



Eastern Tibet (Kham)

ཁམས་

Includes »

Pasho.....	194
Pomi.....	196
Tashigang.....	198
Bâyĩ.....	199
Draksum-tso.....	201
Chamdo.....	205
Riwoche.....	209
Tsuglhakhang.....	210
Tengchen.....	212
Sok.....	213
Nagchu.....	213

Best Places to Eat

- » Lo Les Traditional Emotion Palace (p199)
- » Guzel (p197)
- » Lhasa Wealth God Restaurant (p213)
- » Qílín Cānguǎn (p209)
- » Yīpīnxiāng Lǚròuguǎn (p211)

Best Places to Stay

- » Ránwūhú Fēngqíngyuán (p196)
- » Tashigang Village (p198)
- » Rinchen Family Guesthouse (p197)
- » Bāngdǎ Qīngnián Lǚshè (p194)

Why Go?

Kham is the face you never knew Tibet had: a land of raging rivers and deep gorges, alpine forests and rolling grasslands, outspoken monks and rebel cowboys. Compared with the rest of this largely barren land, it's a world apart.

It's still part of the Tibetan plateau, but Kham is where Tibet begins its descent towards the subtropical Sichuān basin, and the landscapes here represent both extremes: one day you'll drive over a breathtakingly high mountain pass, the next you'll slide your way through rainforest on a mud-bath road. This is off-the-beaten-track adventure travel at its most exhilarating, and the chances are you'll be the only foreigner in sight.

Kham gains much of its charm from its people. Kham-pas dressed in sheepskin cloaks and with braided hair cruise the region on motorbikes. It can sometimes feel like America's Wild West, only with the cowboys and buffalos replaced by Khampas and yaks.

When to Go

May and June are the best months to travel in eastern Tibet. There's hardly any rain, temperatures are at their most comfortable and much of the landscape is covered in blankets of bright-yellow rapeseed flowers.

If you're here in early August, try to pop in on the Nagchu Horse Festival; well worth a look if you're on the Northern Route.

And don't discount coming in winter (November–February). Temperatures are warmer than you'd think (apart from in the Nagchu region, of course), there's hardly any rain and usually not another tourist in sight.



Eastern Tibet Highlights

1 Stay with a Tibetan family in the charming village of **Tashigang** (p198)

2 Join devout Bön pilgrims on an unforgettable seven-hour trek around holy mountain **Bönri** (p200)

3 Sleep in Tibet's most romantic guesthouse,

suspended on stilts above the cool blue waters of **Ngan-tso** (p196)

4 Detour to Dodoka Gumpa to see its remarkable **skull wall** (p214), in one of Tibet's