



**Day 1 Sat: Depart North America**

Board your Singapore Airlines flight tonight for the first segment of your journey to exotic and fascinating India, Bhutan, Nepal and Tibet.

**Day 2 Sun: Enroute****Day 3 Mon: Arrive Kolkata**

Arrive this evening in Kolkata, India's largest city. You are greeted with a traditional Indian welcome and escorted to the OBEROI GRAND HOTEL.

**Day 4 Tue: Kolkata Sightseeing**

After a leisurely morning, embark on a tour of Kolkata. Your tour includes a visit to Victoria Memorial, Jain Temple and the new market. Also visit Mother Teresa's Ashram, which strikes an emotional chord with most visitors. (BLD)

**Day 5 Wed: Kolkata / Bagdogra / Darjeeling**

In the morning, fly to Bagdogra and proceed to the beautiful hill station of Darjeeling. Upon arrival, check into WINDAMERE HOTEL. This evening, enjoy a visit to the bazaar for a taste of life in this little piece of heaven. (BLD)

**Day 6 Thu: Tiger Hill & Darjeeling Sightseeing**

Set out early this morning to see (weather permitting) the snow-covered Kanchenjunga Range, including Mt. Kanchenjunga and Mt. Everest. Visit Ghoom Monastery, which enshrines an image of Maitreya Buddha. Later, tour this picturesque area, stopping at Lepong Valley with the world's highest racetrack and the Mountaineering Institute of India. Visit a tea plantation to learn about and sample Darjeeling tea. (BLD)

**Day 7 Fri: Darjeeling / Pemayangtse**

Morning drive to Pemayangtse, situated at 6,000 ft above sea level. After check-in at the hotel, visit the Pemayangtse monastery, the second oldest monastery in Sikkim. Overnight at NORBU GHANG. (BLD)

**Day 8 Sat: Pemayangtse / Gangtok**

Morning drive to Gangtok, situated at a distance of 75 miles from Pemayangtse, enroute visiting the Temi Tea estate. Upon arrival, check into NORKHILL HOTEL. (BLD)

**Day 9 Sun: Gangtok Sightseeing**

Tour some of Sikkim's 194 monasteries, or gompas, including Rumtek Monastery, built in the 1960s and an excellent replica of the original Kagyu headquarters in Tibet. This afternoon, tour Gangtok and the Research Institute of Tibetology. Also visit the orchid sanctuary, with an enormous number of rare and beautiful orchids. (BLD)

**Day 10 Mon: Gangtok / Kalimpong**

The road to Kalimpong meanders through pretty Teesta Valley to the mountainside capital of Sikkim. Like something out of a fairy tale, the turquoise-roofed homes balance precariously on steep mountain slopes above incredible panoramas. Busy bazaars are filled with elegantly cos-

tumed, smiling-faced people, adding to the magic of this scene. SILVER OAKS HOTEL (BLD)

**Day 11 Tue: Kalimpong / Phuntsholing**

This morning, enjoy a tour of Kalimpong. The sights include Raja Dorje Market and the Tibetan Monastery. Later drive to Phuntsholing, a small town on the India / Bhutan border. Enroute stop at the beautiful Kharbandi Gumpa, a monastery situated in the tropical gardens. Overnight at DRUK HOTEL. (BLD)

**Day 12 Wed: Phuntsholing / Thimphu**

You are driven through spectacular mountain views and peaceful countryside to Thimphu, Bhutan's capital. HOTEL PEDLIN (BLD)

**Day 13 Thu: Thimphu**

Your morning tour of Thimphu includes the Simtokha Dzong and Tashichho Dzong. Stroll to Changgankha Monastery and visit the handicraft emporium. In the afternoon, visit the chorten built in memory of the late King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. (BLD)

**Day 14 Fri: Punakha Excursion**

The first stop after leaving Thimphu is Dochula Pass at 10,500 ft. The pass offers breathtaking views of the Himalayan Range and the valleys below. The first Shabdrung of Bhutan, Ngawang Namgyel, strategically built Punakha Dzong at the confluence of the Phochu and Mochu Rivers in 1637. (BLD)

**Day 15 Sat: Thimphu / Paro**

Visit the lively Sunday Market where people from outlying areas come to buy goods. Dressed in colorful traditional garb, these remote mountain dwellers descend upon the marketplace, creating a photographer's delight as they barter among themselves and socialize with friends. Afternoon drive through spectacular mountain views and peaceful countryside to Paro. Upon arrival check into the OLATHANG HOTEL. (BLD)

**Day 16 Sun: Paro Sightseeing**

Your tour of Paro includes a visit to Ta Dzong, now the national museum, and fascinating Rimpung Dzong. Visit the interesting Drukgyel Dzong from where one has a commanding view of Mt. Chomolhari on a clear day. (BLD)

**Day 17 Mon: Paro / Kathmandu**

This morning fly to Kathmandu, capital of Nepal. In the afternoon, visit Durbar Square, Temple of the Living Goddess and Swayambhunath. Overnight at the SOALTEE CROWNE PLAZA. (BLD)

**Day 18 Tue: Patan & Bhadgaon Excursion**

Experience a one-hour mountain flight of the mighty Himalayas to see Mt. Everest. Your morning tour includes the charming town of Bhaktapur, Pashupathinath and Bodhnath, followed later in the afternoon by Patan and the Tibetan handicrafts center. This evening enjoy a presentation of Nepalese folk dances. (BLD)

**Day 19 Wed: Kathmandu / Lhasa**

Fly to Lhasa today, the former capital of the mountain kingdom of Tibet. Religion is a deep force in this mystical land. Perched high atop the passes between India and China, Tibet absorbed Tantric Buddhism from the south, Shamanism from the north and developed it into its own hybrid of Lamaism, which dominated all aspects of Tibetan life for over 1000 years. Visit a local family on your way to the hotel. Your afternoon is free to acclimatize. Overnight at the TIBET HOTEL GUEST HOUSE. (BLD)

**Day 20 Thu: Potala Palace, Jokhang Monastery and Barkhor Street**

This morning visit the vast Potala Palace, former seat of the Dalai Lama, the spiritual and political head of Tibet. Built in the 7th century, the palace is a magnificent work of architecture. Built of wood and stone with numerous gilded pinnacles, this treasure house of Tibetan art has 1000 rooms and halls, is 1300 feet in length, and covers 1.4 million square feet!

Afternoon visit the famous Jokhang temple to see the 2500 years old Gold Buddha. Later explore Barkhor street, old route for the Tibetans to visit Jokhang Monastery. Today this street changes into a Bazaar of local handicraft, where numerous wonderful things can be bought; including souvenirs, ornaments, Tibetan robes and hats. (BLD)

**Day 21 Fri: Ganden Monastery and Morblimka**

Your tour today begins with a visit to the Ganden Monastery, which was built by the founder of the yellow sect of Tibetan Buddhism- Tzongkpa. His body is still kept in the Tomb tower inside the main hall of the monastery. Then, drive past the part of the Ganden Monastery that is used by Tibetans for the "Sky Burial." Later in the afternoon you are transferred back to downtown to visit the "Summer Palace" of the Dalai Lama. (BLD)

**Day 22 Sat: Yamdrok Lake and Sera Monastery**

Morning visit to Yamdrok Lake, located at 4600m above sea level. The blue lake was regarded as the pearl of Lhasa or "Turquoise lake" in local language. Enjoy your Lunch by the lakeside before proceeding to Sera Monastery to see the famous "Lama debating," one of the methods to hear Buddhism in Tibet. (BLD)

**Day 23 Sun: Lhasa / Chengdu / Hong Kong / Home**

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Hong Kong. En-route you will visit southwest China's political and economic center in the city of Chengdu. Upon arrival in Hong Kong, connect to your flight back home. (B)

**Extensions**

Visit Singapore as a pre-tour and Hong Kong as a post-tour extension.