



Chode Gonpa (Dragkar-Thegchen Ling)

The Chode Gonpa (Dragkar-Thegchen Ling) was established during the period of first king of Lo, King Ama Pal and spiritual scholar Ngorchen Kunga Sangpo in the late 14th century. It is the main Gonpa of Lo-Monthang which is also the resident of our present monks and higher lamas. It is also the center of religious activities. Dragkar-Thegchen Ling monastery, after a severe earthquake caused huge damage to Dragkar-Thegchen Ling and Choprang Monastery was caught by fire then all the remaining including old deities of Ten-chi Festival Mahakala and DhorjeShonu(Vajrakilaya) were saved and transferred to Chode Gonpa. Shree Mahakaruna Sakyapa School, a school for young monks is in same premises.



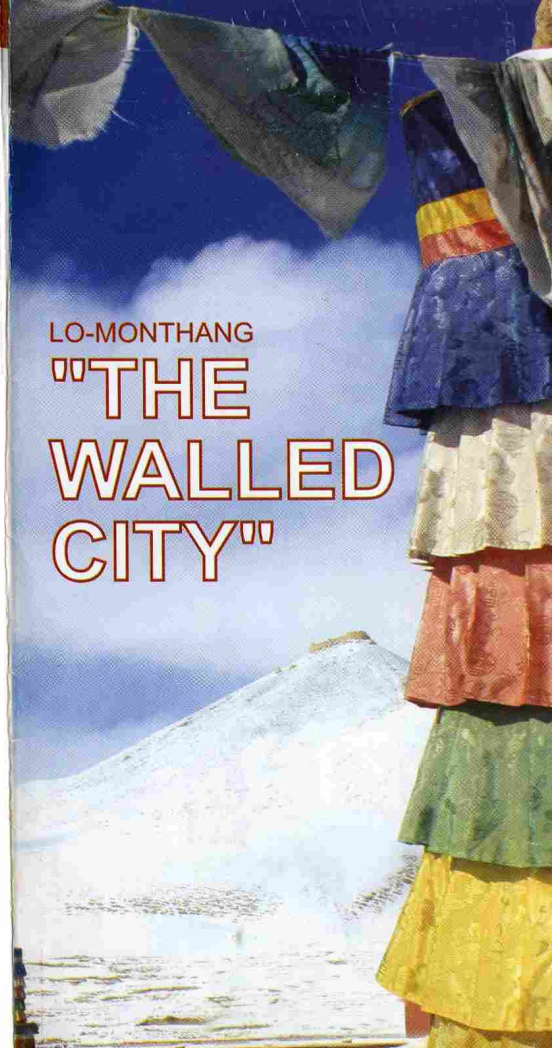
Jampa Gonpa(Monastery)

Jampa Gonpa is 55ft high ,150 ft long and 80 ft wide. The Jampa Monastery being the oldest monastery in Lo-Monthang and it was built in early 15th century, during the reign of famous King Angon Sangpo (the second son of Ama-pal). The three stories Jampa Gonpa is an exemplary piece of art exhibits Lo-Monthang's great architectural depth of the past. The uniqueness of Jampa Gonpa lies in the ancient tantrik Mandala painted on the walls of first and second floor within the monastery with gold. The main prayer hall is painted with double register Mandalas interspersed with smaller Mandalas. The large image of Jampa Chenpo (The Future Buddha) is in meditative posture, projecting from ground floor to the first floor the deities painted in the Mandalas belong to all sect of Tibetan Buddhism. The magnificent walls of Jampa Gonpa are 5 feet 4 inches thick.



Thupchen Gonpa(Monastery)

This monastery was built during the period of third king of Lo , Tashi Gon in late 15th century. The main hall (Dhukhang)'s ceiling and walls are covered with gold, silver and natural color. The wall painting bears various images of Buddha and other deities in different Mudras also known as mantras. The wooden beam of the hall is engraved with mantras and the ceiling has beautifully placed rafter. In its heyday, Thupchen Gonpa is the major center of all religious activities at Lo-Monthang. The entrance room (Sgo-Mchog) has larger than life images of Gyal-Chen Shi(four protectors) viz. Dhristarastra(NE), Baishnawan (NW), Birudhak (SE), and Birupaksha (SW), all enshrined in raised platforms. It has a marvelous main pillared hall called "Dhukhang" which has beautiful ceiling and paintings on the wall. There are three earthen images of Chenraysig (avalokitsvara). Jampi Yang(Manjushree) and Guru Rinpoche (Padma Sambhawa) inside. The image of Thupchen is made of gold washed copper sheet which is in seated (Bhumi Aparsa) posture and it's head almost reaching the ceiling.



LO-MONTHANG "THE WALLED CITY"

