

KAILASH - MANASAROVAR YATRA BY HELICOPTER: 10 DAYS

-Kailash Yatra is not a luxury holiday, it is an adventure pilgrimage-

Maha Shivaratri Special Tour 2012

Shivaratri is 'the Great night of Lord Shiva'. Devotees of lord Shiva consider the night as the most auspicious one. Shivaratri falls on the '13th night/14th day' in the Krishna Paksha (waning moon) of Maagha or Phalguna according to the Hindu Calendar (Vikrama sambat - BS). The celebration takes place in the night before and the day of the new moon.

There is a legend inscribed in Hindu mythology 'Purana' about the origin of Shivaratri. During the churning of the ocean to have the elixir; a pot of lethal poison emerged from the ocean. Both the Gods and the demons were horrified because the poison was so toxic that it could destroy the entire living things. They then ran to Lord Shiva and pray for help. Lord Shiva drank the poison in order to save entities from the destruction. Instead of swallowing the poison, Lord Shiva held the poison in his throat, so due to its effect the color of his throat became blue. Since then Lord Shiva is known as 'Nilkantha'. Lord Shiva saved the world from destruction, so the Shivaratri is celebrated for this reason.

Day to Day Program

FEB 16: ARRIVAL IN KATHMANDU

Upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport Kathmandu. You will be met at the airport by our representative and transferred to Hotel.

O/N Hotel Grand

FEB 17: MORNING, SIGHTSEEING TOUR - AFTERNOON: FLY TO NEPALGUNJ

Morning: Sightseeing tour in Kathmandu. Visit Pashupatinath temple & Budhanil Kantha Vishnu temple (sleeping Bishnu).

Afternoon: Transfer to domestic airport for your flight to Nepalgunj. The flight takes about an hour to reach Nepalgunj. Our representative will receive you at the airport and transfer to Hotel.

O/N Hotel Siddhartha

- Kathmandu to Nepalgunj: 1 hour flight
- A very basic transport (non-ac Bus) will be available in Nepalgunj

FEB 18: MORNING. FLY TO SIMIKOT (BY AIRCRAFT) - ACCLIMATIZATION

Very early morning (at 5 am) you should be ready to go to the airport for your flight to Simikot. Normally, the flight leaves for Simikot at around 6.00 am, if there is a clear weather in all places (Nepalgunj, en route and Simikot). Delay by an hour OR two is quite normal in this sector. So, passengers are requested not to be panic.

The flight requires about an hour to reach Simikot. Our representative will receive you at the airport and take you to the Hotel. Our representative will do some immigration formalities whereas you will be having rest in hotel.

O/N Sun Valley Resort (dormitory room) – basic but the best available

- Nepalgunj to Simikot: 1 hour (by Twin otter aircraft with 15 seats OR Dronier aircraft with 15 seats)
- The flight can be delayed by an hour OR two, which is normal.
- If the weather is not good in Simikot OR en route to Simikot, the flight will be canceled

FEB 19: FLY TO HILSA BY HELICOPTER - THEN DRIVE TO PURANG (Taklakot – 3400 m.).

Early morning, you will be escorted to Hilsa (Nepal/China border) by our Helicopter. The flight takes about 25 minutes to reach Hilsa from Simikot. You will be met by our local representative in Hilsa and escorted to his house (tea shop). Here, you have to halt until all group members arrive.

Hilsa boarder is not officially opened for trading purpose; so there still are some certain restrictions and rules to follow while traveling through this boarder. We can't just travel to Purang (Taklakot) with our guide and vehicles, we should have a military escort from the border to Purang (Taklakot) and it takes some time to manage this. So, at this point, it can be delayed to cross the boarder. Passengers are requested to have patient and let us arrange everything smoothly.

From Sher, it takes another an hour to reach Taklakot (Purang -3700 m.) by drive.

O/N Purang Guesthouse (twin sharing room with attached toilet) - basic but the best available

- Simikot to Hilsa: 25 minutes by KAWASAKI 117 Helicopter - 9 seats and B2 (Euro copter) Helicopter with 5 seats
- Hilsa to Sher trek: 10 minutes
- Sher to Taklakot drive: 1 hour by 4WD Land Cruiser

FEB 20: DRIVE, PURANG TO LAKE MANSAROVAR (Chiu Gompa – 4550 m.)

Early morning (after breakfast) you will depart for Lake Manasarovar (4560 m- Chui Gompa). The drive takes about 2 to 2 & 1/2 hours. On the way, we will take a short break in Rakshas Taal (Lake Ravana) to see the breathtaking views of Rakshas Taal with back ground view of holy mount Kailash.

After having holy dip and lunch, you will depart for a circumambulation around the lake Manasarovar on jeep. The journey around the lake requires approximately 2 hours.

O/N Guesthouse OR similar (all dormitory room)–Dharamsala type with Tibetan toilet

- The distance of Mansarovar circumambulation: 72 km
- Taklakot to Lake Manasarovar: 2 hours by Land Cruiser
- Jeep tour around Lake Manasarovar: 2 hours by Land Cruiser

FEB 21: YAMA DWARA DARSHAN – BACK TO HILSA

Afternoon drive to Yama Dwar (OR Serson, 10 kms / 4750m), the auspicious gateway to the Parikrama (circuit) around the Mt. Kailash.

After having Darshan from Yamadwar, you will be returning back to Hilsa.

Despite of a very basic facility in Hilsa, we will take you there & keep overnight stay because the next day you will be picked up by Helicopter early morning, so you can catch your onward scheduled flights without any problem.



WE STRONGLY ADVISE OUR GROUP NOT TO FORCE US TO CHANGE THIS. IF WE ARE FORCED CHANGE, GROUP MEMBERS HAS TO TAKE RESPONSIBILTY FOR MISSING FLIGHT OF ONWARD DESTINATION.

Instead of staying in Hilsa, if you stay in Purang, there is 90% chance of missing your flights from Simikot onward, some times, you even miss international flight.

O/N Local Guesthouse (very very basic with local village style)

- Lake Manapoint to Hilsa: 3 hours drive by Land Cruiser
- Lake Manasarovar to Yam Dwar: 2 hrs drive
- Yama Dwar to Hilsa Trek: 2 and 1/2 hrs

FEB 22: FLY, HILSA – SIMIKOT (HELI) THEN CONTINUE FLY TO KATHMANDU BY AIRCRAFT

Early morning, you will be picked up by our Helicopter from Hilsa then brought back to Simikot. From Simikot airport, you will be continuing fly to Nepalgunj then onward to Kathmandu.

Overnight Hotel Grand

- Hilsa to Simikot: 25 minutes flight by Helicopter
- Simikot to Nepalgunj: 1 hour flight by aircraft
- Nepalgunj to Kathmandu: 1 hour flight by aircraft

FEB 23: DEPARTURE FROM KATHMANDU

Transfer to Tribhuvan International airport for your flight back home.



SERVICE INCLUDES

- [01] 2 nights Hotel (twin sharing) in Kathmandu with vegetarian meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner)
- [02] One night hotel in Nepalgunj with vegetarian meals (twin sharing)
- [03] One night Hotel in Simikot in Sun Valley Resort (dormitory room with common bathroom)
- [04] One night hotel in Hilsa (very very basic dormitory room) with all meals
- [05] Pick up & drop transfers in Kathmandu
- [06] One half-day sightseeing tour in Kathmandu
- [07] Necessary arrival / departure transfers in Nepalgunj (very normal vehicle available here)
- [08] Kathmandu - Nepalgunj – Kathmandu air ticket (fixed wing – Yeti Air OR Buddha Air)
- [09] Nepalgunj - Simikot – Nepalgunj air ticket (fixed wing – Twin otter aircraft OR dronier)
- [10] Simikot - Hilsa – Simikot by Helicopter (only 4 OR 5 persons can be carried at a time)
- [11] Domestic airport taxes (all sectors)
- [12] Tibet group visa and travel/trekking permits
- [13] Guesthouse in Tibet (for the entire journey) – **except in Taklakot all places have dormitory Guesthouse with Tibetan common toilet**
- [14] All Indian vegetarian meals in Tibet (breakfast, lunch & dinner) while on the tour
- [15] Transportation in Tibet in Luxury Bus
- [16] Tour around Lake Manasarovar on vehicle
- [17] Asthapad Darshan

- [18] English speaking Tibetan guide
- [19] One tour Manager from Kathmandu to Kathmandu
- [20] Necessary supporting crew (Cook, Sherpas, tour Manager from Nepal)
- [21] All necessary Kitchen & camping equipments
- [22] Yaks & Yak men during the Parikrama to carry foods and baggage
- [23] Oxygen for emergency use
- [24] Medical kit bag / First Aid kit
- [25] Humla region restricted area permit & royalties
- [26] Porter cost in Hilsa (while going and coming back)
- [27] All applicable taxes & service charges

SERVICE EXCLUDES

- [01] Riding Horse during the Parikrama
- [02] Your travel insurance
- [03] Insurance for emergency rescue & evacuation service
- [04] Personal expenses
- [05] Bottled drinks
- [06] Tip for guide & driver
- [07] Extra accommodation charge in Nepalgunj, Simikot and Hilsa due to flight cancellation
- [08] Any additional cost due to natural calamity and unforeseen circumstances

IMPORTANT NOTES

[01] NATURAL CALAMITY IS BEYOND OUR CONTROL, so we won't take any responsibility & guarantee of weather condition. Our company won't be responsible for any cancellation OR delay of your flight. Therefore, any additional cost that takes place due to weather related problems will be extra and passengers should pay such expenses directly. For example: Extra night hotel, meals & charter of helicopter (which is not covered in your package) should be extra.

Passengers should be mentally prepared to face such unforeseen circumstances while taking this life-time pilgrimage. In this tour, you should travel (by aircraft and helicopter) through remote mountain regions & weather barrier is very common here. Our flight may cancel OR may delay in any of these places (Nepalgunj, Simikot & Hilsa). In this situation, Passengers should not be panic and feel negative. We can handle the situation only with your positive cooperation.

[02] Always keep a couple of days extra in your personnel schedule, if manageable. If your tour is delayed due to unforeseen circumstances OR if you got stocked somewhere in the mountain while going OR while returning , you can still catch your international flight. So, keep one or two days extra which is beyond our program.

[03] Passengers are requested to purchase an insurance package from their own country that should cover all extra expenses (extra hotel, meals, extra transport, visa splitting cost etc). This may happen due to weather related problems. Also, the insurance package should cover a rescue & evacuation service (by flight OR Helicopter) during the emergency situation.

[04] Our Company uses fixed-wings aircraft (twin otter OR Dornier) to transport passengers from Nepalgunj to Simikot. To get to Simikot, the aircraft should fly over the remote mountain region, where weather is always unpredictable. Due to bad weather condition (en route OR in Simikot), if fixed-wings couldn't operate (that may happen), passengers should wait in Nepalgunj for another day to fly. However, there still can be a chance to fly to Simikot by using Helicopter on a charter basis. If passengers decided (it must be a group decision) to charter Helicopter, an extra amount will be charged, the applicable amount should be paid up front.

Nepalgunj to Simikot by Helicopter: INR. 27000/- pp (5 persons at a time)

Nepalgunj to Bajura airport by aircraft (charter basis) then flight by Helicopter: INR. 15,000/- pp

[05] Single room can be provided only in Kathmandu. So, the single supplement that we charge will be valid only in Kathmandu. BESIDE KATHMANDU, 'WE CAN'T PROVIDE SINGLE ROOM IN ANY OTHER PLACES'.

[06] If you would like to return back from Kailash earlier than your schedules time, you have to pay for extra expenses like: visa splitting cost, additional transport (if there is no proper group size), extra hotel bill & helicopter flight (for flying beyond the schedule time). But, you can't claim any refund from us. Your insurance policy should cover all these expenses.

If you decided to shorten the itinerary OR decided to come back earlier, there won't be any refund OR adjustment from our company. Whether we take full service OR partial service, the charge of the Chinese government is same.

[07] We provide flight (fixed-wings aircraft) in the following sectors.

- a. Kathmandu - Nepalgunj – Kathmandu (Avro OR Beech Aircraft OR Jet stream)
- b. Nepalgunj - Simikot – Nepalgunj (Dornier OR Twin otter engine air craft)

[08] We provide Helicopter in the following sectors.

- a. Simikot - Hilsa – Simikot: French Euro copter (B2) with 5 seats capacity but capable to carry only 4 persons at a time.

You can fly to Kathmandu from any major city of India (most flights are via Delhi), but to obtain the Chinese group visa, you have to send your original Passport to our Delhi office 15 days in advance. After obtaining the visa, we will handover your Passport to you at Delhi airport (if you are flying via Delhi). However, if you are not flying Kathmandu via Delhi, we will handover it

either in Kathmandu OR in Nepalgunj. In this case, please don't forget to carry your Identity card with you (Voter Card OR ration card etc.) while traveling.

KATHMANDU OFFICE:

THE TREKKERS' SOCIETY PVT. LTD.

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