

Guge Kingdom

Written by Administrator

Friday, 04 December 2009 04:51 - Last Updated Friday, 04 December 2009 05:58



The Guge Kingdom is home to what was one of the most prosperous kingdoms in Tibet. Its inaccessibility makes it little known although the sights rival any of Tibet's tourist hot spots. For us the two day side trip to the kingdom felt like a proper adventure. It started with a heavily rutted, iced and occasionally washed out track that wove its way across a 5000m pass and down into the valley beyond: A white knuckle ride that was further rewarded by astonishing views of the rolling hills behind and the start of the white-topped Himalayas in front. Once across the pass, festooned with prayer flags, the track joined another and descended into the Guge Kingdom.

The kingdom is based on and below a vast alluvial plane that has been eroded to form enormous and complex gorges, cliffs and pillars of stratified mud and rocky river sediment. After the high planes and mountains of Xinjiang and the Tibetan plateau the contrast is breathtaking as well as slightly eerie.

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