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Escapade Tibet - Group Tour - 8 Days

In this tour you will immerse yourself in the rich geography, history and culture of Tibet. Following the pious pilgrims, you will cover the major territory and admire heavenly snow mountain, deep blue lakes and visit all characteristic Lama Temples in Lhasa, Tsetang, Gyantse and Shigatse. Exploring deep insight of mysterious Tibet, this tour will not fail to impress you.

Date	Destinations	Attractions, Meals & Transport
1	Day 1 Lhasa	airport-hotel transfer in Lhasa
2	Day 2 Lhasa	breakfast, lunch **Potala Palace (UNESCO), Sera Monastery** Standing on top of Red Hill in the north-west of the Lhasa city region, the Potala Palace is a grand Tibetan palace complex that remains the largest and most intact ancient palace in Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region today. Behaviours that are taboo in Tibetan Buddhism, such as wearing a hat inside, taking photos and stepping on doorsills, should be avoided during any visit. Advance booking is required. This monastery together with Drepung Monastery and Ganden Monastery are jointly known as the “great three monasteries of Lhasa”. This tranquil place has seen a succession of eminent monks and living Buddha give lectures about Buddhist scriptures ever since its completion in 1419. Sera Monastery is particularly known in the Tibetan region for its daily scripture debates, which remain one of its main draws. The monastery has developed its own distinctive style in terms of the level of occasion, code of gestures as well as intensity, and is a fascinating ritual to watch.

3	Day 3 Lhasa	breakfast, lunch **Jokhang Temple (UNESCO), Barkhor Street, Norbulingkha** With a history of more than 1,300 years, Jokhang Template is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery nestled in the old part of Lhasa. Having housed almost all key Buddhist events, the temple is often called the “Eye of Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Region”. Thanks to its extremely high status in Buddhism, the temple is frequented by pilgrims and worshiped with burning incense all year long. It is circled in a clockwise direction every day by a steady stream of believers who kneel with devotion in front of the main entrance on a stone floor imbued with the marks of the visits of the thousands of pilgrims who have come before them. The Jokhang Temple is located in the Barkhor neighbourhood and the street around the temple is called Barkhor Street, which means “eight corner street”. Initially a normal road around the temple, it has gradually become the route by which many pilgrims circumambulate the monastery in prayer and one of Lhasa’s most important commercial streets. Lined on both sides with shops selling religious wares in various sizes as well as all kinds of daily necessities, it is a fantastic place to shop, try local snacks, and check out the variety of goods on offer. The Norbulingkha is the summer palace of the Dalai Lama.
4	Day 4 Lhasa - Tsetang (by automobile)	private transfer from Lhasa to Tsetang breakfast, lunch **Samye Monastery, Yumbulakhang Palace** The Samye Monastery, the first Buddhist monastery built in Xizang, is a must-see site in Xizang. Xizang people believe that the souls of the dead will not be incarnated unless the deceased has reached Samya before. The Yumbulakhang Palace is surrounded by various myths and legends associated with the founding of Xizang civilization. It is also the oldest-known dwelling in Xizang.
5	Day 5 Tsetang - Yamdroktso - Gyantse (by automobile)	private transfer from Tsetang to Gyantse breakfast, lunch **Yamdruktso Lake, Palkhor Chode Monastery** The Yamdruktso Lake, one of the three largest sacred lakes in Xizang, will show you beautiful snow-capped mountains and numerous clear streams. The Palkhor Choede, a monastery having the characteristics of Han, Xizang and Nepali architecture, is a mixture of different cultures. It enjoys a high status in Xizang Buddhism history.
6	Day 6 Gyantse - Shigatse (by automobile)	private transfer from Lhasa to Tsetang to Gyantse breakfast, lunch Today, visit the Tashilhunpo Monastery and the outdoor market in Shigatse. **Tashilhunpo Monastery** The Tashilhunpo Monastery is the traditional seat of successive Panchen Lamas and there are nearly 800 lamas in the monastery nowadays.

7	Day 7 Shigatse - Lhasa (by automobile)	private transfer from Shigatse to Lhasa breakfast, lunch This day is an easy journey, driving along the Yarlung Zsangpo River back to Lhasa. On the way stop at a small village side the road to visit the Tibetan handmade incense mill and workshop.
8	Day 8 Lhasa	hotel - airport transfer in Lhasa breakfast Service ends.

Tour Dates:
From April to November
Guaranteed departure on every Tuesday, Saturday based on minimum of 2 travelers

About Tibet Travel Permits:

1. All foreign travelers are required to have the Tibet Travel Permit (or Tibet Permit, Tibet Entry Permit) in hand before entering Tibet. The Tibet Travel Permit is issued by Tibet Administration to the authorized travel agencies, but not to individual travelers directly.

2. CITS handle Tibet Permit application for guests who booked Tibet tour package from us. Travelers can either take a tailored private tour or join in a group tour. The tour package should include services of tour guide, automobile, sightseeing & accommodation. Please be advised that we do NOT offer "permit-only" service.

3. The Tibet Permit needs to be applied at least 20 days prior to arrival in Tibet, so we suggest travelers send the tour inquiry at least 30 days in advance.

4. The general travel information (including tour dates, travelers' personal information, destinations in Tibet…) will be attached to the Tibet Permit, so the travel itinerary could not be changed once the tour is confirmed.

5. All travelers can get Tibet Permit through an authorized travel agency except diplomats, journalists, and government officials who should travel to Tibet under the arrangement by the Foreign Affairs Office of Tibet Government.

How to book a Tibet tour with Tibet Travel Permit:

Step1: Traveler sends a travel inquiry to CITS.

Step 2: CITS travel counselor sends you an itinerary and quote. We are pleased to make any changes as per your request before you are completely satisfied with the tour proposal.

Step 3: Book the tour and make the payment via bank transfer or PayPal. Payment needs to be received by us at least 20 days before your arrival.

Step 4: Send us the following document & information:
- A scanned copy of your passport (photo page);
- A scanned copy of your China visa (tourist visa);
- All travelers' information including full names, gender, date of birth, passport number, nationality and occupation;

Step 5: Your travel counselors will confirm the tour and send you an email attached with the confirmation & voucher.

Step 6: When you leave for Lhasa you will need to show the original copy of the Tibet permit when checking in at the airport or railway station. The permit will be delivered to our local office in the departure city. You will need to pick it up from the local office. If you booked the land service at that city, our guide will pass the permit to you.

Tour Includes :

-- English-speaking guide
-- Air-conditioned coach or van
-- Land transfers between airport or railway station and hotel
-- Entrance tickets as listed
- Chinese lunch as listed
-- Hotel with daily breakfast
-- Tibet Travel Permit
-- Service charge & government taxes

Tour Excludes :

-- Flight or train ticket
-- Personal expenses such as laundry, drinks, phone bills, optional activities
-- Tips for guides and drivers
-- Chinese Visa
-- Travel insurance

About Shopping or No-shopping Tours

Since October, 2013, CITS offers truly alternative prices of tours with or without shopping. Exceptionally, some tours only have one type price, such as seat-in-coach, hiking, self-driving and luxury tours, etc. Click here know more details.