

Sikkim Darjeeling Bhutan Nepal Tibet Tour

This tour covers the four most beautiful Himalayan countries of South Asia



Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through Sikkim, Bhutan, Nepal, and Tibet. This amazing tour starts from Gangtok, Sikkim. Visit Tsomgo Lake and Baba Harbhajan Singh Memorial. Next, explore Darjeeling's attractions and witness a stunning sunrise at Tiger Hill. Then, fly to Bhutan and discover Thimphu and Punakha, including the famous Taktshang Monastery. After that fly to Kathmandu, and explore some finest cultural attractions. Swayambhunath Stupa, Durbar Squares, Pashupatinath Temple, etc. are some popular landmarks in Kathmandu. Finally, venture into Tibet, visiting Rongbuk Monastery, Shigatse, and Lhasa's iconic sites like Potala Palace and Sera Monastery. Experience diverse cultures, stunning landscapes, and ancient heritage on this unforgettable journey.

Asia Experiences itinerary provides a perfect blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and spiritual experiences. It allows visitors to immerse themselves in the rich traditions and stunning landscapes of these Himalayan regions. From the serene lakes and monasteries of Sikkim to the majestic fortresses and lush valleys of Bhutan, followed by the ancient temples and vibrant city life of Nepal, and finally the awe-inspiring landscapes and spiritual sites of Tibet, this journey promises a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. With a mix of sightseeing, scenic drives, and cultural encounters, this itinerary provides a complete exploration of the diverse cultures, traditions, and natural wonders of the Himalayas.

Highlights

- **India (Sikkim & Darjeeling):** 4 Nights in Sikkim & Darjeeling with Rumtek Monastery, Tsomgo Lake, Tiger Hills sunrise tour, Ghoom Monastery, Droul Chorthen, Rumtek Monastery.
- **Bhutan:** 3 Nights in Bhutan with Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Paro Valley, Thimphu and Punakha Dzong.
- **Nepal:** 4 Nights in Kathmandu with Bhaktapur and Patan Durbar Square, Pashupatinath, Boudhanath, Patan, Swoyambhu Stupa and local market.
- **Tibet:** 6 Nights in Lhasa with Potala Palace, Drepung Monastery, Norbulinka Palace and Yamdrok-Tsho Lake excursion, Shigatse, Gyantse, Rongbuk Monastery (EBC).

Outline

1. Choose your own departure date
2. Select the comfort level of accommodation
3. Adjust activities to cater to special interests
4. Modify any aspect of the tour as needed
5. Flexible travel route (start from Sikkim and end to Kathmandu/Beijing/Bangkok)

Your Journey day by day

Day 01 : Fly to Bagdogra Airport via New Delhi/Kolkatta/Bangkok and Drive from Bagdogra Airport - Gangtok (About - 140 kms 4 hrs)

Our representative will be waiting for you at the airport with a play card. Transfer to Gangtok- "The Capital of Sikkim". Check-in to your hotel on arrival. Overnight in Gangtok.

Day 02 : Gangtok - Sightseeing (Approx – 52 kms)

Post breakfast embark on an excursion trip to Tsomgo Lake (12,400 ft.) & Baba Harbhajan Singh Memorial (13200 ft) Overnight in Gangtok.

Day 03 : Gangtok tour and Drive from Gangtok – Darjeeling (Approx – 110 kms 4 hrs)

Sikkim Sightseeing covering Droul Chorthen, Research Institute of Tibetology, Rumtek Monastery, Flower Show etc.

Transfer to Darjeeling. Check-in to your hotel on arrival. Overnight in Darjeeling.

Day 04 : Darjeeling Sightseeing Tour

Early Morning (at 04:00 am) visit to Tiger hill to watch the spectacular sunrise over Mt. Khangchendzonga (28,208 ft. Worlds third highest peak), on your way back we see Ghoom Monastery and Batasia Loop. After breakfast embark on a sightseeing tour of Darjeeling covering - Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (closed on Thursday), Tenzing Rock, Tibetan Refugee selfhelp Centre (closed on Sunday) & Tea Garden (outer view). Evening free or can be spent at the mall (Chowrasta). Overnight in Darjeeling.

**If very early flight to Paro, It is better to drive Siliguri and overnight stay near Bagdogra airport (Siliguri) instead of Darjeeling.*

Day 05 : Drive from Darjeeling to Bagdogra and fly to Bhutan and drive to Thimphu

Drive to Bagdogra from darjeeling and fly to Paro airport from Bagdogra. Our employee will meet you at the airport and take you to the hotel. Then drive to Thimphu (1 hour 15 minutes).

If time permits, on the way to the Paro-Thimphu highway, visit the 16th-century old Tachogang Lhakhang temple. The temple means the hill of the excellent horse. You need to cross an old bridge to visit the temple. From the bridge, enjoy the scenic views of the villages.

Then, drive towards Thimphu. Today you will sightseeing of National Library, Third King Memorial Stupa, Heritage paper factory, art school, and the biggest statue of Buddha etc. Overnight stay at Thimphu.

Day 06 : Thimphu to Punakha excursion- back to Thimphu

After breakfast we start the tour of Bhutan, drive to renowned Dochula Pass (3102 meters) and see the view of great Himalayas. Then walk around 108 Stupas and you can take some beautiful pictures. Next, drive towards Punakha Dzong and visit the dzong and nearby the Bhutan's oldest Punakha Suspension Bridge if we have enough time then we can visit the temple of fertility through rice terraced fields. Drive back to Thimphu. Overnight stay at Thimphu.

Day 07 : Thimphu to Paro and Taktshang Monastery Hike

Today after breakfast we return back to Paro and walk to Taktshang or 'Tiger's Nest' famous monastery in Bhutan. It is located in the Cliffside of the upper Paro valley. It is one of the holiest monument for Buddhist. Paro Taktsang is the most famous among the thirteen Taktshang or "tiger lair" caves in which Guru Padmasambhava meditated.

Day 08 : Flight Paro to Kathmandu and Apply Tibet visa

Fly to Kathmandu with an amazing view from the flight. After landing at Kathmandu airport you will have to process your Nepal Visa you will require USD 30 cash and 2 passport size photograph). Our representative will be waiting for you at the airport with a placard. He will then take you to the hotel and you will spend the night at the hotel.

**Please note that entering Tibet from Kathmandu, it is necessary to apply for a Tibet Visa at the Chinese Embassy in Kathmandu, which typically takes a minimum of 4 working days to process. As part of this process, your original passport will be retained by the Chinese Embassy, and you will also need to visit the embassy for biometric verification. During this period, while your Tibet Visa application is being processed, you will have the opportunity to do sightseeing tours around Kathmandu.*

Day 09 : Kathmandu Sightseeing: Swayambhunath, Kathmandu, Patan Durbar Square

The first day in Kathmandu begins with sightseeing around Swayambhunath Stupa. Have breakfast and then, we head towards the stupa. This stupa is popularly known as 'Monkey Temple'. Enjoy the breathtaking views of the Kathmandu Valley from the hilltop. In the surroundings of the Stupa, there are numerous Buddha statues, a big Vajra, small chaityas, a small museum, and monasteries. You can see many monkeys roaming around the premise. The huge spiral stupa with wisdom eyes symbol and beneath is a big white dome looks very impressive. The fragrance of butter lamps and incense creates the surrounding atmosphere more blissful.

Then, visit the Chinese Embassy to apply for the Tibet Visa with all the necessary documents. It is necessary to apply for at least three days before the Tibet visit and Kathmandu is the only International destination to go to Tibet besides China.

Have lunch and we head to Patan Durbar Square for sightseeing. One of the three durbars in the Kathmandu Valley is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ancient King's palace, ancient old temples, Krishna Mandir, Patan Museum, beautiful courtyards, and artistically beautiful decorations in the architecture are impressive attractions here. Take some photos and back to Kathmandu.

Next, we visit another World Heritage Site Kathmandu Durbar Square. The Durbar Square in the middle of the city offers ancient heritages of the medieval period. The ancient palaces, in the vicinity there is the living Goddess Kumari, Taleju Temple, Kal Bhairav Temple, Hanuman Dhoka Museum, and Gaddi Baithak are some major attractions. In the evening, enjoy walking and exploring the streets and trying out some foods in the food court.

Day 10 : Kathmandu Sightseeing: Pashupatinath, Bouddhanath and Chandragiri hill by cable car

We continue the Kathmandu sightseeing. After breakfast, we visit the holy Pashupatinath Temple. One of the most essential Hindu temples in Nepal is dedicated to Lord Shiva. This World Heritage Site temple is situated on the bank of the Bagmati river. In the surroundings of the temple, there is a huge statue of the Ox. Visit the small shrines and other temples, and see the Sadhus.

Not far from there is another World Heritage Site called Boudhanath. This stupa is one of the biggest stupas in Nepal. This holy stupa is of great significance to Tibetan Buddhists. Many people perform the kora ritual by circulating the big dome in a clockwise direction. In the surroundings, you can also visit other monasteries. You can hear Tibetan praying chants, and smell the fragrance of butter lamps and incense which makes the place very delightful. You can also do some souvenir shopping and explore the markets as well as enjoy Tibetan cuisine.

From Boudhanath, drive to Thankot and take a cable car ride to Chandragiri Hill. Enjoy the panoramic views of the Himalayas, Kathmandu Valley, and the surrounding countryside. Visit the Bhaleshwor Mahadev Temple and experience the spiritual atmosphere of this sacred site. Relax and rejuvenate in this tranquil setting, and take in the fresh air and sunshine.

Day 11 : Tour of Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu-Narayan Temple

After breakfast, 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, Nyatapole 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. Overnight in a luxury hotel.

Next, we will visit Changunarayan Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site located 15 km east of Bhaktapur. The temple was built in the 6th century and is dedicated to Vishnu, the Hindu god of preservation. The temple is known for its intricate wood and stone carvings. After visiting the temple, we will drive back to Kathmandu.

*Your Tibet group visa will be ready. Collect your original passport and visa from Chinese embassy of Kathmandu and start the remaining tour.

Day 12 : Drive from Kathmandu to Gyirung via Rasuwa Gadi

Our overland tour starts today from Kathmandu to Kerung/Gyirong. We will do all the necessary preparations and leave the valley following the Trishuli highway. The road is smooth in the first segment in the hills followed by some gravel segments. Similarly, we will also face some off-road portions as we get near to the Chinese border. In the way, we will stop for lunch at local settlements and continue driving in this scenic highway. After reaching Kyirung, we will have our documents checked at both Nepalese and Chinese immigration offices and drive to our hotel.

Overnight at Gyirung.

Day 13 : Kerung/Gyirong to Shegar/Rongbuk Monastery (Everest Base Camp)

You will start for the longest and most scenic drive of the whole trip to the Rongbuk monastery near EBC. The landscape shift is wondrous as we shift into more barren and snow-covered regions from here. We will drive pass Pelkutso lake and a vast grassland in the first portion of today. Taking small short stops to admire nature and view, we will continue our drive to the Gyawula Pass (5200 m). A bit windy, but absolutely beautiful, we can view the Himalayas clearly from here. From the pass, it is a couple of hours to reach Rongbuk monastery.

Day 14 : Rongbuk to Shigatse via Tingri

We will wake up early for a breathtaking sunrise of a lifetime from the Rongbuk monastery over Mt. Everest. After this amazing experience, we will explore the monastery premises for a bit before continuing our road journey to Shigatse. We will be traveling in a bit bumpy road for the first part of the trip. From here we will stop at the small Tingiri town. The views of Cho Oyu and Everest is majestic from the town here. Next, it is a couple of hours of highway drive to the G318 National highway milestone (5,000 m) in Lhatse, and there we'll take some pictures. After driving to Shigatse from Lhatse, we will freshen up and visit Tashilupo Monastery. This monastery, which is the seat of the Panchen Lama

of Tibet is also one of the most significant ones here.

Day 15 : Shigatse to Lhasa with Gyantse and Yamdruk Lake

Today will be the last day of driving exploration in Tibet, and we will cover many cultural destinations in the way. The road is in good condition, and we will make shortstops in the small farmer villages lying in the way. After reaching Gyantse, we will take a brief exploration tour of some majestic sites here. This heritage-rich town has a lot to offer, and we will visit the Perklor Monastery, Kumbum stupa, and Gyantse Old Street here. The next portion of the drive takes us beside the Holy Yamdrok Lake (One of the three significant holy lakes in Tibet). We will also enjoy the views of Manak Dam Lake and Korola Glacier before reaching Lhasa in the evening.

Day 16 : Lhasa Exploration

Today you will admire the Legendary Potala Palace located at the hilltop and get a view of Lhasa city. Potala is divided into two parts, first is white and second red. The Palace built for meditation in the 5th century and later renovated by Dalai Lama is among UNESCO world heritage site. You will then visit chapels, gallery and formal Chapel of 14th Dalai Lama till 1959.

Then we move to Sera Monastery, a religious historic site, next Jokhang Temple – the spiritual center. The beautiful temple is located in Barkhor Square, now a UNESCO world heritage site. Overnight we stay in Lhasa.

Day 17 : Continue exploration of Lhasa

Today we start our day from Drepung Monastery, the biggest Monastery in Tibet and shelter for thousands of Monks. Here you can see the prayer hall, meeting hall and cooking area for thousands of Monks. Next, you will visit Mentshikang (Tibetan medicine center) built in 1916. Then you proceed towards Dalai Lama's summer camp Norbulingka Palace. It also has a beautiful park around and is a UNESCO site. Overnight at Lhasa.

Day 18 : Depart Lhasa to Beijing or Bangkok or Kathmandu.

Last day in Lhasa and in Tibet after a most exciting and memorable time with interesting historical, cultural tour. As per the international flight our staff will transfer to international airport for the flight back home or to respective countries.

Cost & Inclusion

India :

- Breakfast in India.

Bhutan :

- Full meals in Bhutan.
- Processing Travel Permit and Entry Visa.

Nepal :

- Breakfast in Nepal.

Tibet :

- Breakfast in Tibet.
- Processing Travel Permit and Entry Visa.

Extras :

- 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.