



GADEN SHARTSE  
MONASTERY  
SACRED EARTH  
& HEALING ARTS  
OF TIBET



SEPTEMBER 8-11, 2011  
MAXWELL MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

**The Sacred Earth and Healing Arts of Tibet Tour** is the official tour group of the internationally recognized Gaden Shartse Monastery. Founded in 1409CE, the Gaden Shartse Monastery is one of the three great monasteries of Tibet and is recognized among Tibetans as one of the most important seats of education for Tibetan culture.

The purpose of the tour is to be of service to the world community by nurturing the spread of peace, harmony, compassion and tolerance through educational and cultural exchange, and to raise funds needed to preserve the Tibetan culture and education at Gaden Shartse Monastery, located in the Tibetan Refugee Settlement in Mundgod, India. Funds raised on the tour will be donated directly to the Gaden Shartse Education Project and will be used for educational supplies, teachers, technology, buildings, maintenance, preservation and outreach. No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

**Gaden Monastery** is the original Buddhist monastery of the Gelug tradition of Tibet. The creation of it was prophesied by the Buddha himself 1900 years before its actual founding in 1409 CE. It was a magnificent building complex on a large hillside of Drigri Mountain, which was calm, peaceful and highly suitable place for spiritual development. The monastery is located at approximately 50 kilometers east of Tibet capital city Lhasa and was established by Je Tsongkhapa. There were two colleges within Gaden monastery named Shartse and Jangtse.

Reputed to have had more than 3,300 monks during early years of its existence, it then grew to 5,000 monks by the time of the Chinese invasion in 1950. Gaden quickly became well-known for its strong educational studies combined with moral discipline. Monks soon came to study from every part of Tibet. Though monks came from all ages, the youngest monks started at age seven. Regardless of their focus of study, all the monks engaged in Gaden's rigorous study programs for many years. In addition to vast philosophical study, there was also training in different vocations, religious music, arts, sculpture, and administrative work.

<http://www.gadenshartsecf.org/>



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## TOUR PROGRAMS

### **Green Tara Sand Mandala**

**September 8- 11, Thursday - Sunday**

**Maxwell Museum Hibben Center Free and Open to All**

**Opening Ceremony Thursday Sept. 8, 10:00am**

Mandala Creation Daily 9am - 5pm

Mandala means literally "that which extracts the essence." The monks will create a two-dimensional sand mandala; a cosmic diagram that represents the dwelling place or celestial mansion of a deity. According to Tibetan Buddhist history, the purpose, meaning and the techniques involved in the spiritual art of the sand mandala creation were taught by Buddha Sakyamuni in the 6th century B. C. in India. The Green Tara, symbol of enlightened activity will be created.

**Dissolution Ceremony, Sunday approximately 12pm:**

Upon completion of the mandala there is a very special ritual to bless the mandala. It is then ritually dissolved. As a lesson in impermanence, the blessed sand is swept up into a pile then small portions are offered to those present. The rest of the sand will be taken to the Rio Grande where, after a short ceremony, it will be poured into the river to bless and purify Albuquerque and all its residents.

### **Tara Puja Chanting & Ritual**

**September 9, Friday, 8pm**

**Anthropology 163**

**\$10 [www.unmtickets.com](http://www.unmtickets.com)**

The monks, in full ritual dress will perform ancient Tibetan buddhist chanting in front of an altar to Green Tara created specifically for this program. The chants create a special connection between the one listening and Green Tara. Tara is the female manifestation of the Buddha's omniscient mind. Tara is also known as the "Mother of all Buddhas" because she embodies wisdom – all Buddhas are born of this wisdom. Green Tara is especially swift in granting the wishes of sentient beings be protected from fears, harms and dangers.

### **Journey to the Roof of the World: Sacred Dance and Chants of Tibet**

**September 10, Saturday 8pm**

**Kimo Theatre \$15, \$20, \$25 <http://www.cabq.gov/kimo/tickets>**

Long hidden behind the Himalayan mountain ranges, the ancient Tibetan culture remained virtually untouched by the outside world for thousands of years. The performance provides an opportunity to experience the rare sounds and dramatic imagery of Tibetan sacred dances, music, and chants. This a complete stage performance with ornate costumes and set decoration, presenting eight different performances in two 45 minute segments separated by a short intermission.

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