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Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Helicopter - 12 Days

Experience the divine Kailash Mansarovar Yatra like never before—swift, safe, and comfortable by helicopter.

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by helicopter offers a remarkable journey to Mount Kailash (6,638 m) and Lake Mansarovar (4,550 m), situated in the Tibet Autonomous Region. This pilgrimage site holds profound significance for Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and followers of Bon alike. Mount Kailash, revered as the spiritual center of the universe, is an iconic peak that remains untouched by climbers, preserving its sanctity and mystical allure through the ages. Also, Lake Mansarovar is one of the highest freshwater lakes globally, believed to be the source of four major rivers: the Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra, and Karnali. For many spiritual seekers around the world, it is considered the abode of Lord Shiva.

Completing the Kora (parikrama) around Kailash is a deeply spiritual journey that pilgrims believe can erase a lifetime’s sins. Further, the route travels through the stunning landscapes of Nepal and Tibet, blending breathtaking Himalayan beauty with enriching spiritual traditions. Opting for the helicopter route is perfect for those who wish to undertake the yatra without the physical strain of long treks while still immersing themselves in the sacred atmosphere of Kailash.

Scenic Helicopter Ride Over the Himalayas from Simikot to Hilsa
The helicopter journey presents awe-inspiring aerial views of snow-capped Himalayan peaks and secluded valleys, offering a rare glimpse of these majestic landscapes. Additionally, it ensures a safe and efficient crossing from Nepal into Tibet at high altitudes.

Holy Lake Mansarovar

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This revered lake, one of the highest freshwater bodies on Earth, invites ritual bathing and meditation. Pilgrims believe that immersing themselves in its pristine waters cleanses sins and purifies the soul, making it a sacred spot for traditional prayers and offerings in accordance with Hindu and Buddhist customs.

Mount Kailash Parikrama (Kora)

The 52 km trek around Mount Kailash is an essential part of the pilgrimage, taking three days to complete and providing spiritual purification. Walking the Kora wipes away past sins and bestows blessings and enlightenment, as the path passes culturally significant sites, including Yamadwar (the Gate of Death) and ancient monasteries.

Crossing the Drolma La Pass (5,650 m)

The most challenging section of the Kora trek involves a steep ascent to the highest point. This crossing not only demands physical endurance but also symbolizes overcoming life’s obstacles and rebirth in spiritual journeys while rewarding trekkers with breathtaking panoramic views of the surrounding landscape and Mount Kailash.

Why Choose Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Helicopter

Kailash Mansarovar is one of the most sacred and powerful pilgrimage sites on Earth, offering a once-in-a-lifetime experience for those seeking divine connection and inner peace. The helicopter option makes this extraordinary journey accessible to those who may struggle with longer treks, including senior travelers who are reasonably fit. Moreover, this air route significantly cuts down travel time compared to overland paths. Ultimately, the yatra encapsulates both a physical challenge and a profound spiritual transformation within a serene Himalayan setting, leaving a lasting impact on all pilgrims who embark on this sacred journey.

Make this sacred journey effortless and unforgettable—book your Kailash Mansarovar helicopter yatra today.

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PRICE INCLUDES

- All domestic flights & helicopter transfers as per itinerary
- Tibet Travel Permit & Group Visa
- Accommodation (Kathmandu hotel + Tibet guesthouses)
- Pure vegetarian meals during the yatra
- All ground transportation in Tibet
- Nepali tour leader & Tibetan guide
- Oxygen cylinders, first-aid kit, oximeter
- Duffel bag, jacket (if applicable)

PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Personal travel insurance
- Horse/porter during parikrama
- Emergency evacuation costs
- Tips to guides/drivers
- Personal expenses (laundry, phone calls, hot showers, etc.)

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DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu (1,330m)

Upon your arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport, a representative from Trek Curator will greet you and assist with your transfer to the hotel. After checking in, take some time to relax and settle in. You'll receive duffel bags, jackets, and other essentials, and have the chance to meet fellow pilgrims who will join you on this journey. In the evening, feel free to explore the café restaurants or local markets for any last-minute shopping needs, such as warm clothing, walking sticks, and medications. Enjoy your overnight stay in Kathmandu

Day 2: Kathmandu Sightseeing

After breakfast at the hotel, you'll set off to visit the Pashupatinath Temple, an important Shiva temple located along the banks of the Bagmati River. Here, you'll have the opportunity for darshan blessings before your yatra. You may witness the mesmerizing morning aarti rituals, traditional cremations, and the meditative practices of sadhus. Next, you'll visit the Jal Narayan temple to see the Reclining Vishnu statue. Afterward, head to the majestic Boudhanath Stupa, a central hub for Tibetan Buddhists. Your journey will conclude at the Swayambhunath Stupa, often referred to as the "Monkey Temple," which offers breathtaking panoramic views of the Kathmandu valley. Later in the day, you'll receive a briefing on the yatra schedule, documentation requirements, and medical preparation, including the distribution of Tibet visas and permits. Finally, check your packing and gear to ensure you're ready for the trek ahead.

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Day 3: Kathmandu to Nepalgunj by flight (150m)

Today, you'll fly to Nepalgunj, situated near the Indian border in the tropical lowlands. After breakfast, head to the airport for the 45-minute flight, where you can enjoy stunning views of the mountainous terrain. Once you arrive in Nepalgunj, check in at your hotel and take time to rest, as the drop in altitude may leave you feeling heavier. You can also explore the local area and markets, but remember to review your gear and trekking equipment before venturing into higher altitudes. You'll spend the night in Nepalgunj.

Day 4: Nepalgunj to Simikot flight (2910m) / Simikot to Hilsa Helicopter / Taklakot (4025m)

Start your day with an early flight to Simikot, which serves as the gateway to the Tibetan plateau. After a brief acclimatization period and soaking in the mountain views, you'll take a helicopter transfer to Hilsa, the border town where customs and immigration take place for entering Tibet. Continuing your journey, you'll enjoy another helicopter ride to Taklakot, located in the Tibet Autonomous Region, taking in the spectacular scenery from above. With a rapid ascent from 150m to 4,025m, be mindful of the risk of mild altitude sickness—carrying medications for Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS) such as Diamox is advisable. In the evening, consider a stroll to the local market or monastery in Taklakot. Overnight accommodation will be in a guesthouse, where you should focus on staying hydrated and enjoying light meals.

Day 5: Acclimatization in Taklakot

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This day is dedicated to helping you adjust to the high-altitude oxygen levels. You can partake in various activities, like gentle morning walks or light yoga near your guesthouse, making sure to drink at least 3 liters of warm water daily. There's also an opportunity for an optional visit to the Purang Monastery or the local market, where you can find Tibetan goods like yak wool, dried fruits, and prayer flags. It's wise to avoid long showers and heavy meals; instead, opt for boiled potatoes and garlic soup, known to help with altitude adaptation. In the evening, a group medical check will be conducted, including pulse oximeter readings and blood pressure checks, followed by a spiritual discussion and meditation with your fellow pilgrims.

Day 6: Drive from Taklakot to Mansarovar (4,550m) 2 hrs

On this day, you will drive to Lake Mansarovar, one of the holiest lakes in Asia, symbolizing purity and the source of four major rivers: the Brahmaputra, Sutlej, Indus, and Karnali. The 3-hour drive will take you through scenic yet rugged landscapes across high-altitude plains, where you'll be treated to your first sighting of Mount Kailash from a distance—a profoundly emotional and spiritual moment. Upon your arrival at Lake Mansarovar, you will perform the Manasarovar parikrama (circumambulation) by vehicle, followed by a holy dip (snan) in the lake, which is believed to wash away the sins of 100 lifetimes. You can also perform a ritual puja, hawan (fire ceremony), and meditation by the lakeshore. After these sacred activities, don't miss the opportunity to visit the Chiu Monastery (Chiu Gompa), perched atop a hill, offering beautiful panoramic views of the lake. You'll spend the night in a guesthouse near Mansarovar.

Note: The water is icy cold. Consider pouring a few drops on your head symbolically instead of taking a full dip if you're sensitive to the cold.

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Day 7: Mansarovar Exploration drive to Darchen (4,600m) 1 hrs

Start your day early to witness the breathtaking sunrise over Mount Kailash reflecting in Lake Mansarovar, a perfect moment for photography. You can engage in various rituals at the lake, such as performing a Rudrabhishek with the water collected from Mansarovar and taking time for meditation or silent prayer to purify your spirit. Next, you'll have the chance to visit Rakshas Tal, the Lake of the Demon, which has connections to Ravana from the Ramayana. After soaking in the spiritual energy of Mansarovar, enjoy a one-hour scenic drive to Darchen, the base camp for the Mt. Kailash Kora. Upon arrival in Darchen, your health will be checked by Chinese officials. You can hire porters or yaks and ensure your trekking gear is ready, packing a small day bag for the upcoming three-day kora. In the evening, take in the stunning view of Mt. Kailash's southern face from Darchen. You'll spend the night in Darchen.

Day 8: Darchen to drive Yamadwar Trek to Dirapuk / 4,920m (Kora starts) 5-6 hrs

Today marks the beginning of your three-day kora around the sacred mountain. After breakfast, you'll drive to Toyamadwar, known as the 'gate of the god of death,' signifying the start of the Kailash Kora. Here, pilgrims typically perform a symbolic act of leaving behind their ego and sins. Your journey continues with a moderate 12 km hike to the Dirapuk monastery, offering panoramic views of Mount Kailash's North Face and the Lha Chu River Valley. Keep an eye out for Himalayan blue sheep and marmots as you walk. Upon reaching the Dirapuk monastery, enjoy a direct view of the northern face of Mt. Kailash, ideal for some evening meditation and photography. As the sun sets, you'll have a darshan of the magnificent northern face glowing in the twilight. You may also wish to perform rituals, chanting "Om Namah Shivaya" and offering incense to Lord

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Shiva. You'll stay overnight at a basic yet spiritually uplifting guesthouse in Dirapuk.

Day 9: Dirapuk to Juthulpuk / 4820m (Drolma La Pass - 5,650m) 8-9 hrs

Today, the trek will be both spiritually enriching and physically demanding. You'll start your ascent early in the morning, around 5 am, to cross Drolma Pass, the highest point of the journey, symbolizing liberation from sins. Begin with a steep 6 km climb up to the pass, where you will be greeted by colorful prayer flags and a beautiful view. Pilgrims often leave behind old clothes or personal items here, representing rebirth and renewal. After making your way over Drolma Pass, you'll visit Gauri Kunda, or Parvati Kunda, a sacred lake where Goddess Parvati is said to have bathed. Soon after, you'll descend towards Zuthulpuk valley. The trek is around 10 km before reaching Zuthulpuk, where you can visit the Zuthulpuk Monastery (4,820m), famous for its Milarepa cave, where the Tibetan saint meditated. You'll spend the night at the guesthouse in Zuthulpuk.

Day 10: Juthulpuk to Hilsa

This marks the final day of the Kailash Kora. Begin your morning with meditation at Zuthulpuk Cave. Then, embark on an 8 km trek, which will take about 2 to 3 hours, along the serene river valley offering stunning Tibetan landscapes. This trek will lead you to the final checkpoint near Darchen, completing your sacred Kora (Parikrama). Afterward, you'll board a vehicle and head back to Hilsa via Darchen and Taklakot, returning to this border town. In the evening, you can enjoy a pleasant walk in Hilsa, unwind, and celebrate the successful completion of your sacred journey with the team. You'll stay overnight in a guesthouse in Hilsa.

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Day 11: Hilsa to Simikot Helicopter Fly Simikot to Nepalgunj and Kathmandu

Your day begins with a scenic helicopter ride from Hilsa to Simikot, taking approximately 20 minutes. Upon arriving in Simikot, you'll board another flight to Nepalgunj, which lasts about 45 minutes. From Nepalgunj, your journey continues with a flight back to Kathmandu, taking roughly an hour. After reaching Kathmandu, take some time to rest in your hotel room or enjoy a short stroll through the bustling Thamel market for souvenir shopping, such as Thangka paintings or Tibetan incense. In the evening, you'll gather with fellow pilgrims for a farewell dinner, celebrating a journey well-traveled.

Day 12: Departure

On your final day, enjoy breakfast before holding a brief farewell meeting with the team. You'll receive your Certificate of Completion for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Depending on your flight schedule, a representative will pick you up at the airport. Since traffic in Kathmandu can be unpredictable, it's best to prepare early for your departure. You'll leave with cherished memories, a sense of spiritual fulfillment, and the transformations you experienced during this incredible journey.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by Helicopter?

The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra by helicopter is a unique service offered by Trekcurator, enabling pilgrims to visit the breathtaking Mount Kailash and the serene Lake Mansarovar with ease. This option significantly cuts down on travel time compared to other methods, making it one of the simplest ways to embark on this spiritual journey. The flights typically operate from designated base locations near the India-Tibet border, with Simikot being the most common.

2. Who is eligible to undertake the helicopter Yatra?

Both Indian citizens and foreign nationals with valid travel documents are welcome to join this journey. It is particularly recommended for the elderly, those who are unwell, or anyone with limited time. However, pilgrims should be in reasonably good physical shape to participate.

3. When is the ideal time to go on this Yatra?

The best time for the Yatra is from May to September when weather conditions are generally favorable. The peak months are June through August, so it’s advisable to book your trip well in advance.

4. Is prior experience with high-altitude travel necessary?**

No prior experience with high-altitude travel is required, though acclimatization can be beneficial. Traveling by helicopter helps ease the physical demands compared to trekking, but some adjustment to the altitude is still necessary.

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5. Are permits needed?

Yes, travelers must obtain Tibetan travel permits. An authorized tour operator will handle the application process for these permits.

6. Can flights be canceled due to weather?

Helicopter flights are quite dependent on weather conditions, so there may be delays or rescheduling. It’s best to stay flexible in this regard.

7. Any tips for a smooth journey?

To ensure a seamless experience, make sure to book your trip ahead of time to secure your travel visas and permits. Keep all essential documents on hand at all times, and remember to adhere to health and safety guidelines, including staying hydrated and allowing time to rest at high altitudes.

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