Continue

2.5K The Himalayan Range is the most fascinating location that India has in store. For the globetrotters, it must be a dream to explore these locations. And for a devotee 5 Kailash Parvat means the abode where Lord Shiva himself lived in. The mystic adobe of the God evokes a sense of divinity among the devotees. Panch Kailash Yatra includes all the 5 places that are believed to be the home of Lord Shiva himself. The Panch Kailash Name is given to 5 such locations out of which 4 are in India and one in Tibet. These 5 holy peaks attach many stories, legends and myths with itself. The journey is hard and tumultuous and that makes it even more prominent. In this article I will mention everything that you need to know about the heavenly abode of Lord Shiva. So keep on reading. The Panch Kailash Yatra includes the journey to 5 locations of the Great Himalayas. These are Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, Adi Kailash Yatra, Kinnaur Kailash Yatra, Shrikhand Mahadev Yatra and the Chamba or the Manimahesh Kailash Yatra. Every year these locations draw an influx of devotees from across the world. People travel to these destinations with the aim to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva and also to attain salvation. In the lap of the Himalayas these destinations are revered sights of pilgrimage. Not only the Hindus, even other religions like the Jains, Buddhists, Chinese and Bons also consider these as prominent religious destinations. Moreover, these significant peaks are spiritually and culturally very enriching. It is believed that you need God's calling to visit these destinations. While embarking on the Panch Kailash Yatra a person follows the footsteps of the Gods and Goddesses. The journeys to each of these destinations are spiritually rewarding and tumultuous at the same time. It takes a lot of faith, strength and grit to complete these journeys. Not just that, one needs to be fit and pass the medical test to go forward with the journey. Image Source : Wikimedia Commons The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is one of the toughest Yatras to a pilgrimage site. Considered as the holy abode of Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati, this one is located at an altitude of 21, 778 feet above sea level. It is believed that nobody has ever successfully climbed the peak of the Kailash Mountain, even though it is adaptable for mountaineering. According to popular myths it is forbidden for a human to put their feet on the mountain as it is an unforgivable sin. It is also said that many people have even died while indulging in the process of it. According to Hindu epic Mahabharata the Pandavas along with their wife Draupadi had tried to reach the peak of this mountain to attain heaven. This area is also known as the Doorway to Heaven or the Swarga Loka. On the basis of the descriptions of Vishnu Purana, it is believed that Lord Shiva meditates in the mountain in a state of absolute bliss. Not just the Hindus, even other religions consider this location as a holy adobe. The Jains believe that their first Guru Rishavadeva gained Nirvana at this spot. According to the Buddhists, the peak is known as Mount Meru. This place is known as the holy adobe of Buddhist Cakrasamvara or Demchok. For the Tibetans this place is known as Precious Jewel or Kang Rampoche. Also this place is the origin of 4 rivers Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali. It is believed according to popular myths that by doing a Parikrama of the Kailash Parvat one can bring in positivity in the form of meritorious karma and can get cleansed of one's sins. Furthermore, by doing a Parikrama of the Mansarovar Lake while telling the wishes you have, will get them fulfilled. After doing the Parikrama of the Lake one can fetch enlightenment. Also it is said that one who takes a bath into the holy lake can directly reach the holy abode of the God. There are different ways to reach the Kailash Mansarovar from India, via Delhi, Nepal, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. However all the people should travel via the annual pilgrimage organized by the Government of India's Ministry of external Affairs or through the different private agencies that organize a Yatra. Every foreigner must have a valid Chinese visa and other permits to travel to Tibet. The weather of Kailash Mountain is very extreme from October to March and is almost inaccessible during those months. Mostly the Yatras are held in the months of May to September. Average temperature ranges from 5 degrees to 18 degrees during the day time of the hot months. At night the temperature ranges between -1 degrees to 10 degrees. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatras are mostly organized during the months of April to October beginning. The ideal time however is the summer months of April to June. It's better to avoid the monsoon season though. Again from September to the beginning of October is a good time to visit here. Mansarovar Lake and Rakshas Taal or Lang-Tso are important places to visit nearby. Other than that there are few monasteries nearby like Selung, Nyari, Guangzhou etc that you can visit. Read More:- MALLIKARJUNA JYOTIRLINGA TEMPLE | TIMINGS | NEAREST RAILWAY STATION Image Source : Wikimedia Commons Adi Kailash is known by different names like Chota Kailash, Shiva Kailash, Baba Kailash and Jonglingkong Peak. This is just a replicated version of the Kailash Mansarovar hence known as the Chota Kailash. Located near the Indo Tibet border in the Pithoragarh district of the Uttarakhand, this is another important site for pilgrimage. This holy peak is believed to be the adobe for Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati. According to the description in the Skanda Purana, the mystic procession of the wedding of Lord Shiva started from the Kailash Mansarovar to reach here. It is believed that a devotee who completes the Adi Kailash Yatra gets their wishes fulfilled. You can reach Kathgodam from the nearby cities by train. You can also drive from other major cities as well. The Yatra is organized during the months of April to middle of September. The weather remains pleasant till May. After the monsoon the weather is nice but the onset of rains is a little problematic for the Yatra. The summer temperature ranges from 1 degree to 20 degrees while the monsoon temperature ranges from 6 degrees to 20 degrees. The ideal time for Adi Kailash Yatra is from April to December. You will see different other spots on your way to Adi Kailash. These are Om Parvat, Jageshwar Dham Temple, Patal Bhubaneswar Temple, Gauri Kund, Chitai Golu Devta Temple, Kunti Parvat, Pandav Parvat, Parvati Mukut, Brahma Parvat, Parvati Sarovar etc. Image Source : Wikimedia Commons Located in the Kinnaur valley of Himachal Pradesh, Mount Kinnaur Kailash is another holy site. It is believed that the Hindu Demi Gods consider this place as heaven and therefore reside here. This place is also considered as the meeting point of Hindu Gods and Demi Gods. According to popular beliefs this was the spot where Devi Parvati used to worship and show her respect to Lord Shiva. Later Lord Shiva and Devi Parvati met here for the first time. The location here is breathtakingly beautiful with peaks at a height of 6050 meters. There is a 79 feet tall rock here which is considered as a Shivalinga. The nearest Airport to Kinnaur Kailash is Shimla. If you wish to travel via road then you can drive through Chandigarh or Manali to reach here. The place records major footfall during the months of April to June. Average temperature of the place remains between 8 degrees to 30 degrees. The summer months are the ideal time to visit the place according to the weather. Winters are too chilly with temperature going down to -5 degrees. However it is advisable to not visit during the monsoon as there are major chances of landslides and floods in the area. April to June Some of the major locations to visit here are Tanglin Village, Sangla Valley or Baspa Valley, Kalpa, Chitkul Village, Kamru Fort, Basteri Village etc. This peak located in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh is considered as a part of the Great Himalayan National Park. At an elevation of 5227 metres above sea level, the Shrikhand Mahadev Shivalinga here is 75 feet tall. One of the most prominent facts about this Shivalinga is that the shrine remains snow free in spite of heavy snowfall in that area. The scenic view of this spot is wonderful with the mountain range in the backdrop. Other than being a religious spot, this is also one of the popular tourist spots for visitors. It is believed that the name Srikhand Mahadev came from the words "Sir Khandan". It is believed that Ravana offered his head to Lord Shiva to impress him. After looking at his dedication and efforts Lord Shiva was impressed and granted him immortality. Another popular folklore regarding this place is about the demon Bhimasar. Once he received a boon from Lord Shiva that he can destroy anything that he touches. In turn he wanted to touch Lord Shiva himself so that he could marry Devi Parvati. Later, Lord Vishnu came for their assistance. He took the form of Mohini and danced along with Bhimasar. While dancing Bhimasar placed his own hands on his head and therefore died. It is believed that till date the soil and water of that spot is crimson in colour. The best way to reach here is to reach Manali first. You can reach by flight or train. Direct buses are available to reach Manali as well. The summer months of April to August are pleasant here with the average temperature ranging between 8 degrees and 25 degrees. During the winter months the temperature remains between 5 degrees to 17 degrees. July and August Barhati Nala, Parvati Bageecha, Bheem Dwari, Bhim ki Bhai, Nayan Sarovar, Sarahan Bird Park, Bhimakali Temple, Hatu Temple are some of the popular spots nearby that you can visit. Read More: KAMAKHYA TEMPLE TIMINGS, STORY, HOW TO REACH, PHOTOS Image Source : Wikimedia Commons This is another revered site of pilgrimage in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. Also known as the Chamba Kailash, this place is called Mani Mahesh because the Shivalinga here possesses a Mani which reflects the view of the lake. On the foothill of the mountain the lake is located at a height of 13,000 feet. The place holds a lot of importance because of the folklore attached to it. It is believed that Lord Shiva takes a stroll along with Devi Parvati here every now and then in Shiva's Chaugan. Furthermore, there are two lakes here. The first one is the Shiv Karotri which has ice cold water. It is believed that Lord Shiva used to take a bath here. The other one is Gauri Kund that has lukewarm water and it is believed that Devi Parvati used to take a bath here. Both these lakes are believed to be formed from the matted locks of Lord Shiva's hair. Near these lakes there is also a marble image of Lord Shiva known as the Chumakha along with a temple known as Lakshmi Devi. According to popular folklore, if you are unable to get a glimpse of the peak, it is considered as the displeasure of Lord Shiva. Also it is believed that it is forbidden to climb this peak as whoever has tried to climb here, has been turned into a stone. The devotees visit here to take a dip in the holy water here to wash away their sins. In the month of Bhadon a fair is organized here that attracts the most number of devotees. You can take direct buses and trains to Pathankot which is the nearest hotspot. From there you can take cabs to reach the peak. From mid June to mid October the weather is most pleasant at this spot. The winter months are chilly with temperature ranging between 12 degrees to 18 degrees during the day time. However the nights are very chilly and the temperature ranges from -2 degrees to 6 degrees during winter. Temperature during the monsoon season ranges between 12 degrees to 20 degrees. May to September Chamera Lake, Laxmi Narayan Temple, Akhand Chandi Palace, Bundlamata Temple, Bhagsu Waterfall, Chamunda Devi Temple, Dal Lake are some of the nearby spots that you can visit here. Panch Kailash Locations are destinations that are hard to reach. Previously these sites were totally inaccessible for the general public. With newer ways of travelling and transport, now people are able to climb up there. Every year the footfall in these destinations are increasing. It is believed to be a holy act for a person to be able to visit these locations. According to popular myths and legends, it takes the wishes of Lord Shiva to be able to visit any of these places. Therefore, the devotees visiting here visit with a lot of faith. The belief that the devotees have for their religion and for the divinity of Lord Shiva, makes these sights even more prominent. These holy sites are hard to visit. With proper medical tests and arrangements one can embark on these religious journeys. Whenever you are planning to visit these places make sure you are carrying all the necessary documents and check whether you are medically fit. And then take the name of Lord Shiva and set out for your yatras to these places. Temples near meTemples to Visit Mount Kailash is located in western Tibet. At an elevation of 6,656 meters above sea level, Mt.Kailash is not a high mountain in Tibet. But it's been worshipped as a famous sacred site by countless people of Buddhism, Bon, Hinduism, and Jainism. Hinduism believes that the mountain is the residence of Shiva and the center of the world, while Jainism believes that the mountain is the place where its ancestor Rishabhanatha attained the path, Tibetan Buddhism believes that this mountain is the residence of Cakrasamvara representing boundless happiness, and for Bönpo Religion, Mt Kailash is a nine-story swastika mountain that is the seat of spiritual power. So this spiritual mountain is actually the center of the world and holy place of many sects. The miracles at Kailash Mansarovar have been constantly heard, speculated, talked about, and even investigated, but so far there is no conclusion. Here we have collected 15 secrets, mysteries, or facts of Mount Kailash, and maybe give you some new insight into it. Content Preview Mysterious Kailash in the sunset Mount Kailash's height is 6,656 meters above sea level. It is not the tallest mountain in Tibetan areas. However, no one has climbed to the Mount Kailash summit. The ancient legend claimed that only Milarepa, a Buddhist monk had peaked Mount Kailash. 2. The Climbers' Mysterious Death A team of scientists who intended to climb to the top of Mount Kailash finally gave up on the advice of a Tibetan Lama. Four of the climbers still died within a year or two. It is said climbing mount Kailash will offend the gods. 3. The Cross Mark Proved the Existence of Religion Masters A groove and a gouge form a giant cross mark on the mountain. The groove around the waist of Kailash Mountain is Shiva neck's snake trailed. The gouge was left when Milarepa was fighting with Naro Bönchung for the control of Kailash Mansarovar. 4. Kailash Peak Is Pyramid The top of Mt. Kailash looks like a pyramid Scientists have discovered that the top of Mt. Kailash is actually a man-made vacuum pyramid. It is surrounded by more than 100 other small pyramids. According to preliminary estimates, the direct height of the pyramid complex is between 100 and 1,800 meters, while the Egyptian pyramid is only 146 meters. If true, it would be larger than any known pyramid today. 5. Supernatural Energy Created Mt. Kailash The Kailash Pyramids miracle was probably built by an advanced civilization that understood the subtle laws of energy (the twist field) and how to control energy and time. 6. Google Maps Show The Center Location of Mt.Kailash Mount Kailash is the center of the world Kailash Mountain is considered the axis of the universe, the center of the world, the pillar of the world. It is the place where the earth connects with heaven. As you can see from Google Maps, the distance from Stonehenge in the UK to Mt Kailash is 6,666 kilometers, which is also the distance from Kailash Range to the North Pole. The distance from Mt Kailash to the South Pole is 13,332 kilometers, which is exactly twice the distance to the North Pole or Stonehenge. 7. Mt Kailash Is Also Energy Center of Earth Mt Kailash is the center of a worldwide system that connects mystical sites and energy sites from around the world, including the Pyramids of Egypt, the Pyramids of Mexico, Easter Island, Stonehenge, and the North Pole... which constitute the global energy grid system. 8. Kailash Range Area Will Accelerated Aging Some scientists believe that the Kailash range is a vortex of energy that lifts the body and mind. It is said that people who spend 12 hours in the vicinity of Kailash experience accelerated hair and fingernails growth, which is equivalent to two weeks of normal time. 9. Mount Kailash Is The Prototype of Mount Meru, The World Center Recorded in Hinduism and Buddhism. 10. Mansarovar Lake & Lake Rakshastal Represent Yin-Yang Rakshastal (left) and Mansarovar (right) lie at the foot of the southern face of Mount Kailash. There are two lakes at the foot of Mount Kailash. Mansarovar Lake was originally created in the Hindu god's thoughts and then visualized on the earth. This holy lake is a freshwater lake, whereas, the Rakshas Tal Lake, which is separated by only one way, is a saltwater lake known as a ghost lake. One shapes like the sun, and the other shapes like the moon. The two lakes represent light and darkness respectively. 11. Mount Kailash's Satellite View Shows That The Shadow Side of The Kailash Himalaya Is Like Shiva's Face, Smiling. The satellite view shows the face of Lord Shiva on Kailash Mountain. 12. Kailash Parvat Mystery OM(□) is definitely God's signature in the Himalayas. Viewing from the south of the ridge, you can see the Kailash Parvat's Hindu OM(□) symbol. The huge ice trough and horizontal rock formations from the top of the mountain constitute this symbol. 13. Lord Shiva and Rishabhanatha Store Their Knowledge at Kailash Himalaya When we say that Mount Kailash is the residence of Lord Shiva, it does not mean that Lord Shiva was seen in the Himalayas or hiding in the mountains, but that he stores the knowledge of enlightenment there in a specific form of energy. Similarly, Buddhists say that their three main bodhisattvas: Guanyin Bodhisattva, Vajrasattva Bodhisattva, and Manjushri Bodhisattva all live in Mt.Kailash, while Jains say that their first ancestor Rishabhanatha also lives there. This does not mean that they actually live there, but that they store the knowledge and truth of enlightenment there. 14. Four Asia Rivers Source from Kailash Mansarovar Kailash Himalaya and the lake Manasarovar nearby give birth to the Indus River, Ganges, Sutlej River, and Brahmaputra in Asia. Originating from there, the four rivers set off at the same time but flowed in different directions. After traveling tens of thousands of miles, they went to the same destination—the Indian Ocean. 15. Kailash Range Area Exist Underground Cities There are two dungeons in the area around Kailash, Shambhala and Agartha. They are two branches of human civilization. These two advanced civilizations come from the Gobi Desert and the Himalayas respectively. Mount Kailash is the one of the most revered mountains on this planet owing to the fact that Lord Shiva has chosen this mountain for His residence. Lord Shiva is known as the master of the material world. Parvati Devi is the consort of Lord Shiva who administers the material world as Durga Devi on His behalf. He is in charge of tamo-guna i.e. mode of ignorance as well as in charge of dissolving the material world at the end of a fixed cycle. Mount Kailash is located in the north-eastern direction i.e. the direction of Sri Kubera, the treasurer of the devatas. Geographically, the Kailash Parvat lies in the Tibet region of China at an altitude of 21778 feet, approximately 6638 mtrs above the sea level. It is also the source of Asia's four important rivers i.e. Indus, Sutlej, Brahmaputra and Karnali (known as Ghaghaara in India). Kailash Parvat is also referred to as Sitachala – the pure white mountain. Over a thousand devotees make a pilgrimage to this sacred mountain in their Kailash Mansarovar Yatra to receive the blessings of Lord Shiva. The origin of Mount Kailash In a conversation between Lord Brahma and Narada Muni on the topic of the creation of the universe, Lord Brahma tells Narada Muni the following – "First water was created and then the enormous cosmic egg manifested which consisted of the twenty four elements. To bring that egg into consciousness, I performed tapasya for twelve years to please Lord Vishnu. Pleased by my tapasya, Lord Vishnu appeared before me and then entered into the cosmic egg as a result of which all the world's including the Mount Kailash came into existence." Lord Shiva chooses Mount Kailash as His abode In the ensuing conversation, Narada Muni asks Lord Brahma as to when did Lord Shiva make Kailash His abode and how did Lord Shiva and Sri Kubera become friends. Lord Brahma narrated the following history – A Brahmin by the name Yagyadutt who was proficient in the performance of Somayagya lived in Kampilyanagar. Yagyadutt had a son named Gunanidhi who was a scholar but indulged in sinful activities such as gambling. He was irreligious and kept bad company. Yagyadutt's wife used to lie about Gunanidhi's activities whenever Yagyadutt would ask her about his conduct, being completely unaware of what was going on. Yagyadutt got Gunanidhi married to a girl from a well to do family but this didn't deter Gunanidhi from continuing his activities in spite of his mother's advice to stop indulging in such activities. One day, Yagyadutt saw a gambler on the street wear his ring. Being surprised, he went up to the gambler and asked him about the same. Yagyadutt was told by the gambler that his son Gunanidhi had lost the ring in a gambling match. Similarly he had lost many other valuables on earlier occasions too. Infuriated by what he heard, Yagyadutt disowned his wife and son, and then married another woman. Upon hearing about the actions of Yagyadutt, Gunanidhi started feeling remorseful about what he had done and kept on walking until he was tired and sat under a tree. Suddenly, he noticed some villagers walking towards the village temple with offerings of food. He started following them and reached the temple sitting down at the temple entrance. He waited for the pujas to get over and then slowly entered the place where the food offerings were kept. As the light wick in the temple was getting dim and being unable to see, he tore his own cloth, made a thick wick and put that in the lamp which enabled him to see properly. Gunanidhi picked up the food offerings and started moving out stealthily when he suddenly dashed against a devotee who was sleeping. The devotee woke up and seeing Gunanidhi fleeing away with the offerings, called out everyone branding him a thief. Everyone present there beat him up badly to death. After Gunanidhi's death, the Yamadutas came to take away his soul, but the Shivaganas came there immediately and prevented the Yamadutas from taking him away saying that Gunanidhi had observed the Shivaratri fast with devotion, listened to the narration of Lord Shiva's pastimes and even prevented the lamp from burning out. The Yamadutas were also informed that Gunanidhi would become the King of Kalinga in his next birth. Thus, he was taken to Shivaloka and in the next life born as the son of Arindam, the King of Kalinga and named Dama. King Arindam died when Dama was very young and thus, Dama succeeded the throne as the King of Kalinga. The new King passed a decree to renovate all the Shiva temples under his jurisdiction and made it mandatory for all his subjects to worship Lord Shiva. King Dama becomes Kubera with the blessings of Lord Shiva During the Padma Kalpa, Sage Vishrawa was born to Sage Pulastya. Sage Vishrawa's son – Vishrawan (Gunanidhi and King Dama in previous lives) ruled over Alkapuri, which was constructed by the celestial architect Sri Vishwakarma. During the kalpa called Meghawan, Vishrawan did severe tapasya for ten lakh years to please Lord Shiva. Being pleased with the tapasya, Lord Shiva appeared along with Parvati Devi before Vishrawan and told him that he could request for any boon that Lord Shiva could fulfill. Hearing Lord Shiva's voice, he opened his eyes but was unable to see owing to Lord Shiva's radiance. He requested Lord Shiva to give him power of sight. After getting back his eye sight, Vishrawan was astonished to see that Parvati Devi, who was more important than Vishrawan himself was standing beside Lord Shiva. He became jealous of this fact and thus lost his eyesight of the left eye. Parvati Devi being astonished at the way in which Vishrawan looked at Her, asked Lord Shiva for the reason. Lord Shiva replied that Vishrawan was her son and thus he was astonished at what Parvati Devi had achieved with Her rigid tapasya. Lord Shiva thus blessed Vishrawan to be the King of the Kings and promised to live near Alkapuri forever. After being blessed with the boon, Vishrawan offered his respects to Lord Shiva and Parvati Devi. Parvati Devi the said the following to Vishrawan – "Since you have looked at me angrily, your hatred and enemity towards me is clearly visible. For this reason, you shall be known as Kubera." After this, Lord Shiva and His consort Parvati Devi went away to live in the Kailash Parvat which is situated near Alkapuri in Himalayas. Shiva takes His residence at Kailash When Lord Shiva heard about the severe tapasya done by Kubera, he started playing on His Damaru (drum), the sound of which reached the three worlds. Lord Shiva reached the place where Kubera was doing his tapasya. Hearing the sound of the Damaru, Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu appeared too. When Kubera saw Lord Shiva before him, he offered Lord Shiva his seat and worshipped Him. Lord Brahma and Lord Vishnu too were given respects and worshipped. Being pleased with His devotee's devotion, He decided to stay in his vicinity and hence, ordered Vishwakarma, the celestial architect to construct His abode at Kailash Parbat. After the construction was over, Lord Shiva went to live in Mount Kailash at an auspicious moment, during which He was worshiped by the other devatas too. (From Srishti Khanda of the Rudra Samhita, Shiva Purana) Mention of Kailash in Ramayana Mount Kailash finds mention in various Puranas as the celestial abode of Lord Shiva. However the incident related to Ravana from the Ramayana is worth remembering in this regard. The demoniac King Ravana and his servants used to harass the sages living in the Himalayas. They started moving further north and reached the region of the Kailash Parvat. Ravana's pushpaka vimana suddenly stopped here. Being astonished Ravana got down surrounded by his ministers and looked around amongst the scenic views of the place. He noticed a strange being who appeared dreadful with a dark yellowish complexion and dwarf stature holding a pike. Ravana called out to the creature and asked him as to which place was this and that why was he stopped from going further. The creature replied that he was Nandi, the servant of Lord Shiva. He further said that "You have arrived at Lord Shiva's abode, which is inaccessible to all living beings. You will not be able to pass this mountain. Therefore, turn back and go the way you have come." Ravana looked at Nandi and spoke in a derogatory way "Why should I heed you O- monkey faced one? Who is this Shiva anyway" Being infuriated at Ravana insulting Lord Shiva, Nnadi picked up his pike which was throwing flames of fire and retorted "O Rakshasa, I should kill you at once but I will not do so, as you already stand killed by your own sins. But I say this, as you disregard me in my monkey form, there shall be born on earth many monkeys of terrible strength who will annihilate your race" As Nandi spoke, the sound of celestial drums roared in the sky along with showers of flowers. This angered Ravana who roared in anger "I shall remove this hill from my path. What do I care for you and your master?" Ravana started digging the hill from it's sides from the earth with his twenty arms as a result of which the hill rose from the earth a little. Parvati Devi suddenly slipped from Her postion due to this and suddenly clung onto Lord Shiva who reassured Her that this was being done by the demon Ravana who was powerless to harm the both of them. Parvati Devi whose eyes were red with anger cursed that as Ravana had frightened a women through the use of violence, a woman shall be the reason for his death. Lord Shiva stood up and pressed the hill down with His toe which crushed Ravana's arms. He cried so loudly that it was heard throughout the three worlds and terrified the living beings. He couldn't move being trapped by the weight of the mountain. Ravana's ministers at once implored him to appease Shiva. Ravana who had studied the scriptures recited verses from the Samaveda glorifying Lord Shiva. But even after a hundred years had passed, Ravana was still stuck and he continued offering prayers. Lord Shiva finally relented and released him and told him the following – "O ten-headed one, your prayers have pleased me. Do not be so rash again. Leave now and go wherever you like" Ravana bowed to lord Shiva, who stood holding his famous trident. The crescent moon shone from his head and a large serpent was coiled around his blue neck. He gazed at Ravana with his three eyes as the demon folded his palms to address him. "My lord, if you are actually pleased with me then please give me your weapon." Lord Shiva smiled saying "So, be it." Ravana was awarded the boon of the Pashupathastra which made him happy. Ravana thereafter felt that Lord Shiva was worthy of worship. Lake Mansarovar Lake Mansarovar lies near the Kailash Parvat in Tibetan region of China. It was created from the mind of Lord Brahma. The devatas are said to take a bath in this lake everyday during the Brahma-Muhurta period. This freshwater lake which is fed by the glaciers of the Kailash mountain is located at a height of 15,000 feet above sea level having a circumference of 88 kilometers and depth of maximum 300 feet. This is quite unusual for the Tibetan plateau which is usually saline in nature. The lake overflows into the nearby salty Rakshastal through the natural Ganga Chu water channel. Lake Mansarovar is revered by followers of Hinduism, Jainism, Buddhism and Bon. Over a thousand devotees every year make a pilgrimage to this holy lake along with Mount Kailash in their Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. PC: hinduismthewayoflife The actual residence of Lord Shiva Mount Kailash on this planet, is the reflection of the actual abode of Lord Shiva which lies on the periphery of the Vaikuntha Loka or the para-vyoma – the spiritual sky. Brahma Samhita (Chapter 05, Verse 43) affirms this as follows: goloka-namni nija-dhamni tale cha tasya devi-mahesha-hari-dhamasu teshu teshu te te prabhava-nichaya vihitash cha yena govindam adi-purusham tam aham bhajami The Bhagavata Purana mentions another refrence about the abode of Lord Shiva – Kubera had once earned the gratitude of Lord Shiva by earnestly worshiping Him and so, from then onwards, Lord Shiva had agreed to Kubera's authority on Kubera's Mount Kailash. Kubera, the appointed treasurer of the swargaloka rules the northeastern direction. Pleased with Kubera's devotion, Lord Shiva along with Parvati Devi and His other entourage took up residence on Mount Kailash, which when compared to His opulent abode outside the material universe is modest. Lord Brahma meant to imply that, "If you (Narada) go see Lord Shiva on Kubera's Kailash, you will not be able to understand fully how much greater Lord Shiva is than I. You should actually visit the Mahesha Dhama." In this Mahesha Dhams which is also known as the Shivaloka, Lord Shiva's opulence's are unrivaled with ever existing palaces, airplanes and assests such as wealth, sense enjoyment, liberation, religion and devotion to the Supreme Lord. His symbols of supremacy such as jewelry, Chamara, royal umbrella, etc. surpass those of Lord Brahma and the other Devatas. Here, Lord Shiva worships the Personality of Godhead in His form as Sri Sankarshana, who has thousands of serpent hoods. Both Lord Shiva and Lord Sankarshana are the expansions of the Supreme Lord and hence, non-different. When the time for annihilating the material universe comes, Rudra who is in charge of the mode of ignorance appears from Lord Sankarshana. Any living being who sees Lord Shiva worshiping Lord Sankarshana i.e. one expansion of the Supreme Lord worshiping the other expansion of the Supreme Lord is certainly astonished, especially when Lord Shiva dances in ecstasy and offers beautiful prayers. (From the Bhagavata Purana, Canto 01, Chapter 2, Verse 93) The sacred Mount Kailash Parikrama Many devotees take the sacred parikrama around Mount Kailas every year. People don't climb Mount Kailash as it is forbidden to do so in the scriptures. Only a liberated soul is allowed into the abode of Lord Shiva. Previous attempts to scale the mountain had been met with resistance from nature. Hence, a parikrama around Mount Kailash is the best offering a devotee can give Lord Shiva at his holy abode. The parikrama path around the mountain is around 55 kilometers and normally takes around 2 to 3 days to complete. It starts from a place called as Darchen and ends at Darchen. People who are unable to walk the entire length can do the parikrama on a yak too. The entire parikrama path around Mount Kailash passes through the following sacred points – Lake Mansarovar – a fresh water lake which was created from the mind of Lord Brahma Gauri Kund – the sacred bathing place of Parvati Devi and where Lord Ganesha was born Dolma La Pass – the highest point on the parikrama path dedicated to Dolma La Devi. Pilgrims pray here to Dolma La Devi to be able to complete their parikrama successfully Rakshastal – where Ravana had done penances to please Lord Shiva for many years. This salt water lake lies near Lake Mansarovar How to visit Mount Kailash The best way to visit Mount Kailash is to visit with a tour operator. You could also join our spiritual group pilgrimages – the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. 15 The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is one of the most sacred pilgrimages in the world, attracting Hindus, Buddhists, Jains, and Bon followers alike. Every year, thousands of devotees dream of completing the journey to Mount Kailash (6,638 m) and Lake Mansarovar (4,590 m)—the divine abode of Lord Shiva. But before beginning this spiritual journey, it's crucial to understand the route map, access points, and trekking distances. In this blog, we share the detailed Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Route Map, highlight all three major routes, and help you plan your path to the divine. Suggested Tour: Kailash Mansarovar yatra Package Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Route Option There are three major routes to reach Mount Kailash and Lake Mansarovar: 1. Via Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand, India) Organized by: Govt. of India (Ministry of External Affairs)Starting Point: Delhi → Almora → Pithoragarh → DharchulaHighlights: 14–18 days Trekking involved (~60+ km) Visit Om Parvat, Narayan Ashram High-altitude pass: Lipulekh (5,200 m) 2. Via Nathu La Pass (Sikkim, India) Organized by: Govt. of India Starting Point: Delhi → Gangtok → Nathu La → Tibet Highlights: 20+ days Less trekking, vehicle support Suitable for senior citizens Scenic but costlier 3. Via Kathmandu, Nepal (Private Tour Operator Route) Organized by: Private operators (e.g. Shikhar Travels, etc.)Starting Point: Kathmandu → Nepalgunj / Simikot → Hilsa → TibetHighlights: Most popular & flexible Helicopter or road options 13–16 days Parikrama of Mount Kailash included Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Route Option Once you reach Darchen (base camp), the 3-day Parikrama (circumambulation) of Mount Kailash begins: Day Route Distance Day 1 Darchen → Dirapuk 12 km Day 2 Dirapuk → Dolma La (5,630 m) → Zuthulpuk 22 km Day 3 Zuthulpuk → Darchen 12 km Dolma La Pass is the highest point of the Yatra at 5,630 m and requires slow, steady walking and proper acclimatization. Interactive Kailash Mansarovar Map Important Travel Tips Carry your original passport (valid 6+ months) Travel insurance with high-altitude coverage is recommended Acclimatize for at least 2–3 days in Taklakot or Simikot No photography allowed near the Tibet border, army posts Stay hydrated, pack warm layers, sunscreen, and medication Final Thoughts The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra Route Map isn't just about navigation—it's a blueprint for a once-in-a-lifetime spiritual journey. Whether you're going via Lipulekh, Nathu La, or Kathmandu, understanding the route, terrain, and distances ensures that you're physically and mentally prepared. "Mount Kailash is not a destination; it's a divine experience that begins the moment you start the journey." FAQ (Quick Answer) Q: Can foreigners visit Mount Kailash?A: Yes, via Nepal route with proper Tibet group visa and travel permits. Q: Do I need to trek the entire Yatra?A: Only the Kailash Parikrama is by foot (52 km); rest is via vehicle or helicopter. Q: Is vegetarian food available during the Yatra?A: Yes. Most tour operators provide pure vegetarian meals during the entire trip. Q: Are helicopters used in Kailash Mansarovar Yatra?A: Yes. Helicopters are used in the Nepal route, especially from Nepalgunj to Simikot to Hilsa, reducing travel time and difficulty. Q: Is the Kailash Yatra safe for senior citizens?A: It can be, if the person is medically fit and acclimatized. The Nathu La route and Helicopter route via Nepalgunj/Simikot are more comfortable for elderly travelers. Q: What is the altitude of Mount Kailash?A: Mount Kailash rises to 6,638 meters (21,778 ft) above sea level. Q: What is the best time to go on the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra?A: The ideal time is May to September, with June to August being the most favorable months due to open mountain passes and pleasant weather. Kailash Parbat or Mount Kailash, part of the Kailash Range, is a 6,638m sacred mountain located in China's Tibet Autonomous Region. While visiting it requires completing a complicated procedure, the massive snow-clad peak is visible from a few locations in India, specifically in Himachal Pradesh, including Khajjiar Ground and Dainkund Peak. On a clear day, the open Khajjiar Ground (Chamba) provides an exceptional peak view, better through binoculars. On the other hand, a trek up Dainkund Peak (in Dalhousie), which is about 2 hours long, will offer majestic views of Kailash Parbat along with the surrounding snow-covered Pir Panjal ranges. Read More The holy Mt. Kailash is situated on the Gangdise Range in the Himalayan region of western Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Due to its proximity to the Great Himalayas, many affectionately refer to it as the Kailash Himalaya. Revered as the home of Lord Shiva and a pantheon of Buddhist deities, the holy Mt. Kailash draws numerous pilgrims and global travelers for pilgrimage and explorations every year. In this travel guide, we will walk you through where Kailash Himalaya is and explore its unique geographical and spiritual significance, with practical travel tips to plan your visits. Is Mt. Kailash a Part of the Himalayas? Where Is It? Geographically, though Mt. Kailash lies in the Himalayan Region, it doesn't belong to the main part of the Himalayas. Situated to the north of the Great Himalayas, Mt. Kailash is the main peak of the Gangdise Range, which forms parts of the Trans-Himalayas in Tibet. The exact location of Kailash Himalaya, also known as Kailash Parvat, is located in Purang County, Ngari Prefecture in the remote western corner of the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. The distance between Mt. Kailash and Lhasa is around 1,279km or a 4-day drive across central Tibet. Though separated from the main part of the mighty Himalayas, the Kailash Himalaya is often referred to as Mount Meru, the center of the world, revered by Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains. It surpasses even Mt. Everest, the world's highest peak, as the most sacred mountain in the Himalayan region. Kailash Himalaya is located to the north of the Great Himalayas on the map. Four Great Rivers in Asia Originate from Kailash Himalaya The melted snow and glaciers of the Kailash Himalaya give birth to four great rivers in Asia. It provides a valuable source of water for millions of people in the Tibet Autonomous Region, India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. In Tibet, the famous Brahmaputra River, also known as the Yarlung Tsangpo, originates from southeast of Mount Kailash. It is the longest river in Tibet and its tributaries flow through Lhasa and Nyingchi, becoming the enchanting Lhasa River and Nyang River that have nurtured thriving Tibetan civilization and drawn global travelers for visits. Other than that, the Indus River, Karnali River, and Sutlej River begin their journey in the west and south of Kailash Himalaya before making their way from Tibet into Pakistan, Nepal, and India, providing water for irrigation and sustaining local communities. The Four Great Rivers originate from Kailash Himalaya. Seamlessly combine Peach Blossom Featival tours in Nyingchi with Lhasa to Tibet EBC adventure in Spring. Kailash Himalaya Is the Abode of Lord Shiva Believed by Hindus Kailash Himalaya has long been the ultimate place for worship and pilgrimage. Hindus believe that Lord Shiva and his wife Parvati live on Kailash Parvat in the Himalayan Region. Because of that, every year, numerous Indian pilgrims flock to Mt. Kailash to circumambulate this holy mountain to worship Lord Shiva, hoping to see Lord Shiva face on Kailash and touch the sacred mountain for blessings, inner peace, and protection from the divine power. Apart from walking the kora around Mt. Kailash, they will also mediate and perform rituals or even take a holy dip at the sacred Lake Manasarovar nearby to purify their souls. Currently, Indian passport holders can only visit Mt. Kailash through the Pilgrim Center. However, if you are an Indian origin who live outside of India, and have another country passport, we can help you secure the Tibet Travel Permit and arrange the Mt. Kailash tours for you, including local hotel booking, local experts, transportation, and more attentive services. Embark on the ultimate pilgrimage around holy Mt. Kailash in the classic 15-day Mt. Kailash tour from Lhasa. To Tibetans, Kailash Himalaya Has Magical Powers to Cleanse Sins & Gain Merits Tibetans see the pyramid-shaped summit of Mt. Kailash in Kailash Himalaya as the earthly embodiment of Mount Meru, the center of the universe. They believe that by walking the kora or performing full-body prostrations around holy Mt. Kailash, they can cleanse sins of a lifetime, gain merits, and seek protection from magical Kailash Himalaya. It is said that If one can complete 10 or 108 circuits of holy Mt. Kailash, one can be exempt from the cycle of endless rebirths or even attain enlightenment. Therefore, making a pilgrimage around sacred Mt. Kailash is taken as an auspicious deed to Tibetans, particularly during the sacred Saga Dawa Festival in May/June when a ceaseless flow of Tibetan pilgrims across Tibet will walk the kora around the holy Mt. Kailash to gain blessings. As a local Tibetan agency, we offer you a budget-friendly 16-day Mt. Kailash tour during the Saga Dawa Festival to