

# MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL PTY. LTD.

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## CHINA, TIBET & NEPAL TOUR

15 Day Conducted Tour  
for **\$4,475** per person twin share

**This price includes airport taxes & levies**

This tour is great value as the price includes:

- Return economy Class airfares with Air China from Sydney to Kathmandu, Nepal.
- A five day tour of mysterious Tibet, visiting Potala Palace and Sera Monastery.
- Four days in Nepal with two nights in the capital Kathmandu.
- A stopover in Chengdu China in both directions, visiting the famous Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding.
- Accommodation in three to four star hotels with private facilities.
- All transfers and transport and entrance fees to many attractions.
- Many meals, as stated in the itinerary.
- Prepaid gratuities to the main tour guide & drivers.
- Services of local tour guides and if there are 10 or more participants, an Australian tour escort.



If you don't have anyone to share with but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another person, but this is not guaranteed. For a single room there is an extra cost of \$880.



This will be a small group tour with a maximum of 19 passengers.

**The tour departs Sydney on the 31<sup>st</sup> July and returns 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

*We try harder to find you the best travel deal*

## **Itinerary for China, Tibet and Nepal Tour**

Included meals are indicated as B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### **31.07.17 Sydney – Chengdu**

All passengers depart Sydney at 12.25pm on Air China flight CA 430, arriving in Chengdu at 9.35pm.

Upon arrival we are met and transferred to the airport hotel for a three night stay.

Accommodation: Chengdu Wuhou Holiday Inn Express

### **01.08.17 Chengdu – Leshan Giant Buddha – Chengdu**

**(B/L/D)**

This morning we have a two hour drive from Chengdu to visit the Leshan Giant Buddha, the largest carved statue of Buddha in the world. Sitting at the confluence of three rivers, the Giant Buddha was carved on the cliff of Lingyun Mountain, used to suppress the flood. Enjoy spectacular views of the huge statue by cruise. After sightseeing in Leshan we are transferred back to Chengdu. In the evening we enjoy a wonderful performance of Sichuan Opera including folk opera with face changing, fire spitting and rolling light.

Accommodation: Chengdu Wuhou Holiday Inn Express

### **02.08.17 Chengdu - Panda Research Base and Sanxingdui**

**(B/L/D)**

This morning we will visit the Chengdu Research Base of Giant Panda Breeding, which is the home of more than 100 Giant Pandas. Walk at leisure through the bamboo framed paths and closely observe giant pandas of different ages eating bamboo, playing with each other, tumbling, climbing trees, etc. Don't miss the chance to watch female pandas nursing their cubs in the nursery rooms. There is also a very informative Panda Museum to learn more about Giant Pandas. Afterwards we visit Sanxingdui Museum and see the drama-charged bronze masks dating from the Shang Dynasty.

Accommodation: Chengdu Wuhou Holiday Inn Express

### **03.08.17 Chengdu - Lhasa**

**(B/D)**

Today we enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel before being transferred to the airport for our flight to Lhasa, Tibet, known as the 'Roof of the World'. Upon arrival in Lhasa we are met and transferred to our hotel for a three night stay. We will have time at leisure to help adjust to the high altitude and get ready for our time in Tibet.

Accommodation: Lhasa Brahmaoutra Hotel

### **04.08.17 Lhasa**

**(B/D)**

Over the next two days we explore the lofty city of Lhasa. Our first stop will be Potala Palace, an enduring symbol of Lhasa and the winter home of the Dalai Lama. We'll also explore the fascinating Jokhang Temple, which is the holiest shrine in Tibet and houses a solid gold shrine of the enlightened Buddha, around which all Tibetans prostrate themselves at some point in their lifetime. Later we'll browse the popular Barkhor Bazaar, where we can purchase handicrafts, carpets and paintings.

Accommodation: Lhasa Brahmaoutra Hotel

**05.08.17 Lhasa****(B/D)**

We continue our sightseeing today with a visit to the monastery of Drepung. This was once the largest monastery in the world and home to 10,000 monks, but tragically torn asunder during the Cultural Revolution. Just north of Lhasa is our next stop, the Sera Monastery, which after 600 years is still a working retreat, although these days only hundreds of monks rattle around in the massive buildings that were built for thousands.

Accommodation: Lhasa Brahmaoutra Hotel

**06.08.17 Lhasa - Gyantse****(B/D)**

Today we travel by road to the attractive city of Gyantse. The journey is incredibly scenic crossing two mountain passes, the Kambala Pass (4794m) and Karola Pass (5010m) via the beautiful lake Yamdrok Tso. Upon arrival we visit Pelkhor Chode Temple, home to the Khumbum Stupa, an architectural masterpiece and the most revered in Tibet.

Accommodation: Gyantse Hotel

**07.08.17 Gyantse - Shigatse****(B/D)**

After breakfast we will visit a very special site where we can learn about the living conditions and traditions of old Tibet, Pala Manor. Located in a Tibetan village about 4km southwest from Gyantse city, Pala Manor is the only well preserved aristocratic manor in Tibet and was the private manor of Pala families since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The aristocrats and the serfs both lived in the manor, but had completely different lives. The aristocrats didn't need to work and lived in bright, large, luxury rooms, used costly furniture and imported luxuries. The serfs lived in dark crude rooms and were paid little to do all of the labouring.

Afterwards we travel 2-3 hours by road to Shigatse. Upon arrival we visit Tashilunpo Monastery, which is the seat of successive Panchen Lamas and one of the six Gelug monasteries. Founded by the First Dalai Lama in 1447, its name means "All fortune and happiness gathered here" or "Heap of Glory" in Tibetan. Covering an area of nearly 150,000 square metres, the monastery has more than 57 halls and 3600 rooms. Among them, the Coqen Hall can hold 2000 people chanting at the same time. Featuring an interesting sprawling amalgam of traditional Tibetan monastic style, the halls, chapels and other structures are connected by precipitous steps and narrow cobblestone alleys. The interplay between the golden roofs and the white, red and black exterior walls creates a striking contrast.

Accommodation: Shigatse Tashi Choe Ta Hotel

**08.08.17 Shigatse – Lhasa****(B/D)**

Today we have a five hour drive back to Lhasa along the legendary Yaluzangbu River, the mother river of Tibet. En route we will visit Nyemo Tunba, which was the home of Tunmi Sangbuzha, who invented the Tibetan character as well as the famous Tibetan Incense. Here in Tunba, we also have a chance to witness the process of making Tibetan incense with a water mill. The scenery here is fabulous with ancient cypress trees, green willows and the murmuring river. We will stop about 20km from Lhasa and take a short visit to the Nyethang Buddha. Built more than 700 years ago, the Nietang Buddha is the largest and highest stone Buddha in Tibet and was colourfully painted by deep colours of gold, red, blue and black. Not far from the Buddha is the Nyethang Monastery where the famous ancient Indian Buddhist master Atisha meditated and taught Buddhism. In the evening we will have a Tibetan

style farewell dinner in a typical Tibetan restaurant, with traditional Tibetan songs and dances. Stay overnight in Lhasa.

Accommodation: Lhasa Brahmaoutra Hotel

**09.08.17 Lhasa – Kathmandu, Nepal**

**(B/D)**

We have a leisurely morning before our transfer to the airport, departing at 11.50pm on Air China flight CA 407, arriving in Kathmandu at 11.10am. Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal and is a fascinating blend of old and new. It is the largest and most cosmopolitan city in Nepal and yet in places it is seemingly unchanged since the middle ages with temples, shrines and living gods. Most of the government offices, ministries, parliament house and Royal Palace are located in the city. Kathmandu city is renowned for its culture and the heritage sites where one can experience history. Upon arrival we are met and taken on a walking tour of Kathmandu city. We will visit an interesting historical place in the valley, Kathmandu Durbar Square, where we can see the Kumari House (house of living goddess) and also Kasthamandap, which was constructed using the wood of a single tree.

Accommodation: Fairfield by Marriott Kathmandu

**10.08.17 Kathmandu - Nagarkot**

**(B/D)**

After breakfast at the hotel we proceed on a sightseeing tour of the area. On the tour we see Swoyambhunath, the world's most glorious Buddhist Chaityas, built 2000 years ago and situated on a hillock about 77 metres above the level of the valley. We will have a grand view of the valley of Kathmandu from this spot. Also see Bouddha, which is one of the biggest stupas in the world and is also an important place for Tibetan Buddhism. This is followed by sightseeing of Pashupatinath, who is one of the main Hindu Gods. This is a Hindu Temple, so only Hindus are allowed to go inside the main temple. We can clearly see the temple and the activities performed in the temple premises from the eastern bank of Bagmati River. After lunch at your expense we have a 45 minute drive to Nagarkot for an overnight stay.

Accommodation: The Country Villa Hotel

**11.08.17 Nagarkot – Bhaktapur - Kathmandu**

**(B/D)**

Enjoy the sunrise view from Nagarkot. After breakfast we drive to the city of Bhaktapur. Our sightseeing tour includes Bhaktapur Durbar Square, Golden Gate, Bhairav Temple, Dattataraya Temple and the National Art Gallery. Later we head to Patan City, which is an historic centre for Buddhist and Hindu Cultures. We visit several famous temples and sights, as well as witness Singing Bowls performed by a Buddhist monk. We then travel to the rural towns of Bungamati and Khokhana for a brief stop before driving back to Kathmandu. We will visit Bodhnath Stupa. Here we can also visit the Thangka Art Gallery

This evening we enjoy a farewell dinner with a traditional dance performance back in the capital.

Accommodation: Fairfield by Marriott Kathmandu

**12.08.17 Kathmandu – Chengdu**

**(B)**

After breakfast we are transferred to the airport for our flight to Chengdu. Depart Kathmandu at 10.40am on Air China flight CA 438, arriving in Chengdu at 3.45pm. Upon arrival we are met and transferred to our hotel for an overnight night stay.

Accommodation: Chengdu Wuhou Holiday Inn Express

**13.08.17 Chengdu - Sydney**

**(B/D)**

After breakfast we visit Renmin Park. Take some time to explore the shaded lanes, quiet lake and charming tea houses there. We visit the Wuhou Temple and find out what military leader this 11<sup>th</sup> century memorial is dedicated to. Nearby, explore the frozen in time features of Jinli Old Street, where well-preserved building techniques make it easy to imagine Chengdu during the Qing Dynasty. After that we are transferred back to the hotel until 6pm to freshen up for our flight home. This evening we enjoy an included dinner at a local restaurant before being transferred to the airport.

All passengers depart Chengdu at 9.45pm on Air China flight CA 429, arriving in Sydney at 10.25am the next morning (14.08.17).

**14.08.17 Arrive Sydney**

Flight arrives in Sydney at 10.25am.

**Note:**

Please note that the both Tibet and Nepal have very high altitudes and it is quite likely that you will experience at least some of the symptoms of altitude sickness in these areas. For this reason we recommend you consult your doctor before booking on this tour to determine your suitability to these destinations.

## Conditions for Macleay Valley Travel's China, Tibet & Nepal Tour

**Deposits and Payments** - A non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person is payable within 7 days of booking. This deposit is not refundable should you later cancel. The balance is payable in full 8 weeks prior to departure.

**Refunds and Cancellations** - Cancellations after final payment will result in a refund limited to whatever we can recoup from the airline.

**Airline Tickets** - Please note that any changes made to airline tickets once they have been issued will likely incur high cancellation and/or reissue fees. These fees are typically set by the airline and are outside of our control.

**Insurance** - Adequate travel insurance is essential. We can arrange this for you if desired. Macleay Valley Travel offers Suresave Travel Insurance. Please note that we can only process your travel insurance when we have received full payment for the insurance and the signed Suresave Travel Insurance application form, located on the last page of the Suresave Travel Insurance information booklet. Until this time the travel insurance cannot be processed and will not be valid. Macleay Valley Travel will bear no responsibility for any consequences that may occur as a result of an incomplete insurance application.

**Passports** - All travellers require a current passport with at least 6 months left on it at the end of the tour. Non-Australian passport holders require a re-entry visa for Australia. A double entry visa is required for all Australian passport holders to China., current cost is \$140 and we charge \$30 for processing. A visa is also required for Nepal, current cost is \$65 per person and we charge \$30 per person for processing. Different visa fees apply to non Australian passport holders. Please note that visa prices are set by the relevant consulates and are subject to change. An entry permit for Tibet is also required. We can arrange this for you at no charge.

**Basic Tour Price and Taxes** - Air taxes and Fuel Levies are included in the basic tour price if the tour is paid in full on or before the due date on the final invoice. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to charge for any increase in Air taxes and Fuel Levies if the tour is not paid in full by the due date.

**Not Included in the Cost** - Travel insurance and all items of a personal nature such as telephone calls, drinks, excess baggage, tips, meals (except those specified in the itinerary), etc. are not included in the cost. Similarly, credit card payments (Visa / MasterCard) can only be accepted if 2% is added to the price to help defray the heavy merchant fees charged to us by the credit card companies. There is a 3% surcharge for Diners Club.

**Breakaway Fee** - All fully inclusive prices are based on group travel and any deviation from the set itinerary will incur a breakaway fee. The breakaway fee for most deviations including a post-tour extension on this tour is \$195 per person. Please inquire with our office for prices on any pre-tour extensions, as airfare seasonality may be affected.

**Booking through other Agents** - As we keep the cost of our tours as low as possible, there is insufficient margin for us to be able to pay commission to other travel agents, so some bookings can only be accepted if the client pays the other agent's commission.

**Accreditation** - Macleay Valley Travel is a fully accredited travel agency under the AFTA (Australian Federation of Travel Agents) ATAS - AFTA Travel Accreditation Scheme. As such, you are assured of a consumer focused and quality assured business, ensuring professional conduct and ethical business practices. We are happy for any prospective traveller with us to check us out with your local Consumer Affairs (Fair Trading) department.

**Twin Share Bookings** - If you do not have a travel partner, but wish to travel at twin share rates, we will try and assign you with another traveller but this is not guaranteed. We assign passengers by their gender, on a first come, first served basis and do not assign twin share passengers according to their age, profession, interests etc. There are risks with sharing a room with a person you do not know, and Macleay Valley Travel accepts no responsibility if you are incompatible with your assigned room mate. Additionally, if you are assigned a travelling companion to share with and they cancel off the tour prior to making the final payment, then you will either be required to pay the single room supplement or we will try our best to assign you with another twin share passenger, if one is available.

**Health and Fitness** - Macleay Valley Travel recommends that the passenger is reasonably healthy and/or fit to participate in this tour. Persons with a disability requiring special assistance must be accompanied by a companion. Macleay Valley Travel and their representatives cannot provide this service. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to accept/decline or terminate a passenger's participation in the tour under certain circumstances. Macleay Valley Travel is legally not permitted to provide medical advice as to vaccinations/injections which you may require for this tour and advise you to consult your local medical practitioner for specific medical advice. There are no compulsory injections required for this tour.

**Limitation of Liability** - As Macleay Valley Travel acts only as agent for the Airlines, Hotels, Coach Companies etc., providing accommodation, transportation and other services, Macleay Valley Travel shall not be liable or responsible for death or injury to any person or loss or damage to any property including baggage arising out of or connection with any transportation, accommodation or other services, or resulting directly or indirectly from acts of God, fire, breakdown in machinery or equipment, acts of Government or other authorities, de jure or de facto wars, whether declared or not, hostilities, civil disturbances, strikes, riots, thefts, epidemics, quarantines, medical or customs regulations, delays or cancellations caused by changes in schedules or itinerary, or over bookings or defaults or for any causes beyond Macleay Valley Travel's control or any loss or damage resulting from improper or insufficient passports, visas or other documents and neither Macleay Valley Travel, and its servants or employees shall be or become liable or responsible for any additional expenses or liability sustained or incurred by the tour member as a result of the foregoing causes. Additionally you must meet the entry requirements for each country you visit. Macleay Valley Travel will not be liable if you are denied entry to a country for any reason, including a past criminal history. Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to decline bookings made for any group tour. Any tour booking confirmation is conditional, contingent on our view of the ability of a person to be able to participate in a tour without the likelihood of conflict between members of a tour whether perceived or actual.

Macleay Valley Travel reserves the right to modify the itinerary or the accommodation if circumstances make this necessary, provided that the amended itinerary is of equal value or greater value than that of the original program.

## MACLEAY VALLEY TRAVEL - BOOKING FORM

PLEASE PRINT DETAILS CLEARLY IN BLOCK LETTERS AND ALSO

**A PHOTOCOPY OF YOUR PASSPORT MUST BE SENT WITH BOOKING FORM**

Name of Tour : \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 1** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Passenger 2** (as written in passport) \_\_\_\_\_

Title: **Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss. Dr.** \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

**Postal Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **PostCode** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone / Fax Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Mobile** \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Passport Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

(Passport must have 6 months validity from the time of tour completion)

**Single room / Twin beds / Double bed:** (Room type is subject to availability)

Circle which airport you wish to depart from: SYDNEY

Do you have any existing medical conditions? Passenger 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Dietary Needs – Passenger 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Optional Extensions: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive details of our travel insurance?: YES / NO (Please Circle)

In case of emergency, please notify :

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this sheet with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 per person.

**DECLARATION. I have read and understand fully the booking conditions and I accept them.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**A copy of passport is required to verify spelling of name; If this is not provided and the information we have for the airline is incorrect and ticket is issued, then the airline will charge a reissue fee.**