

Lake Manasssarova to Lhasa

Written by Administrator

Friday, 04 December 2009 04:54 - Last Updated Friday, 04 December 2009 05:59



Following our semi-kora we followed the usual pilgrim's route to Lake Manasssarova, or Maphan Yun-tso, the holiest lake in Tibet, as well as one of the highest at around 4580m. Apart from its incredible beauty in the shadow of 7728m Mt Gurla Mandhata and its proximity to Mt Kailash, the lake also has more hot springs nearby, which were just the ticket hours after our trek. The lake also has to classify as the coldest place we have yet stayed in Tibet, partly due to altitude but mostly due to the strong winds that seem to plague this small water-bound region. Although still below freezing, the cold is not so bad during the day when the strong, high altitude sunlight gives a psychological boost, however during the night we had to develop tactics to cope. These included pre-heating of sleeping layers while fully dressed as well as taking to bed all manner of items that require warmth to function: These included cameras, mobile phones, water bottles, clothing to avoid the early morning shock and eventually jerry cans of diesel when the fuel started to go waxy and could not be poured. Intimate bed time moments were limited to blown kisses through chapped lips across the gap between his and hers sleeping bags. We also started to dread the late night runs to the outdoor toilet. Tibetan long-drop toilets have no cover to speak of and the back of the long-drop is open, presumably to allow for periodic emptying, however it also has the effect of allowing the wind to blow back up the drop, which can occasionally make dropping a challenge.

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