



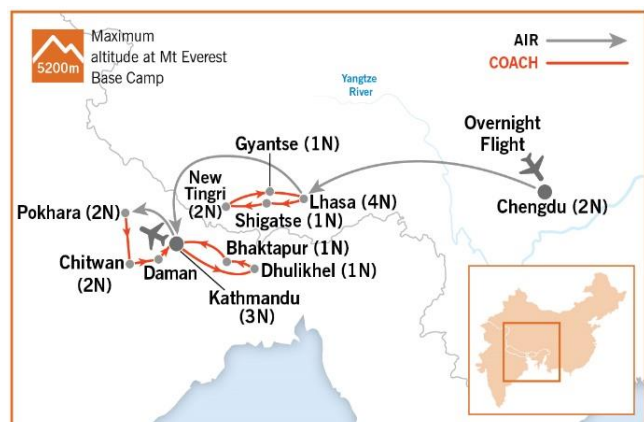
Himalayan Adventure

Immerse Yourself | 21 Days | Active

Chengdu - Lhasa - Shigatse - New Tingri - Gyantse - Dhulikhel - Bhaktapur - Pokhara - Chitwan National Park - Kathmandu

Embark on a journey of extremes, from the starkly beautiful landscapes of Tibet, on the roof of the world, to the verdant valleys of Nepal under the ever watchful gaze of the mighty Himalayas.

- Get up close to the Giant Pandas
- Witness the monks of Sera Monastery debating
- See Mount Everest from Base Camp
- Discover the jungle in Chitwan National Park
- Explore the vibrant city of Kathmandu



Himalayan Adventure tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- All accommodation
- All Meals
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers) and Local Guides
- Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

The only thing you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, meals not stated in the itinerary, insurance of any kind, tipping and early check in or late check out. These are all payable locally.

Immerse Yourself:

Designed for those who wish to be further immersed in the authentic charm of Asia; tours in our Immerse Yourself range include more cultural and active experiences. You will be accompanied by our dedicated and professional National Escorts and local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience. These tours include:

- Cycling and walking through classic sites
- Unique cultural experiences and encounters
- Off the beaten track destinations
- More evenings at leisure for independent exploration

Active Tours:

'Himalayan Adventure' is an **Active** tour. This is one of the most demanding trips Wendy Wu Tours offers. As a whole, this itinerary requires a high level of fitness. This tour is physically demanding, it involves hiking and travelling to remote areas where tourist facilities are less developed.

This itinerary visits several areas of high altitude. If you have an existing respiratory, vascular or coronary condition, we recommend checking with your doctor before undertaking this itinerary. Mount Everest Base Camp is at an altitude of 5,200m.

AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness) occurs in some people when they travel to altitudes over 3,000m [9,840 feet]. Mild symptoms of AMS include dizziness, fatigue, nausea or loss of appetite, breathlessness or headache. AMS symptoms are experienced by people of varying ages and levels of fitness, and usually the symptoms will subside after a day or so. If symptoms worsen, you should seek medical advice and descend in altitude immediately. It is recommended to drink more water, non-alcoholic and non-caffeinated drinks and avoid exertion at altitudes over 3,000m.

Of course, our National Escorts and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you require any more information about the pace of the tours in our Immerse Yourself range, please contact our reservations team who will be happy to answer your questions.

Itinerary – Himalayan Adventure

Days 1-2: Chengdu

On arrival in Chengdu Airport, be met in the arrival hall by your local guide and/or National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Together with all other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.



Destination Information

Chengdu – China’s symbolic western capital and the residence of the country’s most lovable black and white bear, Chengdu has an abundance to offer. With a fast-paced economy that is dragging China’s west into the 21st century, it is no wonder that Chengdu’s appeal is growing year on year. As the gateway into Sichuan Province’s large collection of sights, as well as Chengdu being its own trove of historical and cultural treasures, Chengdu is a must-visit on any trip to China.

Day 3: Chengdu

Sightseeing today begins with a visit to the famous Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding located 18km from the city centre. Opened to the public in 1995, the reserve has a museum, a research facility and a protected wilderness and breeding area. It is not guaranteed that you will be able to see the feeding of the younger pandas, as this only happens at the start and end of each day. Sightseeing involves approximately 1 and a half hours on foot. There are electric carts offered by private vendors that can be organised at your own cost. This afternoon, stroll through People’s Park and see Matchmaker’s Corner, where parents search for suitable suitors for their children, before visiting a traditional teahouse. Sightseeing in the afternoon will be approximately 1-2 hours.



Please note: During your time in Chengdu it is recommended to increase your water intake daily to prepare for altitude in Lhasa and remain regularly hydrated, your National Escort/Local Guide can assist in recommending where to buy bottled water.

Destination Information

Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding – With over 80 pandas holding residence, the Chengdu Panda Research Base is equipped with the latest technology and research materials to gain a further understanding in how we can protect the panda and maintain, if not increase its numbers. The park is set up to resemble the mountain and forest regions in north Sichuan, the original home of the Giant Panda, with extensive bamboo trees and large green spaces.

Peoples Park – A pleasant respite from urban Chengdu. Here you can see beautiful golden koi, locals dancing and practicing Tai Chi, and Matchmakers Corner.

Day 4: Chengdu - Lhasa

Lhasa altitude 3,650m

Say goodbye to Chengdu this morning as you transfer to the airport for your 2 and a half hours flight to Lhasa. Upon arrival, transfer 1 hour to the hotel for a 3-night stay. The remainder of the day is free at leisure to allow you to acclimatise to the high altitude and prepare for your explorations at the Roof of the World. Please rest and stay well hydrated.



Please note, Lhasa is at an altitude of 3,650M. All passengers should rest and stay well hydrated to acclimatise to the higher altitude.

Destination Information

Lhasa – Historically and spiritually a centre for Buddhism, Lhasa is home to many culturally significant sights, including the Potala Palace, Jokhang Temple and the Norbulingka Summer Palace. Set on the Tibetan Plateau, Lhasa is one of the highest cities in the world, reaching heights of 3,700m.

Day 5: Lhasa

Wander around the Barkhor to see traditionally dressed locals, stalls of religious trinkets and prostrating pilgrims. Inside the Jokhang Temple, the sacred centre of Tibetan Buddhism, the devotion is palpable as queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. After lunch, take a short drive from the city into the low-lying hills which surround Lhasa to the Sera Monastery, a renowned seat of Buddhist learning, to watch the debating monks. Please be sensitive whilst at the temple as religion is an extremely sensitive topic in China. This is



not a chance to converse with the monks, you will be able watch the monks debating between themselves and learning scriptures. Sightseeing at the Jokhang Temple and Sera Monastery will involve climbing many steps and walking over uneven surfaces in dim lighting. Later this evening, try yak burgers for dinner.

Destination Information

Barkhor – Encircling the Jokhang Temple, the Barkhor is a cluster of narrow streets that acts as a circuit of pilgrimage for Buddhists around the Jokhang. There are many stalls here where you can peruse for Tibetan trinkets, religious relics and exquisite jewellery.

Jokhang Temple – Considered the most important and sacred temple in Tibet, the Jokhang Temple is located amongst Barkhor and dates back to the 7th century. The architecture is a simple blend of Indian, Chinese and Nepalese designs and is a mix of stunning colours both inside and out.

Sera Monastery – The Sera Monastery is one of the ‘Great Three’ monasteries in Tibet located 5km outside of Lhasa. Although its monk population is rather small, there is still a bustle of activity, especially in the morning and late afternoon, when you can see debates on religious theory.

Day 6: Lhasa

Today, you will tour the Potala Palace, the former winter palace of the Dalai Lama. This iconic palace is the largest monastery in the world. Sitting atop Red Mountain, the Potala Palace is painted in a traditional Tibetan blend of deep red and stark white. Here you will climb over 1000 steps, some of which are uneven and steep, to the top of the palace. Later this evening, witness a Tibetan dance performance during dinner.



From October to April, the Tibetan Dance Performance will only run if there are 20 or more people booked to watch the show that evening. If it is not operating on the evening your group is due to attend, a suitable alternative will be arranged by your National Escort/Local Guide.

Destination Information

Potala Palace – The former winter residence of the Dalai Lama, the Potala Palace has long been a symbol of Tibetan Buddhism, and the struggles between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government. Abandoned by the Buddhist spiritual leader in 1950, the Potala Palace now acts as a museum of old treasures and intricate shrines.

Day 7: Lhasa - Shigatse

Shigatse altitude 3,840m

This morning you will leave Lhasa and travel approximately 6 hours across the Northern Friendship Highway to Shigatse, the second largest town in Tibet. Dominated by a fort reminiscent of the Potala Palace, Shigatse is the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. You will have some time on arrival to explore the local markets before checking into your hotel for an overnight stay.



Destination Information

Shigatse – Shigatse is a major town that has been developed by the government to become the second largest city in Tibet. It has an interesting local market and one of the largest functioning monasteries in Tibet, Tashilhunpo.

Day 8: Shigatse – New Tingri

New Tingri altitude 4,342m

Today you will enjoy a visit to the Tashilhunpo Monastery, one of the six monasteries of the Yellow Hat Sect in Tibet. Touring here involves walking over steep uneven ground inside the monastery. Afterwards, drive 5 hours to New Tingri, also known as Shegar. When crossing the Gyatso-la Pass (5,220m), admire small Tibetan villages and ruins of ancient dzongs along the way. Upon arrival check into your hotel for a 2-night stay.



Please note, the accommodation here is of basic standard with limited western dishes for breakfast due to the remote location of New Tingri.

Destination Information

Tashilhunpo Monastery – One of the six monasteries of the Yellow Hat Sect in Tibet. Also called the Heap of Glory, it is located at the foot of Drolmari (Tara's Mountain) and spans 70,000sq meters, making it the largest functioning religious institutions in Tibet.

New Tingri – Once the capital of the Tingri Region. The town is nestled amongst mountains and contains the ruins of a fortress, which once snaked over the surrounding peaks.

Day 9: Everest Base Camp

Mt Everest Base Camp altitude 5,200m

You will rise early this morning and cross the Gue-la Pass with its magnificent panoramic views of the eastern Himalayas. Continue the drive, with your first views of Mt Everest appearing 30 minutes before your arrival into the monastic village of Rongphu (also known as Rongbuk). Visit the world's highest post office before enjoying an excursion (weather permitting) to the Mt Everest Base Camp (5200m) to experience breathtaking views. There is the option of either walking for 2 hours or driving for 30 minutes to Everest Base Camp. The base camp itself is dry and barren but the views of the north face of Mt. Everest more than compensate. You will return to your hotel in New Tingri late this afternoon, the drive is approximately 4 and a half hours.



Please note: A simple boxed lunch and water will be provided on this day and can be enjoyed while at the base camp. Ongoing road works on the road to Mt. Everest Base Camp mean the group will transfer to smaller vehicles and travel times may increase.

Destination Information

Everest Base Camp – The Everest Base Camp offers spectacular views of Mount Everest and is the perfect place to soak up the thrilling atmosphere so apparent in the Himalayas.

Day 10: New Tingri - Gyantse

Gyantse altitude 4,050m

Today you will drive around 7 hours to the pleasant town of Gyantse. En route you will visit the Gyantse Kumbum inside the Pelkor Monastery, the largest shrine in Tibet. Sightseeing here involves 1 and a half hours of walking, including steep stairs. To fully appreciate the Buddhist art it is recommended to bring a torch whilst inside the monastery to enable a clear viewing. Continue to Gyantse for your overnight stay.



Destination Information

Gyantse Kumbum – Gyantse Kumbum houses exquisite Tibetan sculptures and paintings that rise 35m over four main symmetrical floors topped by a gold dome. The dome rises like a crown over four sets of eyes that gaze serenely out in the directions of the cardinal points.

Gyantse – Gyantse is an integral stop on the historic trade route between India and Tibet. Today this charming town is dotted with monasteries including its greatest sight the Gyantse Kumbum.

Day 11: Gyantse - Lhasa

Karuola Glacier altitude 5,036m

Travel back to Lhasa today, driving for approximately 4 hours. En route, stop at Karuola Glacier and Yamdrok Lake to admire the spectacular scenery. Upon arrival in Lhasa, check in to your hotel for an overnight stay.



Destination Information

Karuola Glacier – Covering nine square kilometres, this glacier lies between Nagarze and Gyantse county and rises sharply into the sky. It is easily approached as the highway passes just 300 meters from the foot of this glacier.

Yamdrok Lake – One of the three sacred lakes of Tibet, its vast turquoise blue waters span 72 kilometers. The lake is said to help Tibetans find the reincarnated soul of the next Dalai Lama.

Day 12: Lhasa - Dhulikhel

Say goodbye to Tibet this morning as you transfer to the airport for your 1 and a half hour flight to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. After clearing immigration and customs, you will be met by your Nepalese Local Guide and transfer to Dhulikhel for an overnight stay. Visit an assembly of fine Newari houses with carved windows and doors. Later, you will have the opportunity to wander around the small local market and observe the day-to-day lifestyle of the locals.

Destination Information

Nepal – The small Kingdom of Nepal sits atop the Himalayas wedged between India, Tibet and China. It is renowned for its incredible landscapes and is home to 10 of the world's 14 tallest mountains. The mountaineering race of the early 20th century brought this tiny nation to the attention of the whole world. Even today, from the low lands of the Terai (the plain in the southwest), through the ancient and noble towns of the Kathmandu Valley, to the unrivalled heights of Mt. Everest, the country retains a mediaeval atmosphere. Markets thrive in town squares, alleys wind between temples, homes and water wells, and statues of Ganesh are covered in rice, tiny flowers and coloured powder.

Dhulikhel – Dhulikhel is located 30km east of Kathmandu and offers spectacular views of the Himalayas. A well-preserved Newari town, Dhulikel offers an insight into traditional life in Nepal.

Day 13: Dhulikhel - Bhaktapur

Bhaktapur altitude 1,330m

After an early morning breakfast, depart Dhulikhel and drive 50 mins to the Changu Narayan Temple. Tour the temple then begin a 6km light hike to Telkot through the forest (hike duration approximately 3 hours). Throughout the hike, you will walk for approximately 3 hours on uneven terrain, up and down slight hills and through small villages. Transfer to Bhaktapur and visit the 'Old Houses' and meet a local Newari family. Enjoy a typical Nepali lunch at a restaurant in Bhaktapur Durbar Square. After lunch, tour the ancient town of Bhaktapur, visiting sites such as the Golden Gate and the Palace of 55 Windows and weave your way through to the Taumadhi Tole Square. Depending on the time, you may also try to visit the wonderful Potter's Square located nearby. There will be 1 hour of leisurely walking through the town.



Destination Information

Changu Narayan Temple – A UNESCO World Heritage listed site situated on a ridge overlooking the valley, this temple is dedicated to the Hindu God Vishnu and is one of the finest examples of pagoda architecture.

Bhaktapur – The third of the ancient royal capitals. Traffic is prohibited in the town, making it a wonderful place to explore on foot. The absence of traffic makes this antiquated site a treasure trove; in markets and alleys we will see corn husks or hand-made noodles laid out on a sheet to dry in the sun, baskets of chillies, temples and shrines covered with offerings of food, brightly coloured powder, or flowers. Around town, in between their shops and homes, groups of men lounge and smoke under ancient and intricately carved shelters where their ancestors once bathed (and some children still do today).

Old Houses – An area of heritage-listed traditional Newari style houses. Enjoy a traditional Nepali lunch in one of the outdoor courtyards, where you will have the opportunity to meet the family members and gain a fascinating insight into Nepali lifestyle.

Golden Gate – The splendid Golden Gate is the entrance to the Palace of 55 Windows. Completed in 1754, the gate is one of the finest examples of Nepal's repoussé metalwork.

Palace of 55 Windows – Built in the 17th century, the palace features a balcony of 55 intricate wooden windows, a masterpiece of woodcarving.

Taumadhi Tole Square – Taumadhi Tole Square is one of the main three squares in Bhaktapur. The lively square includes shops, restaurants and guesthouses, as well as several interesting temples including Temple Nayatapola.

Day 14: Bhaktapur - Pokhara

Travel by coach approximately 30-40 minutes to Kathmandu airport where you will board the short flight to Pokhara (flight duration 25 minutes). This afternoon, enjoy a leisurely walking tour of the town.

Destination Information

Pokhara – The finishing point for the famous Annapurna Circuit trek and the starting point for various other treks through the Annapurna Range. Pokhara became a popular tourist destination in the 1970s, with its laid-back setting and idyllic scenery. It has rapidly developed since then into a modern mountain resort and offers a last chance stop for trekking supplies. Yet it retains much charm, with its calm lakes and surrounding snowy peaks offering serenity to those who visit.

Walking Tour of Pokhara – The lakeside area is filled with restaurants, cafes, bars, pubs, and shops selling souvenirs and local wares. Head down towards the lake to purchase jewellery or small trinkets from the Tibetan women who sell their wares from blankets or backpacks. Enjoy the view of the mountain peaks of Machhapuchhre or Fish Tail, the Annapurna Foothills.

Day 15: Pokhara

After breakfast embark on a city tour of Pokhara, which will involve 5-6 hours of leisurely sightseeing on foot. Begin at the colourful Old Bazaar. Stop to admire the Bindyabasini Temple, one of Pokhara's most important shrines.

Next drive out of the town to visit Gupteshwor Cave and Devi's Fall before continuing to the International Mountain Museum. At Gupteshwor Cave you will walk 50m through the cave to see the Manadeva statue. The caves inside are dimly lit and include some



stairs where handrails are provided, but both the ground and the handrails are often slippery. We suggest taking rubbed soles shoes and cloth gloves. Afterwards, enjoy a boat trip on the picturesque Phewa Lake and visit International Museum Mountain Museum.

Destination Information

Old Bazaar – Pokhara's traditional bazaar is colourful and bustling. In its temples and monuments can be seen ties to the old Newar architecture of the Kathmandu valley, Located about 4km from the lakeside area, the market's original charm is still evident. This area is strewn with shops selling items ranging from food and cloth to cosmetics and gold.

Bindyabasini Temple – The old Bazaar is also home to one of Pokhara's most important shrines. Locally called the Bindhyabasini Mandir, it is dedicated to Goddess Bhgwati, yet another manifestation of Shakti.

Gupteshwor Cave – A sacred cave located on the Siddhartha Highway leading southwest from the city. The entrance is right across from Devi's Fall and the cave is almost 3 km long. This cave holds special value for Hindus.

Devi's Fall – Also known as Palate Chango (Hell's fall), Devi's Fall is a stunning cascading waterfall. Legend has it that a trekker by the name of David was washed away by the Padi Khola stream and mysteriously disappeared down into an underground passage beneath the falls.

Day 16: Pokhara – Chitwan National Park

This morning you have the option to rise early and visit a nearby Hindu temple or remain in the hotel. Depart Pokhara early and drive 6 hours to Chitwan National Park along roads that are not well sealed. Please note that roadworks are taking place on the road to Chitwan and delays may occur.

Your accommodation while in the park will be simple. Rustic huts blend with the natural environment, nonetheless the facilities are humble; they provide comfy beds and hot showers. After checking into your hotel, a naturalist guide will hold an induction meeting and provide information on all the options available to you during your time here. These include jungle walks, canoe rides and bird watching, all of which are included in your tour cost. You may wish to consider tipping the guides for each activity, but this is at your discretion.



Destination Information

Chitwan National Park – Long regarded as the third biggest attraction in Nepal and one of the last refuges of the One-Horned Rhino.

Jungle Safari – Unlike the vast plains of Africa, the Terai Jungle is compact and dense, providing excellent cover for the animals. Most people come to see the One-Horned Rhino and the Royal Bengal Tiger; please remember that these animals are rare and elusive sightings are valued experiences. Dawn and dusk are the times when the animals are most active, as they tend to rest under deep cover in the heat of the day.

Day 17: Chitwan National Park

Rise early for tea and coffee before proceeding on a nature walk. Return to the hotel for breakfast followed by an elephant briefing and a visit to the elephant stables. Return to the hotel for lunch and enjoy some free time before the afternoon program begins. Take a traditional dug-out canoe down the Rapti River and in the evening, enjoy a Tharu Stick Dance followed by dinner around the campfire.

Please note that the program in Chitwan is subject to change according to local conditions and will be confirmed upon arrival. The activities are adjusted according to the property you will stay at, the length of your stay, the season and present weather conditions. During the jungle safari, you will be accompanied by an expert naturalist who will advise on safety procedures, we request you to respect their judgment at all times. If you wish to stroll in the forest alone, a guide will have to accompany you for safety.

Destination Information

Morning Walk – Led by your guide, the morning walk will introduce the main features of eastern Chitwan. Your guide will help you identify some species of birds, plants and other wildlife that you may encounter.

Elephant Stables – Learn more about these fascinating animals during a briefing by a guide and a visit to elephant stables.

Traditional Dug-Out Canoe Ride (Subject to water level) – Enjoy a silent ride down the Rapti River to view aquatic birds and the animals of the riverbanks and observe the unique elephant bath.

Tharu Stick Dance – Farmers from the nearby villages will show some of their traditional skills and dances.

Day 18: Chitwan National Park – Kathmandu

Daman altitude 2,500m

Depart Chitwan early today to begin the 8-9 hour journey to Kathmandu. Please note that there are improvements being made on the road to Kathmandu and delays may occur. Enjoy the scenic drive as it winds up the mountains. Stop en route at Daman to have lunch and enjoy the panoramic view of the Himalaya (weather depending). Continue to Kathmandu where upon arrival you will transfer to your hotel for a three-night stay.

Destination Information

Daman – It has been said that arguably the best outlook over the Himalayas in the region with unrestricted views is from Daman. On a clear day, eight of the world's 10 highest mountains extending over 400km of unbroken range can be viewed, from Everest in the east, past Dhaulagiri in the west.

Kathmandu – Nepal's capital city is a fascinating mix of colourful bazaars, bustling squares, ancient capitals and a maze of alleyways.

Day 19: Kathmandu

Kathmandu altitude 1,337m

This morning drive south to Patan, the second largest city in Nepal, and discover Durbur Square, including the UNESCO World Heritage listed Royal Palace. This will involve approximately 2 hours on foot. The ground can be uneven at times. On the way back to Kathmandu, explore the Bodhnath Stupa and monastery, where you will experience a special Lama blessing. The Lama Blessing is conducted inside the monastery so smoking, drinking alcohol and eating meat items are prohibited. You will be required to sit on the floor, where you will receive the blessing and Khada (traditional scarf) from the Lama one by one. Also, visit the holy Pashupatinath Temple before returning to Kathmandu. This sightseeing involves around 2 hours on foot and may have the climbing of stone steps. Please note that here you may see the practice of animal sacrifice or cremation - refer to the Nepalese Customs section for further information on touring.



Destination Information

Patan – Patan is the second largest city in Nepal and is located 5km from Kathmandu, on the southern bank of the Bagmati River. Until 1768, when King Prithvi Narayan Shah (a Gorka) unified the Kingdoms of Nepal into a single nation, the Kathmandu Valley supported three separate Kings - one in Kathmandu, one in Patan and another in Bhaktapur.

Durbur Square – Situated in the heart of city, Durbur Square is the centre of Patan's religious and social life. The stunning display of Newari architecture houses three main courtyards, an array of temples, shrines, houses and the Royal Palace.

Royal Palace – Though parts of the richly decorated Royal Palace dates back to the 14th century, the majority of the construction was completed in the 17th century. The Royal Palace forms the eastern side of the Durbar Square and contains a series of courtyards, temples and a museum for the royal collection.

Bodhnath Stupa – The largest stupa in Nepal and the capital city's religious centre for ethnic Tibetans who form a significant proportion of Nepal's population. The Bodhnath Stupa is thought to have been originally built in 600AD, after the famous Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo was converted to Buddhism.

Lama Blessing – Rinpoche or incarnate Lamas have long been offering a variety of blessings and ceremonies for well-being of both the individual and the community. The Blessings include the following:

House/Land Blessing - This is a blessing to promote the health, peacefulness, and productivity of house and land.

Blessing For Children – This is a blessing to promote fertility.

Blessing Of Children – This blessing promotes the safety, health and auspicious development of children.

Anniversary Blessing – This is a blessing to commemorate an event or special occasion.

Pet Blessing – This a blessing for the sentient beings that people adopt as a loving part of their lives.

Pashupatinath Temple – A Hindu temple of Lord Shiva situated 5km east of Kathmandu on the banks of the sacred Bagmati River. Pashupatinath Temple has a two tiered golden roof and is famous for its superb architecture. It is a centre of annual pilgrimage on the day of Maha Shivaratri. Here one may also witness the cremations of the dead bodies of Hindus. Devotees from all over the world come here to pay their homage to Lord Shiva.

Please note: Entrance to Pashupatinath is permitted to the Hindus only, however visitors can clearly see the temple and the activities performed inside the temple from the eastern bank of the Bagmati.

Day 20: Kathmandu

Tour the city of Kathmandu today. Sightseeing begins at the Swayambhunath Stupa before continuing to Durbar Square and the Kumari Temple. End the day with a stroll through Thamel Markets where you can do some last-minute shopping. At the Kumari Temple, photographing the temple is strictly prohibited and non-Hindus are not allowed inside. At the Thamel market please be mindful of your valuables.



Destination Information

Kumari Temple – Situated close to the palace is the Kumari Temple, the temple of the Living Goddess. The Living Goddess is a Weng girl who lives within the temple, acknowledging visitor's greetings from the central window.

Swayambhunath Stupa – Often called ‘the monkey temple’ because of the hundreds of monkeys that scamper about the place. Its location, atop a hill west of Kathmandu, makes the stupa visible for miles and is thought to have been a Buddhist pilgrimage site since the 5th century.

Durbar Square – At the heart of the Old City is the UNESCO World Heritage listed Durbar Square, a cluster of ancient temples, palaces and courtyards that date back to 12th and 18th centuries. The square is located on the site of Hanuman Dhoka Palace, which was the Royal Nepalese residence until the 19th century.

Day 21: Depart Kathmandu

This morning is at leisure. After check-out you will be transferred to Kathmandu airport to board your onward flight home. Any time before your flight is at leisure.

Himalayan Adventure Travel Information

Visas

A visa is required for entry into China and Nepal. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost for UK and EU passport holders. We will require your passport, completed visa application form, and 1 passport photo, taken within the last 6 months, to process your visa. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any visa applications that require an express 2-week service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a £60 per passport express fee. In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Chinese embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the embassy in London. If this is the case, we will notify you as soon as possible.

Tibet Permits - Travellers on this tour require a Tibet Permit which is issued by our office in China. Changes can occur to the Chinese Government policies regarding the issue of these permits, sometimes at short notice. Wendy Wu Tours will keep all customers up to date with any changes regarding the issuing of Tibet Permits that may affect our ability to operate this tour as per the original itinerary. In all cases, alternative arrangements are offered.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24-hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your National Escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Eating in China & Nepal

Chinese and Nepalese cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavorsome culinary styles in the world. Asian dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavors. Though local cuisine can vary greatly from the Asian food we get in the UK, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive Himalayan Adventure group tour, from the groups' arrival until the groups' day of departure. Please be aware that dishes selected for your meals reflect the cooking styles and signature dishes of the local area you are in.

In the Sichuan Province, the cuisine (known as Szechwan in the west) is distinguished by its use of ginger, chili and the 'Sichuan peppercorn' called fagara. Each meal will usually have some mild dishes for those who don't enjoy eating hot or spicy food, but please bear in mind that the majority of local specialty dishes will be hot. If your group finds there are not any mild dishes served, please inform your National Escort/Local Guide so that they may resolve the problem for the next meal.

In Tibetan areas, produce is limited, usually barley, wheat, yak meat and milk are produced locally and anything else must be trucked in from other parts of China. Local dishes include simple vegetable noodle soups (thugpa) or dumplings called momo. Simple, new restaurants are becoming more common but even in the larger towns the staff may not be used to serving groups, and this can obviously mean that you may need to wait a while to be served.

There will be limited western dishes for breakfast in Tibet. Typical breakfast dishes may include cold vegetable/pickle dishes, bean curd noodles, soups, congee (rice porridge), steamed buns with pork or sweet red bean paste and green tea. You may also be served fruit, a fried egg, or toast – although the bread tends to be very sweet and unlike the bread we have in the UK. Black tea, fresh milk and coffee is not often available but can usually be requested. Please note that long driving distances or local conditions may delay/alter your mealtime. Although there will be more than adequate food provided at mealtimes, you might like to bring some snacks with you from either the UK, or small supermarkets in Lhasa. These might include tea/coffee bags, drinking chocolate, instant soups or noodles, biscuits, energy bars, milk powder sachets, marmite and anything else you cannot live without. You may also find small shops and market stalls where you can buy a surprising amount of snacks such as instant noodles and muesli bars. Make sure anything you buy is safe and clean – dried fruit, nuts or unwashed fruit, etc. are not a good idea!

In Nepal, dishes served in restaurants on our group tours are varied. Some will be vegetable-based with meat mixed in, and a few will be meat-based. Our restaurants are well aware of the western palate – there are plenty of non-spiced options.

When eating meals on group tours, you will be seated around a circular table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional ‘family style’; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table top. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody. We recommend that when it comes to Chinese and Nepalese food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

Your National Escort will do their utmost to cater for any special requests such as gluten free or vegetarian meals, however, people on restricted diets should expect complications. Although most Asian countries are now quite developed, only quite recently have they started to widely accept Western guests. Western food requirements are quite far removed from Asian food requirements, and even medical reasons can be quite difficult to explain. While our ground partners will do everything they can to cater for a wide range of dietary requirements on tour, we ask kindly for your patience and understanding that they cannot always be delivered to the standard you will be used to at home. It is recommended that passengers with food intolerances bring snacks or additional food items with them, especially when travelling further from major cities as not all dietary requests will be met due to the limited foods available.

Accommodation

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK, China and Nepal. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

Accommodation in remote areas enables us to complete this amazing journey. We will be staying in varying levels of accommodation allowing us to enjoy the areas to the best capacity. You can expect to be staying in locally classed properties and please keep in mind that due to the remote locations, the standards of

accommodation will not be what you would find in a major city, but are the best available in those areas. It is not essential to bring a sleeping bag as bed linen is provided at each type of accommodation and is adequate for the night temperatures. However, bringing a 'sleep sheet' insert to use under the linen is a very good idea.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in China and Nepal have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in China and Nepal have generally improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Planes: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Development in China & Nepal

Although China & Nepal are developing quickly, they still lack the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as the UK; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort/Local Guides.

Nepalese Customs

Nepal has many special customs and rituals that tie into daily life, some of these may be surprising or unsettling for some passengers. While the guide will make every effort to forewarn passengers when visiting sites that may participate in the practise of animal sacrifice or cremation, there may be special local festivals within villages where such rituals are unavoidable. When visiting the Pashupatinath Temple in Kathmandu, please be aware that you may witness cremations taking place across the canal. If you would prefer not to participate in this touring, please let your National Escort/Local Guide know upon arrival in Nepal.

Appropriate Dress

When visiting temples, both men and women should dress in 'non-revealing' clothes. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men and pants or skirts below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms are appropriate for women. When visiting some temples, you may not be able to wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses or shoes. Some religious sites require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. It is recommended that you bring along shoes that can easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot ground.

Within Monasteries - The interior of all Tibetan monasteries is quite dark and usually lit by yak butter candles. Please remember to walk slowly and carefully, let your eyes adjust to the darkness and watch your step. Always walk in a clockwise direction along pilgrim circuits, around shrines, alters, temples and prayer wheels. If you are unsure of suitable and respectful behaviour within such places, please ask your National Escort/Local Guide's advice.

Chinese public holidays

If you are travelling within the below Chinese Public Holidays please note that celebrations last for several days and during these times some businesses will be closed and coach, air and train travel may be affected. Tourist attractions will be open, but may be crowded. Chinese New Year is on 16th February 2018 and 5th February 2019. Golden Week public holidays fall annually between 1st– 3rd May and 1st– 7th October.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by both a National Escort and local guides. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with local guides only.

Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry and China and Nepal is no exception. To remove the uncertainty and stress of not knowing how much is appropriate to tip or to whom, Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy for our group tours where a nominated tipping amount is paid upon commencement of the programme by each tour member. This amount is stated in all group pricing; however, it is not collected in your final payment received by Wendy Wu Tours.

This nominated tipping amount is to be given to your National Escort at the beginning of your tour, who will then distribute it amongst your main service providers – guides, drivers and attendants – on your behalf during the tour. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

The tipping amount is determined based on the total number of passengers travelling in the group. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the National Escort. The final tipping amount will be outlined in your final documentation, which is distributed 2 weeks prior to your tours departure.

Climate

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Itinerary changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Please note: The land border from Tibet to Nepal is currently closed, resulting in passengers flying from Lhasa to Kathmandu. An alternative road option is scheduled to open in the future and once operational, the itinerary may resume the overland route.

Last updated: July 2017