MOMENTS on the road

Tibet through a lens: Lhasa to Mount Everest (9 or 12 days)



ON THE ROAD EXPERIENCES

BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

We love road journeys. They are by far our favourite way of traveling. We think the world of western China and the countries that border on this region – think Vietnam, Lao, Thailand, Myanmar, for example.

On the Road Experiences is all about sharing with like-minded travelers just how beautiful a road journey in these varied lands can be. Now turn the page to find out what we've come to love so much...



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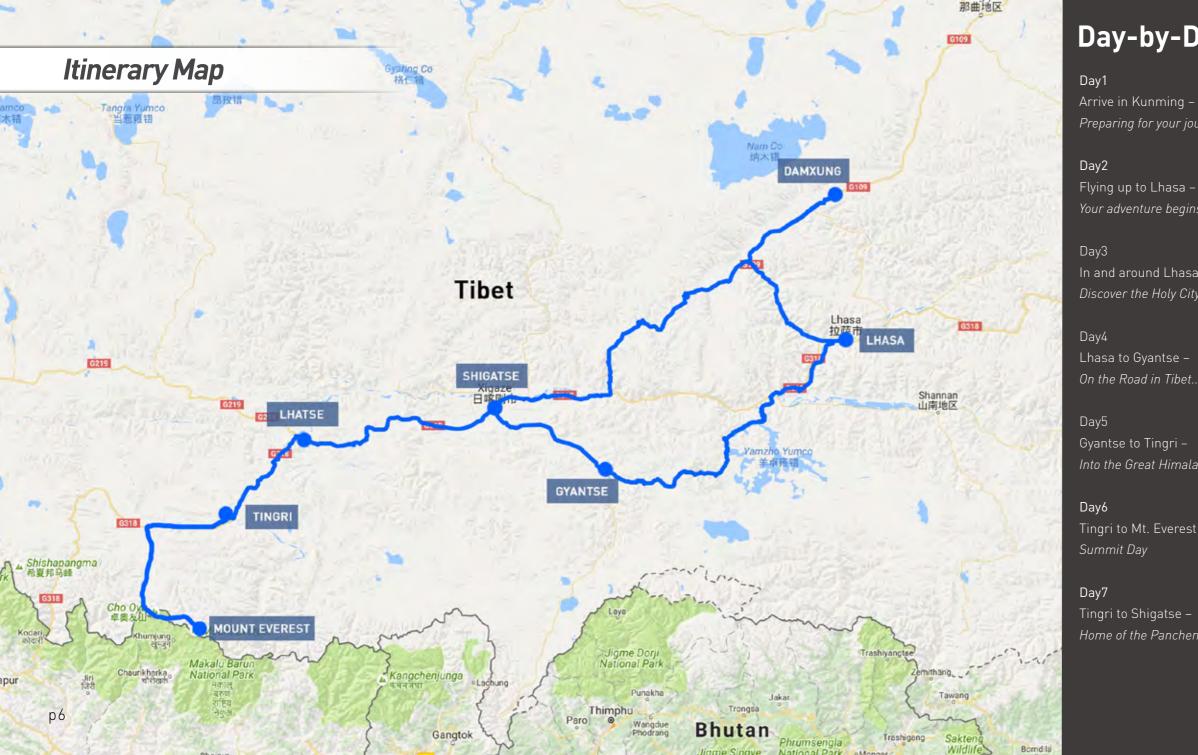
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Yes, it is possible...

A driving holiday in this part of the world is indeed possible. We take care of everything. All you need to do is come, drive and enjoy a rare adventure!

Take your camera on a journey of discovery in Tibet, the breath-taking 'Land of Snows'...Tread in the footsteps of Mallory and other great Himalayan explorers on a road trip like no other as you discover this breath-taking region and drive from Lhasa to Mount Everest Base Camp.

On this journey with professional photographer, Ron Yue, you will enjoy personal coaching that will improve your photography skills, whatever your starting point, as you travel through some of the finest scenery on earth. Visit Lhasa's golden-roofed temples, stop at remote cliff-top monasteries and turquoise holy lakes as you wind your way towards the heart of the Himalayas.

On your journey back to Lhasa, it is possible to arrange a two-day extension to Tibet's 'Sky Lake', Lake Nam-tso. Ringed by snow-capped mountains, the vivid blue waters of the lake have been revered by Tibetans for centuries – the perfect end to a photographic expedition you will remember for a lifetime.

On the Road Experiences has paved the way for you to cross borders in your own properly insured SUV, so that you can enjoy the romance of a classic overland journey without any of the logistical headaches that typically accompany such journeys...



About Master Photographer Ron Yue

Originally from the North Shore in Vancouver, Canada, and based in Hong Kong since 1998, awardwinning photographer Ron Yue travels widely to capture the inspiring image. His work has taken him throughout much of Asia to some of the most intriguing places. Initially trained as a chartered accountant, he now uses his diverse photography skills and outdoor experience to produce spectacular photographs for his clients. He has photographed in locations ranging from the torrid heat of Death Valley to Alaska's frozen tundra, from the jungles of southeast Asia to the Tibetan plateau, and from executive boardrooms to the pinnacle of China's skyscrapers.

Many of Ron's images are built around spectacular environments, captured at their peak moments, often incorporating authentic, local people in their native life surroundings. The images frequently blur the division between the dramatic, nostalgic, and the serene.



He produces images for international commercial clients, editorials, and travel and documentary features primarily in the Asia region. Ron's fine print images are found in both home collections and corporate offices. Ron has photographed for the National Geographic Channel on projects in Vietnam and Hong Kong, and he spent two months traveling in remote areas of Tibet and across thirteen provinces in China on a documentary assignment for Nokia, accompanying On the Road in China founder, Peter Schindler. His work has also been featured as part of a

documentary program for CCTV. Ron has conducted inspiring lectures to audiences throughout Asia, and he has instructed at international schools and accreditation programs. He is a guest lecturer for Nikon. Ron feels that photography journeys, or "photographic learning experiences" as he describes them, is a perfect way to improve your photography. Our guests will discover that the new and interesting environments will significantly enhance the learning experience, and there are plenty of opportunities to try out concepts right away. The regular feedback, plus the camaraderie of sharing images with fellow travelers further adds to the enjoyment of your new abilities. When you embark on an amazing journey, you will want to ensure that you bring back images that do justice to the places you have been to so you can show all your friends the incredible experience that you have had.

Throughout the course of this journey, Ron will be on hand to answer questions, review photographs and give hints and tips that will help to make guest's photographs as beautiful as the scenes that inspired them. As well as specially arranged workshops and field sessions en route, Ron will also be available to ride in guest's cars during each day's drive.

Ron Yue will make it easy for your family to understand photography and after a lecture you can practice right away together.

Photography concept 1: Light

Concept 1: Understanding light in terms of its quality, direction, and ratios can turn a good photograph into a much more dramatic image



Photography concept 2: Composition

Concept 2: Learning to keep a composition simple can result in a more powerful and less distracting photograph



Photography concept 3: Your imagination!

Concept 3: Drawing on the knowledge of various photographic concepts and using your imagination can significantly alter the look and quality of an image







Solf ever there is a MAJESTIC PALACE inthe WORLD..."

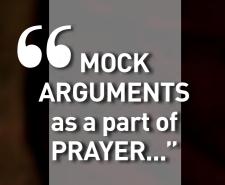


SS PILGRIMS PRAY in the shade..."

-



GOSSIP and PRAYER go hand-in-hand..."





-

10.5







66 DRIVE along this BEAUTIFUL LAKE, seen here in autumn, but STUNNING, whatever the season..."



C Explore historic GYANTSE, now a PEACEFUL farming town..."



66 5000km AWAY from Shanghai..."

The G318, China's longest road, near Tingri

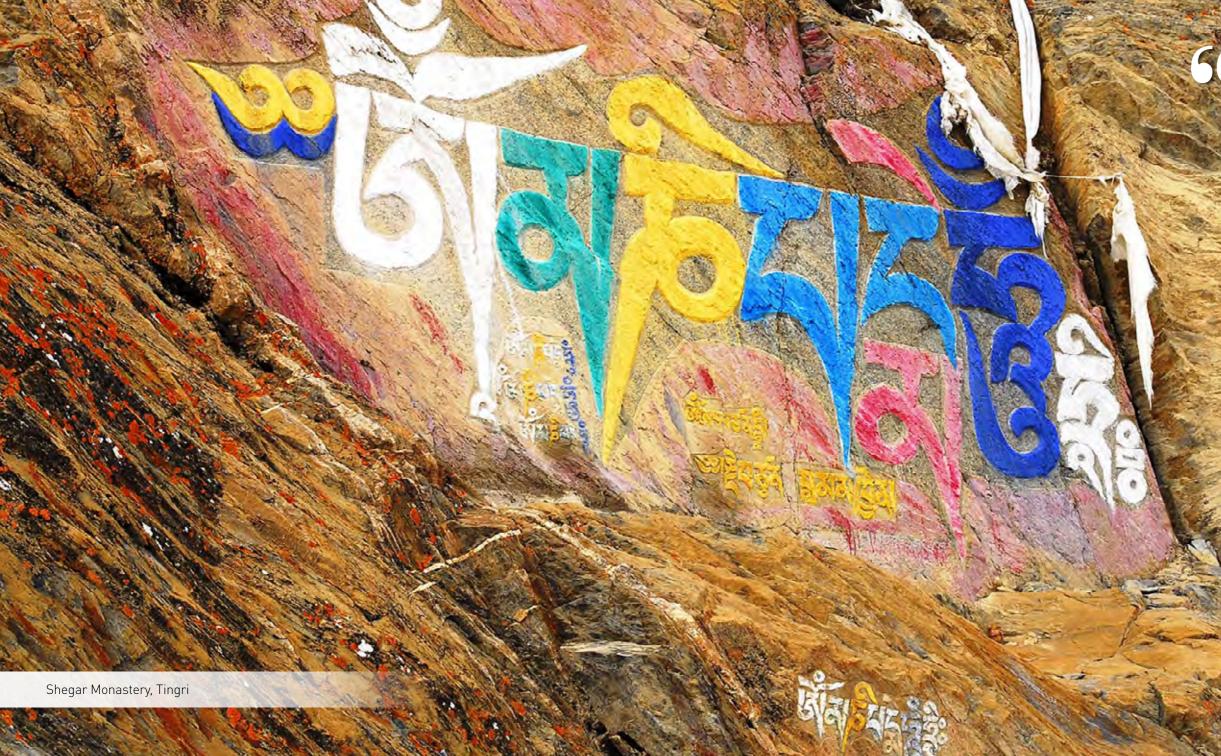




66 ADD your prayer flags to the collection FESTOONING Mis 5,300 meter MOUNTAIN PASS..."



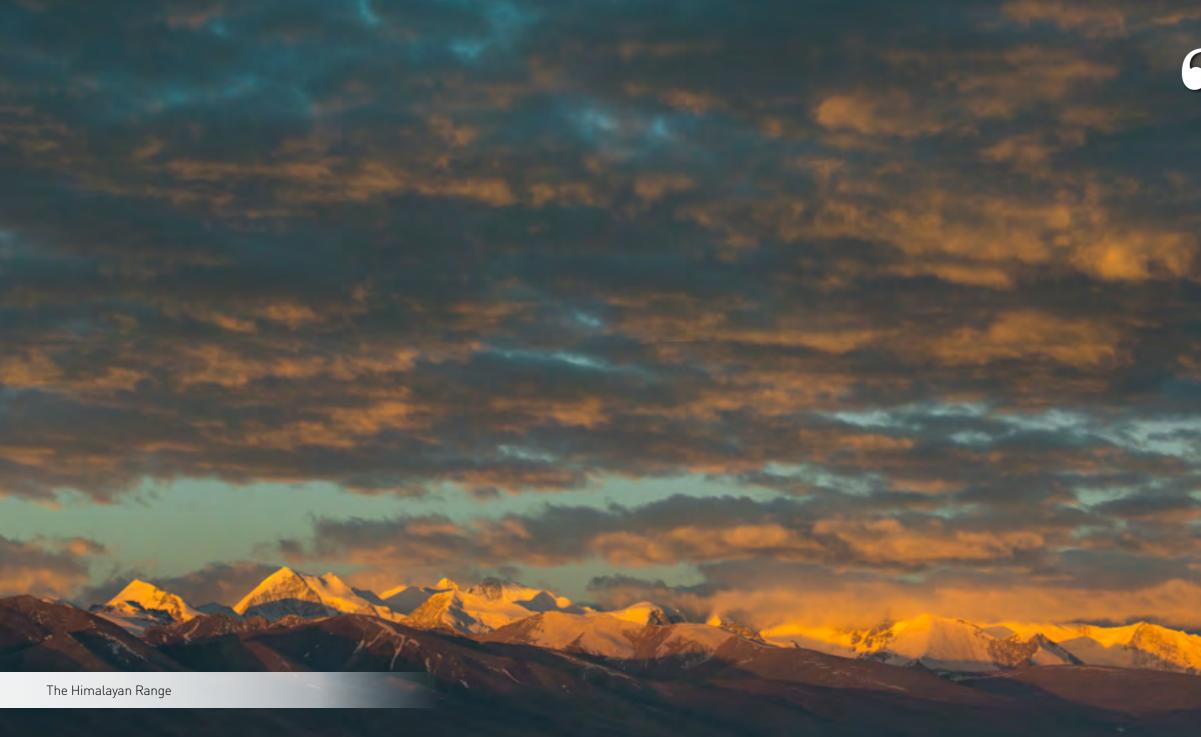
66 Heading WEST, ever MORE REMOTE...."



66 OM MANI PADME HUM, TIBETAN'S all-purpose BLESSING..."



66 _{Mani} Offerings...."



56 The GREAT Himalayan Range at daybreak..."



Mt. Everest (left) in the Great HImalayan Range

56 UNFORGETTABLE, the SIGHT of THREE peaks over 8000 metres!"

and the



Solution Practice your HAIRPIN TURNS..."





66 MOUNT EVEREST, if ever you wanted to GET THIS CLOSE..."



55 up-close-andpersonal with YOUR YAK..."



Spend time in this stunning place, and UNDERSTAND why the MOUNTAIN is SACRED to local people..."



CEXPLORE this enormous monastery, HOME to generations of PANCHEN LAMAS..."



Tashilumpo Monastery, Shigatse



En route from Shigatse to Damxung

66 A PICNIC at 4,500m.."



66 Making FRIENDS after the PICNIC..."



55 In the middle of NOWHERE, only YOU and DRAMATIC SCENERY!"



55 The HIGHEST mountain pass... and still FULL of ENERGY!"



56 FIRST VIEW of TIBET'S second largest HOLY LAKE..."

56 Even here, the ROADS are **PERFECTLY paved and FOR YOU to enjoy!**"

First view of Nam-tso lake





66 BLACK FUR balls... YAKS, EVERYWHERE!"





667,000+ meter mountains all around you..."



56 RAINBOW not included..."



Day 1 Preparing for your journey

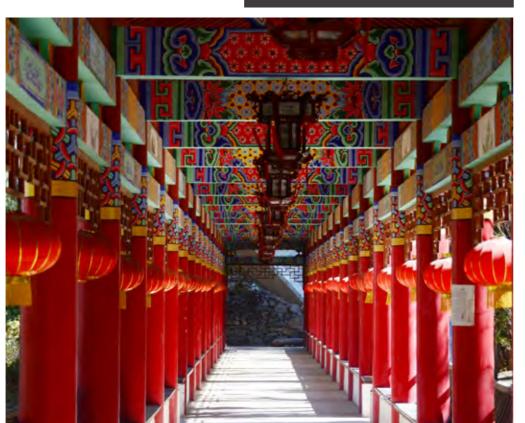
Arrive in Kunming according to your own arrangements.

We will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. If you require a temporary Chinese driving license, we will take you to the hotel via the Vehicle Licensing Bureau. All the documents for your temporary license will be prepared; you will just need to take a simple eye test and sign the forms.

After settling into the hotel, you may want to go for a stroll around the city-center Green Lake, where many locals come to relax. The lush park surrounding the lake is popular with people both young and old, who come to exercise and socialize. In winter, flocks of seagulls make the lake their temporary home.

In the evening, enjoy a group dinner in a local restaurant and attend our staff's safety briefing.

Dinner will be an opportunity to sample Yunnan's little-known but delicious cuisine and to meet your fellow travelers.



Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: NA **Duration:** NA

Elevation Highest Daytime: 1900m Overnight: 1850m

Hotel

Greenlake Hotel, Kunming (*****)

Day 2 Your adventure begins...

In the morning you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Lhasa (an economy-class flight from Kunming is included in the journey). On a clear day, this flight is an amazing introduction to the Tibetan Plateau as you soar over snowcapped peaks and beautiful valleys before landing in Lhasa.

Once we have driven into the city and you have settled in your rooms, you will have the opportunity to join a short classroom session with Ron. In this first workshop the focus will be upon composition and learning how to adapt to different light conditions particularly how to deal with the strong light up here on the Tibetan Plateau.

In the late afternoon, head into town for a relaxed photography walk around the Jokhang – the pilgrims that throng about Tibet's holiest shrine make it

one of Lhasa's most interesting spots for portraits.

Photography Session:

- Technical session on composition and reading light
- Street photography around the Jokhang and Barkhor



Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 0 km (70 km in chauffeured car) Duration: 0 hours

Elevation Highest Daytime: 3650m Overnight: 3650m

Hotel Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa (****)

Day 3 An Introduction to the Holy City

Spend the day around Lhasa as you acclimatize to the thin Tibetan air. In the morning you will return to the Jokhang and follow the streams of pilgrims inside this ancient and intensely atmospheric temple to see the candlelit treasures inside. After lunch. venture into the alleyways of the old town with Ron and your camera. You will visit a popular teahouse and explore Tromsikhang Market, the commercial heart of old Lhasa. where local people buy their daily essentials – yak butter, roasted barley, and handfuls of juniper incense.

If time permits, we will visit Sera Monastery later in the afternoon to watch the monks' afternoon debating session. The monks' dramatic gestures and animated facial expressions make them excellent portrait subjects.

The final session of the day is a workshop on landscape and architectural photography, to help you prepare for tomorrow's journey.

Photography Session:

- Morning at outside of Jokhang Temple to photograph prostrating pilgrims
- Visit Jokhang Temple
- Visit an atmospheric and local tea house hidden away in an alley
- Afternoon at Sera Monastery to photograph debating monks
- Early evening lesson on landscape and architectural photography



Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: very little **Duration:** less than an hour

Elevation

Highest Daytime: 3650m Overnight: 3650m

Hotel

Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa (****)

Day 4 On the Road in Tibet...

Today will be your first day on the beautiful roads of Tibet. as you head west out of Lhasa to the broad Yarlung Tsangpo Valley before climbing a winding road to your first high mountain pass of this trip, the Khamba La (4,790m/15,700ft). As you crest the pass, you will catch your first glimpse of the vivid blue waters of Lake Yamdrok-tso.

- After driving around the lake (and plenty of photo stops) and a lunch break in the small town of Nangartse, you will continue past glaciers and bucolic villages to Gyantse. Today's drive is a beautiful introduction to rural Tibet.
- Once in Gyantse, you will have the opportunity for an early evening visit to the town's unusual Pelkhor Chode Monastery, home of the Gyantse Kumbum - a tiered stupa filled with colourful shrines, one of only two such stupas in Tibet. Energetic and well-

acclimatised photographers will also be able to climb up to Gyantse Dzong, a hilltop fort (closed to the public) that commands brilliant views over Gyantse and the surrounding countryside.

Photography Sessions:

- Landscape photography at Lake Yamdrok-tso viewpoints and elsewhere en route
- old town (optional)



• Visit Pelkor Chode Monastery • Photography around the old town and walk up to Gyantse Dzong for an overview of the

Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 252 km Duration: 6 hours

Elevation Highest Daytime: 5045m Overnight: 3990m

Hotel Gyantse Hotel, Gyantse (***)

Day 5 Into the Great Himalayan Range

This morning you will drive to Shigatse, home to the enormous Tashilumpo Monastery, one of the few monasteries that was saved from the ravages of the Cultural Revolution. You will explore the monastery on your return from Mt. Everest; today there is only enough time for an early lunch before getting back on the road towards Tingri, which curves south-west from Shigatse towards the Himalayas.

Today's roads are some of the best on the trip, winding and smooth, and a delight to drive on. You will stay overnight in a simple hotel in the village of Pelbar and prepare for your trip to Everest North Base Camp the following day.

Join one of Ron's photography talks in the late afternoon and learn tricks and tips to help you capture the stunning scenery

you will enjoy tomorrow.

Photography Session:

- Early morning photo of Gyantse just after leaving the town
- Photography stops en route, from the fertile Nyang Chu Valley between Gyantse and Shigatse to the more arid countryside as we approach the Himalayas
- Afternoon workshop on more advanced landscape photography tips and tricks

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: 330 km Duration: 6 hours

Elevation

Highest Daytime:5275m Overnight: 4250m

Hotel

Baiba Hotel, Pelbar (**)



Day 6 Summit Day

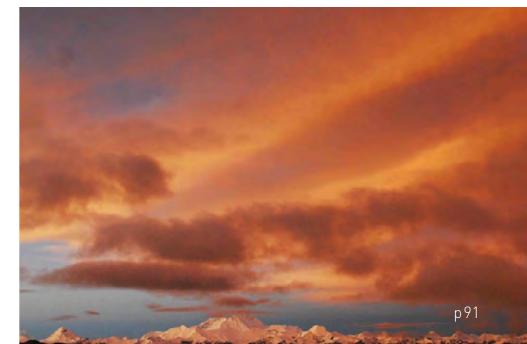
Setting out from Pelbar before dawn, you will watch the sun rise over what is, guite literally, the Roof of the World - an incredible panorama that includes four peaks over 8,000m/26,240ft; Everest, Lhotse, Makalu and Cho Oyu. After sunrise you will drive to Everest North Base Camp. which lies at the foot of the Rongbuk Glacier, at the end of a recently paved road. Stand in the shadow of Mount Everest and imagine you are about to set off for the summit. almost four kilometers (2.5 miles) vertically above the North Base Camp itself, and explore Rongbuk Monastery, the world's highest place of worship.

You will eat a simple lunch at Base Camp (for many, this is the highest meal you will ever eat!) before starting the drive back. Here, we have a choice of routes: to return via the same road we used in the morning, or a longer and more adventurous drive out that takes you past Cho Oyu and through remote countryside

to the main road at Old Tingri. The route chosen will depend upon weather conditions, timing and interest – your host will discuss the two options with you on the day itself.

Photography Session:

- Sunrise photography at Jawo-la pass
- Landscape photography en route and at North Base Camp, with plenty of opportunities to capture images of Mount Everest and her neighbours (weather permitting!) Visit Rongbuk Monastery



Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 300 km **Duration:** 9 hours

Elevation Highest Daytime: 5210m Overnight: 4250m

Hotel Baiba Hotel, Pelbar (**)

Day 7 Home of the Panchen Lamas

Today you retrace your steps as you make your way back to Shigatse. After driving through an initially arid landscape and climbing over a gentle pass, you will descend into the Kyi Chu Valley, one of the more fertile places in Tibet, enjoying plenty of photo stops as you drive!

Upon arriving in Shigatse you will head straight to your comfortable hotel. After checking in and taking a short rest, we will go to a nearby restaurant for lunch. In the afternoon Ron will accompany you to the enormous Tashilumpo Monastery, one of the few monasteries in Tibet that was largely saved from the ravages of the Cultural Revolution and seat of the Panchen Lamas.

Come late afternoon, you will have some time to yourself. If you have plenty of energy,

you could walk the steep Tashilumpo Kora for another perspective on the city and monastery – ask your tour leader for details. Otherwise. it's possible to return to the hotel for a massage or to explore Shigatse's 'Pedestrian Street' (which is bizarrely one of the more dangerous places to be a pedestrian in Shigatse - please take case in the chaotic traffic!). Essentially, the remainder of the afternoon is free for you to relax and unwind after a busy first half to the journey.

Photography Session:

- Afternoon visit to Tashilunpo Monastery with Ron
- Free time to explore Shigatse with your camera



Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 150 km Duration: 2.5 hours

Elevation Highest Daytime: 4200m Overnight: 3860m

Hotel Qomo Langzong Hotel, Shigatse (***)

Day 8 Enjoy a day of photography in Shigatse

For those who must end their journey soon, it is possible to return to Lhasa today in order to fly out the following morning. However, for those of you able to stay with us for an extra few days, the day will be devoted to photography, with a visit to a fascinating festival and a chance to explore Shigatse further.

In the morning we will return to Gyantse, stopping at the atmospheric Shalu Monasterv en route. Once in Gyantse, you will have the opportunity to watch a festival that is the culmination of weeks of preparation, celebrating Saga Dawa and commemorating the Buddha's enlightenment. One of the most important Tibetan festivals. crowds turn out to watch the fun dressed in all their finery, making it an especially memorable (and photogenic) event.

Back in Shigatse, you will have free time to rest and review your work thus far with Ron. The following day's journey

is a long one, so today is an opportunity to relax!

Short Itinerary: Drive back to Lhasa Photography Session:

- Visit to Shalu Monastery for atmospheric interiors and architectural details
- Saga Dawa festival in Gyantse with sand mandalas, ritual dances and festival crowds
- Photo review session with Ron

Hotel Qomo Langzong Hotel, Shigatse (***)

Details

Distance: 0 km

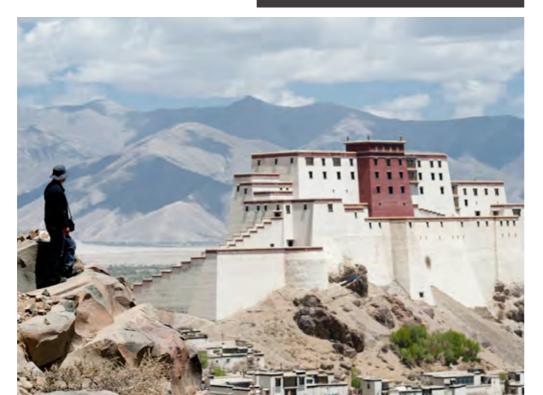
Elevation

Duration: 0 hours

Overnight: 3860m

Driving Distance & Duration

Highest Daytime: 3860m



Day 9 Across the highest Mountain Pass along this journey

Those on the extended itinerary will set out early from Shigatse for the most adventurous drive on this journey. After an hour on the main road back to Lhasa, you will turn north onto a gravel road that will take you north towards Lake Nam-tso across a swath of beautiful. little-visited countryside. Once back on the main road, you will have another hour's drive north to Damxung where you will stay for the night.

Today's highlight is the 160km of gravel road and the rugged scenery it will take you

through – not to mention the 5,450m/17,870ft mountain pass that it crosses! As dust clouds rise in your wake, you will pass through a beautiful slice of rural Tibetan life, through tiny villages and into the wide open valleys that web across this part of Tibet.

We have planned a picnic lunch, and hope to stop en route at a nomad encampment, should the opportunity present itself – true nomads are increasingly scarce in Tibet, but this region is still used for grazing in early summer.

All in all, your drive on this day will be most memorable, we're certain!

If you have returned to Lhasa on the previous day, we will arrange your transfer to the airport for your journey home.

Photography Session: • Photography stops en route to Damxung (for extended

journey only)



Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 325 km **Duration:** 7 hours

Elevation Highest Daytime: 5450m Overnight: 4280m

Hotel Pema Hotel, Damxung (**)

Day 10 Around Lake Nam-Tso and back to Lhasa

The morning is devoted to photography on the way to and then around Lake Nam-tso. You will visit the island of Tashi Do, the best place to enjoy the dramatic lakeside scenery. A saltwater lake. Namtso lies at 4,750m/15,580ft. and is ringed to the south by the Nyechen Tanglha mountain range, whose snow-capped peaks soar to

over 7,000m/22,900ft - a truly awe-inspiring and photogenic setting.

Besides working on photography with Ron, enjoy a walk around the edge of the island on a kora circuit used by pilgrims before returning to Lhasa.

Photography Session:

- Early start for good landscape photos en route to and at the lake
- Working with horse-riders and yak herders at the lake

Details

Driving Distance & Duration Distance: 300 km **Duration:** 5 hours

Elevation Highest Daytime: 5000m Overnight: 3650m

Hotel

Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa (*****)



Day 11 More of Lhasa to conclude your journey...

In the morning, early birds may wish to visit Thousand Buddha Cliff and the Potala kora to photograph the pilgrims that visit both these spots to pray.

Later, we will visit the magnificent Potala Palace, which lies on the slopes of Marpo Ri in the centre of the city, and wander through the richly decorated halls and chapels that were home to generations of Dalai Lamas. In the afternoon, we will leave the schedule flexible. to enable you to spend your last afternoon in Lhasa as you wish. Watch craftsmen at work painting thangka and shaping prayer wheels, or explore the Muslim Quarter, where piles of rare herbal remedies - such as Himalayan caterpillar fungus - are bought and sold. Our staff will help you to make any arrangements necessary. Finally, join our farewell dinner and Ron's final review session - where you will have

the opportunity to share your best photographs from the trip with the rest of the group. Inspiration for us all!

Photography Session:

- Morning visit to Thousand Buddha Cliff and Potala (optional)
- Visit the Potala Palace
- Afternoon exploring unusual corners of Lhasa the Muslim Quarter. etc.
- Evening final review and wrap up session



kora to photograph pilgrims

old town - craft workshops.

Details

Driving Distance & Duration

Distance: very little (all in chauffeured car **Duration:** less than an hour

Elevation Highest Daytime: 3650m Overnight: 3650m

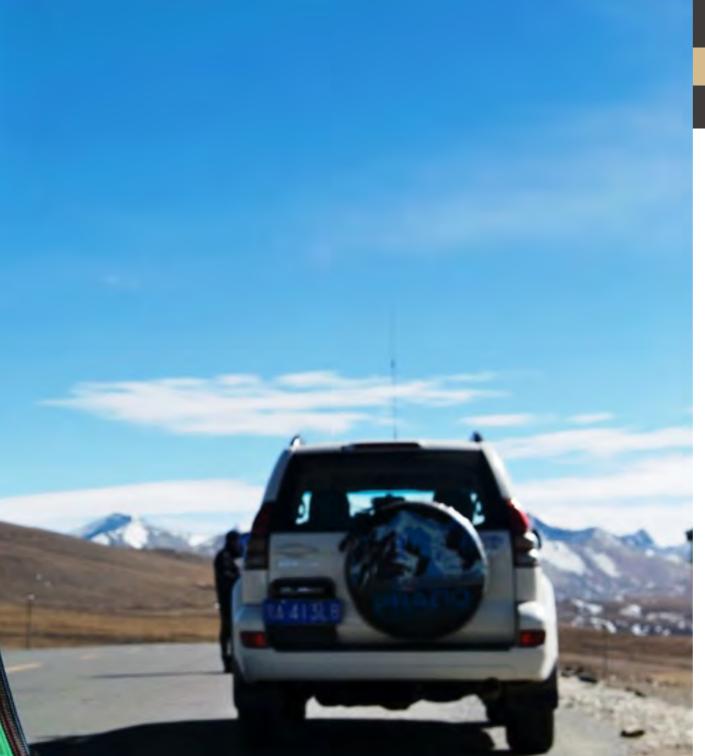
Hotel Shangri-La Hotel, Lhasa (*****)



Day 12 Farewell Tibet

This morning will be your last in Lhasa – spend the morning shopping for mementos of your journey, or take a moment to enjoy a leisurely coffee in the sunshine, or simply wander through the city, absorbing the sights and sounds of the old town and reflecting upon your adventure over the past days, and the beautiful photographs that you will take with you as you leave the 'Land of Snows' behind...





Choice of Cars

an SUV we procure from Avis or Hertz or another reputable car rental company. Most of the SUVs are Toyotas, but on occasion Mitsubishis or other brands may also make an appearance.

We wish the car rental markets of China would be more developed and we could give you more choice, but this is not so: since we want to provide well-maintained and wellinsured cars, the choice is rather limited.

But SUVs are in fact the right choice for driving journeys in this part of the world because they are spacious enough to accommodate a lot of luggage, photography equipment, and good-and-bad-weather gear. Also, they reinforce the feeling of adventure, exploration and discovery...which is, in the



We include in the package price

end, the mood of journeys in this region, no matter how comfortable or even luxurious the night's hotel may be.

What's more, they offer sufficient clearance when required and thus add a sense of safety and all-round ability. (4-wheel drive capability is hardly needed in China these days since all roads are either very well-paved or, with good gravel, offer solid support.)

And so SUVs from reputable brands are our car of choice!

66 ANY car, as long as it is an SUV"

Adventures and Discoveries in Local Cuisines

While this itinerary is not one of our 'Foodie'-themed journeys, we do believe that each one of our journeys should introduce you not only to hidden gems of cultural and scenic beauty, but that sampling local cuisines is also a must.

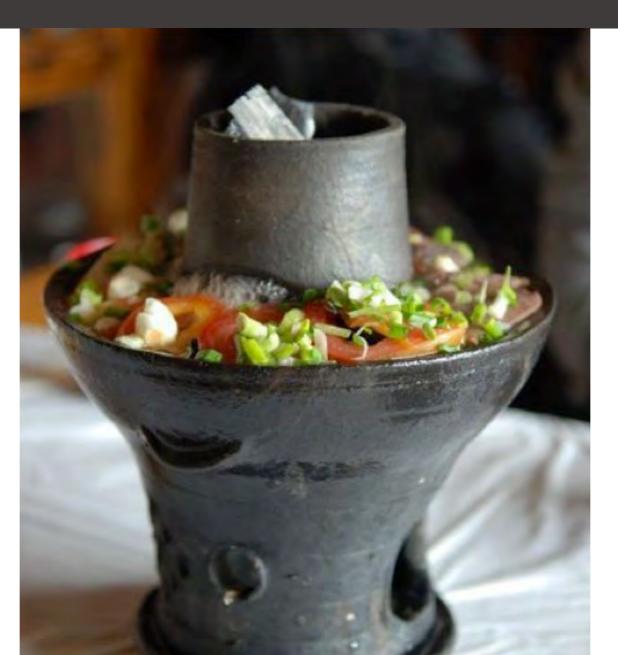
Wherever you travel with us, we will order, with very few exceptions, dishes fresh and on location with an emphasis on local produce. It is not uncommon for our guides to venture into the kitchen to pick this, that or the other vegetable and to ask the cook to prepare them in the finest possible way. (On occasion we do preorder a meal: this will normally be the case only for special occasions!)

Wine and beer is always included in our meals for you

to enjoy. (When we travel into high-altitude, we suggest moderation!)

Finally, if you have special dietary requirements are particularly interested in the culinary aspect of one of our journeys, please let us know.

For private journeys, we can, of course, tailor the meal experience to your taste (and budget).









What's Included / Best Months to Go...

Generally speaking, our journey packages and prices are all-inclusive. Once you've paid and you arrive at the starting point, you really won't have to take out your wallet again.

- Cars a modern SUV is provided for all driving days, expertly maintained and serviced by Avis, Hertz, or other reputable car rental companies, and covered by the best insurance available, and hire car return from Lhasa to Kunming is also included
- International Journey Host, Guide and Support Vehicle – you will be accompanied by a registered Chinese tour guide, an On the Road in China host and a fully equipped lead car with a local support driver
- Routes we provide an extensively researched and carefully designed itinerary and state-ofthe-art satellite navigation system with a preprogrammed route for the journey. You will also receive a detailed pre-departure pack and route book for the journey
- Driving License You will need a temporary Chinese driving license for which all arrangements and fees are included.
- Fuel & Tolls we provide petrol for the car throughout the journey and pay all tolls



- Airport Transfers all airport transfers are included
- Flight Your flight from Kunming to Lhasa
- Permits and Logistics all Tibet permits are included
- Hotels the best available or five-star accommodation is included in each overnight stop

- Meals breakfast (a choice of Western and Local is provided), and lunch and dinner are included on all driving days, as are drinks. Meals on non-driving days as specified above. Prepare for a culinary adventure!
- Goodies you will enjoy an On the Road Home-Away-from-Home Kit containing wet towels, anti-bacterial gel and basic toiletries, and a daily picnic basket containing fresh fruit, fruit juice, water, and a mixture of sweets and nibbles

- Other Essentials we provide each car with walky-talkies
- Travel Insurance 24-hour medical assistance, evacuation and repatriation emergency service
- Tips & Entrance Fees basic tips and entrance fees for jointly attended activities are included
- Activities, Meals, Transport during 'free times' as indicated in this Journey Dossier
- Top-up Collision Damage Waiver insurance

What's Not Included

The only items not included are your flights to Kunming and back from Lhasa, your China visa, and personal purchases (e.g., gifts, souvenirs).



Photo Credits

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- © Ron Yue pages 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 29, 39, 43, 45, 55, 57, 75, 79, 83, 84, 88, 91, 101
- Unknown pages 53, 67, 94-95

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6 A picture is worth a thousand words. True, but when it comes to a road journey, moving images are priceless. Please visit :

http://www.ontheroadexperiences.com/en/video-gallery"





BACK ROADS | HIDDEN GEMS

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

