**Guge** was an ancient kingdom in Western [Tibet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet). The kingdom was centered in present-day [Zanda County](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zanda_County), within [Ngari Prefecture](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngari_Prefecture) of [Tibet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet). At various points in history after 10th century A.D, the kingdom held sway over a vast area including south-eastern [Zanskar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zanskar), Upper [Kinnaur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinnaur), and [Spiti](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spiti) valley either by conquest or as tributaries. The ruins of Guge are located 1,200 miles (1,900 km) westwards from [Lhasa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lhasa) within the [Tibet Autonomous Region](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tibet_Autonomous_Region) of [China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), not far from [Mount Kailash](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_Kailash).

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**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Guge&action=edit&section=1)**] History**

Guge was founded in the 10th century. Its capitals were located at [Tholing](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tholing&action=edit&redlink=1) [Coordinates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9a/Erioll_world.svg/18px-Erioll_world.svg.png[31°28′55″N 79°48′01″E﻿ / ﻿31.48194°N 79.80028°E﻿ / 31.48194; 79.80028](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Guge&params=31_28_55_N_79_48_01_E_) and [Tsaparang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsaparang).[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-0) Nyi ma mgon, a great-grandson of [Glang Darma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glang_Darma), the last king of the Tibetan kingdom of [Tubo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tubo), left insecure conditions in [Central Tibet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Tibet) in 910. He established a kingdom in [Ngari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ngari) (West Tibet) in or after 912 and annexed [Purang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purang) (Pu-hrang) and Guge. He established his capital in Guge.

Nyi ma mgon later divided his lands into three parts. The king's eldest son dPal gyi mgon became ruler of Mar-yul ([Ladakh](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakh" \o "Ladakh)), his second son bKra shis mgon received Guge-Purang, and the third son lDe gtsug mgon received [Zanskar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zanskar). bKra shis mgon was succeeded by his son Srong nge or Ye shes 'Od (947-1024), who was a renowned Buddhist figure. In his time a Tibetan from Guge called [Rin chen Bzang po](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rin_chen_Bzang_po) (958-1055), after having studied in India, returned to his homeland as a monk to promote Buddhism. Together with the zeal of Ye shes 'Od, this marked the beginning of a new diffusion of Buddhist teachings in western Tibet. In 988 Ye shes 'Od took religious vows and left kingship to his younger brother Khor re.

In 1037, Khor re's eldest grandson 'Od lde was killed in a conflict with the [Qarakhanids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qarakhanids), who subsequently ravaged Ngari. His brother Byang chub 'Od (984-1078), a [Buddhist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist) monk, took power as secular ruler. He was responsible for inviting [Atisha](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atisha) to Tibet in 1040 and thus ushering in the so-called [Phyi-dar](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Phyi-dar&action=edit&redlink=1) phase of Buddhism in Tibet. Byang chub 'Od's son rTse lde was murdered by his nephew in 1088. This event marked the break-up of the Guge-Purang kingdom, since one of his brothers was established as separate king of Purang. The usurping nephew dBang lde continued the royal dynasty in Guge.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-1)

A new [Qarakhanid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qarakhanid) invasion of Guge took place before 1137 and cost the life of the ruler, bKra shis rtse. Later in the same century the kingdom was temporarily divided. In 1240 the [Mongol](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongol) khagan, at least nominally, gave authority over the Ngari area to the [Drigung](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drigung) monastery in Central Tibet.

Grags pa lde was an important ruler who united the Guge area around 1265 and subjugated the related Ya rtse kingdom. After his death in 1277 Guge was dominated by the [Sakya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakya) monastic regime. After 1363, with the decline of the Mongol [Yuan dynasty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuan_dynasty) and their Sakya protegés, Guge was again strengthened and took over Purang in 1378. Purang was henceforth contested between Guge and the kingdom of [Mustang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mustang_(kingdom)), but was finally integrated in the former. Guge also briefly ruled over Ladakh in the late 14th century. From 1499 the Guge king had to acknowledge the [Rinpungpa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rinpungpa) rulers of [Tsang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsang) (West Central Tibet). The 15th and 16th centuries were marked by a considerable Buddhist building activity by the kings, who frequently showed their devotion to the [Gelugpa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gelugpa) leaders later known as [Dalai Lama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dalai_Lama).[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-2)

The first Westerners to reach Guge were a [Jesuit](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesuit) missionary, [António de Andrade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ant%C3%B3nio_de_Andrade), and his companion, brother [Manuel Marques](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Marques), in 1624. De Andrade reported seeing irrigation canals and rich crops in what is now a dry and desolate land. Perhaps as evidence of the kingdom's openness, de Andrade's party was allowed to construct a chapel in Tsaparang and instruct the people about [Christianity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity).[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-3) This decision might have brought Guge to its end.[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citation_needed" \o "Wikipedia:Citation needed)*] A letter by De Andrade relates that some military commanders revolted and called the [Ladakhis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakhi) to overthrow the ruler. There had been friction between Guge and Ladakh for many years, and the invitation was heeded in 1630. The Ladakhi forces laid siege to the almost impenetrable Tsaparang. The king's brother, who was chief lama and thus a staunch Buddhist, advised the pro-Christian ruler to surrender against keeping the state as tributary ruler. This treacherous advice was eventually accepted. Tibetan sources suggest that the Guge population was maintained in their old status.[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-4) A legend has it that the Ladakhi army slaughtered most of the people of Guge, about 200 of whom managed to survive and fled to [Qulong](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Qulong&action=edit&redlink=1).[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-5) The last king Khri bKra shis Grags pa lde was brought to Ladakh as prisoner with his kin, and died there. The last male descendant of the dynasty moved to Lhasa where he died in 1743.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge#cite_note-6)

Western archeologists heard about Guge again in the 1930s through the work of Italian [Giuseppe Tucci](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giuseppe_Tucci). Tucci's work was mainly about the [frescoes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fresco) of Guge.

A list of rulers of Guge and the related Ya rtse kingdom has been established by the Tibetologists Luciano Petech and Roberto Vitali[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guge" \l "cite_note-7)

**A. Royal ancestors of the Tubo dynasty.**

* ['Od srungs](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%27Od_srungs&action=edit&redlink=1) (in Central Tibet 842-905) son of Glang Darma
* [dPal 'Khor btsan](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=DPal_%27Khor_btsan&action=edit&redlink=1) (in Central Tibet 905-910) son
* [sKyid lde Nyi ma mgon](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=SKyid_lde_Nyi_ma_mgon&action=edit&redlink=1) (in Ngari Korsum c. 912-?) son
* [dPal gyi mgon](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=DPal_gyi_mgon&action=edit&redlink=1) (received Ladakh, 10th century) son
* [lDe gtsug mgon](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=LDe_gtsug_mgon&action=edit&redlink=1) (received Zanskar, 10th century) brother

**B. Kings of Guge and Purang.**

* [bKra shis mgon](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=BKra_shis_mgon&action=edit&redlink=1) (received Guge and Purang, fl. 947) brother
* [Srong nge Ye shes 'Od](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Srong_nge_Ye_shes_%27Od&action=edit&redlink=1) (?-988) son
* [Nagaraja](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nagaraja_(ruler)&action=edit&redlink=1) (religious leader, d. 1023) son
* [Devaraja](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Devaraja&action=edit&redlink=1) (religious leader, d. 1026) brother
* [Khor re](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khor_re&action=edit&redlink=1) (988-996) uncle
* [Lha lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lha_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (996-1024) son
* ['Od lde btsan](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%27Od_lde_btsan&action=edit&redlink=1) (1024–37) son
* [Byang chub 'Od](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Byang_chub_%27Od&action=edit&redlink=1) (1037–57) brother
* [Zhi ba 'Od](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Zhi_ba_%27Od&action=edit&redlink=1) (religious leader, d. 1111) brother
* [Che chen tsha rTse lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Che_chen_tsha_rTse_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (1057–88) son of Byang chub 'od

**C. Kings of Ya rtse.**

* [Naga lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Naga_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (early 12th century)
* [bTsan phyug lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=BTsan_phyug_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (mid 12th century)
* [bKra shis lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=BKra_shis_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (12th century)
* [Grags btsan lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Grags_btsan_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (12th century) brother of bTsan phyug lde)
* [Grags pa lde (Kradhicalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Grags_pa_lde_(Kradhicalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) ([fl.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floruit) 1225)
* [A sog lde (Ashokacalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=A_sog_lde_(Ashokacalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1255-78) son
* ['Ji dar sMal (Jitarimalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=%27Ji_dar_sMal_(Jitarimalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1287-93) son
* [A nan sMal (Anandamalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=A_nan_sMal_(Anandamalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (late 13th century) brother
* [Ri'u sMal (Ripumalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ri%27u_sMal_(Ripumalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1312-14) son
* [San gha sMal (Sangramamalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=San_gha_sMal_(Sangramamalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (early 14th century) son
* [Ajitamalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ajitamalla&action=edit&redlink=1) (1321–28) son of Jitarimalla
* [Kalyanamalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Kalyanamalla&action=edit&redlink=1) (14th century)
* [Pratapamalla](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pratapamalla&action=edit&redlink=1) (14th century)
* [Pu ni sMal (Punyamalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Pu_ni_sMal_(Punyamalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1336-39) of Purang royalty
* [sPri ti sMal (Prthivimalla)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=SPri_ti_sMal_(Prthivimalla)&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1354-58) son

**D. Kings of Guge.**

* [Bar lde (dBang lde)](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Bar_lde_(dBang_lde)&action=edit&redlink=1) (1088-c. 1095) nephew of Che chen tsha rTse lde
* [bSod nams rtse](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=BSod_nams_rtse&action=edit&redlink=1) (c. 1095-early 12th century) son
* [bKra shis rtse](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=BKra_shis_rtse&action=edit&redlink=1) (before 1137) son
* [Jo bo rGyal po](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jo_bo_rGyal_po&action=edit&redlink=1) (regent, mid 12th century) brother
* [rTse 'bar btsan](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RTse_%27bar_btsan&action=edit&redlink=1) (12th century) son of bKra shis rtse
* [sPyi lde btsan](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=SPyi_lde_btsan&action=edit&redlink=1) (12th century) son
* [rNam lde btsan](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RNam_lde_btsan&action=edit&redlink=1) (12th/13th century) son
* [Nyi ma lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nyi_ma_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (12th/13th century) son
* [dGe 'bum](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=DGe_%27bum&action=edit&redlink=1) (13th century) probably an outsider
* [La ga](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=La_ga&action=edit&redlink=1) (?-c. 1260) of foreign origin
* [Chos rgyal Grags pa](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Chos_rgyal_Grags_pa&action=edit&redlink=1) (c. 1260-65)
* [Grags pa lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Grags_pa_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (c. 1265-77) prince from Lho stod
* *unknown rulers*
* [rNam rgyal lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RNam_rgyal_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (1396?-1424) son of a Guge ruler
* [Nam mkha'i dBang po Phun tshogs lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nam_mkha%27i_dBang_po_Phun_tshogs_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (1424–49) son
* [rNam ri Sang rgyas lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=RNam_ri_Sang_rgyas_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (1449-?) son
* [bLo bzang Rab brtan](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=BLo_bzang_Rab_brtan&action=edit&redlink=1) (?-c. 1485) son
* [sTod tsha 'Phags pa lha](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=STod_tsha_%27Phags_pa_lha&action=edit&redlink=1) (c. 1485-after 1499) son
* [Shakya 'od](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Shakya_%27od&action=edit&redlink=1) (early 16th century) son
* [Jig rten dBang phyug Pad kar lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Jig_rten_dBang_phyug_Pad_kar_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1537-55) son?
* [Ngag gi dBang phyug](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Ngag_gi_dBang_phyug&action=edit&redlink=1) (16th century) son
* [Nam mkha dBang phyug](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Nam_mkha_dBang_phyug&action=edit&redlink=1) (16th century) son
* [Khri Nyi ma dBang phyug](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khri_Nyi_ma_dBang_phyug&action=edit&redlink=1) (late 16th century) son
* [Khri Grags pa'i dBang phyug](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khri_Grags_pa%27i_dBang_phyug&action=edit&redlink=1) (c. 1600) son
* [Khri Nam rgyal Grags pa lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khri_Nam_rgyal_Grags_pa_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (fl. 1618) son
* [Khri bKra shis Grags pa lde](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Khri_bKra_shis_Grags_pa_lde&action=edit&redlink=1) (before 1622-1630) son
* *Kingdom conquered by Ladakh 1630*

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Guge&action=edit&section=3)**] See also**

* [Xangxung](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xangxung)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Guge&action=edit&section=4)**] References**

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* ["Unravelling the mysteries of Guge"](http://www.tibetanliberation.org/0511guge.html) by Xiong Lei, China Daily, May 8, 2003, retrieved November 24, 2005

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