

## Autumn Tour via Lhasa to Samye - Mt. Kailash with Roger & special guest Tom Riddle



Via Lhasa is the gentlest way into Tibet. The tour offers gradual acclimatization to Tibet's altitude, ensuring your physical well-being and allowing you to fully appreciate the magnificence of Mt. Kailash. The sacred mountain is best visited during this time of year, and this tour has been created for those who, like myself, enjoy the outdoors and being in the natural world. September typically brings clear skies and pleasant temperatures.

2026 – **The Year of the Horse:** Each sacred site in Tibetan astrology is associated with a zodiac sign, and Mt. Kailash corresponds to the Horse Year. It is believed that the mountain's deities manifest with thirteen-fold intensity, bringing powerful blessings. Each kora performed in this year is said to yield thirteen times the usual merit.”

in 2026! Most Nationalities don't need a visa to Tibet!

### Short Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Lhasa transfer to hotel

Day 2-3: Lhasa sightseeing (Potala/Jokhang/Barkhor historic old city)

Day 4-6: Tour Samye with day trips to adjacent caves and temples. /Hotel

Day 7: Drive to Shigaste through the friendship high way. /Hotel

Day 8: Drive to Saga through scenic valleys and mountain terrain / Hotel

Day 9: Drive to Chiu village, the shoreline of lake Manasarovar /Guesthouse

Day 10: Walk part of the lake kora. Visit Gosul & Chiu Gompa – Darchen / Hotel

Day 11-13: Kailash Kora / trekking / G.H.

Day 14: Kora ends back in Darchen – drive Paryang /Hotel

Day 15: Paryang - Kyrong /Hotel

Day 16: 10 AM cross border - drive to Boudha Kathmandu / Monastic guesthouse

Day 17: Rest day or shopping / optional sightseeing / nastic guesthouse

Day 18: Transfer to airport. **End** optional Kathmandu stay (fly-out from 2. October possible)

**Holy Mount Kailash**, the most sacred mountain in the Tibetan Buddhist world, is considered by many to be the centre of the universe and the crown of our planet.

Uncannily symmetrical, this remote and remarkable peak is located in the far west of Tibet, 1200 km from Lhasa. Mt. Kailash (6714m) is not only geographically one of the most important mountains in Asia, it is also the source of four major rivers, the Indus, Sutlej, Karnali, and Tsang Po which nourish Asia with their mountain waters. In Sanskrit, Kailash means 'luminous crystal'. Hindus believe Mt. Kailash to be the abode of Lord Shiva and his wife Parvati. For Hindus, to make the pilgrimage to Kailash and have the darshan (divine view) of Shiva's abode is to attain release from the clutches of ignorance and delusion. Tibetan Buddhists call the mountain Kang Rinpoche, the 'Jewel of Snow', and regard it as the body mandala of Korlo Demchog and his consort, Dorje Phagmo (Chakrasambhava and Vajravarahi). To both the Tibetan and Indian people, a pilgrimage to this sacred and magical landscape is the most precious pilgrimage they can make and is a journey they hope to experience at least once in a lifetime.



“Where Mount Kailash is considered the father-mountain, the active principle of skillful means, Lake Manasarovar is the mother-lake, the principle of transcendent reality.”

*J. Snelling – The Sacred Mountain*



### Overview

All participants will fly to Lhasa, Tibet, via mainland China—for example, through Beijing or Chengdu. To do this some nationalities need to obtain a Chinese visa before leaving their home country (USA/Canada/UK etc. can be done 3 months ahead of entry time). However, China offers most nationalities a free 30-day visa, but please confirm this with your local Chinese embassy.

We will all meet in Lhasa, Tibet, to begin our gradual acclimatization to the altitude, the culture, and to each other.

In Lhasa, we will rest and acclimatize and walk to carefully selected sites that will support both our inner and outer journeys. From Lhasa, we will travel slowly in a comfortable bus to Samye and from there through central Tibet with many stops at the sights along the way as we pass through some of the most breathtaking scenery on earth before arriving in Darchen, the village at the base of Mt Kailash. We will spend the next five nights in the Mt Kailash area. We will visit Lake Manasarovar and walk part of the kora, where there are hot springs and the ancient Chiu Monastery. The next day we will begin the core of this journey: an unhurried four-day walk around (kora) Mt. Kailash.

Throughout everything, we will have time to enjoy the silence, the nature, the panoramic views that are unequaled anywhere on earth as well as, of course, each other.

### Expedition of Inner Purification



Every trip to Mt. Kailash has an *expedition nature* about it, but this one, more than most, holds a deep connection with nature and sacred sites. Our journey, through vast open spaces, is likely to catalyse a variety of deep personal inner reflections and experiences. Not all of it will be easy. Long drives and simple accommodation will require a lot of patience, tolerance, and a continual letting go of expectations. The rewards, however, will make it all worthwhile. We will see some of the most untouched and beautiful landscape on earth as well as visit some of the most auspicious locations on the planet. With open hearts, we are also likely to meet many genuinely kind and considerate people.

**Special Tours:** This tour has been organized in such a way that the effort of making all arrangements for transport, accommodation, and administrative arrangements have been taken care of for you which gives you more personal time to simply relax into in the moment and enjoy the journey. You can expect to see all the most important sights along the way, while you are taken care of by professionals: your tour leader, me “Roger”, the Tibetan guide, and our driver. For this trip only we have a special guest—fellow traveler Tom Riddle.

**Fellow traveler:** We will be joined by an old friend, whom I met at a Buddhist meditation retreat in India more than 20 years ago, Tom Riddle. This will be Tom’s sixth trip with me to the sacred mountain. After his third trip, he made a YouTube movie, [Mt Kailash and the Walk around the Sacred Mountain](#) that has become quite popular. Tom will be joining us as a fellow traveler and invited guest. He has no responsibility on the trip other than what moral support and encouragement he cares to give us. If you have questions about the trip, please direct them to me rather than to Tom.

### **Tour Leader:**



I was born in Switzerland in 1960, but since 1995 I’ve been based in Boudhanath, which is just outside of Kathmandu in Nepal. During this time, I have owned and operated Snow Jewel, which leads expeditions to remote locations in Nepal and Tibet. In 1995 I started working as a volunteer for a British non-profit charity, ROKPA Nepal (<https://www.rokpa.org/en/what-we-do/nepal.html>).

ROKPA runs many projects around Kathmandu including a restaurant and guesthouse. I have practiced extensively in both the Tibetan and Theravada Buddhist traditions, completing annual meditation retreats in Thailand at Wat Ram Poeng and in India at Bodh Gaya and Sarnath with Christopher Titmuss. In Nepal, I spent two years in study at Ka-Nying Shedrup Ling, the official seat of the very venerable Chokyi Nyima Rinpoche, and I have studied

at Pullahari Monastery under the guidance of Khenpo Tsultrim Gyatso Rinpoche.

I made my first trip or kora around Mt. Kailash in 1996 and since then I have made over 100 “koras” around the sacred mountain and 14 around Lake Manasarovar.

**Small-Group Size:** Minimum 7, maximum 14 people.

**Duration:** 18 days

**Tibet Price:** 19’100 CNY / Euro 2320 from 7-9 PAX / 10 -12 PAX 2020 €

**Single room:** markup is 350 € in all hotel except on the Kailash kora and Lake Manasarovar.

### **Included:**

Processing and handover of the Tibet Travel Permit in mainland China. **In Tibet**, the transfer from the airport to our hotel, and transportation costs (all in a private transport) from that point onward. All entrance fees to monasteries, all permits and road tolls in Tibet; western guide, local guide, driver; and all accommodation: hotel in Lhasa x3, Samye x3, Shigatse, Saga, Darchen, Paryang and Kyirong; plus, all other accommodation which includes the simple pilgrim guest houses for the four-day walk around Mt. Kailash/ Manasarovar lake.

**Nepal included:** Transfer from Tibet / Rasuwa border to Boudhanath in private transport, overnight in privately managed Monastic guesthouse and airport transfer.

**Excluded:** Visa fee for China; visa for Nepal. In Nepal; food drink other costs than included. In Tibet not covered expenses are: food and drink; porter & yaks, horse and horse driver for personal ride; cost in case of an emergency; cost for public shower or bath in hot springs; personal expenses; insurances and tips.

**Of course we cannot determine or foresee your spending behaviour, however, most people find that they need 120-150 CNY about 15-20 Euro/ day to cover food and drink. A porter on the kora, for those who need one, will cost an extra 330 CNY / day (2025).**



**Note: additional Accommodation/activity Add-ons in Nepal:** We will be pleased to extend your hotel stay in Kathmandu if needed. If you would like us to book a room in a guest house of a monastery with private management, the cost for a single is \$20, and a double is \$28. For Nepal programs, we can send you a variety of offers, like Mt. Everest mountain flight or any city tours etc.

**Dates: Participants entering Tibet through mainland China**

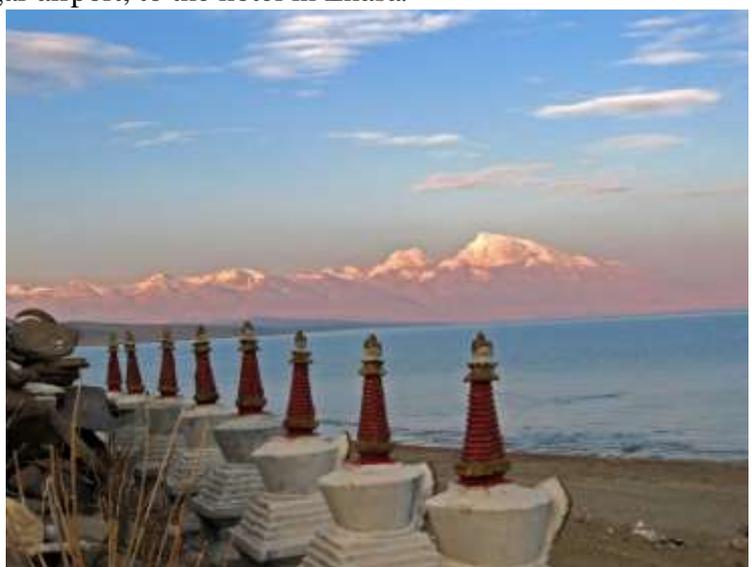
**September 16:** Arrive in mainland China for example Chengdu airport where participants will be given their TTB (Tibetan Tourist Bureau) permit for Tibet before heading to Domestic terminal to fly onward to Lhasa, the hand over will be handled by my partner agency whom I have worked together with for 28 years.

**September 16:** Transfer from Gongar airport, to the hotel in Lhasa.

**October 3:** **End of service.**  
Optional extension possible—earliest fly out Oct. 2.

## Itinerary – Detailed

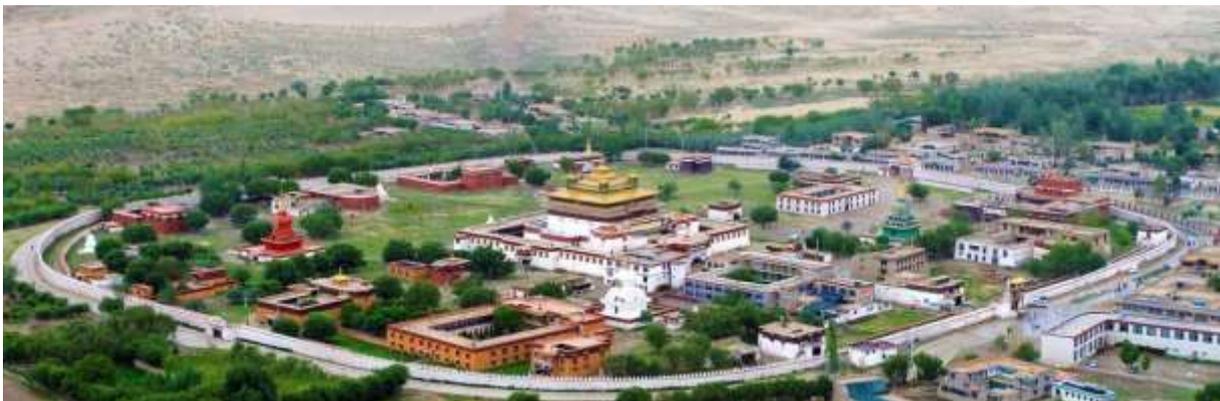
**Day 1:** 16 September / hand over permit for people coming from mainland China.  
**In Lhasa,** arrive at Gongar Airport,



where our Tibetan guide will meet you. Transfer by private vehicle to your hotel, where you will spend three nights, located in the old Tibetan quarter, just a five-minute walk from both the Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple. Use the remainder of the day to rest and begin gentle acclimatization. Lhasa has an elevation of 3,650 meters. double rooms and a shower.

**Days 2-3:** Lhasa – Sightseeing. We will explore Lhasa on foot and visit the heart of Tibet – the Jokhang Temple and the Potala Palace, the former home of the Dalai Lamas which is now a museum. We will also visit other less famous, but no less important, places and temples. double rooms and a shower.

**Day 4:** Drive for 2–3 hours south toward Samye, the first Buddhist monastery built in Tibet. It was constructed in the 770s by King Trisong Deutsen with the help of Guru Rinpoche, also known as Padmasambhava, in a mandala style that represents the Indian Cosmology. Tour the monastery complex and stay overnight in a simple pilgrim’s hotel (double room with shower).



**Day 5:** Samye to Chimphu Caves and the first kora walk. Above Samye Monastery, situated in a lush valley, are the Chimphu Caves. The caves have come to represent the enlightened speech of Guru Rinpoche for it was here that Guru Rinpoche gave the first Vajrayana teachings to his consort and closest students (altogether 25 disciples). The walk, up to the caves from the Samye Monastery, will be our first “kora” and will take about four leisurely hours. double with shower.

**Guru Rinpoche** also known as Padmasambhava (Lotus Born) was an Indian saint who came to Tibet in the 8th century. He is regarded as the main teacher to have established Buddhism firmly in Tibet. Guru Rinpoche himself said that in all the caves and places he has meditated people in the future could receive his blessing as if meeting him in person. There are different kind of caves which represent Guru Rinpoche's enlightened aspects such as Body, Speech, Mind, Quality and Activity. Furthermore, Guru Rinpoche mentioned that especially in the time of degeneration (Kaliyuga) visiting those holy places would be very beneficial for one's spiritual development and purification of sicknesses and obstacles.

We will have the opportunity to visit his “Speech cave” and as well as, the next day Guru Rinpoche's main consort Yeshe Tsogyal's birthplace.

**Day 6:** Drak Yang Dzong and Yeshe Tsogyal Sites. A 4-6 hour walk through one of the region’s most beautiful cave complexes, where Guru Rinpoche is said to have meditated for three years. And in the same area visit the birth place of Yeshe Tsogyal and nearby lake and monasterie. Return to our Samye hotel.

**Day 7:** Samye to Shigatse. Drive 6-7 hours (395 km) through scenic valleys and mountain terrain. Overnight: double room with shower.

**Day 8:** Shigatse to Saga. In the morning we will travel on to Saga passing through magnificent hilly landscape. (8h drive 460 Km). Overnight in Hotel with shower.

**Day 9:** Saga – Chiu Gompa @ Manasarovar (4'520m). 8-9h drive (510km). We will cross several high passes and enter the high desert of Western Tibet – with beautiful landscape from Paryang to Darchen. After crossing the Mayumla pass (5216m), we will drive along the shores of Gung Gyu Lake, before getting our first glimpse of holy Mount Kailash. We will stay in a guest house (public bath/hot springs) near Lake Manasarovar.



**Day 10:** Walk for 3–4 hours along part of the sacred lake kora, visiting Gosul and Chiu Monasteries. After lunch, we drive to Darchen, the base village for the Mt. Kailash circuit. Overnight in hotel with shower.

**Day 11: Day 1 of the Kailash kora.** This is a medium trek (22km, 6-8h), slightly uphill. From the south, we reach Tarpoche, the so-called centre of the universe. Then, we pass Chuku monastery (those who have lots of energy can go for a short visit) and see the west face of Kailash. Our pilgrims' guest house no shower is just below the Dirapuk Monastery at 4900m with awesome views of Mt. Kailash's north face.

**Day 12: Day 2 of the kora.** Rest day at Mt. Kailash's north face for acclimatization. Those who would like to can visit the Dirapuk monastery (famous yogi Gyalwa Gotsangpa meditated there in a cave for a long time), make an excursion near the north face (1h), or simply enjoy Mt Kailash's power while relaxing in the guest house.



**Day 13: Day 3 of the kora.** This is the core of the kora and it is a somewhat difficult trek (21km, 8-10h), where we need the energy reserves built up from the day before. For the first 2-5h, we slowly and patiently ascend towards the Tara-Pass/Drölma-La (5630m), where Tibetans traditionally rest, share food, and offer prayer flags to the mountain. After a break, we steeply descend to the valley (1-2h) where there is a tea house. From there it is another two or three-hour walk to the simple guest house of the Zutulpuk Monastery (4790m).

**Day 14: Day 4 of the kora.** This day begins with a fairly easy (11km, 3-4h) half-days' slightly downhill walk back to Darchen where we will have lunch in a restaurant. After lunch, we will drive 240 km in about five hours to Paryang village and overnight in a simple hotel with shower.

**Day 15:** Drive 7–8 hours (approx. 350 km) via Zhongma Pass. The route descends from arid highlands into lush green valleys and the town of Kyirong. Overnight in hotel (double room with shower).

**Day 16:** We will travel about 15km in about 40 minutes from Kyirong to the Nepal/Tibet border crossing of Rasuwa. We will leave the Tibetan staff there, cross the border at 10 AM (Chinese time which is 8 AM Nepal time), and walk over the bridge to Nepal where we have new cars for the 127 Km drive to Kathmandu, Boudhanath in about 5-6 h. overnight in a privately managed monastery guesthouse very quiet with a beautiful garden, just 5 minutes' walk to the Boudha Stupa (world heritage site). double room with showers

**Day 17:** Rest day to explore Boudhanath on your own or visit other places in and around Kathmandu. *(2. October fly out possible)*



**Day 18:** Transfer to airport. Optional days' extension or excursion on request possible!

## General Information

### Please Note

- We will not be responsible for extra costs incurred by landslides, road blockages, and other weather-related or political problems.
- You are responsible for your own health. The itinerary has been designed to allow sufficient time for acclimatization.
- Accommodation will occasionally be in shared rooms (small dormitories). We assume your preparedness to share rooms with others, regardless of gender.
- We reserve the right to increase the tour price should the Euro in relation to the Chinese Yuan (RMB) depreciate significantly.

### Visa and Passport Information

Chinese visa: Entry from mainland China, best from Chengdu or Beijing; please tell me if you intend to come this way and I will send you more details. most nations have a 30 days' free visa in 2026!

Visa Nepal: Entry from Nepal, a Nepalese visa is best applied here [Online](#) “visa on arrival”. Just fill in the form and make a screen shot to show at the border. Upon arrival, you get a 15 days 30-day or 90-day multiple-entry visa valid from the date of entry. The visa costs US\$ 30 / US\$ 50 or US\$ 125, respectively.

Passport Validity: Minimum 6 months from date of entry.



**May all beings be happy!**