

Kumbum Monastery

Kumbum Monastery was founded in 1560 in honor of Tsongkhapa, the founder of the Gelupa (Yellow Hat) Sect of Tibetan Buddhism. Kumbum means, "Hundred Thousands Images of the Buddha Roaring Like a Lion".

Kumbum Monastery, or Ta'er Si in the Chinese language, is located 25 kilometers southeast of Lhasa, the provincial capital of Qinghai Province. The monastery sits on the great Qinghai-Tibetan Plateau at 3000 metres above sea level and is surrounded by mountains. The historical name of Qinghai is Amdo. Amdo was known for its agriculture and herding as well as its scholars.

The Monastery serves about a thousand monks as compared with 5,000 in its heyday. Historically and presently, the monastery is known not only as a place of worship but also as an educational institution.

There are 5 major and 5 minor areas of study taught at Kumbum Monastery. The major fields of study are philosophy (logic), medicine, Buddhism, art and rhetoric (debate). The 5 minor fields of study are astronomy, astrology, drama (dance and music) poetry and literature.

Kumbum is famous for its elaborate butter sculptures depicting scenes from Buddha's life, flowers, trees and detailed structures.

Get Involved

There are many ways in which individuals can help the Kumbum Tibetan Medical Hospital and the Tibetan community. For example, you can choose to make a donation for the structural improvement of the hospital such as running water, electricity, heat, medical equipment and supplies. Construction of rural outreach health centers, or the training of village health workers and midwives.

Plans are being developed for medical exchange volunteer programs at Kumbum Hospital.

To make a donation or for more information contact:

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The Tibetan Healing Fund is a humanitarian organization established to improve primary healthcare and basic education for rural Tibetan Women and children in Qinghai Province, P. R. China.

Kumbum Tibetan Medical Hospital



Kumbum Monastery Qinghai Province P.R. China

Kumbum Tibetan Medical Hospital

The Kumbum Tibetan Medical Hospital was established in 1980. The hospital is located at Kumbum Monastery (T a'er Si), a well known Tibetan Buddhist Monastery located in the north-east Province of Qinghai .



Currently, the hospital has eight Tibetan medical doctors. The medical doctors are Buddhist Monks, who were trained in Tibetan Medicine and conventional (allopathic) medicine. They were educated at Kumbum Monastery and throughout China and Mongolia. The hospital also has a lay doctor, a Tibetan, who was trained in western medicine.

The hospital supports health, education and development projects. The hospital specializes in chronic and communicable diseases and incorporates both Tibetan Medicine and western (allopathic) medicine. In addition, some of the doctors are trained in maternal and child health and various female issues.

Departments

The hospital is divided into three departments; Out-Patient, In-Patient and Pharmaceutical. The health problems vary from hepatitis, heart, kidney, liver, gastric, spleen, joint and nerve problems. In addition, the hospital supports community outreach, education and development projects. Health Education and prevention are a significant priority at the hospital including the development of rural health clinics and the training of midwives and village doctors.

The In-Patient Department has ten sick beds and nine additional beds for medical bath treatments. Medical bath treatments mainly focus on skin, joints and arthritis problems. The medical bath treatments operate from September to April and are extremely popular.

The Out-Patient Department treats over 50 patients a day. Patients are pilgrims, nomads, local residents and tourists. Some people travel great distance to reach the hospital by foot, horseback and bus. The patients are from different ethnic groups including Tibetans, Mongolians, Chinese, Chinese Muslims, as well as other ethnic minority groups.

The Pharmaceutical Department produces over 120 different types of Tibetan medical pills, powders and other forms of medicine. A western medicine dispensary is also located at the hospital.



Tibetan Medicine

Tibetan Medicine is a holistic approach to understanding the causes and treatments of illness. Tibetan 'science of healing' can be found in texts from around the seventh century. Tibetan medical theory is based on the interrelationships of the physical, emotional and the metaphysical. According to these concepts every physical and biological substance is a combination of the five fundamental elements: space, wind, fire, water and earth. Life, like health and illness, involves the constant dynamic interaction of all these elements.