Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot

Trip information · Nord Extreme Himalaya Pvt. Ltd. · delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com · Updated 22 November 2026

DURATION	**10 Days**
DIFFICULTY	**Moderate**
MAX ALTITUDE	**4,664 m**
GROUP SIZE	**17 People**
BEST SEASON	**ALL THE YEAR**
START / END	**Kathmandu / Kathmandu**
PRICE FROM	**USD 4,450 per person**

Trip overview

The Mount Kailash Pilgrimage Tour via Simikot is one of the most adventurous and spiritually significant journeys to the sacred Mount Kailash (6,638m) and Lake Manasarovar. This unique route combines scenic Himalayan flights, remote overland travel, and the profound spiritual experience of the Kailash Kora, offering an exceptional blend of pilgrimage and high-altitude adventure.

The journey begins in Kathmandu and follows a dramatic route through Nepalgunj and Simikot in the remote Humla region of western Nepal. From Simikot, travelers cross the Himalayan frontier via Hilsa into Tibet, continuing through Purang (Taklakot) before reaching Darchen, the base of Mount Kailash.

This less-traveled route is ideal for adventure seekers and pilgrims who prefer a more remote, authentic, and culturally immersive experience while visiting one of the most sacred destinations in the world.

Geography and Landscape

The Simikot route traverses two contrasting yet equally spectacular geographical regions—western Nepal and the Tibetan Plateau.

In Nepal, the journey passes through deep river valleys, terraced hills, and rugged Himalayan terrain. The Humla region around Simikot is remote, mountainous, and characterized by steep ridges, alpine villages, and pristine natural beauty.

After crossing into Tibet, the landscape transforms dramatically into the vast high-altitude Tibetan Plateau, known as the “Roof of the World.” This region is defined by barren deserts, expansive grasslands, glacial rivers, and distant snow-covered Himalayan ranges.

Key geographical highlights include:

- Karnali River valley and western Nepal’s Himalayan foothills
- Remote Humla district and Simikot highlands
- Border crossing at Hilsa (Nepal–Tibet gateway)
- Purang (Taklakot) valley and Tibetan plateau transition zone
- Sacred Lake Manasarovar (4,590m)

- Mount Kailash massif (6,638m)
- Dolma La Pass (5,630m), the highest point of the pilgrimage circuit

The dramatic transition from lush Himalayan landscapes to the barren Tibetan plateau makes this route one of the most visually striking overland journeys in Asia.

Climate and Best Time to Visit

The Simikot–Kailash region experiences a cold, dry, high-altitude climate with significant temperature variations between day and night.

Spring (April – May)

Clear skies, stable conditions, and relatively fewer travelers. Snow remains on high passes, enhancing scenic beauty.

Summer (June – August)

Peak pilgrimage season with moderate temperatures and active religious gatherings. Occasional monsoon influence on the Nepal side.

Autumn (September – October)

The best travel season with stable weather, excellent visibility, and ideal trekking conditions.

Winter (November – March)

Extremely cold and generally closed for travel due to snow and harsh weather conditions.

Best Time for the Tour: May to October (especially September–October)

People and Culture

The Simikot route passes through culturally diverse regions of Nepal and Tibet. In western Nepal, the Humla region is home to mountain communities influenced by Tibetan Buddhism and traditional Himalayan lifestyles. Life here is simple and closely connected to nature, agriculture, and cross-border trade.

Once inside Tibet, the cultural landscape becomes deeply spiritual. Tibetan Buddhism is the dominant faith, and travelers will encounter monasteries, prayer flags, mani walls, chortens, and nomadic yak herders across the plateau.

Mount Kailash is regarded as one of the most sacred mountains in the world:

Hindus believe it is the abode of Lord Shiva

Buddhists consider it the residence of Demchok

Jains associate it with liberation of their first Tirthankara

Bon followers regard it as the spiritual center of the universe

Pilgrims from across Asia perform the Kailash Kora as an act of devotion, purification, and spiritual awakening.

Highlights

- Scenic Himalayan flights: Kathmandu – Nepalgunj – Simikot

- Remote adventure route via Humla and Hilsa border crossing
- Entry into Tibet via Purang (Taklakot)
- Visit to sacred Lake Manasarovar
- Complete Mount Kailash Kora (52 km circuit)
- Cross Dolma La Pass (5,630m)
- Visit Dirapuk and Zutulpuk Monasteries
- Less crowded and highly authentic pilgrimage experience
- Combination of flight, overland travel, and trekking
- Fully guided journey with experienced Tibetan support team
- Spectacular views of Himalayan and Trans-Himalayan landscapes

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 01 : Arrival in Kathmandu (1,400m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Dinner

Upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, you will be warmly welcomed by our representative and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for rest and recovery after international travel.

In the evening, a detailed briefing will be provided covering the Kailash route, permits, flight schedules, packing list, and altitude preparation.

Day 02 : Visa Preparation & Kathmandu Sightseeing (1,400m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast, submit your passport for Chinese Group Visa and Tibet Travel Permit processing.

Later, enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of Kathmandu Valley’s UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including Pashupatinath Temple and Boudhanath Stupa. These sacred sites offer an introduction to the spiritual traditions of Hinduism and Tibetan Buddhism.

Evening briefing and final preparation for departure.

Day 03 : Kathmandu (1,400m) – Nepalgunj (150m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Flight Duration: 50–60 minutes

Morning flight to Nepalgunj in western Nepal. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel and rest.

Nepalgunj serves as the primary gateway for flights into the remote Humla region and provides an important transit point before entering higher elevations.

Day 04 : Nepalgunj (150m) – Simikot (2,910m)

Stay: Tea House · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Flight Duration: 45–55 minutes

Early morning scenic flight to Simikot. Enjoy spectacular views of deep valleys, rugged mountains, and Himalayan landscapes.

Upon arrival, rest and acclimatize in this remote mountain settlement.

Day 05 : Simikot (2,910m) – Hilsa – Purang – Darchen (4,675m)

Stay: Guest House · Visit: Tibet · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Flight/Helicopter: 20–30 minutes

Drive Duration: 2–3 hrs

Transfer by helicopter or short flight to Hilsa and complete Nepal–Tibet border formalities. Continue to Purang (Taklakot) before driving across the Tibetan Plateau to Darchen, the gateway to Mount Kailash.

Day 06 : Darchen (4,675m) – Dirapuk (4,950m)

Walk: 6–7 hrs · Distance: 18 km · Stay: Guest House · Visit: Tibet · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Drive to Yamadwar and begin the sacred Kailash Kora. Follow the Lha Chu Valley with increasingly impressive views of the north face of Mount Kailash.

Arrive at Dirapuk Monastery for overnight stay.

Day 07 : Dirapuk (4,950m) – Dolma La Pass (5,630m) – Zutulpuk (4,790m)

Walk: 8–10 hrs · Distance: 22 km · Stay: Guest House · Visit: Tibet · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Cross the sacred Dolma La Pass, the highest point of the pilgrimage at 5,630m. Descend through glacial terrain and sacred valleys before reaching Zutulpuk Monastery.

Day 08 : Zutulpuk (4,790m) – Darchen – Purang (3,900m)

Walk: 2–3 hrs · Stay: Guest House · Visit: Tibet · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Drive Duration: 2–3 hrs

Complete the final section of the Kailash Kora and return to Darchen. Continue by vehicle to Purang for overnight rest.

Day 09 : Purang (3,900m) – Hilsa – Simikot (2,910m) – Nepalgunj (150m) – Kathmandu (1,400m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Drive Duration: 1–2 hrs

Flight Duration: Multiple connecting flights

Cross back into Nepal via Hilsa and transfer to Simikot. Continue with connecting flights via Nepalgunj to Kathmandu.

Day 10 : Departure from Kathmandu (1,400m)

Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast

Transfer to Tribhuvan International Airport for your onward flight.

Your Mount Kailash pilgrimage concludes with unforgettable memories of sacred landscapes, Tibetan culture, and one of the world's most revered spiritual journeys.

Altitude & temperature

Typical daytime / night temperature at each overnight stop in the best travel months. Temperatures can change with the weather.

- Day 1 · Arrival in Kathmandu · 1,400 m · day 30°C / night 24°C

- Day 2 · Visa Preparation & Kathmandu Sightseeing · 1,400 m · day 30°C / night 24°C
- Day 3 · Kathmandu – Nepalgunj · 1,400 m · day 30°C / night 24°C
- Day 4 · Nepalgunj – Simikot · 150 m · day 37°C / night 32°C
- Day 5 · Simikot – Hilsa – Purang – Darchen · 2,910 m · day 23°C / night 14°C
- Day 6 · Darchen – Dirapuk · 4,675 m · day 14°C / night 3°C
- Day 7 · Dirapuk – Dolma La Pass – Zutulpuk · 4,950 m · day 13°C / night 1°C
- Day 8 · Zutulpuk – Darchen – Purang · 4,790 m · day 13°C / night 2°C
- Day 9 · Purang – Hilsa – Simikot – Nepalgunj – Kathmandu · 3,900 m · day 18°C / night 8°C
- Day 10 · Departure from Kathmandu · 1,400 m · day 30°C / night 24°C

What’s included

Transportation

- Private tourist vehicle for airport pickup and drop-off in Kathmandu
- Kathmandu – Nepalgunj – Kathmandu domestic flight tickets (as per itinerary)
- Nepalgunj – Simikot – Nepalgunj flight arrangements
- Helicopter/charter or fixed-wing arrangements from Simikot to Hilsa and return (subject to group size and weather conditions)
- Tibet-side private tourist vehicle for the entire overland journey (Hilsa–Kailash–Hilsa route)
- All fuel, tolls, parking, and road taxes in Tibet

Accommodation & Meals

- 3 nights hotel accommodation in Kathmandu (bed & breakfast basis)
- 1–2 nights hotel accommodation in Nepalgunj (bed & breakfast basis)
- Standard lodge/hotel accommodation in Simikot (subject to flight schedule and weather conditions)
- Standard hotel accommodation in Tibet (Purang, Saga, Darchen, etc.) on twin-sharing basis
- Basic guesthouse accommodation during Mount Kailash Kora (Dirapuk & Zutulpuk)
- Daily breakfast throughout the trip
- Full-board meals (breakfast, lunch & dinner with tea/coffee) during the Tibet section (except Kathmandu and Nepalgunj)

Permits & Documentation

- Tibet Travel Permit (TTP)
- Military and restricted area permits for the Mount Kailash region
- Chinese Group Visa arrangement support (processed in Kathmandu)
- Special border entry permits via the Hilsa–Taklakot route
- All required permits for Lake Manasarovar and Mount Kailash pilgrimage

Guide & Support Team

- Professional English-speaking Tibetan guide throughout the Tibet section
- Experienced Tibetan driver for the overland journey
- Nepali liaison officer for Simikot–Hilsa logistics

- Support staff assistance during the Kailash Kora (as per group size)
- Basic first aid kit and shared oxygen supply for high-altitude safety

Kailash Pilgrimage Support

- Assistance during the Mount Kailash Kora (3-day trekking circuit)
- Basic accommodation in pilgrimage guesthouses
- Yak/dzopkyo support for limited luggage carriage (subject to availability)
- Emergency coordination support during high-altitude trekking

Government Taxes & Service Charges

- All applicable Nepal domestic taxes and Tibet government taxes
- Agency service charges and coordination costs
- Border handling and logistical support fees

Not included

International Flights

- Airfare from home country to Kathmandu
- Return international flight from Kathmandu to home country

Visa Fees

- Nepal entry visa fee (on arrival or pre-arranged)
- China Group Visa fee (payable separately as per arrangement)

Travel Insurance (Mandatory)

- Comprehensive travel insurance covering high-altitude trekking above 5,000m
- Emergency medical treatment
- Helicopter evacuation and air rescue (mandatory for Kailash region)
- Trip cancellation and unforeseen disruptions

Personal Expenses

- Tips for guide, driver, porters, and support staff
- Personal trekking equipment (warm clothing, boots, sleeping bags, etc.)
- Hot showers, Wi-Fi, charging, and laundry services in Tibet
- Extra hotel nights due to weather or flight delays
- Personal shopping, souvenirs, and beverages

Meals & Beverages

- Lunch and dinner in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj
- Any meals not specified in the itinerary
- Bottled water, soft drinks, alcohol, snacks, and personal beverages

Dates & prices

- 02 Mar 2027 – 11 Mar 2027 · USD 4,450 · Available
- 16 Mar 2027 – 25 Mar 2027 · USD 4,450 · Available
- 06 Apr 2027 – 15 Apr 2027 · USD 4,450 · Available
- 20 Apr 2027 – 29 Apr 2027 · USD 4,450 · Available
- 04 May 2027 – 13 May 2027 · USD 4,450 · Available

Best time to visit

Best months: June–August. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra departures run from May to September, when the Dolma La (5,630 m) is passable. The full moon of Saga Dawa (May/June) is the most auspicious time for the kora.

What to bring — packing checklist

Clothing for high altitude

- [ ] Thermal base layers
- [ ] Fleece mid-layer and warm down jacket
- [ ] Waterproof jacket and trousers
- [ ] Warm hat, gloves, buff and sun hat
- [ ] Comfortable trekking boots and camp shoes
- [ ] Warm wool socks

Kora & overland

- [ ] Daypack 25–30 L
- [ ] Sleeping bag rated to –10 °C
- [ ] Trekking poles
- [ ] Snacks, energy bars and electrolyte powder
- [ ] Small bag for pony / porter on the kora

Health & personal

- [ ] Personal medication and a small first-aid kit
- [ ] Altitude medicine (Diamox) after consulting your doctor
- [ ] Water bottles or a 2–3 L hydration bladder, purification tablets or filter
- [ ] Sunscreen SPF 50, lip balm with SPF
- [ ] Hand sanitiser, wet wipes, quick-dry towel
- [ ] Headlamp with spare batteries, power bank

Documents & money

- [ ] Passport valid for 6+ months, plus copies
- [ ] Travel insurance policy (covering helicopter evacuation)
- [ ] 4 passport photos for permits
- [ ] Cash in USD / Nepali rupees for tips, snacks and extras
- [ ] Credit or debit card

Down jackets and sleeping bags can also be rented in Kathmandu.

Essential information

Accommodation

Accommodation is basic but comfortable, reflecting the remote nature of the region.

- Nepal (Kathmandu & Nepalgunj): Standard 3–4 star hotels
- Simikot & Hilsa: Simple local lodges or guesthouses with basic facilities
- Tibet side (Taklakot/Purang, Manasarovar, Darchen): Basic hotels or pilgrimage guesthouses

Rooms are generally twin-sharing with simple bedding. Private bathrooms may not always be available in remote areas.

At Mount Kailash (Darchen), accommodation is very basic due to altitude and remoteness.

Meals

A full-board meal system (Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner) is provided throughout the journey.

Food is simple and energy-focused, suitable for high-altitude travel:

Typical options include:

- Rice, noodles, and fried rice
- Dal Bhat (in Nepal side lodges)
- Tibetan bread, momos, and soups
- Vegetables and potatoes
- Eggs, toast, and basic breakfast items
- Tea, coffee, and hot beverages

Meal variety decreases significantly in remote Tibetan regions.

Difficulty & Physical Requirements

The Mount Kailash pilgrimage is considered moderate to challenging, primarily due to altitude and walking conditions.

Key challenges include:

- High altitude trekking (up to 5,600m during Kora)
- Long walking days during Kailash Parikrama (3 days)
- Basic infrastructure and limited facilities
- Cold, dry, and windy conditions

The Kailash Kora (circuit trek) is the most demanding part and requires:

- Good physical fitness
- Mental preparation for high-altitude walking
- Slow and steady pace
- No technical climbing is required.

Permits

Required permits include:

- Tibet Travel Permit (TTB)
- Alien Travel Permit (PSB)
- Military Permit (for restricted border regions)
- Kailash region special pilgrimage permit

All permits must be arranged through a licensed Tibetan operator in coordination with Nepal-based agencies.

Best Season

- April–June: Ideal pilgrimage season, stable weather, open passes
- September–October: Best visibility and most popular pilgrimage period
- July–August: Monsoon in Nepal but Tibet remains mostly dry (weather still unpredictable)
- November–March: Very cold, heavy snowfall, and limited accessibility

Transportation & Route

This is a combined flight + helicopter + overland + trekking route, making it one of the most diverse pilgrimage journeys.

Typical route:

Kathmandu -> Nepalgunj (flight) -> Simikot (flight) -> Hilsa (helicopter/trek) -> Taklakot (Purang) -> Lake Manasarovar -> Darchen -> Kailash Kora -> Return via same route

Key travel segments:

- Scenic flight to remote western Nepal
- Helicopter/trek crossing from Simikot to Hilsa
- Overland drive across Tibetan plateau
- Sacred circumambulation (Kora) of Mount Kailash

Safety & Acclimatization

Proper acclimatization is essential due to extreme altitude.

Safety measures include:

- Gradual ascent via Nepalgunj and Simikot
- Rest days in Taklakot for acclimatization
- Controlled walking pace during Kailash Kora
- Oxygen availability in emergency situations
- Continuous health monitoring by guide team

Pilgrims are advised to prepare for altitude-related challenges before the journey.

Travel Insurance

Mandatory travel insurance should cover:

- High-altitude trekking (up to 6,000m+)
- Emergency medical treatment
- Helicopter evacuation (Nepal and Tibet region)
- Trip cancellation and interruption

Additional information

Guide Services

A licensed Tibetan guide accompanies the group throughout Tibet, providing:

- Pilgrimage coordination
- Cultural and religious explanations
- Permit management
- Safety monitoring and logistics support

Nepal side assistance includes experienced trekking and transfer guides.

Cultural & Spiritual Highlights

This pilgrimage is deeply spiritual and culturally rich:

- Sacred Mount Kailash – Axis of the Universe in multiple religions
- Lake Manasarovar – one of the holiest lakes in Asia
- Kailash Kora (Parikrama) – spiritual circumambulation trek
- Tibetan Buddhist monasteries and prayer sites
- Remote Himalayan villages of far-western Nepal
- Ancient Bon and Hindu pilgrimage traditions

Many pilgrims consider completing the Kora a life-changing spiritual achievement.

Essential Equipment

Recommended items include:

- Warm layered clothing (extreme cold protection)
- Heavy down jacket
- Waterproof and windproof outer shell
- Trekking boots with good grip
- Gloves, hat, and thermal innerwear
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Trekking poles (highly recommended for Kora)
- Personal medicines and altitude medication
- Small daypack for daily use

Communication & Connectivity

- Limited mobile network in Nepalgunj and Simikot
- Very limited or no connectivity in Tibet region
- Occasional Wi-Fi in larger towns like Taklakot
- Remote sections around Kailash have no communication coverage

Why Choose the Mount Kailash Pilgrimage Tour via Simikot?

This is one of the most sacred and adventurous pilgrimage journeys in the world:

- Shorter and more scenic access route via remote western Nepal
- Combination of flight, helicopter, and trekking adventure
- Deep spiritual significance for multiple religions
- Sacred Kailash Kora experience
- Visit to holy Lake Manasarovar

- Remote Himalayan landscapes and authentic cultural encounters
- Less crowded alternative to traditional overland routes
- A truly transformative pilgrimage journey

Frequently asked questions

How difficult is the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot?

The Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot is graded Moderate — suitable for most active travellers. Expect 5–7 hours of walking on most days on mountain trails with plenty of ascents and descents. Regular cardio training — hiking, running, cycling or stair climbing — for 6–8 weeks before departure makes the trip far more enjoyable.

What is the best time for the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot?

For the Mount Kailash & western Tibet region the best months are June–August. Kailash Mansarovar Yatra departures run from May to September, when the Dolma La (5,630 m) is passable. The full moon of Saga Dawa (May/June) is the most auspicious time for the kora.

What permits do I need for the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot?

You need your Chinese group visa, Tibet Travel Permit, Alien's Travel Permit and the Kailash–Mansarovar area permits. Nord Extreme arranges every permit for you before the trip starts — check the "Includes" section above for exactly what is covered in the price. Just bring your passport and a few passport-size photos.

What is the accommodation like on the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot?

Guesthouses and hotels in Nepal and Lhasa or Kerung, then basic guesthouses around Mansarovar and on the Kailash kora, where facilities are simple at high altitude. We provide sleeping bags and support staff throughout.

Can I book the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot as a private trip or join a group?

Both. You can join one of the fixed departures listed under "Dates & Prices", or book a private trip for just you, your family or friends on any date. Solo travellers are welcome — you will always have your own licensed guide.

Do I need travel insurance for the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot?

Yes, travel insurance is compulsory. It must cover medical treatment and emergency helicopter evacuation up to the trip's highest altitude, plus trip cancellation. Please send us your policy details before departure.

What should I pack for the Kailash Mansarovar Tour via Simikot?

See the "What to bring" checklist on this page for the full list. The essentials are broken-in boots, warm layers, a down jacket, a waterproof shell, sun protection and a daypack. Down jackets and sleeping bags can be rented cheaply in Kathmandu, and a porter carries your main bag (up to 10–12 kg).

Ready to book or have a question?

Trip page:
https://delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com/holiday/package/kailash-mansarovar-tour-via-simikot/
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