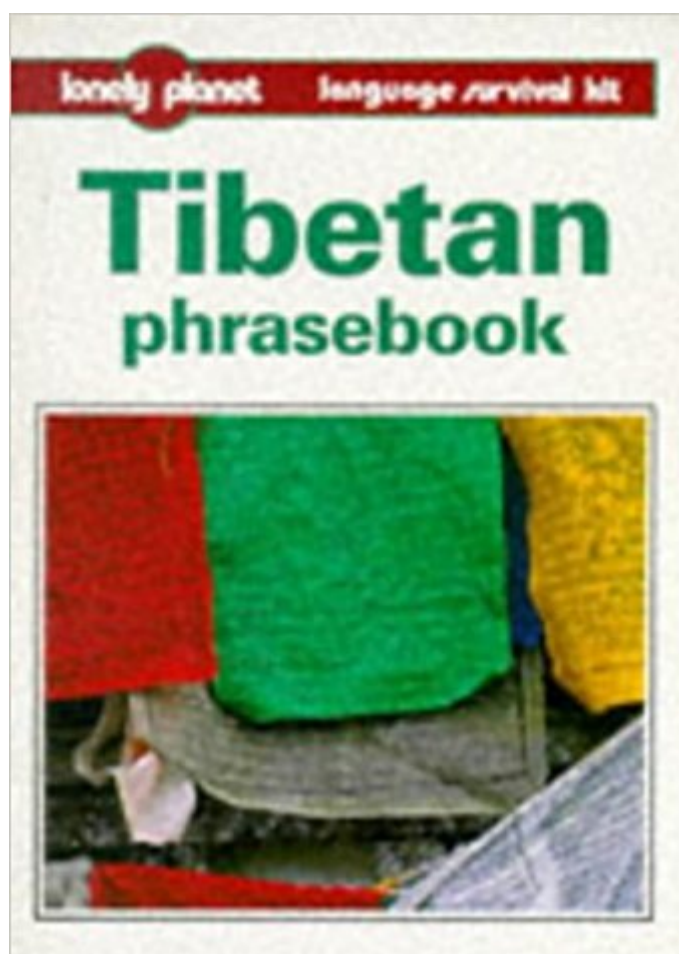


The book was found

Lonely Planet Tibetan Phrasebook (Tibetan Phrasebook, 2nd Ed) (English And Tibetan Edition)



Synopsis

This guide helps the traveller to: find words and phrases quickly; say new words with confidence; and appreciate the customs and culture of Tibet. Tibetan script is used throughout the book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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September 2006 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Text: English, Tibetan

I've been to Tibet five times now, and each time I have carried my now well worn copy of this phrasebook with me. Without it, I'd be at a real loss. It has proven wonderful for communicating with locals - not only in Lhasa, but also in far more remote parts of the country. It is safe to say that using this phrasebook has enhanced my experiences in Tibet many times over. If I did have one criticism of it, it would be that while it does have a brief English to Tibetan Dictionary in back, it would greatly benefit from a Tibetan to English Dictionary as well. So many times Tibetans have picked up the phrasebook from me and searched in vain for a word that they are trying to find. But that criticism is minor. If you're traveling in Tibet on your own, this phrasebook is a must.

Depending on how long you're going to be in the country, you may want to consider the LP

Mandarin Phrasebook as well.....

I just love this little book. I haven't got to travel to Tibet as of yet, but I do attend teachings at a Drikung Kagyu monastery where I interact with a few native Tibetans. I must admit, I usually chicken out when it comes to trying to really speak. But it is sooooo fun to be able to find words and phrases that I already know from practices and be able to see them in other usage. A terrific book! Ok, one thing, the print, especially the Tibetan script is tiny, but then there is so much info crammed in this pocket-sized book, who can really complain. If you have a hard time with little print, throw a little reading magnifier strip in your pocket with it :)

Like most of the books in this series, Lonely Planet attempts to offer the best of all worlds and does a fairly consistent job of it. This phrasebook provides some basic background information on the language and its grammar but I have never found their transliteration schemes to be very accurate for the average American English speaker. Within its covers, you will find just about every essential phrase the average traveler could ever hope for. Its compact size and price make it the cheapest foray available into the Tibetan language. The Tibetan script is included throughout for those who are interested in seeing the written word or just want to point out phrases instead of attempting to pronounce them correctly. At less than \$6 USD on average, every Tibetan language enthusiast should have a copy of this phrasebook.

As a small language book that is only meant to give you the basics this is a great book. A warning though... This book attempts to educate the reader in a "standard Tibetan language". They mention the three main dialects of U-tsang, Amdo, and Kham and claim that great interaction between them is leading to this standardization. It has not been my experience nor have I seen other scholars even mention the existence of such a standardization. From what I have learned the three dialects are quite different to the point of mutual misunderstanding. I do not feel that this book prepared me to speak Amdo, nor would it prepare anyone else to speak either Amdo or Kham. If that is your goal, good luck finding any book that can do that. But, for most people this is irrelevant. Most interaction with Tibetans by Westerners is with central U-tsang Tibetans. I never thought about it before, but most of the Tibetan exiles are central/U-tsang. Upon further consultation with some Tibetans I have come to the conclusion that some mishmash of the dialects does exist in the Tibetan diaspora in India. So this book would be more useful there. Keep in mind though that the original exodus into India consisted mostly of Central Tibetans and so this new amalgamation likely

favors that dialects sensibilities.

My main objective was learning to speak some Tibetan on a conversational level, and not just a traveler's level. The book teaches the writing system and enough grammar to be able to correctly speak Tibetan as we speak everyday English. Nothing too deep and technical, but nothing too brief. The small book is absolutely jam-packed with words and phrases. It suits the need of both the traveler and one who wants a basic conversational ability in Tibetan. It's value exceeds the price greatly!

I've recently returned from a few weeks in Tibet. One of my group had this phrase book and we tried to use it to speak with our driver. A few things: First, a pronunciation guide would have helped. Second, we found some common words missing, or at least were not able to find them the way the book is laid out. We ended up drawing pictures on Post-Its to communicate with our driver and learn words from him in this way.

I bought this book to get a little understanding of the Tibetan language. I got more than I expected. The phrasebook not only contains the most common phrases, but also a quick overview of the grammar and the alphabet. Since most of the Tibetans don't speak any English (except cheapy cheapy and last price) I found this book very useful (and the Tibetans who saw me use it thought it was very amusing). In short, it's definitely worth the \$...

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