

**Tibet Highway: Sichuan-Tibet****Northern Line:**

**(THS-001) Chengdu-Yaan-Kangding-Tagong-Danba-Bamei-Daofu-Luhuo-Ganzi-Dege-Ji angda-Chamdo-Bangda-Ranwu-Bomi-Nyingchi-Lhasa (14 Days)**



Entering Tibet via Sichuan-Tibet Highway is quite dangerous. However, tourists traveling this way are rewarded with the most beautiful landscapes. Starting from Chengdu, passing by Ya'an, Kangding, Sichuan-Tibet Highway divides into northern route and southern route at Xinduqiao. Northern route traverses Ganzi,

Dege, reaches Changdu, Bangda of Tibet. Northern route is 2,412 kilometers in total, with 6,168-meter-high Quershan Mountain as the peak. Northern and southern routes link up again in Bangda, then, traverse Basu, Bomi, Nyingchi, arriving in Lhasa finally.

Pre- and post travel is also tailor-made up to your requests.

**Day 1/Arrive in Chengdu**

Arrive in Chengdu, the regional capital of Sichuan Province, is always praised as the Tian Fu Zhi Guo (Storehouse of the Heaven). Transfer to the hotel on arrival. (D)

**Day 2/Chengdu-Ya'an-Kangding (364km)**

Drive to Ya'an, and take excursion to **Bi Feng Xia Panda Base**, the biggest half-open Giant Panda Ecological Park in China. Besides viewing the roly-poly, black and white pandas, here is a lot more involves, a very pleasant country park. Proceed to cross over Mt. Erlang, at an altitude of 3,4737 meters, and reach Luding in late afternoon, a small town famous for the "Kangding Love Song" in Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in western Sichuan Province. (B,L,D)

**Day 3/Kangding-Tagong-Danba**

After breakfast, drive to Tagong Village, a vibrant Tibetan community. Today's highlight is to visit **Tagong Grassland**, a vast expanse of green meadow surrounded by snow-capped peaks and dotted with Tibetan herdsmen and tents. Then, pay a visit to **Tagong Monastery**, blending Han and Tibetan styles and dating back to Qing Dynasty. It is a famous Nyingmapz monastery, miraculously escaped destruction during the Culture

Revolution. The ancient frescos are still in good condition. Around the monastery is the vast grassland. The white towers with scripture flags and the Yala Mountain in the back forms the fabulous scenery. Proceed for Danba for overnight, a small county in the mountain valley whose residents are Gyarong Tibetans. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 4/Danba-Bamei-Daofu (147km)**

In the morning, visit **Jiaju Residential House**, one special featured Tibetan Folk House. Drive 21km southeast of Danba, you will pass by **Donggu Natural Bonsai Scenic Area** in shallow valley which presents a varicolored amazing sights in autumn. Onwards, you will be appreciated by the beautiful scene of Bamei Pasture Area. Arrive in Daofu, meaning "White Foal" in Tibetan as its topography. The famous Yala Holy Mountain stands here, 5,820 meters above sea level, and it is covered with snow all year round. **Daofu Tibetan Houses** can be called the epitome of architecture in Tibetan area, with neatly constructed white flat-roofed, whose horizontal red timbers exude an air of quiet prosperity. The interior is decorated with carved beams and painted rafters. The luxurious decoration is a typical Kham feature, beautiful and impressive. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 5/Daofu-Luhuo-Ganzi (170km)**

Pass through Xianshui River, and head for Ganzi via Luhuo, and have a rest by Kasa Lake on the way. Kasa Lake is the largest waterfowl habitat on this line, also a local famous holy lake. The peaceful lake mirroring the azure sky, cotton-like clouds, bring you wonderful experience. In Tibetan, Ganzi means "White and Beauty", sitting along Yalong River. Pay a visit to **Ganzi Monastery**, built in 1622, where houses about 500 monks of the Gelugpa or "Yellow Hat" Tibetan Buddhist sect. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 6/Ganzi-Manigange-Quershan Mountain-Dege (270km)**

Depart from Ganzi, drive 95km northwest, pass over **Manigange**, a single-street township. You will be greeted with grand pasture and imposing snow mountain here. Onwards 10km beyond Manigange, pass by **Xinlu Tso (Xinlu Lake)**, which sits in a reserve for the elusive white-lipped deer, and is partially fed by dusty brown glaciers descending Quershan Mountain. Pass by fairy-like Quershan Mountain, and arrive in Dege in the afternoon. Dege, meaning "Land of Benevolence" in Tibetan, is one of the three ancient centers of Tibetan culture (The other two are Lhasa in Tibet and Xiahe in Gansu Province). Pay a visit to the most-famous **Dege Scripture Printing House**, reputed as the "Cultural Treasury at the Foot of Snow Mountain". It was built in 1729, and the biggest printing house in Tibetan area. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 7/Dege-Jiangda-Changdu (Chamdo) (337km)**

Dege is the last county in Sichuan part on the line of Sichuan-Tibet, cross over Jinsha River and drive into Tibet in the morning. Head for Jiangda, the first city in east Tibet on Sichuan-Tibet Highway. Proceed to Chamdo, the cradle of the Khamba culture, the most characteristic and the most vigorous part in the Tibetan culture. View of **Jambling Monastery**, an important Tibetan Buddhist temple of Gelugpa Sect that was first built in 1444. This monastery holds countless Buddha sculptures, murals and Thangka paintings that dazzle the beholders. Then, visit **Kanuo Ruins**, 12km southeast of Chamdo Town.

Archeologists' work shows that the Ruins dated back 4000 to 5000 years. Kanuo Ruins was named after the Kanuo Village, which refers to "castle" in Tibetan language. If the time permits, visit the local market. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 8/Changdu (Chamdo)-Bangda-Basu**

Depart from Chamdo to Bangda, and view of **Bangda Grassland** and **Bangda Airport** which located the highest altitude in the world. Leave the vast grassland behind, drive up to the natural barrier of the Hengduan Mountain - Nujiang Mountain(4893m), then, down along the famous Ninety-nine Turns to the riverside of Nujiang River. Proceed to Basu, meaning "Village at the foot of Warrior Mountain" in Tibetan. Snow Mountains, primary forests and lyrical landscape combine together, greets you on the way. (B,L,D)

#### **Day 9/Basu-Ranwu-Bomi**

Drive to Ranwu and take sightseeing of **Ranwu Lake**, 3,850 meters above the sea level, which has a water area of 22 square kilometers. The lake is surrounded by many scenic highlights, e.g. the Gangrigabu Snow Mountain in the southwest, the Azhagongla Glacier in the south and the Bosula Peak in the northeast. The green grassland around the lake, the sky-blue lake water and the white snow mountains constitute a very pretty watercolor. Go ahead to Bomi, means grandfather in Tibetan, located in the neighboring area between Himalaya and Nyainqentanglha Mountain of east Tibet. (B,L,D)

#### **Day10/Bomi-Nyingchi (Bayi)**

After breakfast, go ahead of Nyingchi and drive through virgin forest to Tongmai, the last natural barrier on Sichuan-Tibet Highway. Climb over Sejila Mountain, and you will see the warrior-like grand Peak of Nanjiabawa when coming by the mountain pass of Sejila on sunny days. Go down to Nyingchi County lied at Nyang River lower valley. Stay overnight in Bayi Town, the seat of Nyingchi Administration. The town is surrounded by a thick, beautiful forest. The most impressive is the **Forest of Great Cypresses**. (B,L,D)

#### **Day11/Nyingchi(Bayi)-Lhasa**

Depart from Bayi Town, and head for **Basum Lake Scenic Zone**, and sightseeing of the chanting view of Nyang River, the largest one of Yaluzhangbujiang River (Yalung Tsangpo) among its five tributates. Basum Lake, an stunning alpine lake at the middle and upper reaches of the Ba River, is about 3,538 meters above sea level. The blue, limpid lake water reflects the verdant and picturesque snow-capped mountains around the lake combine into a charming scene. Then, drive back to Sichuan-Tibet Highway, and cross over Mila Mountain (5,033m), pass through Dazi County, and arrive in Lhasa. (B,L,D)

#### **Day12/Lhasa**

The first day of sightseeing starts from Lhasa's cardinal landmark- **Potala Palace**, a structure of massive portions. Its towering image has already appeared on various occasions, but your first sight of the Potala will still be an awe-inspiring moment. It takes at least a good 2-hour to visit those rooms, halls and chapels. Some 2km to the east of the Potala is the most revered religious structure and the holiest temple in Tibet - **Jokhang**

**Temple.** Bustling with worshippers and redolent with mystery, the Jokhang is an unrivalled experience. The quadrangle of streets surrounding the Jokhang is the **Barkhor Market** - Lhasa's most interesting pilgrimage circuit. This area of the Old Town is both the spiritual heart of Lhasa and the main commercial district for Tibetans. (B,L,D)

#### **Day13/Lhasa**

Sightsee of the Drepung Monastery, Sera Monastery and Norbulingka in Lhasa. **Drepung Monastery**, the largest and richest monastery in Tibet, was founded in 1416 by a disciple of Tsong Khapa under the patronage of a noble family and later enlarged by the Fifth Dalai Lama. Nowadays it stands as Tibet's most important and largest monastic university in Tibet. **Norbulingka Park** (Treasure Garden) was built in the 1740s during the reign of the seventh Dalai Lama. Later it was renovated and enlarged and became the Dalai Lama's Summer Palace. **Sera Monastery** is located a few miles to the north of Lhasa, is one of the three largest monasteries.

#### **Day14/Depart from Lhasa**

Transfer to the airport, and fly out of Lhasa. TOUR ENDS! (B)