhutan. After arriving at Paro, our representative from Asia experiences will approach you and transfer you to your hotel in Thimphu. The guide will provide you a brief introduction about this tour on the way to Thimphu.

Halfway to the Paro-Thimphu highway, visit the 16<sup>th</sup>-century old Tachogang Lhakhang temple by traversing an old bridge. From the bridge, enjoy the scenic views of the villages. Tachogang temple means the hill of the excellent horse. Continue to drive to Thimphu.

We will spend our day visiting the major attractions in and around the capital Thimphu. After our breakfast, we will visit the King's Memorial Chorten made in the memory of King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck (1928-1972 AD). After some time here, we will visit the mini zoo and take a glance at beautiful animals alongside the national



animal of Bhutan 'Takin'. We will visit the nunnery temple and the traditional medicine institute of Thimphu. We will continue our Thimphu sightseeing tour after lunch visiting the painting schools and traditional paper factory here. Next, we will visit Tashichho Dzong. This old fortress holds a great significance in the history of Bhutan. We will also visit Bhutan Postal Museum, Folk Heritage Museum and end our tour with a visit to the Great Buddha Dordenma statue which is the largest statue of Bhutan.

After reaching the hotel, you can rest for a while and head for a walk around it. You can also attend the evening markets here today. Overnight at Thimphu.

## Day 13 Thimphu to Punakha via Dochu La Pass and Sightseeing in Punakha

Before leave Punakha, you will have an opportunity to attend the weekend markets and experience the local trade and lifestyle here.



We will drive to Punakha after visiting weekend market. In the way, we will stop at the Dochula Pass at 3,100 meters. From this pass, we can enjoy a fantastic view of the Himalayan range centered by Gangkhar Puensum (7,570 m: highest in Bhutan). The Druk Wangyal Chortens lies in the pass which was made in honor of war soldiers of Bhutan. From here we will make brief stops at the temple of divine madman, and the temple of fertility before reaching Punakha. We will visit the famous Punakha Dzong here in the banks of Pho Chu and Mo Chu rivers and spend some time in this magnificent Dzong. We will also cross the oldest Punakha Suspension Bridge which connects three villages to witness the wonderful surrounding views. Overnight in Punakha.

### Day 14 Drive to Paro from Punakha and Paro Sightseeing

Today, you will have a scenic 4-hour drive from Punakha to Paro, passing through stunning valleys and hills. In Paro, explore the iconic Paro Dzong, stroll through the charming Old Paro Town, and, if lucky, watch a traditional archery game, Bhutan's national sport, for a truly enriching experience. Overnight in Paro.

### Day 15 Tiger's Nest (Taktshang Monastery) hike

Drive to base point of hike and start our walk to the Tiger's Lair, Taktsang Monastery. The main highlight of Bhutan, this monastery is a beautiful place to be with magnificent landscape views of the surrounding regions. Located at a sharp face of a high hill, the hike to it is certainly not easy. However, with our experienced guides, you will be assured the safest route to it. Many legends are granted at this monastery with some claiming that one the great Guru Rinpoche meditated in the caves of this monastery. After spending some time here, we will return to Paro and have lunch.



End your trip by visiting Kyichu Lhakhang. You can see the oldest Jowo temple which was built to stop female giants from preventing the spreading of Buddhism across Tibet. Overnight in Paro.

### Day 16 Final Departure via Bangkok/Kathmandu/New Delhi

This wonderful vacation of these wondrous nations of the Himalayas ends with a high note today with a departure flight providing the view of Himalayas to your next destination. With a heart full of great stories, treasured moments, and unique experiences that you have collected throughout the tour, this vacation will be the next chapter to your travel diaries. Our team of Asia experience will be in touch for your invaluable feedback and suggestions. We will drive you to the airport for your return flight from the hotel.

### **Cost & Inclusion**

Tibet;

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.



- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Breakfast in Tibet.
- Processing Travel Permit and Entry Visa.

### Nepal;

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Breakfast in Nepal.

### Bhutan;

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Full meals in Bhutan.
- Processing Travel Permit and Entry Visa.

### Select;

## **Contact Us**

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