

Trip Report

OCA Wildlife Tour to Tibet

June 28-July 6, 2026

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OCA tour leaders: Mary Gerritsen and Wenqing Perner

Few destinations possess the sense of grandeur and remoteness of Tibet. Stretching across the immense Tibetan Plateau, the landscape is one of snow-covered Himalayan peaks, sweeping grasslands, deep river valleys and brilliant turquoise lakes, with ancient monasteries and small villages appearing almost impossibly against the vastness of the surrounding mountains. This high-altitude wilderness is also home to a remarkable collection of wildlife, including kiang, Tibetan gazelle, wild yak and Tibetan antelope. Yet Tibet's greatest attraction may be the opportunity to experience its distinctive and deeply rooted culture. Tibetan Buddhism remains an important part of the region's cultural heritage, reflected in its monasteries, sacred art and historic sites such as Lhasa's Potala Palace and Jokhang Temple. Traveling through Tibet offers a rare combination of spectacular scenery, fascinating wildlife and encounters with a culture unlike anywhere else in the world.

This tour was arranged as an add on to our Northern Yunnan "Orchids in the Wild Tour". However, in contrast to most of the OCA tours, the focus of this tour was to be the scenery and the wildlife.

June 28: Travel to Lhasa

Our Tibet tour began with an early morning flight (on "Lucky Air" from Kunming to Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. Note for all future travels to Tibet-no batteries of any type in your checked luggage! After a few minor delays to repack our bags, we were soon flying high over the clouds. We were greeted at the airport by the tour company, who welcomed each of us with the traditional long white khata, a ceremonial scarf symbolizing respect, goodwill, and auspicious wishes. Our guide was Ms. Lui, and our driver, Mr. Sun. Ms. Lui did not speak any English, and Wenqing was kept busy constantly interpreting the long descriptions (I called them the "20 page version"-much of which was probably not translated since they were so lengthy) that Ms. Lui would offer throughout the tour. For the tour we had a comfortable sprinter type van, and our luggage was carried in a separate vehicle that followed us for the entire trip. The van was equipped with an oxygen tank, something we might quite possibly need over the next few days.

Our first stop was the incredible Potala Palace, former home of the Dalai Lamas. Rising dramatically above Lhasa on Red Mountain, the Potala Palace is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of Tibet. At an elevation of about 3,700 meters (12,100 feet), the enormous palace complex dominates the city and seems almost to grow out of the mountain itself. For centuries it served as the winter residence of the Dalai Lamas and as an important center of both religious and political life in Tibet. Its striking white and red buildings contain ceremonial halls, chapels, former living quarters, murals, statues, sacred texts, and the richly decorated burial stupas of several Dalai Lamas.

The palace is divided principally into the White Palace, historically associated with administration and the Dalai Lama's residence, and the Red Palace, devoted largely to religious study and worship. The Potala is remarkable not only for its architecture and treasures, but also for its extraordinary setting, with sweeping views across the Lhasa Valley and surrounding mountains. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994, it remains one of the most important monuments of Tibetan history, art, and Buddhism, and for us it was the defining sight of a journey to Tibet.

Currently the palace is basically a tourist attraction, with no active religious services (The Dalai Lama now lives in exile in India). However, there were still many monks taking care of the palace and its innumerable historical artifacts. Although we could not take photographs inside the palace, we will long remember the gold statues of the different Dalai Lamas, the precious stones, rich carpets and wall hangings and elaborate paintings on the walls themselves.

One of the most fascinating things about the Potala Palace is that its exterior is not simply painted for decoration. The white, deep red-brown, and black are part of a traditional Tibetan architectural vocabulary, and the coatings also help protect the building from Lhasa's intense sun, rain, freezing temperatures, and wind.

The dominant white covers most of the White Palace and the enormous lower walls. White has auspicious associations in Tibetan culture—often linked with goodness, peace, purity, and benevolent intentions. The deep red or maroon is concentrated especially on the Red Palace, the religious heart of the complex containing chapels and the funerary stupas of former Dalai Lamas. Red is associated with religious and spiritual authority. Black is used much more sparingly, especially around windows, doors, and architectural details. Traditional interpretations associate it with protection and the warding off of harmful influences. You may also notice yellow and gold, particularly high on the complex; technically the Potala uses four principal architectural colors, although white and red dominate what you see from a distance.

Remarkably, the exterior finish is renewed every year, generally in autumn after the rainy season and before the onset of winter, traditionally during the ninth month of the Tibetan calendar. The work has long had a communal and religious aspect as well as a practical conservation purpose. Historically, local Tibetans helped with the work and contributed

ingredients; participation itself was regarded as an auspicious act. The work traditionally takes roughly a couple of weeks and is associated with preparations for Lhabab Düchen, one of the major festivals of Tibetan Buddhism.

The coating contains ingredients that sound more like a recipe than house paint. Traditional formulas combine mineral earth or lime with organic additives such as milk, sugar, honey, and animal or bone glue; saffron is also reported in modern accounts. These materials improve the viscosity and adhesion of the coating so that it clings to the masonry rather than quickly flaking away. The organic ingredients also historically had the character of religious offerings. Because of the sugar and milk, the Potala's white exterior is sometimes referred to as its “sweet walls.”

The Potala is essentially an enormous stone, earth, and timber structure. Its great load-bearing walls are built principally of stone masonry and rammed earth, rising directly from Red Mountain. Timber frameworks support the floors and flat roofs, following traditional Tibetan construction techniques. UNESCO specifically describes the palace as enclosed by massive walls, gates, and towers constructed of rammed earth and stone.



Posing for a photo in front of the Potala Palace. L-R: Wenqing Perner, Stefan Ambs, Mary Gerritsen, Bill Jasen, Murray Baker, Zoe Bejar and Arch Conant





Tibetan Mastiffs



Ladders painted on the rocks

Ladders on the hillside: As we began the long climb toward Kamba La Pass and Yamdrok Tso, we noticed curious white ladders painted on the dark rock faces beside the road. These “heavenly ladders” are a traditional Tibetan religious symbol, representing a connection between the earthly and spiritual worlds. In some places they are associated with funerary traditions, providing a symbolic path by which the spirit of the deceased may ascend toward a favorable rebirth or the Buddhist Pure Land. The ladder also has Buddhist significance as a symbol of Shakyamuni Buddha’s descent from the Heaven of the Thirty-Three back to earth.



View from the top of Kamba La Pass and Yamdrok Tso Lake below

Yamdruk Tso is as biologically unusual as it is beautiful. Lying at about 4,440 m (14,570 ft), the enormous fresh water turquoise lake twists between the mountains in a maze of long bays and peninsulas. Its cold waters support remarkably large shoals of high-altitude naked carp, *Gymnocypris waddellii*, a fish native to the Tibetan Plateau. Traditionally, many Tibetans avoided eating fish for religious reasons, and the sacred lake's fish populations were consequently little exploited until a commercial fishery developed in the twentieth century. According to a google search, there are supposed to be over 600 million kg of fish in the lake! Yamdrok is also an important refuge for waterbirds, particularly ducks, gulls and bar-headed geese. To Tibetans, however, the lake is more than a natural feature: it is one of the country's great sacred lakes, associated with a protective goddess and with centuries of pilgrimage and Buddhist tradition.

The top of the pass was over 5000 m! We then descended down to the lakeshore, where we saw quite a few birds, and lots of tourists. The lake seems to be a very popular day trip for tourists visiting Lhasa.



Bill Jasen in front of the 5000 m sign!



Abundant bird life at the lake

Continuing on our road trip, we followed the road around the lake, ascended yet another very high pass, and then began to see some amazing, enormous glaciers. We then entered a more agricultural region, with lots of barley fields and a lovely temple off in the distance.

After leaving Yamdrok Tso and continuing toward Shigatse, we reached Gyantse, dominated by the imposing Gyantse Dzong perched high on a rocky hill above the town. The 14th-century fortress once guarded an important route into central Tibet, but it is best known for its role in the British invasion of Tibet in 1904. Tibetan troops made a determined stand here against the much better armed British-Indian expedition led by Francis Younghusband. On July 6, British mountain artillery finally blasted a breach in the fortress walls, allowing Gurkha and British troops to storm the steep hillside and capture the dzong

after fierce resistance. Today Gyantse remembers the battle as one of the great symbols of Tibetan resistance to foreign invasion.



Views of the massive glacier



Wenqing in front of another large glacier



Close up view of the large glacier



Gyantse Dzong fortress

We finally reached the city of Shigatse, where we would spend the night. The first hotel that we tried to check into was apparently not approved for foreigners (?) but we quickly moved to a second hotel. Shigatse (also spelled Xigazê) is Tibet's second-largest city and historically the great center of Tsang, the western half of central Tibet. It lies at about 3,800 m (12,500 ft) in a broad, fertile valley near the confluence of the Nyang Chu and Yarlung Tsangpo rivers. Because the surrounding valley is relatively productive by Tibetan standards, the area has long been an important agricultural center as well as a crossroads for routes leading west toward Nepal, Mount Everest and western Tibet.

June 30: Tashilhunpo Monastery and on to Xiangza County

The Tashilhunpo Monastery was founded in 1447 by Gedun Drupa, who was later recognized as the First Dalai Lama. In the 17th century it became the traditional seat of the Panchen Lamas, who, together with the Dalai Lamas, became the two most important religious figures in the Gelug school of Tibetan Buddhism. At its height, Tashilhunpo was a major monastic university with thousands of monks. The enormous complex climbing the hillside above Shigatse still contains gilded-roofed temples, richly decorated assembly halls, tomb stupas of several Panchen Lamas and a monumental statue of Maitreya, the Future Buddha.

Our visit to Tashilhunpo happened to coincide with the final day of the monastery's spectacular three-day Thangka Festival. Each morning an enormous sacred image is unfurled on the great white display wall above the monastery: Amitabha Buddha on the first day, Shakyamuni on the second, and Maitreya—the Buddha of the Future—on the third. June 30 was the final day, and thousands of pilgrims gathered as the immense image of Maitreya was revealed. Monks chanted and performed rituals while worshippers made offerings and circumambulated the monastery. The centuries-old festival is one of the great religious celebrations of Shigatse, symbolically linking the Buddhas of the past, present and future.

We met a talkative monk named Denzen outside one of the buildings, and he told us a little about life in the monastery.

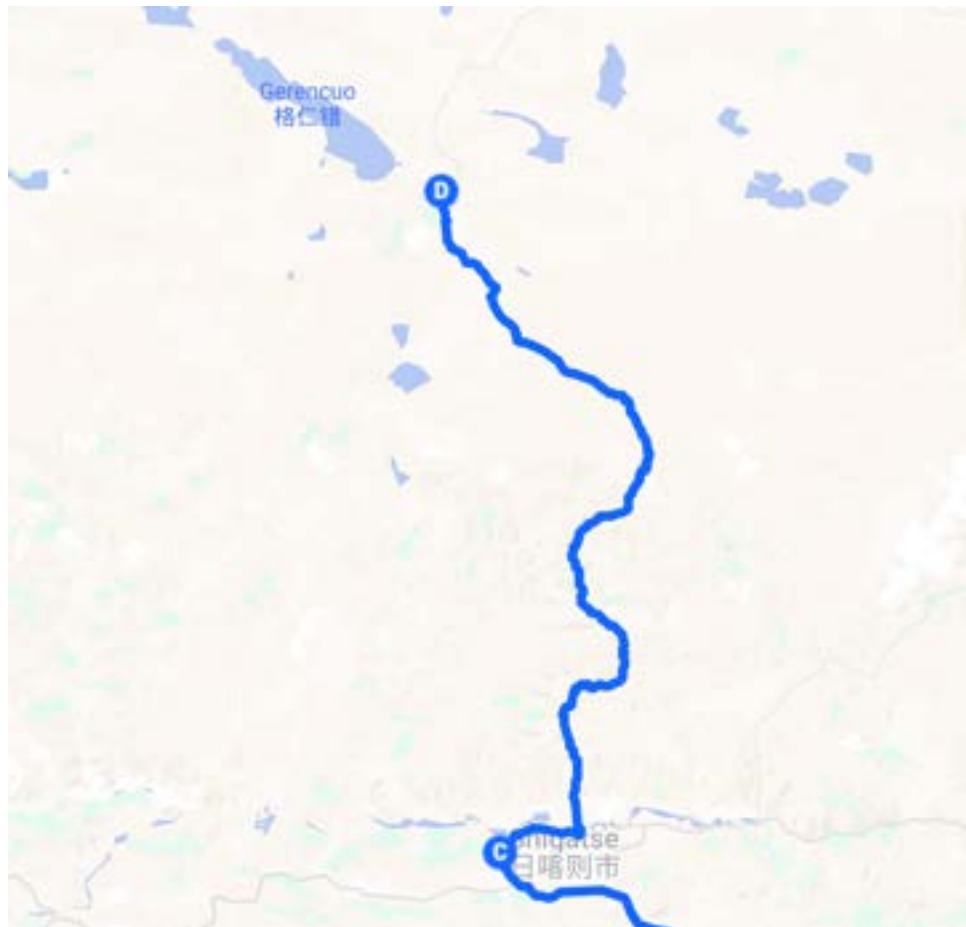


The enormous thangka of Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future, displayed at Tashilhunpo Monastery on the final day of the annual Buddha Unfolding Festival, June 30, 2026



Tashilhunpo Monastery

After the tour we headed out of town, this time going north toward Xianza ("D" on map below). We were soon climbing, cresting a pass that was 17,116 ft! On the road up to the pass we passed our first wildlife sighting, bharal or blue sheep (*Pseudois nayaur*)



Blue sheep



Blue sheep

Once up on the plateau, we began to see lots of wildlife. On this day, we spotted roughly 70 Tibetan antelope, or chiru (*Pantholops hodgsonii*), scattered among several small herds; about half a dozen Tibetan gazelles, or goa (*Procapra picticaudata*); around ten kiang, and the Tibetan wild ass (*Equus kiang*). Among the day's wildlife sightings was a solitary wild yak, or drong (*Bos mutus*). Much larger and more powerfully built than the familiar domestic yak, wild yaks now survive primarily in the remote high-altitude grasslands of northern and western Tibet. Seeing one alone on the open plateau, miles from any domestic yak herds, was a particularly memorable sighting.

As we saw the antelope, gazelles and kiangs many additional times, the photos shown are just representative of what we saw.



The vast expanse of the plateau. We humans are dwarfed by the scale.



Tibetan antelope, or chiru



Tibetan antelope, or chiru



Tibetan antelope (Chiru)



Tibetan gazelle (Goa)



Wild yak



Wild ass (kiang)



Another monastery



Wild ass (kiang)



Black-necked Crane (trung-trung jing-nak)

We passed a field next to the road that had a lovely collection of different wildflowers, and we stopped for a few photos. The man whose field it was came out to meet us and we tried to tell him how much we liked his flowers!





Primula

Our hotel in Xiangza was a little unusual. Instead of regular cloth towels, the towels provided in the room were disposable paper. Perhaps this reflected the high desert like quality of the region, with very limited water. The other memorable thing about this hotel was the elevation, 15,639 ft! Fortunately there was an oxygen dispenser in the room, so we could feed in some oxygen while we were sleeping, but it was still an extremely uncomfortable sleep.

July 1. Xiangza County towards Lake Selincuo and then to Tangra Yumco

Today we headed further north towards a large lake called Selin Co then turned off on a side road, S301, which circled part of the lake. However, just as we were headed out of Xiangza, we passed a swampy area next to the highway, where our guides spotted some nesting black necked cranes (*Grus nigricollis*). There we also met a photographer who had been studying the birds for 9 years. Apparently the chicks were eaten almost every year by local dogs that enter the swamp and raid the nest.



Photographer studying the cranes



Black-Necked Crane (note the dog to the left)

The landscape we were traveling through is part of the vast internally drained Tibetan Plateau. Much of this country is extremely high, cold and dry, and numerous basins have no outlet to the ocean. Rivers carry tiny amounts of dissolved minerals—sodium, chloride, sulfate, carbonate and other salts—into these lakes. The water evaporates, but the minerals remain behind. Over thousands of years they become concentrated.

The result is a remarkable mosaic of lakes ranging from almost fresh to extremely saline. There can even be striking differences between neighboring lakes because each has its own balance of rainfall, inflowing streams, groundwater, evaporation and geological substrates. A published survey, for example, reported approximate salinities of 18 PSU for Selin Co, 9.7 PSU for Dangre Yumco, but an extraordinary 261 PSU for Cuo E. Normal seawater is about 35 PSU.

En route to Tamco Yumco we passed many more smaller lakes. The elevation in the entire area was basically 15,000 feet or higher, and the landscape stark and amazingly colorful with the colorful lakes, and striking hills and mountains contrasted against the almost cloudless blue sky. We spotted more gazelles, antelopes, a fox (he disappeared too quickly for a photo), wild asses, bearded vultures and even a few golden eagles. One of the lakes had a number of nesting black necked cranes as well as the colorful ducks. Overnight in South Ombu. The hotel had incredible views of the lake.



One of the many lakes in the region



Incredible views of the stark, but colorful landscape in the Tibetan plateau



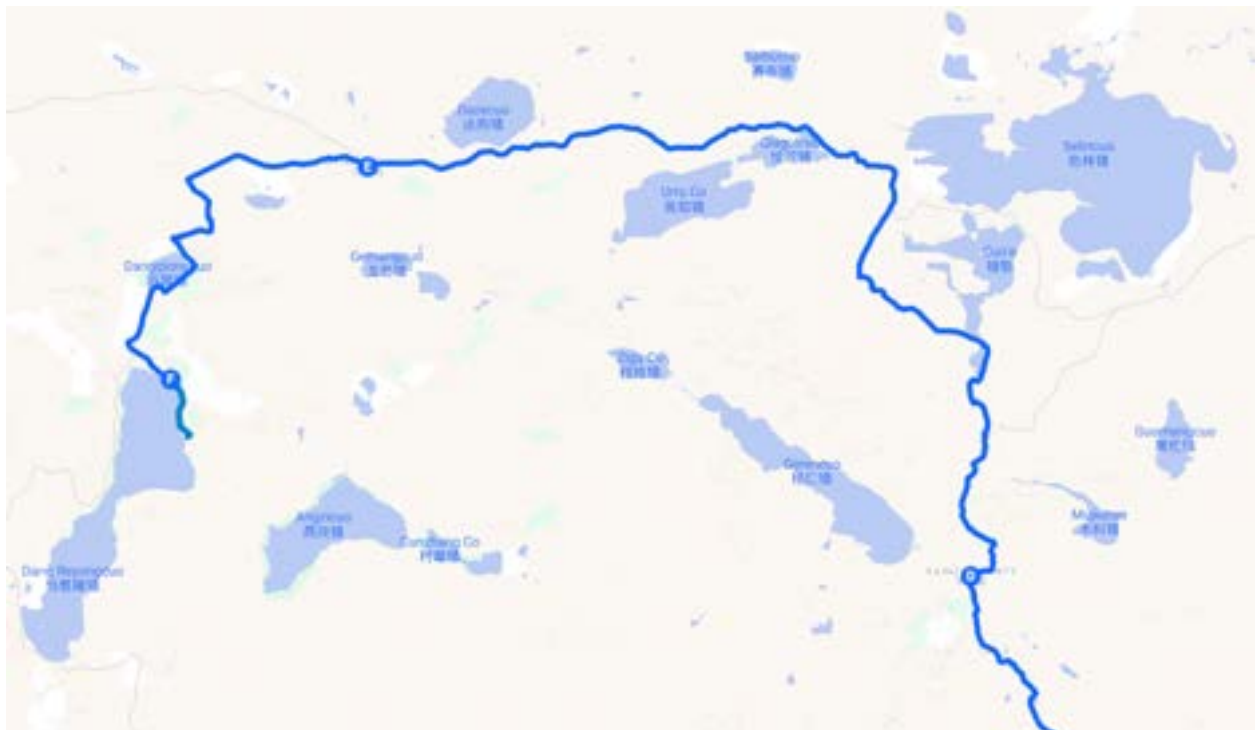
Black-necked cranes with 2 chicks



Another of the amazing lakes in this region



Tangra Yumco



Map of our route from Xiangza to Tangra Yumco. We stayed overnight in South Ombu (F on the Map) but traveled down a rough track on the side of the lake to the very old Qiongzong ruins. South Ombu lies on the eastern shore of Tangra Yumco, one of the holiest lakes of the ancient Bön religion. The surrounding region was once an important center of the Zhangzhung kingdom, the civilization that dominated much of western Tibet before the rise of the Tibetan Empire. A short distance south of the village are the ruins of ancient forts and settlements, including Khyung Dzong, or “Eagle Fort,” traditionally associated with the last

king of Zhangzhung, and the nearby Yuben Monastery, one of the region's oldest Bön religious centers. The area is therefore regarded as one of the great surviving heartlands of Tibet's pre-Buddhist religious and cultural traditions. The monastery was said to be over 700 years old. We also met the monk who lived there and maintained the site, which was very primitive.



The Yuben Monastery



The villagers at the village surrounding the monastery

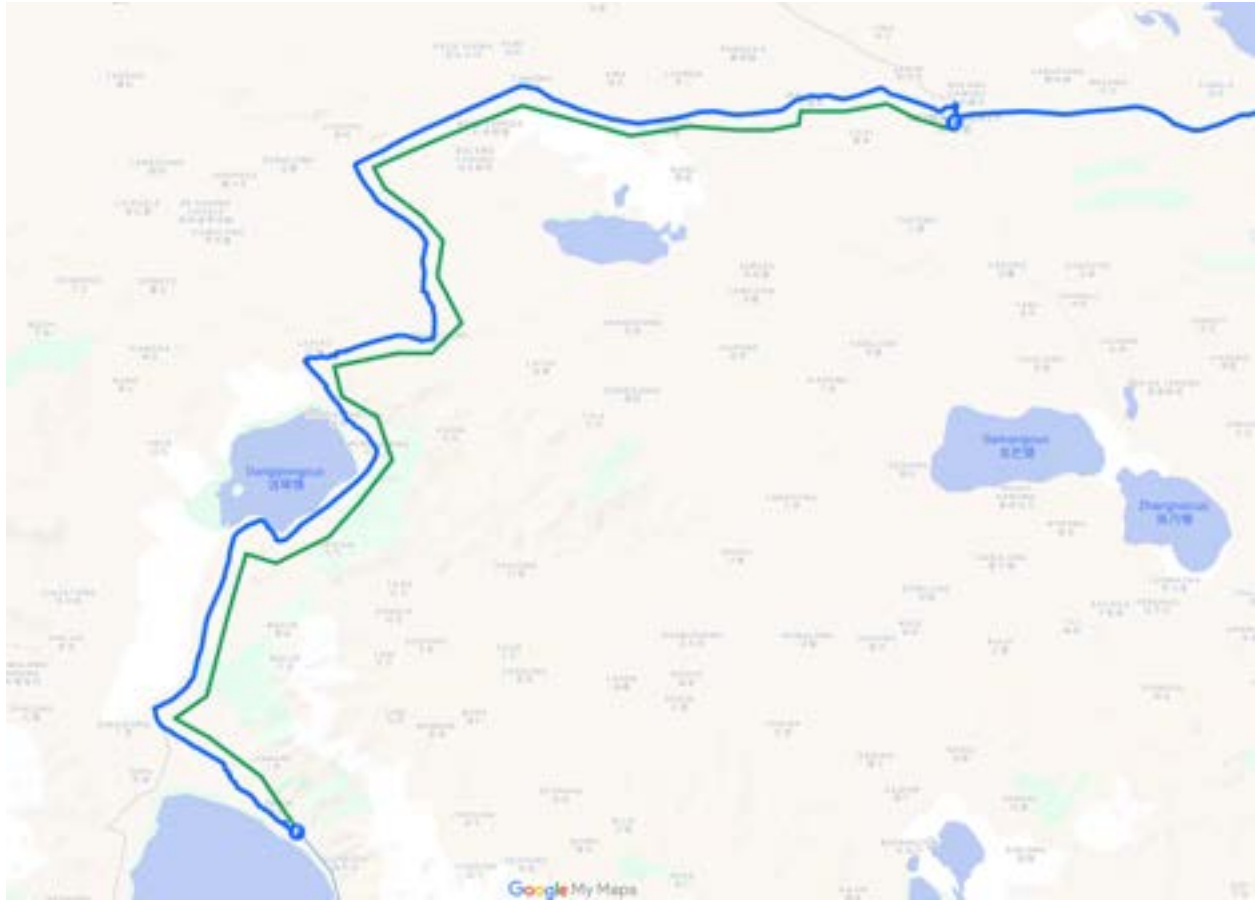


July 2. South Ombu to Nyima

Today was basically a long drive with breathtaking scenery-lakes, wildlife, and the enormous Dago mountain. We made it to Nyima (E on the map) and had an excellent meal at one of the restaurants (the owner picked us up from the hotel and drove us to the restaurant).



Herd of the Tibetan gazelle



Snow capped peaks of Dago (Dargo) Mountain

On the return to Nyima, we saw an absolutely gorgeous lake (the photos just don't do it justice) and a amazing array of wildlife. More of the Wild assess than we had seen on any previous days, a few antelope, a fox, buzzard black necked cranes, geese and ducks. The fox was too shy for a photo-it disappeared almost as soon as we stopped the bus.





Gorgeous lake and reflections



Bar-headed geese (Bar-headed Goose, ngang-pa karmo (*Anser indicus*))

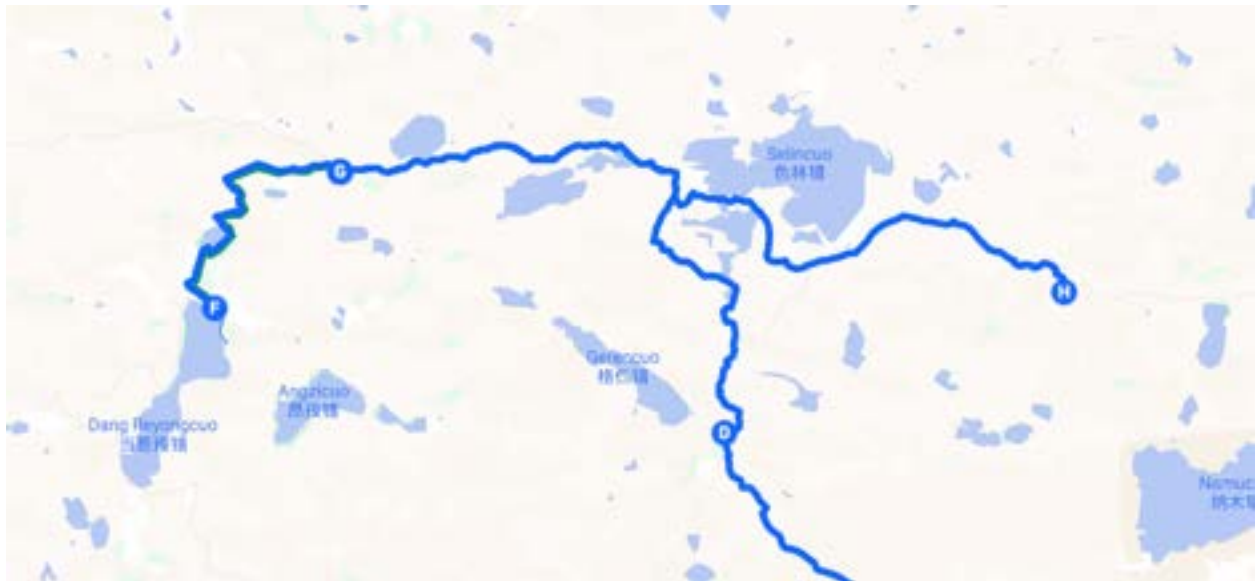
July 3 Nyima to Baigoin (G TO H on the map)

Today we were treated to the spectacular view of Selin Co Lake. We stopped in the isthmus between the lake and an adjacent one, and got some great photos of the lake and wildlife on both sides. An enterprising young man (and musician) had set up a coffee truck, so we enjoyed both his coffee and music while we explored the lakeshore.

Selin Co, at about 4,540 m above sea level, is now the largest lake in Tibet. Like many of the great lakes of the central Tibetan Plateau, it occupies a closed basin with no outlet to the sea, and its waters are consequently saline. The lake has expanded dramatically in recent

decades, increasing by nearly half since the 1970s as precipitation, evaporation, glacier melt and thawing permafrost have altered the regional water balance. Surrounded by vast expanses of alpine steppe and wetlands, Selin Co is also an important wildlife refuge, particularly for Black-necked Cranes, and the surrounding plateau supports Tibetan antelope, gazelles, kiang and wild yak. Its deep blue waters, barren mountains and immense open skies make it one of the most impressive landscapes of northern Tibet.

The lakeshore also had several unusual plants so we spent some time photographing those as well,



Lake Selin Co was immense



Pedicularis sp.
On the lakeshore



Curious plant
On the lakeshore



Tibetan ponies available for trail ride around the lakeshore



Enterprising coffee business



Wenqing enjoying the music

July 4. Baingon to Dansing County

Today we headed back towards Lhasa, but importantly we would make a side excursion to the beautiful Namtso Lake. In contrast to previous days, we saw very sparse wildlife—a few gazelles, but mostly lots of domestic yaks and sheep. To get to Namtso Lake, we left our vehicle in a tourist area, and boarded a small (and very badly maintained) bus that traveled over a rough track to the lakeshore.

Namtso, the “Heavenly Lake,” lies at approximately 4,720 m (15,500 ft) and is one of Tibet’s largest and most sacred lakes. Its immense blue waters stretch beneath the snow-covered Nyainqêntanglha Mountains, whose glaciers and streams help feed the lake. Like many of the great lakes of the Tibetan Plateau, Namtso lies in a closed basin with no outlet; water leaves primarily through evaporation, making the lake slightly saline. For Tibetans it is much more than a spectacular landscape: Namtso is a sacred lake associated with the protective deity of the neighboring Nyainqêntanglha Mountains and has for centuries been an important destination for pilgrims performing ritual circumambulations around its shores.



Namtso Lake





Namtso Lake



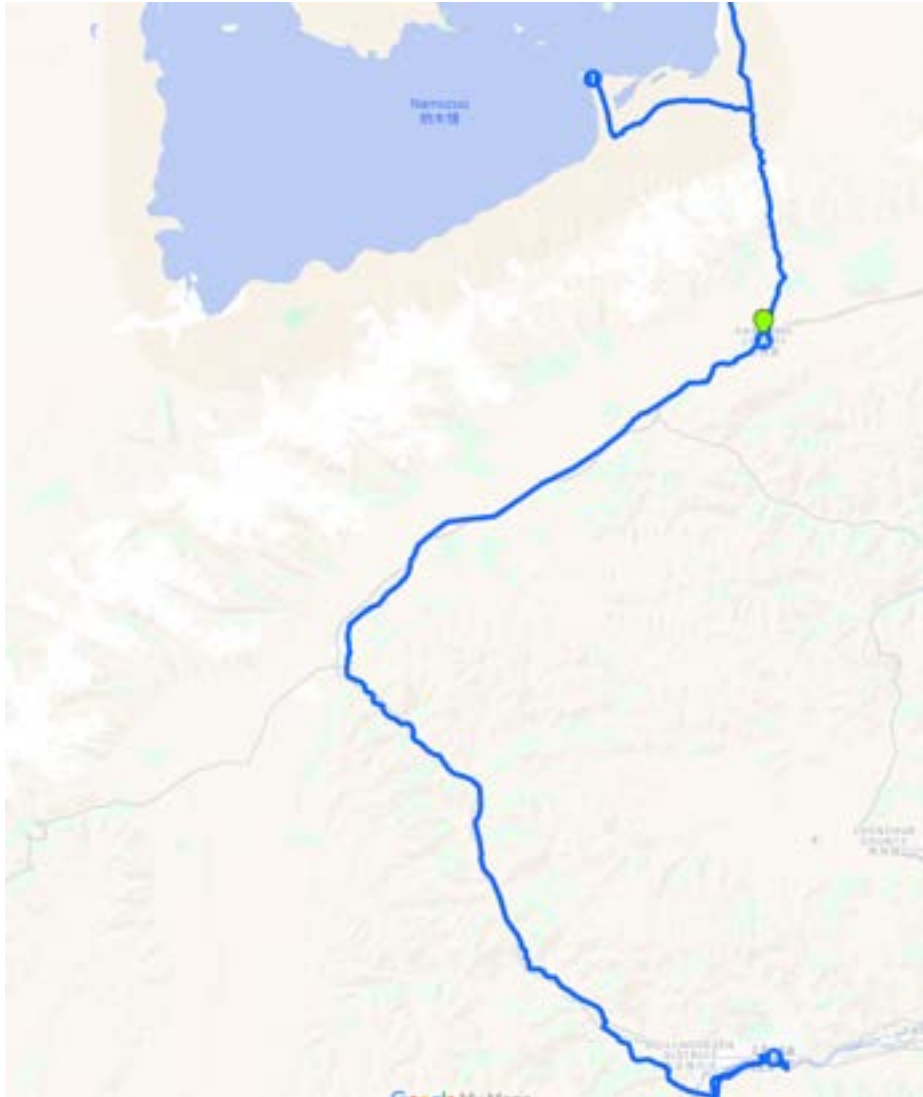
July 5. Dansing County to Lhasa



Tibetan Fox (Note, this is a picture of a photo at a tourist stop. Although we caught a glimpse of one, they were too fast for a photo)



Zoe Bejar, Wenqing Perner and Mary Gerritsen



Final route to Lhasa (Green icon is Damzung)

After our overnight stay at the “Holy Goat Manor” hotel in Damzung, we left the hotel and headed back towards Lhasa. This was a long day of driving, although the scenery, as it has been throughout the trip, was breathtaking. We finally passed over a ~15000 ft pass and descended “down” to the lower elevation plain where Lhasa is located (just 12000 ft!). We arrived in Lhasa about noon, checked into our hotel and had the afternoon free for some shopping, lunch and coffee in the central part of Lhasa.

We enjoyed a wonderful Nepali style meal at the same restaurant we had visited on our first night in Lhasa, then returned to our hotel to pack for the next day.

July 6. Return to Kunming



Shopping in central Lhasa

Before we left for the airport we made one last stop, at yet another monastery, in the outskirts of Lhasa. The Sera Monastery is set against the rocky mountains on the northern edge of Lhasa, and is one of Tibet's great historic centers of Buddhist learning. Founded in 1419, its whitewashed temples, assembly halls and monastic colleges have trained generations of monks in Tibetan Buddhist philosophy. Sera is particularly famous for its lively monastic debates, in which monks challenge one another with rapid questions, emphatic gestures and dramatic claps of the hands—a centuries-old teaching tradition that provides visitors with a fascinating glimpse into the intellectual and spiritual life of Tibetan Buddhism.



Decorative rock at the monastery



We all then left for the airport, heading back to Kunming and from there our respective homes.

An Avian Aside

Stefan Ambs was keeping track of the different bird species that he saw on the earlier Yunnan tour and the Tibet tour. Below is his list of species that he saw on one (or both) of the two journeys.

Bar-headed goose	<i>Anser indicus</i>
Ruddy shelduck	<i>Tadorna ferruginea</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Ferruginous duck	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>
Common merganser	<i>Mergus merganser</i>
Little grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>
Great crested grebe	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>
Black-crowned night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Chinese pond heron	<i>Ardeola bacchus</i>
Bearded vulture	<i>Gypaetus barbatus</i>
Himalayan griffon	<i>Gyps himalayensis</i>
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>
Himalayan buzzard	<i>Buteo relictus</i>
Eurasian coot	<i>Fulica atra</i>
Black-necked crane	<i>Grus nigricollis</i>
Common redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Brown-headed gull	<i>Chroicocephalus brunnicephalus</i>

Pallas's gull	<i>Ichthyaetus ichthyaetus</i>
Common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
Hill pigeon	<i>Columba rupestris</i>
Snow pigeon	<i>Columba leuconota</i>
Oriental turtle dove	<i>Streptopelia orientalis</i>
Pacific swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>
Salim Ali's swift	<i>Apus salimalii</i>
Eurasian hoopoe	<i>Upupa epops</i>
Great barbet	<i>Psilopogon faiostriatus</i>
Eurasian krestel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Brown shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>
Gray-backed shrike	<i>Lanius tephronotus</i>
Black drongo	<i>Dicrurus macrocercus</i>
White-throated fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
Red-billed magpie	<i>Urocissa erythroryncha</i>
Black-rumped magpie	<i>Pica bottanensis</i>
Red-billed chough	<i>Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax</i>
Common raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Gray-headed canary flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
Ground tit	<i>Pseudopodoces humilis</i>
Green-backed tit	<i>Parus monticolus</i>
Oriental skylark	<i>Alauda gulgula</i>
Horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris</i>
Black bulbul	<i>Hypsipetes leucocephalus</i>
Brown-breasted bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus xanthorrhous</i>
Light-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus sinensis</i>
Pale sand martin	<i>Riparia diluta</i>
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Eurasian crag martin	<i>Ptyonoprogne rupestris</i>
Red-rumped swallow	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>
Asian house martin	<i>Delichon dasypus</i>
Black-throated tit	<i>Aegithalos concinnus</i>
Gray-crowned warbler	<i>Phylloscopus tephrocephalus</i>
Gray-breasted prinia	<i>Prinia hodgsonii</i>
Rusty-capped fulvetta	<i>Schoeniparus dubius</i>
Prince Henry's laughingtrush	<i>Trochalopteron henrici</i>
Blue-winged minla	<i>Actinodura cyanouroptera</i>
White-browed laughingtrush	<i>Pterorhinus sannio</i>
Black-throated laughingtrush	<i>Pterorhinus chinensis</i>
Giant babax	<i>Pterorhinus waddelli</i>
Indian white-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Black-collared starling	<i>Gracupica nigricollis</i>
Black-breasted thrush	<i>Turdus dissimilis</i>

Chinese blackbird	<i>Turdus mandarinus</i>
Tibetan blackbird	<i>Turdus maximus</i>
Chestnut thrush	<i>Turdus rubrocanus</i>
Oriental magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
Verdin flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>
Black redstart	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>
White-winged redstart	<i>Phoenicurus erythrogastus</i>
Blue-fronted redstart	<i>Phoenicurus frontalis</i>
Daurian redstart	<i>Phoenicurus aureus</i>
Plumbeous redstart	<i>Phoenicurus fulliginosus</i>
White-capped redstart	<i>Phoenicurus leucocephalus</i>
Siberian stonechat	<i>Saxicola maurus</i>
Gray bushchat	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>
Fire-breasted flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>
Fire-tailed sunbird	<i>Aethopyga ignicauda</i>
Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
Russet sparrow	<i>Passer cinnamomeus</i>
Black-winged snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla adamsi</i>
Tibetan snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla henrici</i>
White-rumped snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla taczanowskii</i>
Rufous-necked snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla ruficollis</i>
Blanford's snowfinch	<i>Montifringilla blanfordii</i>
Robin accentor	<i>Prunella rubeculoides</i>
Brown accentor	<i>Prunella fulvescens</i>
White wagtail	<i>Motacilla alba</i>
Gray Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
White-winged grosbeak	<i>Mycerobas carnipes</i>
Black-headed mountain finch	<i>Leucosticte brandti</i>
Great rosefinch	<i>Carpodacus rubicilla</i>
Oriental greenfinch	<i>Chloris sinica</i>