



# TourMagination

discovery+community

**Monasteries & Mountains:  
Hong Kong, China, Tibet, & Nepal**

**April 14-27, 2020**

**Leaders: Bert & Martha Lobe**



Mount Everest. Photo credit: travel-busy.com

*Bert and Martha Lobe can't wait to show some of the countries where they lived, worked, and travelled. They have carefully chosen a collection of sights that will introduce you to mountains, temples, and monasteries. Gain an understanding of Buddhism as it is practiced in these culturally connected but different countries. Notice the similarities and differences in the artfully constructed houses of worship. Enjoy astonishing mountain views. Meet Ministry of Education officials and staff from a development and peace-building NGO, stay overnight near Mount Everest Base Camp, visit two of the "Great Three Monasteries" and so much more.*

## Itinerary

### **Tuesday, April 14 Hong Kong**

Arrive in Hong Kong. Meet your fellow travellers at a welcome dinner and tour orientation.

### **Wednesday, April 15 Hong Kong**

This morning, walk the Dragon's Back, a coastal trail with beautiful ocean vistas. Have lunch in the beachside village of Shek O, then explore the laid-back Stanley Market with an array of stalls, tiny shops, and temples. After dinner in the Stanley Market, enjoy dessert at the Peninsula Hotel with a stunning view of Hong Kong.

### **Thursday, April 16 Chengdu**

Walk through St. John's Cathedral on-route to a funicular railway (with counterbalanced cars on a cable) and up Victoria Peak, the highest mountain on Hong Kong Island with views of Victoria Harbour, Lamma Island and other surrounding islands. This afternoon, transfer to the airport for a flight to Chengdu, China.

### **Friday, April 17 Chengdu**

This morning, visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, a non-profit facility where you'll get the chance to see charming pandas and other rare animals. Spend time at Wenshu Temple, the best-preserved Buddhist temple in the region. Then walk down Jinli Pedestrian Street, a lively area with much to see. Finally, join Ministry of Education Officials for a reception and conversation.

### **Saturday, April 18 Chengdu**

Visit Du Fu's Thatched Cottage, a National Heritage site with a park and museum commemorating the 8<sup>th</sup> century peace poet Du Fu who is considered one of China's greatest poets. Explore the streets and markets of Chengdu, then go to Dujiangyan, an impressive ancient irrigation system built in 250 BCE and still used today to irrigate over 5,300 square km (2,000 square miles).

### **Sunday, April 19 Lhasa**

Fly from Chengdu to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet nestled in the Tibetan Plateau and surrounded by magnificent mountain ranges. Meet your local guide, and head to your hotel for a rest while you acclimatize to the altitude.

### **Monday, April 20 Lhasa**

Potala Palace was the residence of the Dalai Lama for more than 250 years. Visit this UNESCO World Heritage site to learn about Tibetan history, religion, and culture. Next, visit Jokhang Temple, considered one of the most sacred sites in Tibet. Dating to the 7<sup>th</sup> century, it continues to be the ultimate pilgrimage destination. Your final stop for the day is Barkhor Street, the oldest street in Lhasa, full of local handicrafts.

### **Tuesday, April 21 Lhasa**

Visit Drepung Monastery, known as one of the "Three Great Monasteries". Once the residence for the Dalai Lamas prior to Potala Palace, it is still a

centre for Tibetan Buddhism. Then go to another of the “Great Three”, Sera Monastery—where you’ll have the opportunity to see the monks debating.

### **Wednesday, April 22 Shigatse**

Depart Lhasa on a spectacular drive through the Kamba-La Pass. Enjoy views of the highland Yamdrok Lake, one of the three most sacred lakes in Tibet. See the stunning Karo-La glacier. At Gyantse, visit the Palkor Chode Monastery, founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This monastery’s Kumbum contains 108 chapels in tiers. Tonight, lodge in Shigatse, Tibet’s second-largest city.

### **Thursday, April 23 Shigatse**

Be prepared to be amazed as you head towards Mount Everest, the world’s tallest mountain! Visit Rongbuk Monastery, located at the foot of Mt. Everest—considered the highest monastery in the world. From here you’ll get spectacular views of Mt. Everest’s north face. Tonight, stay in a dorm tent near Everest Base Camp.

### **Friday, April 24 Gyirong Town**

Ride the eco-bus to see Everest from more angles as you gaze on this magnificent mountain in the morning sun. Drive through the Himalayan

mountains to Gyirong Town, in a region known as the “back garden of Mount Everest” due to its surprisingly mild climate and lovely vegetation.

### **Saturday, April 25 Kathmandu**

Travel from Tibet into Nepal, a small country which was closed to the outside world until the 1950’s. Cross at Gyirong Port, an ancient trade route, and continue to Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital, an ancient city nestled in a valley between Nepal’s many high mountains. After arrival, settle in and explore the area on your own.

### **Sunday, April 26 Kathmandu**

Visit the Swayambhunath Temple, an important pilgrimage destination. One of the oldest religious sites in Nepal, this temple is revered by both Buddhists and Hindus. This afternoon, meet and converse with friends from the United Mission to Nepal, a co-operative endeavour which pursues development and peace among the people of Nepal who live in poverty. Over a farewell dinner, reminisce with your travelling companions.

### **Monday, April 27**

Say goodbye to your new friends and depart for home full of memories.

### **Fare per person:**

CAD: Double Occupancy \$5,773; Single Supplement \$800

USD: Double Occupancy \$4,441; Single Supplement \$615

### **Fare includes**

- Hotel accommodations
- Bus transportation, including departure transfer
- All entrance fees as outlined in itinerary
- Expert tour leaders and local guides
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- Tibet Travel Permit
- Gratuities to coach driver, in-country guides, and group meals

### **Fare excludes**

- International & in-tour airfare, arrival transfer
- Airport transfers
- 10 lunches, 9 dinners
- Drinks with meals, other than water
- Porterage
- Tourist visas for China and Nepal
- Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance

### **Insurance**

Travel medical (out-of-country emergency) and cancellation/interruption insurance are not mandatory but are highly recommended.

### **Payments**

Rates shown are in effect 04/19. Though every effort is made to maintain established prices, TM reserves the right to adjust prices should it become necessary. The price is guaranteed when paid in full. We accept cheque and credit card payments. Credit card payments are charged a 3% fee.

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