

C H I N A E S C A P A D E S

Itinerary Prepared For Distinguished Guests

[LHASA LOSAR SAMPLE ITINERARY]

WHY IMPERIAL TOURS...

When selecting a company to manage your travel needs, we understand that you have a number of options available to you and that it can be difficult to distinguish between the services. We at Imperial Tours strive for the best and below are some aspects that make our company stand out from the others.



Imperial Moments

Our ambition is to give guests at least one "wow!" experience each day. By developing relationships with a broad range of specialists across the country and negotiating private access at prestigious sites, we created a rolodex of exclusive experiences. One of our earliest guests termed these "Imperial Moments", which we are delighted to make available to you through your journey.



Virtual Concierge

Your party will be given a mobile phone to connect you with your concierge to help you with any issues you may experience on tour. This Virtual Concierge is the same person who worked on creating the itinerary for you and therefore knows its in's and out's. Please take advantage of this excellent service.



Hotels

Hotels are selected for their facilities, design, spaciousness, service and location. Our long relationships with the best hotels and hoteliers result in preferential treatment for our clients in terms of room choice, service and amenities. For example, some hotels offer Imperial Tours' guests amenities like complimentary room upgrades.



Restaurants

For most, dining is an integral part of any travel experience. Our restaurants are the best available in the destination and can introduce a vast array of experiences and flavors. Taking into account any dietary preferences you cite, we will design the menus throughout your stay to introduce you to popular dishes and regional styles so that you will get the most out of each and every meal.



Private Car Service

We provide the best available vehicles in each city. Our smallest vehicle is a Buick or Toyota Alphard 7 seat MPV of high quality. Using Chinese and lesser quality vehicles is how other companies can cut costs, but we feel your comfort and safety should not be compromised. Upgrades to Mercedes, BMW or Rolls Royce vehicles are available.



Shopping

Most people traveling to China will be directed to one commission paying tourist factory after another. We cannot abide this practice. Instead, we keep abreast of the newest and most unique designers, showrooms and shops and relay this information to you. Ask your Virtual Concierge for advice.



Mobile Phone

Guests are provided with a pre-paid mobile phone loaded with specialist, guide and driver contact details. Please use this also to contact your Virtual Concierge.

IN THE WORDS OF GUESTS:

"I have to say that the Imperial Tours logistics were first class. Good clean spacious buses, and for once someone who understands that you don't cram 7 people in a minibus. Well-chosen rooms, great selections of restaurants."

"Your attention to detail provided many extra-special moments & gave us a priceless gift: an introduction to China we will always cherish.."

"Excellent choice of restaurants and menus. Virtual Concierge & Mobile Phone Service is a very good idea - highly responsive and quick with changes. A well-balanced trip, never boring."

"We have traveled to all seven continents including organized tour requirements to places such as but not limited to Antarctica, Australia, Botswana, Galapagos Islands, Israel, Jordan, South Africa, Turkey & Zambia - it bears repeating, Imperial Tours is the BEST!"

YOUR QUICK VIEW ITINERARY



February 18	Wednesday	Arrive Lhasa	Airport Pick-up Transfer to Shangri-la Hotel (Optional) Afternoon Trek
February 19	Thursday	Lhasa	Introductory Lecture Jokhang Temple Barkhor Norbulinka
February 20	Friday	Lhasa	Potala Palace Drepung Monastery Debating Gardens
February 21	Saturday	Lhasa	Ganden Monastery Drophenling
February 22	Sunday	Depart Lhasa	Transfer to Airport for Departure



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

L H A S A



Monks on Parade

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Upon arrival at **Lhasa's** Gongka Airport, you will be met by a local Imperial Tours guide who will transfer you to your hotel (approx. 1 hour) and accompany you for the remainder of your stay in Lhasa. You will be arriving at the beginning of Losar, the Tibetan New Year, and the most important on the Tibetan calendar. This year Losar will begin on February 18th.

Losar for Tibetans is like Christmas in the West. For those interested in experiencing how a real Tibetan family celebrates this holiday, we can arrange for you to spend some time with a local family in their home.

Our altitude in Lhasa is about 3,650 meters or 12,000 feet, approximately 4,500 feet higher than Colorado's Grand Canyon. The remainder of the day will be left at leisure to allow you to acclimate to the altitude. If you feel up to it, you will be able to start your exploration of Lhasa today. (Shangri-la Hotel – Deluxe Room)

Tibet is served by direct flights from Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, Chengdu, Chongqing and Kathmandu.

B / L / D denoted breakfast, lunch, and dinner

L H A S A



Jokhang Monastery

DAY 2

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19

B / L

The "land of the snows" has inspired artists for centuries. James Hilton's utopian "Shangri-La" is based on Tibet's monastic communities and devout way of life. To best appreciate Lhasa's palaces, temples and society, we have arranged for a **morning lecture** to familiarize you with the main themes, characters and symbols of Tibetan art and religious life.

You will be able to apply this knowledge soon after in Lhasa's Old Town as you stroll along the **Barkhor**. This is the *kora* or pilgrimage route around the Jokhang Temple, Tibet's most sacred. As you amble clockwise along it, surrounded by pilgrims, you will be assailed by novel sights, sounds and wonders. Poking your nose into local Tibetan markets, your eyes will feast on strangely clad clansmen from Tibet's outlying regions and peruse the wares of the many antique and thangka shops of this astonishing circuit. Today, you may wish to spend some time simply admiring the costumes on display during this festive period.

As you pass through the bulky doors of the venerable, **Jokhang Temple** you will sense the peace and equanimity that imbues the atmosphere of this historic monastery.

(Continued on the next page)

SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

The newest luxury hotel in Lhasa with views over the Himalayas.

IMPERIAL AMENITIES

- Buffet breakfast for two
- In-room wifi access

LOCATION

At the edge of the Tibetan quarter near the Norbulinka.

ROOMS

279

www.shangri-la.com



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

L H A S A



Sera Debating Monks

CONTINUED

On the one hand, Tibetan pilgrims display intense devotion as they pray before their deities, pouring yak (a local variety of cow) butter or ghee into the altars' butter lamps. On the other hand, the casual comings and goings of the red-robed monks lend this beautiful building the reliability of tradition and the self-confidence of knowledge.

During this period, you can expect the monastery to be full of decorations, with special religious celebrations taking place and the locals out giving special offerings throughout Losar.

After lunch, you might wish to rest. Those excited to learn more about Tibetan life will continue with a visit to **Braille without Borders**, a local NGO that has developed braille for the Tibetan language and thereby wonderfully rehabilitated and enriched the lives of many blind Tibetan children. We end your first day with a visit to the charming **Norbulingka**, a lovely park that previously housed the Summer Palace of the Dalai Lama when he resided here.

B / L / D denoted breakfast, lunch, and dinner

L H A S A



Potala Palace

DAY 3

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 20

B / L

Since yesterday should have provided you with some of the most striking visual images of your life, the bar is set high for this morning's visit to the **Potala Palace** - the trapezoidal, red and white Winter Palace that oversees the growing city beneath. Few buildings are as emblematic of their people - America's White House is perhaps as much a symbol of America's liberties and values as the Potala Palace expresses the remoteness, spirituality and former might of Tibet. The elaborate golden tombs of past Dalai Lamas are of inestimable beauty, value and mystery.

In the afternoon, we visit **Drepung Monastery** to watch young monks testing their debating skills, logic, knowledge and reasoning in the **Debating Gardens***.

*(*Note: Debates do not take place during the weekends).*

LHASA OPTIONALS

1. *Banquet Dinner in the Gardens of the Dalai Lama's Summer Palace*
2. *Private Access to Evening Prayers*
3. *Private Meditation with a Monk in a Historic Chapel*



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

L H A S A



Ganden Monastery

DAY 4

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

B / L

Today's day trip to **Ganden Monastery**, an hour and a half drive from Lhasa, is an opportunity to travel to the rural mountainous areas of Tibet. Thirty miles from Lhasa, we leave the valley floor to climb a meandering road to the crest of a tributary valley. Our gentle ascent through a series of switchbacks takes us to the altitude of approximately 4,200 meters or 13,700 feet.

Ganden Monastery, a striking array of white buildings, surrounding the red "Golden Tomb of Tsongkhapa" (the founder of the Gelugpa monastic sect), will suddenly appear in the hollow of a distant mountain ridge. Temples, colleges, dormitories, assembly halls, kitchens and the like proudly dominate the crown of this deep valley.

As inspiring as it is to view the treasures of this famous monastery, a visit to Ganden is incomplete without walking its *kora* or pilgrimage route.

B / L / D denoted breakfast, lunch, and dinner

L H A S A



Tibetan Drums

CONTINUED

Leading you around the back side of the ridge, we introduce breath-taking views of the river plain thousands of feet beneath as well as of the adjacent towering mountains thousands of feet above. It is no wonder that chortens (religious towers), prayer flags and prayer stones are sprinkled liberally along this *kora* in tribute to God and nature.

In the late afternoon, we return to Lhasa for a last opportunity to enjoy the atmosphere of Lhasa's Old Town and to make last minute purchases. You may wish to explore a bustling local food market, the crafts market along Tromsikhang beside, take in **Drophenling**, the home of the Tibetan Artists' Initiative whose aim is to promote local arts and crafts and drop in on Goede Chopshal, the leading gallery for contemporary art in Tibet.

*** Note: Access to Tibet requires a separate permit. Whilst we will assist with the application, issuance is subject to government approvals.*



DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

L H A S A



Tibetan Girls



Tibetan Candles

DAY 5

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22

B

Today will be left at your leisure, and would be a great opportunity for a final wander through the Lhasa old town, or simply to stay and admire the breathtaking scenery.

At some point, we will transfer you back to Lhasa's airport in time for your onward departure.

B / L / D denoted breakfast, lunch, and dinner



TOUR QUOTATION

CNY 15,770 (Approx. USD 2,565*)

per person, based on a private tour for two persons;

**Please note that this non-RMB price uses the exchange rate of December 8, 2014. Since foreign exchange rates are constantly fluctuating, the price in your home currency will be determined by the exchange rate on the day of payment, using the official exchange rate supplied by www.xe.com/uccl. Please note that all credit cards will be charged in U.S. dollars (USD). We accept checks drawn on bank accounts in the United States. Wire transfer payments may be made in your home currency.*

INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- 4 nights accommodation in an outstanding five star hotel
- 4 breakfasts (buffet breakfast), 3 lunches at our carefully selected restaurants (including local mineral water)
- Services of an Imperial Tours guide from 9am – 6pm daily
- Your vehicle will be reserved for your use until 10pm each night including access to the car and driver to take you to dinners (transfer only on arrival day)
- Entrance fees to all tourist sites (as listed on the itinerary)

Virtual Concierge Service

Your party will be given a cell phone immediately connecting you with your English-speaking personal concierge to help you with any issues you may experience on tour.

NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE

- International airfare to/from China, visa processing fees, travel insurance
- Domestic Airfare within China
- Personal expenses such as alcoholic beverages, imported mineral waters, excess luggage fees, telephone charges, room service and laundry charges
- Optional lectures and performances
- Gratuities to the guide & driver, suggested at CN200-400/ day for guides and CNY50-150/ day for drivers.

PAYMENT

In conformity with our participation in the Travel Money Protection Plan - regarded as the most secure consumer protection plan in the travel industry - all funds paid to us, whether by check, credit card or wire transfer will be deposited in a "true" escrow account, held at the Shelby Financial Corporation/Bank of America, until after the completion of your trip. We accept check, wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. A deposit amount of 10% is due at the time of booking. The remaining 90% of the tour price can be settled 60 days prior to tour departure.

Please note that no arrangements have been made and are not guaranteed until Imperial Tours receives a deposit.

CANCELLATION CHARGES

- Should you decide to cancel your tour between the time of deposit and 90 days prior to the tour, you will forfeit USD150 per person, between 90 and 60 days prior to departure, you will forfeit your deposit, between 60 and 30 days prior to departure, you will forfeit 25% of the tour price, between 30 and 15 days you will forfeit 50% of the tour price, from 14 days or less, you will forfeit 70% of the tour price and from 3 days or less, you will forfeit 100% of the tour price.
- All notices of cancellation must be written to be effective. The date of cancellation will be the date of reception by Imperial Tours' personnel.

