

EVEREST HIGH PASSES, NEPAL



Group at Kalapatar with Mount Everest and Mount Nuptse behind



HIGHLIGHTS

- A variation to the standard Everest Base Camp trail, this itinerary includes crossing two high passes (Cho La and Renjo La) and also the chance to walk up Gokyo Ri for the Everest panorama.
- There are spectacular views of Everest, the highest mountain in the world, and a range of other classic peaks including Lhotse, Nuptse, Ama Dablam, Kang Tega, Thamserku and Pumori.
- We have carefully designed the trekking itinerary to help acclimatisation before reaching Kala Patar (5,545m) and Everest Base Camp, this schedule has worked well in the past.
- The Mountain Company use the best lodges in each location: Zamling Guest House in Namche Bazaar, Riverdell in Deboche, Himalayan in Pheriche and EcoLodge in Lobuche.
- There are two days to explore Kathmandu including a day's sightseeing tour to Swyambhunath, Pashupatinath and Boudhanath.
- Roland, owner and founder of The Mountain Company, has led this trip many times and modified the itinerary based on this experience. He will be able to answer any questions you might have.

“Thanks for a great trip to Nepal and an awe inspiring trek to Everest Base Camp. In particular to our very accommodating guide, Roland Hunter, who allowed us to explore some of routes off the beaten trail and thus experience that true wilderness feeling. It was very comforting to be in the hands of such an experienced mountaineer!

The trip was that much more enjoyable, not having to worry about any of the organisation, thanks a million! I am looking forward to joining you again this Autumn in Sikkim” James Carter, Everest Base Camp



EVEREST HIGH PASSES

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|---------------------------|---|
| Total number of days | 22 days |
| Grade & days trekking | Moderate, 17 trekking days |
| Accommodation | 4 nights hotel, 17 nights camping |
| 2010 price from Kathmandu | £1,195 (US\$1,995) |
| Minimum group size | 2 |
| Dates | April 4 th to 25 th 2010 October 10 th to 31 st 2010 April 3 rd to 24 th 2011 October 9 th to 30 th 2011 |



THE FOLLOWING IS INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

- Internal flight to/from Lukla and Kathmandu.
- All transfers including airport collections.
- Twin share room at Hotel Tibet in Kathmandu.
- Breakfast only at Hotel Tibet in Kathmandu, all meals included while on trek.
- Twin share room in teahouse lodges while on trek.
- All trekking arrangements including permits and fees, TMC guide and porters.
- Complimentary Everest trekking map.
- Financial protection insurance from International Passenger Protection.

THE FOLLOWING SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IS AVAILABLE:

Single room supplement in Kathmandu £100

Please note that if you are a single person booking on one of our trips you do not have to pay the single room supplement, this is only payable if you specifically request to have a room or tent to yourself. You will not have to pay this for this option if you happen to end up with a single room or tent due to odd numbers on the trip.

THE FOLLOWING IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PRICE OF THE TRIP

- International flight to/from Kathmandu (London from £515).
- Travel & trekking insurance (eg. Snowcard from £70).
- Nepal visa for 30 days at US\$40 (approx £25).
- Lunch and evening meals in Kathmandu.
- Personal clothing & equipment, please see the Appendix for suggested kit list.



- Tips (guidance on amounts included in Nepal pre departure information).
- Other items not listed in “What is included”.

YOUR COMPLETE FINANCIAL PROTECTION

In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers booking with The Mountain Company are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required, arising from cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of The Mountain Company.

This Insurance has been arranged by International Passenger Protection Limited and underwritten by Insurers who are members of the Association of British Insurers. A certificate detailing this cover will be given to each passenger as evidence of cover.



PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

Participants should be aware trekking, mountaineering and travelling in a developing country are activities that involve a risk of personal injury or death. As a condition of booking you must accept these risks and be responsible for your own actions and involvement.

Adventure travel requires an open and flexible attitude. You may experience extreme conditions, unpredictable weather and last minute changes to the itinerary beyond our control. Lack of acclimatisation to high altitudes could also be a risk factor. Our itineraries allow optimum time for acclimatising although it is possible that some individuals might be slow acclimatisers.



The majority of our trips visit remote areas where you are away from normal emergency services and medical facilities. In case of a serious injury requiring hospitalisation, it has to be accepted by you, evacuation could take up to several days and may impede your ensuing recovery. Helicopters are the most usual means of evacuation, however they are not always available or they may be hindered by poor weather and flying conditions.

INTRODUCTION

This is one of the classic treks of the world visiting Everest Base Camp followed by crossing Cho La and Renjo La passes

The trek starts with an exciting flight in a Twin Otter plane to the mountain airstrip at Lukla, from here we follow in the footsteps of famous mountaineers for the walk into Everest Base Camp. We are now in Buddhist Sherpa country where you will see colourful prayer flags, mani walls and monasteries along the way.

This itinerary is a more challenging alternative to the traditional trek to Everest Base Camp including an ascent of Kala Patar and Gokyo Ri as well as crossing the high passes of Cho La and Renjo La.

After Base Camp we walk out over the Cho La pass into the Gokyo valley rather than retracing the same trail back to Namche as per the standard Everest Base Camp itinerary. In the morning we climb Gokyo Ri for views of the Everest massif and in the afternoon we explore the numerous glacial lakes in the area.

After crossing our last pass of the Renjo La we descend into the Thame valley, one of the main trading routes with Tibet, and then walk back to Namche Bazaar and Lukla.



DETAILED ITINERARY

It is our intention to keep to the day by day itinerary detailed below, although there might be some flexibility due to local conditions or other factors beyond our control. If this is the case the trek leader will do everything possible to work out the changes to the itinerary in order to minimise your inconvenience.

Day 1. Arrive Kathmandu and join the tour at the hotel.

You will be met on arrival at Kathmandu airport and driven back to the hotel. Please provide travel plans on booking and we will arrange the pick up and transfer. A full expedition briefing will be given in the afternoon.

Day 2. Sightseeing in Kathmandu.

Today we explore Kathmandu with a local guide, the day is flexible depending on what you would like to see but the most popular places generally are:

- Pashupatinath is a Hindu temple with burning ghats on the banks of the Bagmati river.
- Swayambhunath, also known as the monkey temple, is climbed by a long set of steps and has great views of Kathmandu.
- Boudhanath stupa has many traditional gompas hung with strings of multi coloured prayer flags, it attracts many Sherpas and Tibetans for the circumambulations of the stupa (koras).
- Durbar square, which is one of the old capitals of the Kathmandu valley, has a blend of Hindu and Buddhist temples

Day 3. Fly to Lukla (2,840m), trek to Phakding (2,610m)- 4 to 5 hours walking.

You will be transferred from your hotel to the airport for the early morning flight to the mountain airstrip at Lukla. This is a truly spectacular beginning to the trek as you fly over the rolling foothills of Nepal with the huge Himalayan peaks visible to the north.

On arrival we meet our Sherpa guides and then begin the trek following the Dudh Khosi valley to the village of Phakding. Overnight lodge.



Day 4. Trek to Namche Bazaar (3,445m)- 5 to 6 hours walking.

Today there is a long climb up to the trading town of Namche Bazaar. Halfway up the hill we are rewarded with our first views of Everest and Lhotse. Namche is the largest town in the Khumbu and has superb views of Thamserku (6,648m), Kwangde (6,220m) and Khumbila (5,700m). Overnight lodge.

Day 5. Acclimatisation day, trek to sherpa villages of Khunde and Khumjung and return to Namche.

Today we have a chance to explore around Namche walking to the sherpa villages of Khunde and Khumjung.

Day 6. Trek to Deboche (3,770m)- 5 to 6 hours walking.

The trail descends from Khumjung through rhododendron forest with superb views of Ama Dablam, Kangtega and Everest. After crossing the Dudh Khosi at Phunki Tanga we start the climb through forest to Tengboche. The main monastery of the Khumbu is located here and is well worth visiting. Overnight at Rivendell Lodge.

Day 7. Trek to Pheriche (4,240m)- 5 to 6 hours walking.

After a descent to the Imja Khola, we cross the river and climb gradually to the village of Pangboche. We spend two nights at Pheriche to help with the acclimatisation process. Overnight at Himalayan Lodge.

Day 8. Acclimatisation day.

Today we recommend you walk up the hill behind Pheriche. This greatly helps your acclimatisation by following the golden rule of “climbing high and sleeping low”. Overnight at Himalayan Lodge.

Day 9. Trek to Lobuche (4,931m)- 6 hours walking.

The trail contours above Pheriche and heads towards the moraine of the Khumbu glacier and then diagonally north across to Dughla. Today there are views of Tawachee, Cholatse and Ama Dablam.

From Dugla the trail goes directly up the terminal moraine of the Khumbu Glacier for about an hour before turning left just past the climbers and sherpas memorial. From here the route descends a little and follows the western side of the valley to Lobuche. Tawache and Nuptse are particularly spectacular from Lobuche, towering almost two kilometres directly above you! Overnight Ecolodge.



Day 10. Trek to Everest Base Camp and back to Gorakshep (5,160m)- 8 to 9 hours walking.

After an early start we follow the trail along the western side of the broad Khumbu valley. The conical peak of Pumori comes into view further along, it is on a lower ridge of this mountain that we will be going tomorrow for the Everest view point of Kala Patar.

The trail makes a short descent onto the sandy area at Gorakshep. It should take between 2 to 3 hours walking to get to Gorakshep from Lobuche.

After a light lunch those in the group we would like to walk to Everest Base Camp will head off for the 6 hour return trek. The trail is mainly on rocky moraine before crossing over on to the glacier. There is a dramatic view of the infamous Khumbu icefall from the Base Camp.

Day 11. Ascend Kala Patar (5,545m) and return to Lobuche.

We have another early morning start to climb Kala Patar in order to get the clear morning views. There is a steep climb for a couple of hours to Kala Patar summit. It is definitely worth it for the great views of Everest (you can not see Everest from Base Camp) along with the other Himalayan giants of Pumori, Changtse, Nuptse, Lhotse and many others!

After the climb to Kala Patar we return to Gorakshep for lunch. We then start our descent and return to the thicker air of Lobuche in the afternoon. Overnight Ecolodge.

Day 12. Trek to Dzongla (4830m)- 3 hours walking.

From Lobuche we retrace the trail until branching off before Dughla and traversing around a spur above the Chola Tscho lake. Dzongla is a beautiful spot at the base of the Cho la pass with many yak pastures and surrounded by high mountains.

On the other side of the valley are the impressive peaks of Tawoche and Cholatse with Ama Dablam visible at the end of the valley.

Day 13. Cross the Cho La (5,420m) and walk to Dragnag (4,700m).

The Cho La is a great way of combining a visit to the Gokyo valley and Everest Base Camp. It is an enjoyable and scenic route without any serious technical



difficulties although bad weather and poor conditions can make this a challenging route.

During the day you circumnavigate Jobo Lhaptshan (6,440m) and Taboche (6,367m) once over the pass the trail descends to Dragnag. This is a true mountain experience with a scramble up to the pass and down the other side.

Day 14. Trek to Gokyo (4750m)- 3 hours walking.

After crossing the Ngozumba Glacier we trek past the first lakes to the lodges at Gokyo.

Day 15. Day trek to Gokyo Ri (5,357m), back to Gokyo.

An early start for the climb of Gokyo Ri (5357m), the view from the top is generally considered to be the best of the Everest range. You will be back at the lodge for a late breakfast. The rest of the day you can either relax or if you feeling energetic explore the valley following the Ngozumba Glacier towards Cho Oyu Base Camp passing numerous lakes.

Day 16. Renjo La (5345m) and trek to Langden in the Thame valley- 7 to 8 hours walking

Today you walk up the Renjo La from where we can see Everest, Nuptse, Lhotse and Makalu and then on the other side of the pass the Rolwaling peaks.

The trail comes down past lakes and yak pastures to join the Thame valley, one of the main trading routes with Tibet over the Nangpa La.

Day 17. Return to Namche Bazaar (3,445m)- 4 to 5 hours walking.

Today we follow the historical trading route used by generations of Tibetan traders to Namche Bazaar.

Day 18. Spare day/buffer day.

An extra day to be used in case of bad weather on one of the high passes.

Day 19. Return to Lukla.

Day 20. Fly to Kathmandu.

Day 21. At leisure in Kathmandu.

Day 22. Fly back home.

Transfer to Kathmandu airport for the flight back home. End of trip.



ETHICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Mountain Company is committed to adopting a responsible attitude to the areas we visit. We are guests of the communities visited and with some thought and care we can ensure that everyone benefits from the experience.

We work closely with the International Porter Protection Group (www.ippg.net) who we support as a Camp 1 sponsor- we abide by their 5 guidelines for porter protection.

We also work with other organisations such as Climate Care (www.climatecare.org), Tourism Concern (www.tourismconcern.org.uk), Friends of Conservation (www.foc-uk.com) and Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (www.keepnepal.org).

We have developed a Responsible Tourism policy which aims to ensure that The Mountain Company and its clients act in a way that is socially, environmentally and culturally sound.

The Mountain Company has joined the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Know Before You Go campaign. The aim is to make sure travellers are properly prepared before travelling overseas. The best way to get the FCO latest advice is to visit their website at: www.fco.gov.uk/travel.

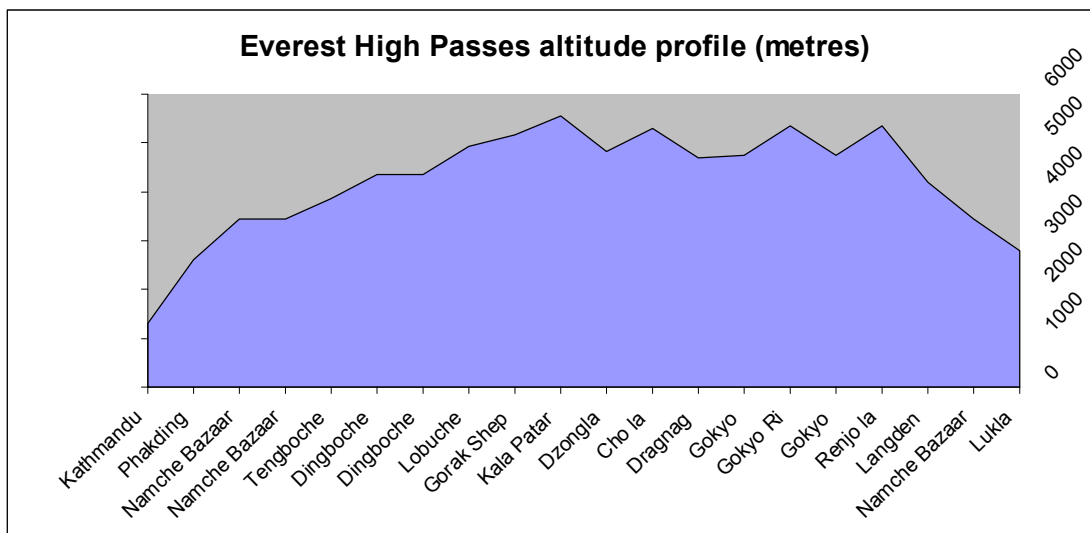




PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ALTITUDE AND ACCLIMATISATION

Our Everest High Passes itinerary has been designed for gradual acclimatisation to take place, take a look at the altitude profile for the itinerary below:



There are ways of helping the acclimatisation process, as described below:

- Walk slowly: there is plenty of time included in the itinerary so there is no need to rush, go at your own pace and enjoy the incredible views!
- Drink lots of water: it is easier for your body to acclimatise when hydrated so drink water and avoid coffee, tea and alcohol.
- Consider taking diamox (acetazolamide): before using this drug we recommend consulting a doctor and thoroughly researching the pros and cons.



For further information we suggest you take a look at the following websites:

Base Camp MD website:

<http://www.BaseCampmd.com/expguide/highalt.shtml>

High Altitude medicine website:

<http://www.high-altitude-medicine.com>

Medex Travel at High Altitude:

<http://www.medex.org.uk/v26%20booklet.pdf>

BMC website:

<http://www.thebmc.co.uk/Feature.aspx?id=1746>

ACCOMMODATION IN KATHMANDU

In Kathmandu we use Hotel Tibet (three star). The hotel is located close to the British Embassy near to the centre of Kathmandu. It is within walking distance of the Royal Palace and the tourist hub of Thamel.

LUKLA FLIGHT

Please note that the flights to and from Lukla are dependent on the weather and delays can happen. If you have to wait in Kathmandu at the beginning of the trip your overnight accommodation is included and you will not have to pay extra for this.

In our itinerary one extra day in Kathmandu is included at the end of the trip in case of delays flying from Lukla. If you are delayed longer than this we can help reschedule your international flights however there is likely to be a fee charged by the airline for this. You will also have to pay for all additional costs incurred in Kathmandu such as accommodation and meals.



FOOD

In Kathmandu there is a wide range of excellent restaurants, some of the more popular ones are: K Too Steak House, Everest Steak House, Rumdoodles, Fire and Ice, La Dolce Vita, Mike's Breakfast and New Orleans. Breakfast is provided each morning by the hotel.

While on the trek, the lodges provide good quality food in sufficient quantities. For breakfast you are likely to get porridge, cereal, toast or chapattis, omelette and a range of hot drinks. On arrival at the lodge in the afternoon you will be given tea and biscuits and a three course meal will follow later in the evening.

CLIMATE

The traditional trekking season in Nepal is late September to May, with October and November generally recognised as having the best weather. Spring is also a popular time of year with warmer weather and the advantage of seeing spring flowers and rhododendrons in bloom.

This trek will have a wide range of temperatures depending on the altitude and the time of day. In the mountains between 1,000m and 3,500m the nights will be cool, normally around 5°C, and during the day temperatures sometimes rise to 25°C. At higher altitudes temperatures range from about 15°C to -20°C.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

A list of suggested clothing and equipment for the Everest High Passes trek has been included in the Appendix below. This is a comprehensive list and experienced trekkers will often take only a selection of these items based on what has worked in the past. It is worth pointing out that you will need a sleeping bag for this trip although you can arrange to rent one in Kathmandu.

If you do not have the clothing and equipment contained in this list then a good option might be to rent from the UK. Trek Hire is a company that rents out high quality items at competitive prices which would save you the expense of buying. The link to their website is <http://www.trekhireuk.com/>



Alternatively if you are going to buy then please contact the office for the Cotswold Outdoor promo code that entitles you, as a client of The Mountain Company, to a 15% discount in their stores and online.

Each trekker should bring one backpack for items required during the day. Your day backpack will contain items such as warm clothes, jacket, camera, water bottles, personal first aid kit and snacks.

The rest of your personal equipment packed in a duffel bag or backpack will be carried by a porter. **The maximum weight allowance is 15kgs.** Please ensure that your bag is marked clearly on the outside for easy identification.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

All foreigners require a visa for entry into Nepal. It is your responsibility to obtain the entry visa. You can get from a Nepalese embassy overseas or on arrival in Nepal. Most people will obtain their visa on arrival to Kathmandu airport.

You will need one passport photo and the following fees dependent:

- 15 days USD\$25 or equivalent convertible currency
- 30 days USD\$40 or equivalent convertible currency
- 90 days USD\$100 or equivalent convertible currency

VACCINATIONS AND MEDICAL

You should obtain professional advice from a travel clinic or your local GP about which vaccinations to have before you arrive in Nepal. A dental check-up is a good idea as there will be no dental facilities while on the trek.

We bring a comprehensive first aid kit from UK (Life Systems Mountain Leader) plus high altitude medicine, antibiotics and other medicines.



FLIGHTS

We recommend Max Travel (ATOL bonded license# 4705) for booking international flights and other travel arrangements. Please take a look at their website at <http://www.maxtravel.co.uk/> or give them a call on 020 7095 0920.

There are a number of good online agents that we also recommend, they are:

Kayak: *an excellent flight cost comparison website* <http://www.kayak.co.uk/>

Traveljungle: *another good flight cost comparison website*
<http://www.traveljungle.co.uk/>

Cheap Tickets: this site quotes airfares in USD\$ & often is very competitive when translated back to GBP£ <http://www.cheaptickets.com/>

Southall Travel: very competitive prices for India, Pakistan and Nepal both online and telephone support <http://www.southalltravel.co.uk/>

INSURANCE

Travel insurance for any Mountain Company itinerary is a condition of booking a holiday. At the very least you should have emergency medical and repatriation insurance which must include the cost of mountain rescue. Cancellation insurance is strongly recommended as all deposits paid to The Mountain Company are non-refundable.

To get an online quote for your personal travel and trekking insurance (UK residents only), take a look at Snowcard's website at http://www.snowcard.co.uk/pages/d_select1.asp?referrer_id=MC

The Snowcard activity level for Everest High Passes trek is 3 and prices start from £70.



snowcard



Please note that The Mountain Company do not act as an agent of Snowcard Insurance and any policy bought via this web link is effected directly with Snowcard Insurance Services Limited.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

For those of you who are visiting Nepal for the first time we have provided some cultural information to help you fit in and feel at ease:

- The dress code is important for both men and women. Men and women should wear trousers rather than shorts while trekking.
- There are many hot springs, rivers and lakes where it is pleasant to take a dip, it is fine for men to go bare-chested while bathing but they should not go nude. Women should try and be as modest as possible in these situations.
- Hindus are concerned about the ritual pollution of food when it is touched by someone outside their caste or religion. Therefore, do not touch any cooked foods on display and when drinking from a container used by others avoid touching your lips to it. Do not eat food with your left hand and make sure you only give or receive food with your right hand.
- Shoes are considered degrading so keep them on the ground and remove them before putting your feet on anything. If you enter a Nepali house follow the example of your host in deciding whether to remove your shoes but on entering a temple or monastery you should definitely remove them.
- You will pass Buddhist mani walls, chortens, and stupas along the trek and to follow local traditions you should pass them on your right.
- When visiting a monastery or gompa it is customary to give a donation for its upkeep.



SUGGESTED READING

Please take a look at The Mountain Company's online bookstore for a wide selection of books and maps to Nepal, the link is at:

<http://astore.amazon.co.uk/themountainco-21>

Everest- 50 years on top of the world by George Band

Above the clouds by Anatoli Boukreev

Eric Shipton- Everest and beyond by Peter Steele

Touching my father's soul by Jamling Tenzing Norgay

Into Thin Air by John Krakauer

The Ascent of Rum Doodle by WE Bowman

MAPS

Nepal Trekking Map Himalayan Maphouse Scale: 1:900,000 **This map will be included in your welcome pack when you arrive in Nepal.**

Everest Base Camp trekking National Geographic 1:135,000

Mount Everest Schweizerische Stiftung fur Alpine Forschung (Swiss Foundation For Alpine Research) 1:50,000

Mount Everest National Geographic Society 1:50,000



APPENDIX

SUGGESTED CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT LIST

Footwear:

- Walking boots. A pair of water repellent boots with ankle support.
- Gaiters. A pair used to keep boots dry if walking through deep snow or on wet ground.
- Wool and liner socks.
- Trainers/sneakers or sandals. Can be used in lodge in the afternoons/ evenings.

Clothing:

- Waterproof jacket and trousers (goretex or similar).
- Trekking trousers.
- Long sleeve shirts (not cotton).
- Micro fleece.
- Mid to heavyweight fleece.
- Sleeveless or body warmer type fleece.
- Thermals or base layer for top & bottom (merino wool or synthetic).
- Fleece pants.
- Medium weight down jacket (eg The North Face Nuptse 700 fill)

Handwear:

- Fleece gloves.
- Warms mittens and/or gloves.

Headwear:

- Wool or fleece hat.



- Sun hat.
- Bandana or scarf.
- Headtorch. Bring extra batteries.
- Sunglasses.

Personal Equipment:

- Sleeping bag.
- Backpack large enough to carry water bottles, camera, lunch and extra clothing.
- Stuff sacks for keeping your gear dry and organised.
- Two water bottles (Nalgene wide mouth bottles are the best).
- Sunscreen and lipsalve with a high SPF.
- Insect repellent.
- Water purification tablets (Pristine, Biox Acqua or Acqa Mira).
- Favourite snack food.
- Books, ipod and cards etc.
- Trekking poles.
- Camera with spare batteries and memory cards.
- Insurance certificate.
- Earplugs (optional).
- Baby wipes (optional).
- Hand sanitizer (optional).

Travelling:

- Duffle bag or large backpack for your personal gear on the trek (carried by a porter). Bring a small combination padlock to secure the bag.



- Travel clothes. You will need casual clothing for air travel days and time spent in Kathmandu.
- Toiletry bag include toilet paper, soap, towel, toothbrush, etc.

Personal first aid kit:

Note: we provide a comprehensive group first aid kit but please bring personal medications and other items you might use regularly such as:

- Any personal medications.
- Malaria prophylactic tablets.
- Blister treatment (Compeed patches are the best).
- Rehydration powder eg Dioralyte.
- Analgesics (paracetamol, ibuprofen and aspirin).
- Plasters and zinc oxide tape.
- Throat lozenges.
- Diamox (helps with acclimatisation).