



COSMIC HIMALAYA

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Mystical Kailash & The Sacred Lakes

A 10-Day Premium Himalayan Odyssey via Simikot Route



Prepare for the journey of a lifetime. This is not merely a tour; it is a pilgrimage into the soul of the Himalayas, designed for those who seek to combine raw adventure with deep spiritual resonance. This exclusive expedition takes you across three distinct regions—the gangetic plains of India, the hidden valleys of Nepal, and the high-altitude deserts of Tibet—culminating at the abode of Lord Shiva, Mount Kailash.

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Expedition Overview

- **Duration:** 10 Days / 9 Nights
- **Start/End Point:** Lucknow, India
- **Route:** Lucknow → Nepalgunj (Nepal) → Simikot → Hilsa → Purang (Tibet) → Lake Mansarovar → Darchen (Mt. Kailash Base) → Return via same route
- **Max Elevation:** 4,700m (Driving/Sleeping) or **5,630m** (Dolma La Pass, if choosing the optional trek)
- **Highlights:** Scenic Himalayan flights, helicopter ride over hidden valleys, crossing the Nepal-Tibet border, the turquoise waters of Lake Mansarovar, sunset darshan of Mt. Kailash, and the ancient trading post of Purang.



For any more details contact here,

Contact Info. - +91 99270 06021,

Email Address: info@cosmichimalayas.com, Singhdalipsingh57@gmail.com

Or visit us at - <https://www.cosmichimalaya.com/>

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in the East & The Nepal Border

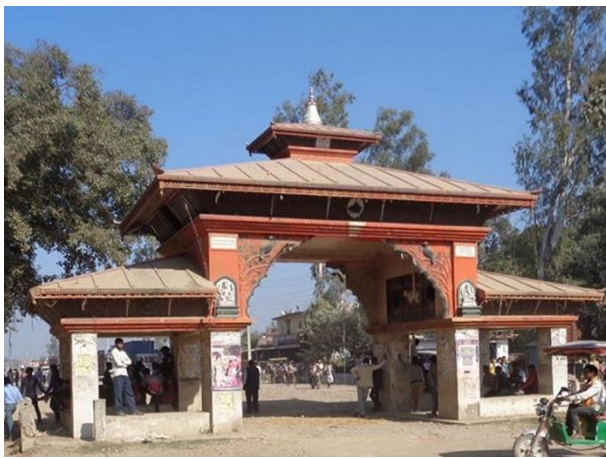
The Journey Begins: From Lucknow's Heritage to Nepalgunj's Bustle

Welcome to India! Your adventure commences in Lucknow, the "City of Nawabs," renowned for its refined culture, exquisite architecture, and legendary cuisine. While our journey moves quickly, we highly recommend arriving a day early to explore the stunning *Bara Imambara* or sample the world-famous *Tunday Kababi*.

Our team will meet you for a **private road transfer to Nepalgunj**, a vibrant border town in Nepal. The **180 km drive takes approximately 5–6 hours**, including fascinating border formalities at the Rupaidiha crossing, where you will watch the landscape change and the air freshen.

In the evening, gather at the hotel for a comprehensive **Yatra briefing and final document verification**. Meet your fellow travellers over a welcome dinner, discussing the path that lies ahead.

- **Accommodation:** Hotel Solty or similar (Nepalgunj)
- **Overnight:** Nepalgunj



A professional photograph capturing the contrasting sights of the Rupaidiha border crossing—busy colourful rickshaws and people on the Indian side, transitioning into the greener, quieter Nepali side, with the dusty town of Nepalgunj ahead.

Day 2: Into the Mountain Kingdom

Skyward to Simikot: The Gateway to Hidden Nepal

Prepare for a spectacular start. Early this morning, take a **thrilling mountain flight from Nepalgunj to Simikot**. This flight offers breathtaking views of the rising Himalayas as you touch down in the remote Karnali region.

Simikot is a destination in itself—a roadless, untouched village offering a window into traditional Nepali life. The day is dedicated to vital acclimatization. We will take a **short, leisurely walk around the village**, interacting with the incredibly welcoming local community and observing their unique culture.

A note on mountain travel: Flight delays are common here due to weather. Your itinerary includes buffer time to ensure a stress-free journey.

- **Accommodation:** Simikot Resort or similar
- **Overnight:** Simikot

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A stunning aerial view from the window of a small twin-otter plane, showing the rugged, terraced green mountains of the Karnali region with snow-capped peaks in the far distance, just before landing on the dramatic runway at Simikot.

Day 3: Crossing into the Trans-Himalayas

Helicopter Thrills & The Tibetan Plateau

A day of varied and exciting transport! This morning, board a **helicopter for a scenic flight from Simikot to Hilsa**, near the Tibetan border. This flight is a visual feast, soaring over deep gorges and remote settlements that few Europeans ever see.

After landing in Hilsa, we **cross the Nepal-Tibet border**. Complete the Chinese immigration formalities and meet your Tibetan guide and driver. The change in landscape is immediate and dramatic. You will then embark on a **scenic drive to Purang (Taklakot)**, watching the lush green valleys of Nepal transform into the vast, arid, and beautiful high-altitude desert of the Tibetan Plateau.

Upon arrival in Purang (altitude: 3,900m), we will take another **acclimatization walk** to help your body adjust. This ancient trading town is a fascinating melting pot of Tibetan, Nepali, and Chinese influences.

- **Accommodation:** Hotel Himalaya / New Purang Hotel
- **Overnight:** Purang

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A dynamic photograph looking forward from inside a modern Toyota Land Cruiser, capturing the winding road stretching across the vast, high-altitude landscape of the Tibetan Plateau, with sharp, barren mountains under a deep indigo sky.]

Day 4: The Sacred Waters & The First View

Rakshas Tal, Mansarovar Parikrama & Mount Kailash

Today is the day you have been waiting for. We drive deep into the heart of this sacred land. Our first stop is the ethereal **Rakshas Tal (the Lake of Demons)**. While considered inauspicious to touch, its deep, striking blue waters set against the stark landscape offer a profound photographic opportunity.

We continue to the holy **Lake Mansarovar**, perhaps the most famous high-altitude freshwater lake in the world. After a delicious **lunch near the lake**, we offer a rare experience: a **vehicle-supported Mansarovar Parikrama**. We will drive the circumference of this stunning turquoise lake, allowing you to witness it from every angle. If conditions allow, you may take a **holy bath at the Mansarovar Hot Spring**, a traditional and invigorating ritual.

The day culminates with a truly moving experience: a **sunset darshan of Mount Kailash**. Seeing the distinct, snow-capped pyramid peak bathed in the golden light of sunset is a sight that will stay with you forever.

- **Accommodation:** Mansarovar Guesthouse / Hot Spring Camp
- **Overnight:** Mansarovar



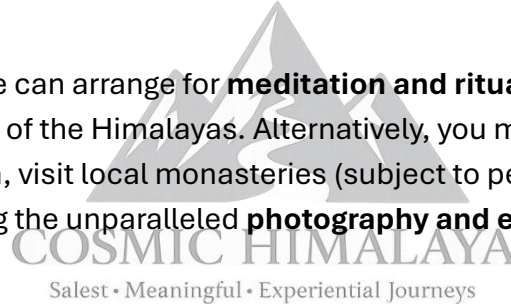
A serene wide-angle shot of Lake Mansarovar's turquoise water reflecting the deep blue sky. Colourful Tibetan prayer flags (Lung Ta) are whipping in the wind on the shoreline in the foreground, and the snow-capped peak of Mount Kailash is visible in the distance.

Day 5: Spiritual Immersion & Preparation

Flexibility and Focus at the Roof of the World

This is a flexible day dedicated to rest, reflection, and spiritual activities. After the travel of the previous days, today allows you to truly connect with this extraordinary environment.

For those interested, we can arrange for **meditation and rituals at the lakeside**, guided by the profound silence of the Himalayas. Alternatively, you may opt for an **extended Mansarovar Parikrama**, visit local monasteries (subject to permissions), or simply spend the day capturing the unparalleled **photography and exploration opportunities** this region offers.



- **Overnight:** Mansarovar



A respectful close-up photograph capturing a Tibetan Buddhist monk in traditional maroon robes, sitting in quiet meditation facing the calm waters of Lake Mansarovar as the sun rises, with soft, golden light diffusing through the cool morning air.

Day 6: The Base of the Holy Mountain

Drive to Darchen & Asthapad Views

We bid farewell to the lake and drive the short distance to **Darchen, located at an altitude of 4,700m**. This small settlement sits directly at the base of Mount Kailash and serves as the starting point for the famous circumambulation (Kora).

After checking in, the afternoon is free for rest and preparation. You have the **optional opportunity to visit Asthapad** (at your own expense), a renowned viewpoint offering one of the most magnificent, up-close views of the south face of Kailash. The sight of the massive horizontal stratification of the rock face is awe-inspiring.

In the evening, enjoy a final **Kailash darshan** as the sun dips below the horizon, preparing for the days to come.

- **Accommodation:** Hotel Kailash or similar
- **Overnight:** Darchen



A breathtaking wide-angle photograph capturing the sacred Mount Kailash rising majestically against the horizon, with vibrant Tibetan prayer flags fluttering in the foreground, overlooking the serene turquoise waters of Lake Mansarovar, as the golden hues of sunset cast a divine glow across the rugged Himalayan landscape, creating an atmosphere of deep spirituality and timeless tranquility.

Special Feature: Choose Your Own Path

We recognize that every traveller's physical capability and spiritual needs are different. Today, you must choose between two paths for the next three days:

Option A: The Outer Kora (The 52km Trek)

This is for the experienced trekker seeking the ultimate challenge.

Important Notice for Outer Kora Participants:

This option requires excellent physical fitness and is subject to weather and guide approval. You will reach a maximum altitude of **5,630m at the Dolma La Pass**, a physically demanding feat.

- **Outer Kora Day 1:** Drive to **Yamdwar** and start the trek . A 12km walk along the beautiful Lha Chu valley, offering stunning views of the North Face of Kailash. *Stay: Dirapuk Guesthouse.*
- **Outer Kora Day 2:** The "Death Pass" Day. A challenging early morning trek to cross the **Dolma La Pass (5,630m)** . Visit the sacred **Gauri Kund** just below the pass . Descend 22km to the Zuthulpuk valley. *Stay: Zuthulpuk Guesthouse.*
- **Outer Kora Day 3:** An easy 8km morning trek back to Darchen, concluding the sacred pilgrimage circuit.

Option B: The Cultural & Viewpoint Experience

For those who prefer a less physically demanding experience, focusing on views and local culture.

Day 7: The Return Journey Begins

Darchen → Yamdwar → Purang

Regardless of your choice on Day 6, today we begin our return journey toward Purang .

For those who chose the cultural path (Option B), the morning includes a drive to **Yamdwar** (the Gate of Salvation) for a short walk and a powerful close-up Kailash darshan, experiencing the energy of the mountain without the 52km trek . For Option A participants, you will reunite with the group in the afternoon after completing your trek.

We then enjoy a **scenic drive back to Purang**, allowing you to spot Tibetan wildlife, such as the Kiang (Tibetan wild ass) or Himalayan marmots, against the stunning landscape.

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- **Accommodation:** Hotel Himalaya or similar
- **Overnight:** Purang



A striking photograph of the South Face of Mount Kailash seen from Yamdwar. In the foreground, dozens of colourful strings of prayer flags are tied to the 'gate', contrasting sharply with the massive, stark, snow-streaked rock face of the mountain under a clear sky.

Day 8: Farewell to Tibet

Crossing Back to Nepal's Gorges

Today we retrace our steps, but the views remain captivating. We take the private **drive from Purang back to the Hilsa border**. After crossing back into Nepal, we board our **helicopter for the return flight to Simikot**.

This provides another chance to marvel at the Nepal Himalayas from above. As weather can be unpredictable in the mountains, this day includes a buffer for flight delays, ensuring a relaxed pace . The rest of the day is yours for **rest and local exploration** in Simikot .

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- **Accommodation:** Simikot Resort or similar
- **Overnight:** Simikot



A vibrant photo of a large group of colorful Tibetan prayer flags flying from a pole at a high-altitude pass, with the vast, dry Tibetan plateau stretching into the background towards snow-capped peaks.

Day 9: Back to the Plains

Simikot → Nepalgunj

Another exciting short-takeoff-and-landing **mountain flight takes us from Simikot back to Nepalgunj**. The contrast is immediate as we return to the warmer climate and bustling energy of the lowlands.

The rest of the day is designed for **rest after the flight**, a chance to enjoy a proper shower, and plenty of time for **packing and preparation for departure** the next day .

- **Accommodation:** Hotel Solty or similar
- **Overnight:** Nepalgunj

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A dynamic mid-air photograph capturing a red helicopter navigating through the rugged Himalayan terrain, with towering snow-clad peaks rising dramatically in the background, symbolizing the transition from the remote, untouched high-altitude wilderness to the journey back toward civilization, as the crisp mountain air and vast landscape evoke a sense of adventure and accomplishment.

Day 10: Departure

Nepalgunj → Lucknow

Our sacred pilgrimage concludes today. After breakfast, we provide a **private road transfer back to Lucknow**, India, crossing the Rupaidiha Border one last time.

We will drop you off at Lucknow Airport or your designated hotel. You leave with new friends, incredible photographs, and memories of a truly profound journey to the Roof of the World. *Tashi Delek!*

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A captivating evening photograph showcasing the iconic Rumi Darwaza of Lucknow illuminated under the deep indigo sky, as streaks of moving headlights blur across the foreground, capturing the city's timeless elegance and vibrant energy, symbolizing the return from the serene Himalayan heights to the rich cultural heartbeat of the plains.

Investment & Terms

✔ Your Expedition Includes:

- **Accommodation:** 9 Nights on twin/triple sharing basis in Nepalgunj, Simikot, Purang, Mansarovar and Darchen.
- **Meals:** All meals are included during the Tibet portion of the journey.
- **Permits & Visas:** Tibet Travel Permit and Chinese Group Visa processing.
- **Transport:** Private, comfortable transportation in Tibet (Van or Minibus, depending on final group size) .
- **Special Transport:** Nepalgunj-Simikot return mountain flights and Simikot-Hilsa return helicopter transfers.
- **Mansarovar Parikrama:** Complete circumambulation of Lake Mansarovar by vehicle.
- **Transfers:** All airport transfers as per the itinerary.
- **Safety & Support:** Oxygen cylinders in the vehicle, comprehensive first aid support, and a highly experienced tour coordinator with you throughout.

✘ Your Expedition Excludes:

- **Insurance:** Mandatory personal travel insurance (must include high-altitude evacuation) .
- **Flights:** International flights to/from Lucknow.
- **Kora Services:** Cost of a personal pony or porter during the Kailash Parikrama trek (approx. USD 300-400, optional).
- **Optional Visits:** Asthapad visit cost (optional).
- **Contingencies:** Extra hotel nights or transportation costs incurred due to weather delays, flight cancellations, or emergency evacuations.
- **Gratuities:** Tips for the Tibetan guide, Nepali staff, and drivers (discretionary but customary, highly appreciated).
- **Personal Expenses:** Laundry, drinks (soft drinks, alcohol), lunches/snacks during the road travel portions.



👛 Booking & Payment Protocol

- **Booking Confirmation:** A non-refundable **advance payment of INR 25,000 per person** is required to secure your spot.
- **Documentation:** A colour scan of your passport (valid for minimum 6 months) must be submitted upon booking for permit processing.
- **Final Balance:** The remaining payment must be completed as per tourism and permit protocol before departure (details provided upon booking).

✈️ Mountain Flight & Helicopter T&Cs

- Flights and helicopter operations between Nepalgunj, Simikot, and Hilsa are entirely weather-dependent.
- Delays and cancellations are common and accepted risks in mountain regions.
- Extra waiting days may be required; all additional accommodation and meal costs due to these delays are the responsibility of the guest.
- Helicopter operations have strict weight restrictions (maximum 10kg per person).

⚠️ General Terms & Essential Information

- **Altitude & Health:** The Kailash Yatra involves extreme high-altitude travel. While we provide acclimatization days, guests must declare any pre-existing medical conditions before travel. Consulting your doctor is essential.
- **Itinerary Flexibility:** The organizer reserves the right to modify the itinerary in the event of adverse weather, safety concerns, or changes in government regulations.
- **Responsible Travel:** Guests are expected to follow the instructions of the guide and coordinator for safety, acclimatization, and to ensure a respectful presence in this deeply spiritual region.