

Earthbound Expeditions

Holy Mt. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra using H elicopter some part

12 days, from US$3,197 per person

Duration	Group size	Country
12 days	**40 people**	**Tibet**

Holy Mt. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra using Helicopter some part Overview

Holy Mt. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra via west Nepal, with part of the route by helicopter.

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Holy Mt. Kailash in Tibet, China, is one of the most important Hindu pilgrimage sites in the Himalayan region. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva. We have designed a 12-day itinerary via west Nepal: Nepalgunj, Simikot, Hilsa, Taklakot, Mansarovar and Kailash, returning by the same route. Please note that the whole Yatra is not by helicopter.

On this 12-day Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage, fixed-wing aircraft are used from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj and on to Simikot, and a helicopter is used from Simikot to Hilsa (on the Nepal-China border) and back to Simikot. From Hilsa to Mansarovar and Kailash, we travel by van or bus. This is the shortest route, but we do not strongly recommend it, because flight cancellations are common, which can delay the trip or add to the cost.

We offer three other popular itineraries for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Please review the options below and let us know which one suits you.
Kathmandu, drive to Kerung or Nyalam, Kailash and back to Kathmandu: 13-day overland tour
Kathmandu to Lhasa by air, drive to Kailash and exit via Kerung or Nyalam: 14 days
Fly to Lhasa via a Chinese city, drive to Kailash, return to Lhasa and fly out: 12 days

Earthbound Expeditions has been taking people to Kailash since 1999. We have thousands of satisfied customers from the US, UK, Australia and India. Let us know if you would like to speak to some of them, or you can read our reviews on TripAdvisor.

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the above itineraries. We can also customise the itinerary to suit your needs or interests, for example by adding Everest Base Camp in Tibet, the Guge Kingdom, Tirthapuri, the Limi Valley, Muktinath or the Damodar Kunda area.

Mount Kailash, which is believed to have formed 30 million years ago when the Himalayas were in their early stages of formation, is one of the most revered places in the Himalayas.
At 6,740 metres, Mt. Kailash is a high peak situated north of the main Himalayan range, entirely within Tibet, China, beyond the far west of Nepal.

Mansarovar and Mt. Kailash are two of the holiest pilgrimage areas for followers of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism, Bon and many other faiths. Each year thousands of devotees make the demanding journey through the mountains and plains of Nepal and China (Tibet) to reach this sacred land.

For Hindus, Mount Kailash is the earthly form of Mt. Meru, their spiritual centre of the universe. It is described as a 'world pillar' 84,000 miles high around which everything else revolves, with its roots in the lowest hell and its summit touching the heavens. On its summit live their most revered god, Lord Shiva (Paramashiva, Kailashapati and MahaRudra), and his consort Parvati.

For Jains and other Indian religious groups, Kailash is the site where Shiva achieved enlightenment.
For the older religion of Bon, it is the site where its founder Shenrab is said to have descended from heaven.

Beside Mount Kailash on the Tibetan plateau lies Lake Mansarovar, a large lake whose colour changes through the day.
A pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and a bath in Lake Mansarovar are believed to bring salvation (Moksha) and wash away the sins accumulated during a lifetime.
For centuries, pilgrims have travelled great distances to seek enlightenment or cleanse themselves of sin, facing harsh weather and, in the past, attacks by bandits.

This journey begins with the drive across the western Himalayas into Tibet to the holy Lake Mansarovar. Here you join the many pilgrims who, for centuries, have travelled to this remote southwestern corner of Tibet to walk around the sacred Mount Kailash, considered to be the centre of the universe.

Kailash holds an important place in Tibetan folk religion. It is regarded as the soul of the country and a protector of all Tibetans. It is the source of four major Asian rivers, the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali, and its isolation from the few surrounding mountains gives it its prominence.

Earthbound Expeditions has been taking people safely to Kailash Mansarovar for the last 20 years, and you benefit from our knowledge and experience. We operate and manage our Kailash Mansarovar tours ourselves rather than passing groups on to local agents.

We aim to run and manage every tour to a high standard.

Our business is driven by passion rather than profit. We also support social causes: we have built 153 classrooms since the earthquake, built many schools and libraries, and run health camps. Please see the link: https://enepaltrekking.com/csr/our-business-is-more-passion-driven-than-profit/. By travelling with us, you support an organisation with a commitment to corporate social responsibility.

Earthbound Expeditions is recommended by Lonely Planet, TripAdvisor, the New York Times, the Guardian and many other national and international newspapers and magazines. The leader and co-owner of the company, Mr. Rajan, has led the trip to Kailash Mansarovar more than 18 times, and our support team members are trained professionals with many years of experience on Himalayan expeditions.

Meals, transport and equipment for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra
We arrange your Tibet travel permit. We provide a duffel bag, down jacket, sleeping bag, beanie and buff. Our trained cook prepares hot meals every day (South Indian, North Indian and some Western food). You are looked after by caring staff, and we use a good bus and a support truck. We perform a puja and havan at Lake Mansarovar. We provide hot water from the lake on its bank for bathing in a shower tent before the puja and havan, and we prepare prasad. We also bring the havan samagri.

About the Kailash and Mansarovar Parikrama (Kora):

We drive all the way to Mansarovar by bus. The Mansarovar Parikrama is done by bus (provided by the Ngari Kailash Tourism Authority). For the Kailash Parikrama (Kora), we drive to Tharboche (Yama Dwar) and walk from there for 3 days. The total walking distance around Kailash is about 40 km over 3 days: about 14 km on the first day to Dirapuk, about 18 km on the second day via the Dolma La Pass to Zutulpuk, and about 8 km on the third day to the end of the Parikrama.
Those who cannot walk can use a horse, or return to Darchen from Yama Dwar and wait for the others to complete the Kailash Kora.

Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive in Kathmandu (1350m)

One of our representatives meets you on arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, and transfers you to your hotel. After checking in, you have time to rest until we meet in the evening for a short briefing about the Mount Kailash Manasarovar Yatra by helicopter. Overnight at a hotel.

Altitude: 1,400 m On foot: None, arrival day Night: Hotel, Kathmandu Meals: Dinner

Day 2

Half-day Kathmandu Valley sightseeing and fly to Nepalgunj (150m)

After your first night in Nepal, we take a half-day sightseeing tour of the Kathmandu Valley. You visit UNESCO World Heritage Sites including Pashupatinath Temple, Boudhanath and Swayambhunath, along with other places of interest. We return to the hotel for lunch and then prepare for the flight to Nepalgunj. The flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj takes about an hour (by fixed-wing aircraft). Nepalgunj is a city in the Terai region of Nepal. After landing, we check in to our hotel. Overnight at a hotel.

Altitude: 150 m On foot: Easy walking, 2–3 hrs Night: Hotel, Nepalgunj Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3

Fly from Nepalgunj to Simikot (2910m)

After an early breakfast, we drive to Nepalgunj airport for a flight of about an hour (by fixed-wing aircraft) to Simikot, a hill town in Nepal at an altitude of 2910 metres. Simikot is the starting point for the helicopter flight towards Kailash Manasarovar. We spend the rest of the day and the night in Simikot to acclimatise to the higher altitude. Overnight at a hotel.

Altitude: 2,910 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Simikot Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4

Helicopter flight from Simikot to Hilsa and drive to Taklakot, Tibet (4025m)

After a day and night in Simikot, we take a helicopter flight of about 25 to 30 minutes. The baggage allowance is 10 kg per person, so please pack carefully. We cross the Nepal-Tibet border and land at Hilsa. From here, we drive 27 km to Taklakot. Overnight at a guest house.

Altitude: 4,025 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Guesthouse, Taklakot Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5

Drive from Taklakot to Manasarovar (4550m), 2 hours

After breakfast in Taklakot, we drive to Lake Manasarovar, 88 km from Taklakot, which takes about two hours. On the way, we stop at Rakas Lake, another lake in the area. We then continue to Manasarovar and check in to our guest house. After lunch and some rest, we take a short drive around the Manasarovar kora to explore the area. Overnight at a guest house.

Altitude: 4,550 m On foot: None, 2 hr drive Night: Guesthouse, Lake Mansarovar Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6

Explore Lake Manasarovar and drive to Darchen (4575m), 1 hour

Lake Manasarovar is one of the world's highest freshwater lakes. It lies at an elevation of 4550 metres, covers an area of 412 square kilometres and is located 20 km southeast of Mount Kailash. Today we explore the lake and perform a ritual puja on its bank. A holy bath in Lake Mansarovar is believed to bring salvation (Moksha) and wash away the sins accumulated during a lifetime. After lunch, we take a short drive to Darchen, where we prepare for the following day. Overnight at a guest house.

Altitude: 4,575 m On foot: None, 1 hr drive Night: Guesthouse, Darchen Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7

Kailash Kora day 1: drive to Tharboche and trek to Derapuk (4920m), 5 to 6 hours

The Kailash Kora (Parikrama) begins today. We drive to Tharboche, known as the valley of God, and then trek for five to six hours to Derapuk, which faces the north side of Mount Kailash, at an altitude of 4920 metres. If you are unable to walk, you can hire a horse and a helper. Overnight at a guest house in Derapuk.

Altitude: 4,920 m On foot: 12 km, 5–6 hrs Night: Guesthouse, Derapuk Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8

Kailash Kora day 2: Derapuk to Juthulpuk (4820m), 8 to 9 hours

Today is the second day of the Kailash Kora and the most demanding day, with many ascents and descents. We have an early breakfast and take a packed lunch, as it is a long day on foot. After a few hours of walking, we cross the Dolma La Pass at an elevation of 5,613 metres, the highest point of the journey. The pass offers views of the lakes and the Himalayas. From the pass, we descend to Gaurikunda. We then continue for about two hours until the trail becomes easier, and follow it to today's stop at Juthulpuk. Overnight at a guest house.

Altitude: 4,820 m On foot: 22 km, 8–9 hrs Night: Guesthouse, Juthulpuk Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9

Juthulpuk to Hilsa

From Zuthulpuk, we walk for about two hours to meet our vehicle, which takes us to the Nepal border. We stop for lunch on the way at Darchen and then continue to the border. After completing immigration formalities, we leave Tibet and walk to Hilsa on the Nepal side. Overnight at a guest house.

Altitude: 3,640 m On foot: 2–3 hrs Night: Guesthouse, Hilsa Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10

Helicopter from Hilsa to Simikot, fly to Nepalgunj and Kathmandu

Today is a day of flights with mountain views. After an early breakfast, we fly back to Simikot by helicopter and then continue to Nepalgunj by fixed-wing aircraft. In Nepalgunj, we rest and explore the surrounding area before taking a flight to Kathmandu. In the evening, we meet for a short gathering to talk about the journey. Overnight at a hotel.

Altitude: 1,400 m On foot: None, flight day Night: Hotel, Kathmandu Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11

Reserve day for bad weather

Weather in this region can be unpredictable. If severe weather affects the journey, this extra day allows us to complete the trip as planned.

Altitude: 1,400 m On foot: None, reserve day Night: Hotel, Kathmandu Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12

Departure

Today is the final day of your Yatra in Nepal. We take you to the airport two to three hours before your departure flight. Farewell, Namaste!

Altitude: 1,350 m On foot: None, departure day Night: No overnight Meals: Breakfast

What's included

- All airport pick-ups and drop-offs, and services in Kathmandu.
- 3, 4 or 5 star hotel accommodation in Kathmandu (depending on the package you choose).
- Kathmandu Valley sightseeing with guides and entrance permits.
- Tibet visa and permit.
- Tents, sleeping mats and camping gear while in Tibet.
- Kitchen, toilet, dining and bathing tents. (We normally provide twin-share tents. If you would like a single tent, please let us know in advance.)
- All meals from day 1 to day 12 (vegetarian meals).
- All entrance fees and sightseeing in Tibet.
- All staff, with their insurance (cook, kitchen assistant, Sherpa helper, one Nepali guide and one Tibetan guide).
- Yaks on the trek around Kailash to carry luggage, equipment and supplies (not for riding).
- Transport by bus or van in Tibet.
- Kathmandu to Nepalgunj to Simikot and return by fixed-wing aircraft.
- Simikot to Hilsa and return by helicopter.
- Truck for luggage and equipment.
- Gamow bag (portable high-altitude chamber).

- Oxygen bag.

Not included

- International airfare.
- Personal insurance, clothing and personal expenses.
- Bar bills (soft drinks, beer, water, etc.) and other personal expenses.
- Nepal re-entry visa (for NRIs, Europeans and Americans).
- Emergency rescue charges, if needed.
- Tips for staff.
- Photography charges, where applicable in Tibet.
- Riding yaks, horses and porters during the Kailash Kora (Parikrama).

Photos, videos and reviews of this trip:
earthbound.rajansimkhada.com/mount-kailash-mansarovar-yatra-helicopter-tour