



# Tibetan Guide

M I M A D H O N D U P

## SAGA DAWA FESTIVAL 2020

---

Tashi delek! Tibetan Guide Travel Tours is a small travel agency based in Lhasa. We always work hard and take responsible for our clients by using local services as much as possible. Of course we use Tibetan drivers and tour guides. Who are experienced, have rich knowledge about Tibetan culture and also excellent attitude. We are confident that you would not be disappointed if you choose our services letting us show you our mother land.

Saga Dawa 2020 is celebrated on June 5th in the whole Tibet. This is a special moment to come and we are organizing dedicated tours for this big celebration, starting on May 27th & 31st. We celebrate birth, death and enlightenment of Buddha and we all tibetans want to visit and do kora around holy places for a better next life. Most special one is our pilgrimage to Mt. Kailash (19 days tour starting on May 27th in Lhasa) but also in Lhasa and surroundings you can feel our religious devotion during these dates.

### Proposed itinerary

#### **May 31st, 2020. Day 1: Lhasa arrival [3650m]**

Upon arrival in Lhasa you will be welcomed by your English-speaking Tibetan Guide and Tibetan Driver who will bring you to your hotel. Acclimatization to high altitude: please, drink lots of water and take plenty of rest in order to minimize altitude sickness.

*Overnight at Shambhala Palace or House of Shambhala Hotel, which is a Tibetan style hotel located in Lhasa city center (Barkhor)*

#### **June 1st, 2020. Day 2: Lhasa sightseeing**

We begin visiting Ramoche Temple, built in honor of the image of Jowo Rinpoche that Chinese princess Wencheng brought by marrying Songtsen Gampo, the first king of Buddhist doctrine and who unified the Tibetan empire in the 7th century. Thereafter, we continue with Jokhang Temple, the most sacred monastery in Tibet. It was also founded in the 7th century by Songtsen Gampo. Later you can explore the surrounding Barkhor old quarter and spend time walking around Jokhang Temple following pilgrims from all over the Tibetan plateau. In the afternoon we go to Sera Monastery, one of three great universities of Gelugpa Sect. We will attend the debating session of the monks.

*Overnight at Shambhala Palace or House of Shambhala Hotel*



**June 2nd, 2020. Day 3: Lhasa sightseeing**

Today we visit the beautiful Potala and Norbulingka Palaces. Potala winter palace was built in the 17th century by the fifth Dalai Lama. Provides amazing views of the entire city and houses the private quarters of the Dalai Lama, numerous grand state rooms and chapels. Norbulingka Palace is the summer palace of the Dalai Lama, built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the seventh Dalai Lama. It's tradition to do picnic in its beautiful garden and perform opera dances during Shoton Festival (August-September).

*Overnight at Shambhala Palace or House of Shambhala Hotel*

**June 3rd, 2020. Day 4: Lhasa – Gyantse [280Km, 3980m]**

Adventure starts: First we cross Kampa-la Pass [4797m] and then Karo-la Pass [5050m], where Mt. Noijin Kangsang [7206m] glacier lies near the road. In the middle, we enjoy the unreal turquoise waters of holy lake Yamdrok-Tso. Finally, we arrive at Gyantse town, where we visit the considered best tibetan art paintings in Kumbum Stupa inside Pelkor Chode Monastery. Also from here, we admire the majestic Gyantse Dzong (fortress) overlooking the valley.

*Overnight at Yeti or Gyantse Hotel*

**June 4th, 2020. Day 5: Gyantse - Shigatse [100Km, 3840m]**

In the morning we visit the Gyantse Dzong (sometimes closed) and then we drive North-West to reach second largest city in Tibet. We visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, built in the 15th century by the first Dalai Lama. Nowadays seat of the Panchen Lama, the second highest figure in the Tibetan Buddhist hierarchy. We recommend to do Kora around Tashilhunpo Monastery. We have incredible panorama view of the valley and impressive Dzong (fortress). Also, you can walk around local market.

*Overnight at Gesar Hotel 5\* newly built building.*

**June 5th, 2020. Day 6: Shigatse – Phuntsholing [120Km, 4010m]**

Today we move away from the main routes following the course of the Yarlung Tsangpo River to visit one of the treasures that are still hidden in Tibet: the Phuntsoling Monastery [4010m]. Belonging to the Jonang Sect originally, this school of Tibetan Buddhism stands out for the importance it attaches to the Kalachakra Tantra and reached its maximum splendor in the time of the great master Jetsün Taranatha XVI-XVII. Upon his death, after founding several monasteries and spreading Buddhism in Mongolia, the V Dalai Lama recognized the son of Khalkha Mongol Khan as the reincarnation of Taranatha. This child and his successive incarnations became the Jetsün Dampa Hutuktu, the spiritual leaders of the Gelug lineage in Mongolia. In turn, the Jonang tradition was forcibly converted, although it has survived to this day in remote regions. In the modern and photogenic monastic complex takes place the Saga Dawa Festival celebration. You can ascend the hill where the ruins of the fortification (dzong) that dominated the valley remain.

*Overnight at guesthouse (dorm bed without bathroom). Sleeping bag is recommended.*

**June 6th, 2020. Day 7: Phuntsholing – New Tingri [150Km, 4300m]**

The journey to New Tingri involves crossing the high pass of Gyatso La [5220m] and the opportunity to view Mt. Everest and the Himalayas for the first time. After we arrive to New Tingri and get lunch we visit Shegar Monastery (8Km each way).

*Overnight at Roof of the World Grand Hotel*

**June 7th, 2020. Day 8: New Tingri – Everest North Face [120Km, 5000m]**

Exciting day today: we reach one of the major highlights of our trip, near Mt. Everest North Base Camp [5200m]. From New Tingri we continue driving towards Rongbuk Monastery, located at the foot of the Everest and the highest monastery in the world. During the journey we enjoy amazing views of several peaks like Makalu, Lhotse,



Cho Oyu, and Mount Everest from the top of the Pang-la pass [5150m]. Overnight at tourist camp site located a few Kilometer from the real EBC and from where we have direct views of Mt. Everest (Qomolangma). Since 2018 tourist are not allowed to visit EBC used by climbing expeditions.

*Overnight at guesthouse tent (dorm bed without bathroom). Sleeping bag is recommended.*

**June 8th, 2020. Day 9: Rongbuk – Sakya [240Km, 4320m]**

Today begins the end of your tibetan journey through the most sacred Buddhist monasteries and greatest mountains on earth. If you would like start early your day, enjoy sunrise with Everest peak views in the horizon [8848m]. After breakfast we visit Rongbuk Monastery where we will take last look at Mt. Everest North Face and then drive back to Lhasa. Before, we visit Sakya Monastery which is the principal seat of Sakyapa Sect founded in 1073 and one of four major Schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Its powerful abbots governed Tibet during the whole of the 13th century until they were eclipsed by the rise of the Gelukpa Sect. Its Mongolian architecture is different from that of temples in we seen before.

*Overnight at Yuan Mansion Hotel*

**June 9th, 2020. Day 10: Sakya – Lhasa [420Km]**

Today we go back to Lhasa. Our last day of our tibetan traverse goes along the Yarlung Tsampo (Brahmaputra) River. This is the most direct route to Lhasa and part of the Friendship Highway.

*Overnight at Shambhala Palace or House of Shambhala Hotel*

**June 10th, 2020. Day 11: Ganden Monastery and Drak Yerpa day trip [150Km]**

In the morning we visit Ganden Monastery, 50 km from Lhasa. It is the main seat of the Gelug Sect and was founded by Tsongkhapa in 1409. We can also do kora around monastery. It's placed in the top of a hill in the Kyichu valley. You can do kora around monastery too and enjoy gret views of tibetan original landscape. After lunch, we will visit Drak Yerpa meditation caves and temples. It's an off the beaten path complex where tibetan masters go for meditation since VII Century. It's one of the most holy and important pilgrimage places in Tibet. Visit takes around 2-3 hours walking in a hillside. Back to Lhasa and enjoy free time.

*Overnight at Shambhala Palace or House of Shambhala Hotel*

**June 11th, 2020. Day 12: Free day (optional)**

Today you can walk around Lhasa city on your own to enjoy Saga Dawa season atmosphere with lots of Pilgrims around Jorkhang Temple and Barkhor area.

*Overnight at Shambhala Palace or House of Shambhala Hotel*

**June 12th, 2020. Day 13: Tibet departure**

Enjoy your last hours in Tibet exploring Lhasa by your own until your guide and driver meet you at the hotel to transfer you to the airport. *End of our services.*

*Please, contact us for further information about any available extension of your trip.*



**PRICE : Contact us for the latest available rates.**

– Single room occupancy available at additional cost (hotels only).

**TOUR :** Lhasa visits order might change. The max group size is 12 people.

- Day 1** Lhasa arrival [3650m].
  - Day 2** Lhasa sightseeing: Jokhang & Ramoche Temples, Sera Monastery.
  - Day 3** Lhasa sightseeing: Potala & Norbulingka Palaces.
  - Day 4** Lhasa – Gyantse [270Km, 3980m]: Yamdrok-tso lake, Karo-la glacier, Pelchor Chode Monastery.
  - Day 5** Gyantse - Shigatse [90Km, 3840m]: Tashilhunpo Monastery.
  - Day 6** Shigatse – Phuntsholing [120Km, 4010m]: Phuntsholing Monastery.
  - Day 7** Phuntsholing – New Tingri [150Km, 4300m]: Shegar Monastery.
  - Day 8** New Tingri – Everest North Face [120Km, 5000m]: Rongbuk Monastery.
  - Day 9** Rongbuk – Sakya [240Km, 4320m]: Sakya Monastery.
  - Day 10** Sakya – Lhasa [415Km, 3650m]
  - Day 11** Ganden Monastery and Yerpa caves day trip [150Km].
  - Day 12** Free day (optional).
  - Day 13** Tibet departure.
- 

**INCLUDED :**

All necessary travel permits in Tibet.  
All entrance fees as described in the itinerary above.  
Accommodation in shared room basis with breakfast described in the itinerary above.  
Experienced Tibetan guide in Tibet (English language).  
Transportation in Tibet (Airport / train station group pick up & drop off).  
Driver and guide's food and accommodation.  
Vehicle fuel, tools and vehicle repairs (if necessary).  
Oxygen tank & bottled mineral water available in the group vehicle.  
Welcome dinner.

**NOT INCLUDED :**

China VISA  
Plane or train tickets in / out of Tibet.  
Meals, drinks and any other personal expenses.  
Extra expenses incurred due to unexpected natural events (delays, road washouts, snowfall...)  
Tips to guides and driver, but this totally depend on you.

**By joining this tour, you agree to our booking conditions, terms and policies**



---

## **VISA & Tibet travel permits**

---

Due to the current regulation, you need a special permit to visit Tibet Autonomous Region. The only thing you need to worry about is sending us clear scan of your travel documents **25-30 days in advance**. We will do the rest.

Application process depends on your entry point:

### **From mainland CHINA**

---

We need clear scan copy of your passport and visa. If you do not hold a tourist visa (L), additional documents are required. Please, contact us for further information.

If you are entering Tibet by plane from mainland China, you will need the original permit. We will send it to any address in China that you wish, be it your hotel, a friend's house or any International Airport where you connect with your Lhasa flight (additional fee apply for airport delivery). If you are arriving by train, you will only need a photocopy of the permit. We will send it by email so you can print it.

### **From NEPAL**

---

We need clear scan copy of your passport.

If you want to enter Tibet from Nepal, chinese visa must be applied in Nepal. You must be sure about your itinerary as your visa will only permit you to stay for this set number of days. It cannot be extended later on when you are in Tibet. The visa that you will get is a group visa for all the people on the tour and it cannot be separated.

When we have a photocopy of your passport and itinerary, we will send a visa application to the chinese embassy in Nepal. Once you arrive to Kathmandu, our partner travel agency at Nepal will go to the chinese embassy to get the visa with your original passport.

Bear in mind that the we need at least three working days to be able to get you visa and it costs around 110 USD for most passport holders (little more for USA, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Romania & some other countries).

We can help with any services you might need in Nepal & Bhutan. Please, contact us.

**Please, confirm the latest requirements with us before your booking confirmation.**