

***For Immediate Release***



**Contact:** Jennifer Hawkins  
Hawkins International Public Relations  
1-212-255-6541  
jennifer@hawkpr.com

**Or:** Nadia Le Bon  
Director of Special Programs  
Mountain Travel Sobek  
1-800-282-8747, ext. 6024

## FAIRS & FESTIVALS OF THE WORLD

### *Colorful Celebrations Highlight Selected Mountain Travel Sobek Trips*

EMERYVILLE, CA—April 25, 2005—Adventure travel trips are exciting, eye-opening immersions into another world, but when you add in colorful local fairs and festivals, travelers gain an insight into the local culture that most conventional tourists never get to experience. The following trips offered by Mountain Travel Sobek feature festivals that are integral to the indigenous culture, and which give MTS travelers the opportunity to mingle with the locals in joyous celebrations.

#### ***Tsechu Festivals ~ Bhutan***

***Festivals of Bhutan.*** On this cultural odyssey, take a step back in time for a glimpse of traditions and customs fast disappearing from the rest of the Himalayan world. The trip highlight is the popular Tsechu religious festival, an exuberant and earthy affair featuring fancifully costumed dancers performing masked dance-dramas celebrating events in the life of Guru Rimpoche, who introduced Buddhism in its Tantric form to Bhutan in the eighth century. 17-day trip departs Sept. 9 and Oct. 9, 2005. Land cost is from \$4195 (4-15 trip members).

#### ***Gelede, Awaksidae & Egungun Festivals ~ West Africa***

***Golden Kingdoms of West Africa.*** This is a comprehensive immersion into the dazzling tribal worlds of Ghana, Togo, and Benin, with their multiplicity of traditional cultures, splendid architecture, bustling markets, renowned music, rich art forms, and flamboyantly colorful festivals. Each departure features a special festival: the secret society Gelede mask festival honoring the “Mother Spirit of the Earth”; or Ghana’s Akwasidae festival, the grand celebration at the palace of the Ashanti king. All departures also feature the Egungun ceremony honoring the spirits of the dead. 18-day trip departs Aug. 2, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6, 2005. Land cost is from \$4150 (6-15 trip members).

#### ***Inti Raymi ~ Peru***

The Inti Raymi Festival in Cuzco is one of Peru’s largest and most majestic celebrations. On June 24 each year, the Inti Raymi Festival or “sun festival” celebrates the winter solstice, with thousands of brilliantly costumed people enacting a long ceremony of ritual homage to the sun god—an unforgettable experience! Selected departures of Mountain Travel Sobek’s ***Andean Explorer, Inca Trail & Beyond, The “Other” Inca Trail,*** and ***Best of Peru*** have departures specifically arranged around this date so trip members can participate in this grand celebration.

#### ***Pushcar Camel Fair ~ Rajasthan, India***

***Royal Rajasthan.*** Explore the golden-hued desert strongholds of Jaisalmer, Jaipur, and Jodhpur; take a two-day camel trek among traditional villages in the Great Indian Desert; and seek leopards in Siana, one of India’s undiscovered wildlife reserves. One of the highlights is the amazing Pushcar camel fair, an annual festival for Hindus who come from all over Rajasthan to buy and sell livestock (including some 50,000 cantankerous camels!), swap stories, and compete in camel races. 18-day trip departs Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, 2005. Land cost is from \$4990 (5-16 trip members).

1266 66th Street, Suite 4, Emeryville, California 94608-1117  
T: +1 510 594 6000 or 1 888 MTSOBEK (687 6235) F: +1 510 594 6001  
info@mtsobek.com www.mtsobek.com

***Horse Festival, Thangka Festival ~ Tibet***

***Trek to Heavenly Lake.*** A strenuous trek to the pebbled shores of Namtso (“Heavenly Lake”), visiting sacred spots, holy shrines, and passing nomadic herdsman along the way. Once at the lake, you’ll join other pilgrims on a short kora (sacred circuit) in the vicinity of the Tashi Do hermitage. The June trip features the Tashilhunpo thangka festival, during which immense silk appliqué banners (thangkas) representing the Buddhas of the past, present, and future are displayed at the monastery in Shigatse; on the July trip you’ll attend the Nagchu horse festival, an event where traders, pilgrims, and nomads gather for amazing displays of horsemanship, shooting, singing, and tribal dancing. 17-day trip departs June 9 and July 29, 2005. Land cost is from \$4290 (10-15 trip members).

For more detailed information on these exciting trips call Mountain Travel Sobek at **1-888-MTSOBEK (687-6235)** or visit the website at **[www.mtsobek.com](http://www.mtsobek.com)**.

Mountain Travel Sobek has been in operation since 1969 and is the world’s most experienced adventure travel company, offering the most exciting kind of travel possible—authentic adventure trips featuring expert leadership and unique itineraries for travelers who are passionate about exploring the planet’s fantastic diversity of landscapes, cultures, and wildlife.

*Note to Editor: Images and interviews are available upon request. For further press information, please call Jennifer Hawkins at Hawkins International Public Relations at 1-212-255-6541.*