Beyond Kailash Mansarovar

Adi Kailash: Adi Kailash is an ancient holy place in the Himalayan Range, similar to Mount Kailash in Tibet. This abode of Lord Shiva in a remote area is worth to have a Darshan. You can Trek to Adi Kailash in the Himalayan ranges of Kumaon region near the Indo-Tibetan Border in District Pithoragarh.

Gyengtak Gompa & Astpad: The people going to Kailash after the Kailash Parikrama can also visit Gyengtak Gompa and Astpad (6675 mtrs.) on the southern face of Kailash.

The devotees heading for the Manas Parikrama rest at Chiu Gompa and Ganga Chhu, the natural channel connecting Manas with Rakas Tal. The place provides a grand view of Manas, Rakas, Kailash and Gurje. On reaching to the last stage of their respective Parikramas the groups come back to Purang enjoying the grand views of Kailash and Rakshas Tal.

Khojarnath Gompa: 26 kms away from Purang is Khojarnath Gompa, on the banks of Karnali. The Markets of Taklaser or Similar Gompa are the favourite shopping places for the people coming for the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.
Mount Kailash

Situated at a height of 6714 mtrs above sea level in Tibet, Mt. Kailash is locally called Kang Rinpoche or ‘The Precious Jewel of the Snow’ and its snow - capped peak against the clear blue sky, justifies its name. Mt. Kailash, also known as Mt. Meru, is referred as the navel of the earth. It is believed that Mt. Kailash is the abode of Lord Shiva where he stays with his family including his wife Goddess Parvati and children Lord Ganesha and Lord Kartikeya and the other Shiva Ganas (group of Shiva Devotees) like Nandi and others.

Mansarovar Lake

The word mansarovar is derived from the Sanskrit word ‘Manas’ which means mind and legend has it that Lord Brahma created this lake from his mind. The circumference of Mansarovar is 88-kms, its depth is 99m and total area is 320-sq-kms. It looks unbelievably fascinating on moonlit nights when an ethereal ambience pervades the atmosphere. The circumference of Rakshas Tal, also known as “Ravan Kund”, is 122-kms. A 6-kms long natural channel - “Gangachhu” - connects Manas with Rakshas Tal. Lake mansarovar, at 4558 mtrs above sea level is also said to be one of the highest fresh water lakes in the world.

A journey to Kailash Mansarovar is considered as once in a lifetime opportunity.

How to reach

There are three ways to reach Mount Kailash:

1. By road from India. The Government of India organizes tours to Lake Mansarovar. This is a 26 days trek but you need to book your tickets well in advance, because the number of seats are limited. About 500 people make it from the 6000 that apply each year.

2. By air to Kathmandu and then by road to Lake Mansarovar. Landcruisers are then used to reach Mansarovar via Lhasa and Mount Kailash.

3. 9 & 12-day helicopter tours of Kailash for those who are short of time or cannot take the rigours of a gruelling high altitude road journey. The tour uses fixed wing aircraft for the flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj and from there to Simikot.

Kumaon Mantal Vikas Nigam Ltd does the management of this yatra in India in assistance with the Tibet Tourism Agency.

For further information:

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Where to Stay

- Tourist Residence House, Dharchula 05967-222557
- Shivam Hotel, Tashil Marg, Dharchula 222806
- Yash Hotel, Dharchula 222218 / 222618
- Ganesh Tourist House, Dharchula -
- Shilard Hotel, Dharchula 222200
- Gurunanak Hotel, Dharchula 222740
- Ranjana Hotel, Dharchula -
- New Vyas Hotel, Dharchula 222173
- P.W.D. Inspection Bhavan -

What to See

Rakshas Tal: Situated at a height of 4515 mtr. It is divided from Manas by a narrow isthmus. Ravana the ruler of Lanka stood on one foot, performed tapasya and invoked Lord Shiva’s blessings. The Tibetans refer to this lake as Hanag Tso or the demon lake. The waters of this lake are never drunk. They consider it as inauspicious.

Gouri Kund: While proceeding downwards from Dolma - La (Dolma Pass), a steep descent to Gouri Kund at 5608 mtr., also called the Lake of compassion as referred to in the Shiva Purana. This is the setting for the legend of Parvati and how Ganesh acquired his elephant head bathing in the emerald waters of the kund.