



THE FIRST ZEN INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

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Film Series

Secrets of Sangri-La:

Quest for Sacred Caves

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Cave People of the Himalaya

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Friday, December 13, 2013 7:30 – 9:30 PM

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Secrets of Shangri-La takes us into sacred Buddhist caves in the legendary kingdom of Mustang. A team of explorers and scientists climbs for the first time into human-carved caves thousands of years old. They find priceless 14th century wall paintings, ancient human remains and a centuries-old library of sacred Buddhist texts. Conflicts with the local villagers arise when the villagers realize that they may have lost forever an opportunity to loot the caves and sell the art at high prices on the international art market. Instead, it is destined to be preserved by the government of Nepal. 57 minutes.

Cave People of the Himalaya takes us on an expedition to ancient caves in upper Mustang, a part of Nepal so remote that there are not even any real roads up the valleys, and the expedition truck has to navigate along stream beds. Several of these caves are located high in the middle of friable sandstone cliffs, and the climb is very risky, even with expert rock climbers leading the way. One of the climbers suffers serious injuries and has to be evacuated by helicopter. However, the discoveries are intensely interesting to American archeologist Dr. Mark Aldenderfer. He may have located some of the earliest “sky-burials” in the Himalayas, either Buddhist or pre-Buddhist in origin. 55 minutes.

Admission is free.

