

Mt Kailash

Written by Administrator

Friday, 04 December 2009 04:53 - Last Updated Friday, 04 December 2009 05:54



One of the events that we had built into our itinerary from an early stage was a Kora, or clockwise circumnavigation, of Mt Kailash, or Kang Rinpoche to Tibetans. An isolated pyramid of rock 7day's tough driving from Kashgar and 5 from Lhasa, Mt Kailash is the spiritual epicenter of the universe and the most holy place on earth for Buddhists and Hindus. Kailash and neighboring Lake Manassarova are also home to the source of some of the great rivers of the Indian subcontinent, rivers that we hoped to see later in our journey: the Karnali (a tributary of the Ganges), Bramaputra, Indus and Sutlej rivers. It is finally also one of the most rewarding treks, and not just for its isolation and importance for so many pilgrims.

This was our aspiration, the reality was a little more complex.

We had hoped to spend the day before our trek doing a shorter hike at the foot of the Kora, however I woke up on the morning of that day with all the world blurred out of recognition outside a 6 inch range. Even a side journey to some local hot springs said to "cure blindness" did not bring the apparently astonishing scenery back into sharp relief.

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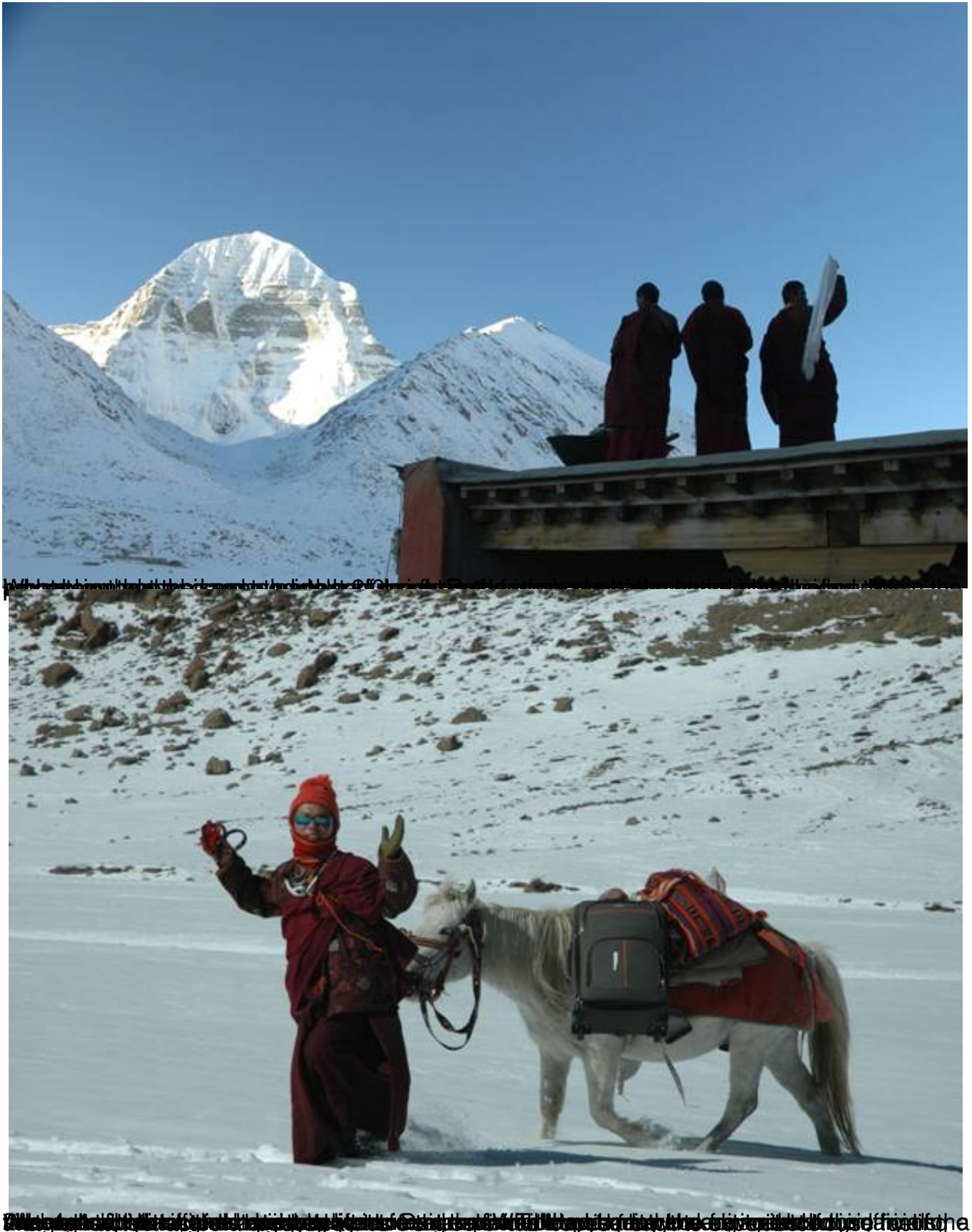
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