Shangri-la to Tibet

29 day escorted tour departing 9 June 2018
Since 1976 Far Horizons has escorted more than 180 tours to over 170 countries on all seven continents. We have an established clientele of devoted followers who appreciate our uncompromising policy of providing high quality accommodation and services, with meticulous attention to detail in some of the world's most exotic and stimulating regions. Our tours are fully escorted and inclusive of all transportation, accommodation, meals, sightseeing, cultural events and gratuities. Capacity is limited to fifteen, which we feel is the ideal maximum to achieve the degree of personal attention and 'camaraderie' which is the hallmark of Far Horizons.

From time immemorial the idea of 'Shangrila' has evoked visions of mystical wealth and spiritual well-being, immense treasure and scenic splendour. But no one has ever truly found 'Shangrila' - until recently...

Shangrila (also known as Gyalthang) does exist. In the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan, which lies at the far eastern edge of the Himalayan uplift, is a culturally rich, stunningly scenic and diverse geological region that our 'Shangrila to Tibet' tour will explore in great detail over the course of our journey from Kunming to Lhasa (which has also been referred to as the mystical 'Shangrila').

Yunnan is one of the most biologically and ethnically diverse provinces of China, with ethnic minorities accounting for about 34 percent of its total population. Major ethnic groups include the Yi, Bai, Naxi, Hani, Zhuang, Dai and Miao. The province contains snow-capped mountains, meadows, grasslands and tropical environments supporting a full spectrum of animal species and vegetation types.

Our journey from Kunming to Shangrila encounters many diverse scenic, cultural, historical and natural attractions of this less visited region of China before flying to Tibet to see the wonders of ancient Lhasa on the high Tibetan plateau, crossing remote grasslands of Qinghai to the Terracotta warriors and Silk Road capital of Xian before culminating in Chengdu.

Highlights of the tour include visits to ancient villages and encounters with members of the Bai, Naxi and possibly Moso and Yi ethnic minorities; ancient, historical and remarkable architectural attractions dating back as much as 2,000 years; tracking the beautiful Snub-nosed or Golden monkey at Baima Reserve and Giant Panda at the Chengdu Research Base; attending a Sichuan Opera, a Tang Dynasty Show, visiting a traditional tea house and sampling unique and exotic cuisine; exploring the Potala palace, Jokhang and other ancient Tibetan monasteries; taking the 'highest train in the world' from Lhasa to Xian; the Terracotta warriors of Xian and the cosmopolitan delights of Kunming and Chengdu.
Shangrila to Tibet

Our journey begins with the overnight China Southern Airlines flight from Sydney to Guangzhou, connecting early the next morning to Kunming, capital and largest city of Yunnan province, one of the most diverse and beautiful regions of China. At least 22 minority races reside in Yunnan today including Bai, Tibetans, Yi, Naxi, Moso, Mongols, Lahu, and Lisu - the greatest concentration of minority nationalities of any Chinese province.

Kunming lies adjacent to the temple- and willow-lined Green Lake, and is often called “the city of eternal spring” as flowers bloom here all year round. We’ll take a walk through Green lake Park and watch the T’ai Chi devotees or modern dancers at their art, the edge of the Park buzzing with vendors selling local snacks, home made pickles, caramel candy, hot rolls, bags, belts and hats and more. We stay two nights at Green Lake Hotel.

We spend the day exploring the city of Kunming with visits to the Yuanthong and Bamboo Temples. Yuanthong Temple is a well-restored Buddhist Temple dating back to the eighth century when Yunnan was an independent Kingdom from China.

Bamboo temple was built during the Tang Dynasty and restored in the 19th century, when a master craftsman from Sechuan was employed to sculpt the 500 Buddhist ‘erhats’ or ‘lohans’. These brilliant life size erhats line the grounds, walls and stretch all over the large temple in a lifelike and yet surrealist atmosphere. Legend and local belief has it that you will be drawn to one particular erhat, the one that most represents your inner self.

We also visit the Bird and flower market and, time permitting, learn about Pu’erh Tea at the Yunnan Luyu Tea Culture Exchange facility. Departing Kunming, we drive northwest through pine and mixed forests to the valley of Lufeng where we visit the World Dinosaur Museum, at the entrance of which there are 4 large pillars carved with 240 Dinosaurs. The main Museum houses the full skeletal bodies of 52 Dinosaurs unearthed here, which date from between 135 to 180 million years ago. Gradually ascending in altitude, we continue on to Dali (1900m) to rest and acclimatise at Dali Gurong Hotel.

Dali is a town in a long valley on the plains between the Cangshan (Jade Green) Mountains and Erhai (Ear shaped) Lake, and is the historic home of the Bai people. During the 8th and 9th centuries Dali was the capital of the Nanzhao kingdom and at its height conquered much of Burma, parts of Vietnam and parts of Sichuan province. We visit the old walled city and markets.

We visit Weishan, an old Bonnan tea trading town where there are many family run shops of basket weavers, tofu makers, cobblers, horse tack sellers and more. The gate in the center square dates from Nanzhou times. We may come across Yi people who bring their herbs, mushrooms, vegetables, fruits and black rice to market. On our way back to Dali we visit Lotus Flower Village and Hui Temple, its muslim population boasting an ancient tradition of trading tea and dry fruits.

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Leaving Dali we drive north around Erhai lake to Xizhou where we try the famous ‘Xizhou baba’ a pastry filled with sweet bean paste or a savory filling. We continue driving over winding roads through pine forests to Shaxi, a small quiet town which dates back to around 400BC and is known for the mining of copper and expertise in smelting bronze.

Later in Tang and Song Dynasty Shaxi was an important stopover in the tea trading route from Puer to Dali and on to Tibet, Burma and India. We stroll through Sideng market square dominated by a temple, theatre, shops and stables and stay two nights at Laomadien Lodge, a traditional style Inn.

The next day we visit the fascinating site of Shebaoshan. Here, amidst lovely pine forests, we walk to the grottos and temples at Nanzhou which depict excellent carvings of local life. Nanzhou was a great center of learning in ancient times and the murals and carvings depict the visits of teachers and emissaries from afar. Back in Shaxi we'll taste ‘Ba Da Wan’, a local specialty called “Yunnan eight bowl” which consists of 8 different dishes that local people like to have on special occasions such as Chinese New Year, weddings and funerals.

Continuing north, Lijiang (2400m) is an ancient town with narrow cobblestone streets and willow-lined canals of clear snowmelt which meander through the old town. Ming Dynasty arched stone bridges connect the streets, alleys and trading squares. This will be a gentle day to assist with acclimatisation, so we'll take a relaxed stroll in the main square before retiring to the Hyatt Hotel where we stay two nights.

Lijiang is the cultural center and capital of the Naxi people, a small matriarchal tribe with a rich culture. Now a UNESCO World Heritage site, Lijiang has existed for at least 800 years and has its own ancient Tibeto Burman language with a unique pictographic script and its own tradition of unique music and musical instruments.
Women have traditionally run the market and businesses and men have had more creative pursuits such as gardening and music. The Naxi are descended from a northeastern Tibetan tribe called the Qiang. There remains a strong presence of Tibetans in Lijiang, as well as Moso and Yi from further to the north.

We visit the Black Dragon Pool and spend time in the ancient town, which was at one end of Tibet's trading route. In the market we'll see crafts on sale from many different regions - embroidered bags and shoes and textile, painting on wood, jewellery, as well as local items such as Naxi pictographic paintings on paper and clothing and weaving.

We visit Yuhu village, once the home of Joseph Rock, National Geographic's 'man in China' who lived in Lijiang for many of his twenty-seven years in China. In the early 1920's, the eccentric, flamboyant young Austrian botanist set off into the unexplored hinterlands of southwest China in search of a plant cure for leprosy. He came to love the area and its people so much that he continued to live there and wrote a book on the Naxi and their culture. We visit his old home, now a museum, then drive to Mt. Wenbi and visit its temple before returning to Lijiang.

Still heading north, we pass small villages with apple, pear and peach orchards as we climb towards sparse alpine terrain near Lashe Hai Lake, an important wetland region. The hills are resplendent with plantations of beans, sunflower, mustard, potato, corn and tobacco.

We descend to Shegu (Stone Drum) village near the first bend in the Yangzi River which flows south from the Tibetan plateau. The river almost makes a "U-turn" at Shegu and flows north for about 60 miles. We visit the Memorial commemorating the crossing of the river by the Red Army during the Long March in 1934-1935.

We continue driving north to the village of Tacheng, located just outside the Baima Reserve, home of the Yunnan snub-nosed or golden monkey which lives high in the forests of Hengduanshan - up to 4000m above sea level, giving it the highest habitat of all the world's primates (except for humans). We stay two nights at the Songtsam Tacheng Lodge, a boutique lodge located in a Tibeto Naxi village.

We have the choice of walking in the Baima Reserve in search of these rare primates that live in large groups made up of single male core families, eat wild fruits and lichen, and can endure sub zero winter temperatures. Alternatively we can stroll through Naxi villages to see their culture, customs, local architecture and observe their farmlands, vineyards, cultivation of roses and honey making.
We drive to Chizong to see the old trading post and the temple at the base of a sacred hill. Along the way we’ll see lovely waterfalls and Tibetan homes built of stone with fort-like exteriors. These were important villages along the Tibetan tea trading route to Lhasa in ancient times.

Near the village of Nixi we’ll see hand crafted coal pots, hotpots, soup tureens, teapots and other items made from the black earth.

Beyond the oasis valley of Punzera we drive north and climb towards the jagged peaks of the Baima mountains. The terrain changes dramatically as we rise from 2100m to almost 4000m for spectacular views of the rocky limestone mountains which form the backdrop for our visit to the second most important Monastery in the region before reaching Dechin, where we stay two nights at the boutique Songtsam Meli Lodge.

Dechen is a lovely mountain village set in a horseshoe valley on the pilgrims route to sacred Mt Kawakarpo (6740m), the second most important mountain for pilgrimage for Tibetan Buddhists, after Mt. Kailash in Western Tibet. In Autumn, after the harvest, devotees converge on the area to either take the shorter ‘inner pilgrimage’ route or the much longer (2-3 weeks) circumambulation of the entire mountain. On clear days there are spectacular views of Mt. Kawakarpo, its glacier and its consort Mt. Metsomo, the 5 headed peaks of Gewa Ringa, the Wisdom Buddha and the rest of the range.

We visit Xitung village and an old Catholic church built by French missionaries and, time permitting, drive along the Mekong river to visit the sacred temple or Namkhatashi before returning to Dechen to visit an orphanage and school.

As we continue towards Shangrila we’ll visit Dhondupling Monastery. The central building is a four storey structure surrounded by a large courtyard where ‘cham’ dances and other ceremonies are performed during religious festivities. The monastery has a precious woven and painted Thangka (scroll) 8.5 meters in length and 5.2 meters wide of an important Protector deity. Once a year this Thangka is displayed with a day long prayer ceremony and religious dances performed by monks.

Shangrila - or Gyalthang - (3300m) is another important town on the ancient Tibetan horse and tea trade route. Our journey through Yunnan has been gradually ascending and our ‘slow and steady’ pace over the past week will have aided acclimatisation in preparation for our time on the Tibetan plateau. We stay three nights at the comfortable M Gallery Songtsam Linkha Hotel overlooking Ganden Sumtseling Monastery.

The next day we take an easy stroll through the market to see the colourful fruit and vegetable produce, spices and local brass and copper ware, then visit Ganden Sumtseling Monastery,
Shangrila to Tibet

home to at least 700 Buddhist monks. Built in the 17th century by the 5th Dalai Lama, the monastery features numerous chapels, fine woodcarving and religious paintings.

We visit the temple of the 5 Wisdom Buddhas in the Ringha Valley where cattle and sheep mingle with Yak in the grasslands. Time permitting we will visit a kindergarten (stationery gifts are welcomed) before returning to Shangrila.

We'll explore the valley of Shao Zhongdian and its large expanse of grasslands and meandering streams that feed a small Reservoir Lake, then return to Shangrila for the afternoon.

The Napha grasslands surround the wetlands of the same name. Here the hills are rich in herbs and shrubs and we may see the famous Blue Poppy and varieties of gentian and primula. Napha is the winter home of the rare Black Neck crane.

We take the morning flight to Lhasa, with great views of the Hengduan Shan mountains and the great rivers of Asia - the Yangtse, Mekong and Salween. From Gongar (Lhasa's airport) we drive to Zethang, with stops at Yumbulakhang to see the Palace of the God Kings of Tibet; and Mindroling Monastery, the largest Nyingmapa Monastery in Central Tibet, founded in 1676. For 300 years, its monastic University trained Nyingma scholars in scriptures, astronomy, Tibetan lunar calendar, calligraphy, rhetoric and Tibetan traditional medicine. We stay overnight at the basic Tsedang Hotel.

We drive along the Yarlung Tsangpo river which splits the Central Tibetan plateau and cross the river by ferry to reach Samye, Tibet's first Monastery constructed between 775 and 779. We cross back by ferry and drive to Lhasa where we stay three nights at the St Regis Hotel.

We visit the Potala Palace perched high above Lhasa on the Marpori (red) hill. The Potala is the abode of the historical Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara and Palace of the Dalai Lamas. The building is 13 storeys (over 117m) high, has 1,000 rooms, 10,000 shrines and over 200,000 statues.

Colorful meadows, Shangrila

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We stroll through the old heart of Lhasa, Barkhor square and walk around the Jokhang before entering the temple to see the bejewelled Jowo, a precious statue. Legend says the statue was brought to Lhasa by Princess Wenchen from Changan (Xian) via Nishi and Punzera on her way to marry the great Tibetan God king, Songtsen Gampo.

The next day we drive to Pabonka to see the ancient cave residence and meditation center of King Songtsen Gampo, where the first written letters in Tibetan ever to be written are housed. We take a leisurely walk to Sera Monastery which once had nearly 5000 monks and was one of the 3 great Monasteries of Central Tibet, (along with Ganden and Drepung). Sera was famous for its fighting monks the ‘dob dob’ who could ‘jump and fly’, and we may see monks at debate.

We board the highest train in the world for the 35 hour journey (overnight in soft class sleeper) across the Tibetan plateau, through Qinghai to Xian. Past Golmud and on to Naqchu in western Qinghai we see some of the highest grasslands in the world, which are home to the rare Tibetan gazelle and the Golden eagle. In Xian we stay three nights at the Shangrila Hotel.

Said to rival Rome and Constantinople for the title of the Worlds Greatest City, Xians history dates back to the Neolithic period, more than 6000 years ago. About the 3rd century BC, Qin Shihuang became the first Emperor of what was called a unified China, and established a capital near modern-day Xian. As a testimonial to his desire for immortality, he built his own tomb, guarded by thousands of terracotta warriors.

In 582 the Sui Dynasty reunited the country and rebuilt the capital on the site of Qian, naming it Changan. Under the succeeding Tang Dynasty, Changan became the largest city in Asia, and perhaps in the world - a true cosmopolitan center for culture, business, philosophy and religion. Sadly, with the fall of the Tangs in 907AD, the city of Changan fell into decline. Today, however, with the discovery of the terracotta warriors, Xian has re-emerged as a prime tourist destination.

We spend the morning exploring this archeological treasure, visiting the Terracotta Soldier and Horse Museum. In the afternoon we visit Xian’s old city quarter, the home of the Hui people, who came from Central Asia during the Tang dynasty (618-907). We visit the Great Mosque and stroll through the bustling markets and streets with butcher’s shops, sesame oil mills, dry fruit and spice shops.
In the morning, we will drive out 40 km north of the city to an archaeologic site that is considered even more important than the site of the Terracotta warriors of Xian. For years farmers kept unearthing dirt encrusted shards of pottery in this area and only in 1986 a full scale excavation was launched to discover a major site of the Kingdom of Shu, considered the cradle of Chinese civilization in the upper reaches of the Yangtze river. The Museum has artifacts dating as far back as 5000 years ago. It is the largest Museum in South West China, located right on the site of an ancient civilization.

In the afternoon we’ll visit Shaanxi Provincial Museum, the finest Museum of ancient Chinese history in China. Shaanxi is considered to be the cradle of Chinese civilisation and was the capital of 13 ancient Imperial periods. The Museum is built in spectacular Tang Dynasty style and opened in 1991, exhibiting over 113,000 historic and cultural artifacts.

Later we visit the Big and Little Goose Pagodas built in AD 652 to house the Buddhist sutras brought from India by the monk Xuan Zang. In the evening we visit the Tang Le Gong Theatre for dinner and a Tang Dynasty show presented by the Shaanxi Provincial Music and Dance Ensemble.

We fly to Chengdu, capital of Sechuan province, where we stay three nights at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. Chengdu’s history dates back more than 2,300 years, and was a thriving metropolis during the Han Dynasty. Running through the city is Jin Jiang (Brocade) river, a reminder of the city’s silk industry which thrived during the Han Dynasty. Chengdu became one of the most fashionable and liberal of cities. Today it is the 5th most populous city of China, with over 13 million inhabitants.

We will visit the temple of Wu Hao Si, a complex of pavilions and statues commemorating figures from the Three Kingdoms period (AD 220-280), Emperor Liu Bei and the great military strategist Zhuge Liang, immortalised in the classic, ‘The Romance of the Three Kingdoms’.

There is nowhere in China that better represents the culture of tea than Sechuan. The art of tea drinking dates back 3000 years and traditionally the tea house functioned as the center of social life - people played cards, watched opera.
In the afternoon we drive to Dujiangyan irrigation project outside the city, which was constructed in the 3rd century BC by a famed engineer Li Bin. He managed to divert the Min He river into a system of irrigation canals using wood, bamboo, stones and ropes.

A weir system was built to split the force of the river and a trunk canal was cut through the mountains and an annual maintenance system of removing the silt was followed. A temple was erected in AD 168 and later more were added. We will walk through the temples and see the interesting irrigation system and the bridges that were built long ago - and still work today!

Our final morning on tour is at leisure for any last minute shopping or to stroll through the markets, before we take the afternoon China Southern flight from Chengdu to Guangzhou, connecting with the overnight flight to Sydney.
Itinerary & Tariffs

Day 1 Saturday 09 June: By air to Guangzhou
Late evening China Southern flight from Sydney to Guangzhou

Day 2 Sunday: By air to Kunming
Early morning connecting flight from Guangzhou to Kunming. Afternoon sightseeing. Two nights at Green Lake Hotel.

Day 3 Monday: In Kunming
AM and PM sightseeing of Kunming, Yunnan and Bamboo temples.

Day 4 Tuesday: By road to Dali
AM visit Lufeng Dinosaur museum. PM drive to Dali. Two nights at Dali Gurong Hotel.

Day 5 Wednesday: In Dali
Full day excursion to Weishan.

Day 6 Thursday: By road to Shaxi
Full day drive to Shaxi via Xizhou. Two nights at Laomadien Guest House.

Day 7 Friday: In Shaxi
AM and PM sightseeing of Shaxi and Shebaoshan.

Day 8 Saturday: By road to Lijiang
AM drive to Lijiang. PM rest / acclimatise. Two nights at Lijiang Hyatt Hotel.

Day 9 Sunday: In Lijiang
AM and PM sightseeing of Lijiang, Yuhu and Mt Wenbi.

Day 10 Monday: By road to Tacheng
AM drive to Tacheng via Shegu. PM rest / acclimatise. Two nights at Songtsam Tacheng Lodge.

Day 11 Tuesday: Baima Reserve
Visit to Baima (Golden monkey) Reserve or stroll through Naxi villages.

Day 12 Wednesday: By road to Meili
Full day drive to Meili via Dechen and Mt Kawakarpo. Two nights at Songtsam Meili Lodge.

Day 13 Thursday: In Meili
Follow pilgrimate route to Mt Kawakarpo or visit local villages.

Day 14 Friday: By road to Shangrila
Drive to Shangrila (Gyalthang). Three nights at M Gallery Songtsame Linkha Hotel.

Day 15 Saturday: In Shangrila
AM Shangrila sightseeing. PM Ringha Valley Day 16 Sunday: In Shangrila
AM and PM sightseeing. Evening Tang Dynasty Dinner/Show.

Day 17 Monday: By air and road to Zethang
Morning flight to Gongar (Lhasa airport). PM drive to Zethang. Overnight Tsetang Hotel (basic)

Day 18 Tuesday: By road to Lhasa
AM visit Samye. PM drive to Lhasa. Three nights at St Regis Hotel.

Day 19 Wednesday: In Lhasa
AM visit Potala. PM visit Jokhang.

Day 20 Thursday: In Lhasa
Full day excursion to Sera Monastery and Pabongka.

Day 21 Friday: By train to Xian
AM depart by train (35 hour) to Xian in soft class sleeper. Overnight on train.

Day 22 Saturday: Arrive Xian
Arrive Xian late evening. Three nights at Shangrila Hotel.

Day 23 Sunday: In Xian
AM and PM Xian city sightseeing. Evening Tang Dynasty Dinner/Show.

Day 24 Monday: In Xian
AM and PM sightseeing of Hui and Shaanxi.

Day 25 Tuesday: By air to Chengdu
Morning flight to Chengdu. PM sightseeing. Three nights at Ritz Carlton Hotel.

Day 26 Wednesday: In Chengdu
Full day excursion to Panda sanctuary.

Day 27 Thursday: In Chengdu
AM and PM sightseeing.

Day 28 Friday: By air to Sydney
AM sightseeing. Afternoon flight to Guangzhou, connecting with overnight China Southern flight to Sydney.

Day 29 Saturday 07 July: Arrive Sydney

Climatic Conditions
Average temperatures at time of visit:

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Tariffs per person [share twin]
from Sydney
$30,435

Supplement for Single Room
$5,620

Supplement for Business Class air travel
from / to Sydney
$2,090
It is our policy to use the highest quality accommodation available throughout each stage of every tour. In large cities we also select hotels which offer a special ambience, history or favorable location. Outside major cities and towns hotel choices are limited and the 'best available' may be the 'only available' hotel and passengers should be aware that we are not always able to provide fully international standards of accommodation.
General Information and Booking Conditions

To make a booking
Complete the Booking Form on page 14 and return it to Far Horizons Tours Pty Ltd (hereinafter referred to as Far Horizons) with a deposit of $3,000 per person.

Items included in the tour cost
1. Scheduled air travel and taxes as indicated
2. Transfers, assistance and portage between airports and hotels
3. Accommodation in specified hotels or similar
4. Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily whilst on tour
5. Bottled drinking water in vehicles and with meals
6. Gratuities to guides, drivers and tour escort
7. All service charges and local taxes
8. All transportation and sightseeing as indicated
9. All entrance fees, admission charges, entertainments and cultural events
10. Services of Far Horizons escort throughout
11. Services of experienced local guides/lecturers
12. Free baggage allowance of 20 kgs (30kgs on Business Class flights) - or as applied by airline

Items not included in the tour cost
1. Laundry, drinks, room service, mini bar and other items of a personal nature
2. Visa fees (costs will be added to tour invoice)
3. Travel Insurance

Balance of Payment
Fifty percent of the tour cost must be received by Far Horizons at least one hundred & twenty (120) days before departure, and the balance must be received no later than ninety (90) days prior to departure. Approximately two weeks prior to departure we will send you historical notes and a general information booklet which contains information about climate, clothing, health requirements, visa procedures and other matters. Approximately two weeks prior to departure we will send your final joining instructions, detailed day by day itinerary, luggage labels and all other documentation pertinent to your journey. Please note we are not bound to issue any tickets or other travel documents until full payment is made. Failure to make payment when due may at our option be deemed a cancellation by you and we reserve the right to retain the deposit you have paid including any cancellation charges applicable. Late payment may cause the late delivery of travel documents and we accept no responsibility for such delivery or any consequence thereof.

Late Bookings
Bookings made within sixty days of departure will only be accepted if full payment is received at time of booking. Late booking fees may be charged in addition to any charges levied by operating suppliers.

Cancellations
All cancellations must be made to Far Horizons in writing signed by the person who made the original booking. In the event of cancellation the following charges will be levied, depending upon the number of days prior to departure date when Far Horizons receives written notice of cancellation:

- Up to 120 days: $500 *
- 119 - 90 days: loss of deposit * #
- 89 - 45 days: 50% of tour price
- Less than 45 days: 100% of tour price

* plus any non-recoverable deposits paid on your behalf.

# balance of deposit may be transferrable to a future Far Horizons tour on request.

If you fail to avail yourself of any services comprised in the holiday, no refund will be available for services not provided.

Changes to the advertised itinerary or designated airline
Passengers wishing to make changes to the advertised itinerary may do so at an administrative charge of $200 per booking, plus the cost of any additional flights, accommodation and/or services.

The air fare on which this tour is based requires all passengers to travel out together, so any extensions or amendments to the itinerary should take place after the completion of the tour rather than before, otherwise additional charges may be incurred.

Passengers wishing to travel on a ‘land only’ basis, or to travel by airlines other than those designated will be required to pay a supplementary charge of $500 per person.

Changes in prices and itineraries
Prices are based on tariffs, air fares and exchange rates current at 1 May 2017. To reflect fluctuations in exchange rates or increases to the cost elements of the tour we reserve the right to adjust prices as may be necessary at any time.

The tours are based on an economic minimum number of passengers. Should this minimum not be reached, we reserve the right to cancel the tour before non-refundable supplier deposits fall due or at Far Horizons Tours discretion.

The right is reserved to refuse to accept any person, or to terminate any person’s participation in the tour at our own discretion at any time during the course of the tour. We furthermore reserve the right to withdraw a tour or any part of it, or to make such alterations to the itinerary as we deem necessary or desirable in the event of delays or events beyond our control.

In the event of any changes made we will give you or be caused to give you notice thereof including any consequent change in price. In the event any one change or series of changes to your itinerary demonstrates that your tour has thereby become materially different from that contemplated, you have the right to ask to rearrange or withdraw from the tour and monies already paid will be refunded less any charges levied by operating suppliers.

Insurance
We strongly advise passengers to take out travel insurance at the time of booking, covering medical, cancellation and emergency costs, cash in hospital, loss of baggage and documents, hijack compensation, death, disability and loss of income. Far Horizons can issue travel insurance on request.

Accommodation
The basis of accommodation provided is in a twin-share, double-share or single room with private bath or shower and w.c. in luxury, first class or (in remote regions or where infrastructure is limited) best available hotels.

Single rooms and share-twin accommodation
At all hotels rooms are available for single occupancy at the appropriate supplement. These rooms are usually normal twin-bedded rooms, but occasionally they may be smaller. We will endeavour to match single persons wishing to book on a “share-twin” basis. However, such bookings are accepted on the understanding that the single supplement will be payable in the event of our being unable to find a suitable partner. Passengers wishing to book on this basis will be asked to complete a form to assist in providing a compatible partner.

Immigration and Health
Each passenger must be in possession of a valid passport which should be valid for at least six months after completion of tour and have sufficient blank pages available to satisfy visa and arrival stamping procedure requirements. Visas and special permits are required for entry into China/Tibet. Far Horizons will assist with obtaining this. Participation on this tour may involve walking over rough uneven surfaces, embarking/dismounting from small boats or traditional forms of transport, travel at altitude and extremes of climatic conditions. Payment of your deposit confirms your understanding and acceptance of this and your ability to participate in all aspects of the tour.

Acts of God
We are unable to accept liability in contract or in tort for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expenses or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly by force majeure or other events over which we have no control including without limitation or rights, civil strife, terrorist activity, weather conditions, fire, flood, drought, industrial disputes, unusually severe weather, acts of God, acts of government, cancellation.

Independent Suppliers
Far Horizons purchases transportation, flights, hotel accommodation and other services from independent suppliers not affiliated with Far Horizons in any way. Far Horizons act solely as agents for the companies and/or persons supplying these services. Although we try to choose the best suppliers available we have no right to control their operations and accordingly cannot be responsible in any way for day to day problems resulting from the booking, or any loss, damage, delay, inconvenience or injury to persons or property or any loss whatsoever arising, unless it is a direct result of negligence on our part or the part of our employees, but any liability on our part shall be limited (except for death or personal injury) to a maximum of the tour cost subject to these conditions.

Jurisdiction
The passenger’s contract is governed by the law of the State of New South Wales and any legal action arising pursuant to the contract shall be litigated in the appropriate court having jurisdiction in that State.
I enclose herewith a remittance of $3,000 per person for each of the passengers named. I confirm that the relevant Conditions of Booking contained in the General Information section on page 13 have been read and accepted by me and all members of my party.

Signed ____________________________

Date ____________________________