



EVEREST HIGH PASSES



COUNTRIES VISITED: **NEPAL**

TRIP TYPE: Trekking

TRIP GRADE: Strenuous

TRIP STYLE: Tea House

5 Based On 8 Reviews

KG Carbon Footprint

TRIP LEADER: Local Leader

GROUP SIZE: 2 - 10 people

NEXT DEPARTURE: 27 Apr 2024

9 Trees Planted for each Booking

Everest High Passes trek you walk to Ama Dablam Base Camp and Everest Base Camp. Afterwards we cross two high passes, Cho La and Renjo La, both of these are over 5,000m.

Everest Base Camp has a reputation for congested trails with many other trekkers. You can read [how busy the trek to Everest Base Camp is](#) and our advice for avoiding the worst of the crowds. The key advantage of Everest High Passes trek is that you get away from the main Everest Base Camp trail. We have been operating treks to the Everest region in Nepal since 2004. Our itineraries include several acclimatisation days to ensure you remain fit and healthy. We designed our Everest High Passes itinerary to allow for gradual acclimatisation. For this reason we visit Base Camp first then when adapted to high altitude cross the high passes.

You will follow in the footsteps of famous mountaineers and walk the trail from lodge to lodge. Sagarmatha National Park, known as the Khumbu, is in north-eastern region of Nepal. Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world at an altitude of 8,848m. Ama Dablam, Pumori and Nuptse tower above us making this a magical and inspiring place to visit. We include visits to Sherpa villages and Buddhist monasteries at Thame and Tengboche. You will meet Sherpas and get to know about their way of life and Buddhist religion.

Your Everest trekking holiday begins with a guided sightseeing tour of Kathmandu. After having explored

the capital of Nepal you take the flight to the mountain airstrip at Lukla. From this small town you start the Everest Base Camp hike into the Himalaya. After ten days of walking we arrive at Everest Base Camp at an elevation of 5,300m. If you are in the Spring season you will see many expeditions climbing Mount Everest. After one night at the lodge in Gorakshep we make the ascent of the walking peak of Kalapatar at an elevation of 5,554m.

Rather than retracing the Everest trail back to Namche we walk out over the Cho La pass at 5,420m into the Gokyo valley. In the morning we climb Gokyo Ri for views of the Everest massif including Mount Makalu and Island Peak. After crossing the Renjo La pass at 5,345m we descend into the Thame valley. This is one of the main trading routes with Tibet, and then walk back to Namche Bazaar and Lukla.

REASONS TO CHOOSE US

- For better acclimatisation we organise a longer trek. The gradual ascent profile for this trekking holiday has worked well for our past groups. We have a very high success rate of our trekkers reaching Everest Base Camp and crossing the high passes.
- We include all meals at the teahouse lodges (breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner) while on the trek. Importantly, we clearly define what dishes and drinks we provide so there is no confusion in terms of what is allowed. Given the amount of food and drinks we include, there should be no need to spend any extra money on additional food.
- We are Himalayan trekking specialists having operated trips in Nepal for many years. [Roland Hunter](#) has designed the itinerary from his first-hand experience of this trek.
- Based on client feedback we won the 2018 Gold Award as AITO Tour Operator of the Year. Read more about our [Testimonials and Awards](#).
- Weather forecasts for the Everest region during your trek.
- We send a Thuraya satellite phone on our group treks in Nepal. Your leader will have reliable communications for logistics, planning, and group safety.
- We provide the porters with windproof jackets & trousers and shelter. We follow International Porter Protection Group ("IPPG") guidelines.
- We bring a comprehensive medical aid kit.
- Our team with first-hand knowledge of this trek provides pre-trip support. During high season we have someone from our UK Operations team based in Kathmandu.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Internal flight to/from Lukla and Kathmandu including baggage allowance of 15kg for your main bag checked into the hold and 5kg for day pack carried with you inside the aircraft.
- All transfers including airport collections.
- One day sightseeing in Kathmandu with Nepalese cultural guide and private vehicle including all entry tickets.
- Twin share room at Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu.
- Twin-share room with common bathroom while on the trek.
- All meals are included while on the trek. Breakfast only in Kathmandu. In total for Everest High Passes, we provide 22 Breakfasts, 18 Lunches, and 19 Dinners. The meals at the teahouse lodges cost in the region of **£450 (US\$570)** per person. You can select your dishes from the menu at the lodge. The trek meals are breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. Breakfast includes cereal, porridge, or rice pudding and an egg dish with bread or toast. Lunch includes one dish such as fried rice, dal bhat, momos, or pasta. For afternoon tea, you get a hot drink plus biscuits. Dinner is two courses including soup and the main dish chosen by you from the menu. You are allowed two cups of hot drinks per meal so this means a total of seven cups per day.
- All trekking arrangements including permits and fees, trekking guide(s), and porter(s). We provide one trekking guide for a group size of two people and two guides for a group size of three people and three guides for a group size of six people plus.
- Weather forecasts for the Everest region during your trek.
- Thuraya satellite phone to ensure our guides have reliable communications with us for logistics, planning, and group safety.
- An Everest trekking map is given to you on arrival in Kathmandu.
- UK-registered charity, Pipal Tree, will plant 9 trees for you in the Gurkha Memorial Forest in southern Nepal.
- Full financial protection for bookings from the UK (ATOL) and internationally (ABTOT). Our Air Travel

Organiser's Licence (ATOL) number is 10921. Our Association of Bonded Travel Operators Trust (ABTOT) membership number is 5365).

- Pre-departure support and advice from The Mountain Company by email, phone, Zoom or face-to-face meetings. After booking with us we will send our comprehensive "Nepal Pre-Trip Information" notes.

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flight to/from Kathmandu.
- Travel & trekking insurance.
- Nepal visa for 30 days.
- Lunch and evening meals in Kathmandu.
- Personal clothing & equipment, please see the Appendix for suggested kit list.
- Tips to the trek crew. Each trekker should budget for giving tips into the group fund. This should be in the region of 11,500 Nepalese rupees (approx. £75 or US\$95).
- If you have to wait in Kathmandu at the beginning of the trip due to delays in flying into Lukla STOL mountain airstrip the cost for your overnight accommodation in Kathmandu is not included so you will have to pay extra for this.
- If there are cancellations with the airplanes flying into Lukla it may be possible to fly in a helicopter. There would be an extra cost for this service between US\$500 to US\$600 per person depending on which helicopter company is used and the demand at the time.
- Other items not listed in "What is included".

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE IN KATHMANDU (1,400M)

Arrive in Kathmandu

No meals

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

Flying into Kathmandu on a clear day is in itself an unforgettable experience. The Himalayan peaks are only a short distance north of the capital of Nepal as seen from the plane. After customs, you will pass into the passenger pick-up area outside the building. You will see a Mountain Company signboard. Our representative will be waiting to welcome you to Nepal.

After transferring to your hotel we will give you a full trek briefing. The rest of the day will be yours to explore Kathmandu and to make final preparations for the trek. You will hear the Nepalese word for hello 'Namaste', you will never forget that word after this holiday.

DAY 2: KATHMANDU SIGHTSEEING

Sightseeing in Kathmandu

Breakfast

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

This is a one day guided sightseeing tour of the Kathmandu Valley. We visit three out of the seven World Heritage Sites. You start off by visiting Patan Durbar Square. Afterwards you drive to the Buddhist stupa at Boudhanath. The last stop of the day at the Hindu shrine of Pashupatinath. The tour is likely to finish around 4pm and the rest of the day is free to further explore Kathmandu.

Three major towns in the valley, Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. Each place has great artistic and architectural traditions. Kathmandu is the capital and the largest city in the country. Patan, the second largest separated from Kathmandu by Bagmati river. Bhaktapur, the third largest, is towards the eastern end of the valley. Its relative isolation reflected in its slower pace and more medieval atmosphere. In Kathmandu there is a bustle of activity especially in the bazaars and markets. While the city has expanded over the last 10 years it is still possible to see traditional buildings and temples.

DAY 3: FLY TO LUKLA (2,840M), TREK TO PHAKDING (2,610M)

Fly to Lukla

Walking 7km (4 to 5 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Mountain Resort in Phakding

We take an early morning flight by a twin-propeller plane to Lukla. This is a mountain airstrip called Short Take Off and Landing known as STOL. The late Sir Edmund Hillary's Himalayan Trust created the runway and is now one of the busiest in Nepal. The best mountain view is on the right side of the plane when we take the flight to Lukla. Along the way we watch the foothills give way to the snowline of the high Himalayas. On a clear day, we see many of the world's highest mountains in Nepal and on the border with Tibet. We see Cho Oyu (8,153m), Lhotse (8,516m), Gauri Shankar (7,145m), and the summit of Mount Everest at an altitude of 8,848m.

After landing at Lukla, we get a warm welcome from the porters. They will carry our duffel bags until we return to Lukla. Make sure you have time to get to know them and to acknowledge them even if it is through smiles and hand signs. After a cup of tea at a teahouse lodge in Lukla, the porters load up and start the trek. We leave Lukla on a typical stony path that we will follow for most of the way through the upper Khumbu. It is important to take your time and walk at a slow pace, especially for the first few days on the trek. We need to ease our way into the trek after days of international travel to Nepal.

The trail descends from the terraces of Lukla and we contour above the Dudh Koshi (river of milk). You pass large stones carved and painted with Buddhist prayers. We see carved mani stones and prayer wheels which are typical of Sherpa country. We show our respect and pass these sacred monuments in a clockwise direction. We hike along an undulating trail on the East bank of Dudh Koshi. We pass through several small hamlets of Chaurikharka, Cheplung, Thado Koshi, and Ghat. We continue onto the village of Phakding where we stay our first night at a teahouse lodge.

Important note: there is a safety risk to consider when flying on airlines in Nepal. If you would like to avoid the STOL flight from Kathmandu to Lukla there is an option to extend your trek. You can walk to Lukla in three days after driving to Salleri. Or you can follow the traditional approach from Jiri taking five to six days walking. There are also safety considerations with driving in Nepal and road traffic accidents happened from time to time. For information about the aviation risk in Nepal read the relevant sections "Threat and Risk Assessment" and "Internal flights in Nepal". Please get in touch with us if you would like to discuss this further.

DAY 4: TREK TO NAMCHE BAZAAR (3,440M)

Walking 9km (6 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Zamling Guest House in Namche Bazaar

Today we trek to the Sherpa capital at Namche Bazaar and into the heart of the Upper Khumbu. By now

we are familiar with the local protocol for passing Buddhist chortens and mani stones. We enjoy the hustle and bustle of trekking and everyday life that exists in the Khumbu. There will be animal traffic on the trail as yaks and ponies carry supplies up to Namche. For your safety keep away as they can be unpredictable and stay on the uphill side of the trail.

From Phakding we cross a suspension bridge to the East bank of Dudh Koshi and follow the river to the North. It takes 2 or 3 hours to reach Monjo where we enter Sagarmatha National Park. Along this section of the trail we get a good view of Mount Thamserku (6,608m). After descending to the river we cross a bridge to Jorsale. Shortly after leaving this village we cross back to the East side. We follow the river until the trail ascends to the Hilary Bridge. This is an impressive suspension bridge spanning a deep chasm.

The walk up the hill to Namche will be one of the harder sections of the trek. We hike at a slow pace (the Nepalese word is "bistari"). This is the key for acclimatisation and will become the norm for the trek. Halfway up the Namche hill there is a resting place for our first view of Mount Everest. The Everest summit appears behind the high ridge between Nuptse and Lhotse. As we start traversing the hill we get our first views of Namche Bazaar. This Sherpa town has buildings built on terraces in a mountain bowl. It is an impressive sight of colourful houses and lodges and prayer flags.

DAY 5: ACCLIMATISING WALKS AROUND NAMCHE BAZAAR

Day walk around Namche

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Zamling Guest House in Namche Bazaar

We stay for two nights in Namche to help acclimatisation as we are now over 3,000m in height. To help your body adapt to the high altitude we go for a walk by following the golden rule of "climb high, sleep low". We have several options for day walks from Namche. The first option is the long walk to Thame village at 3,800m and back to Namche taking between 7 to 8 hours. If you prefer to have a shorter walk you can visit the Everest View hotel also at 3,800m. This takes around 4 hours and you can visit Khumjung village too. You should listen to your body and do not push too hard on the walk. Having time to rest at high altitude is an important part of the acclimatisation process. We have enough guides so, if required, we can organise both of these walks for different members of the group.

Thame valley is less visited by trekkers as it is away from the main Everest Base Camp trail. We leave Namche on the high trail that contours out the village high above the Bhote Khosi river. We walk through rhododendron forest and then into open pastures. We pass through the small hamlets of Samsing and Thamo. It is a beautiful valley with their traditional houses and terraced fields. We are following the old Tibetan trade route. In the past Tibetans travelled over the Nangpa La to trade in Namche. Before reaching Thame the path descends to a bridge with water roaring below. On the rock there are large wall paintings of Guru Padmasambhava.

The path then climbs to the picturesque village of Thame with a backdrop of snow covered peaks. The late Sherpa Tenzing Norgay's house is near the top of the village where he lived with his first wife. Apa Sherpa who has climbed to the summit of Mount Everest twenty one times also lives in Thame village. Above the village is an important monastery over 600 years old. After lunch at a teahouse lodge we make our return trip on the same trail back to Namche.

DAY 6: TREK TO DEBOCHE (3,770M)

Walking 10km (7 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Rivendell Lodge in Tengboche

This morning after a short climb out of the Namche bowl we contour on a trail high above the Imja Khosi. We get views of Mount Everest, Lhotse, Thamserku and Ama Dablam (6,812m). Ama Dablam means 'Mother's necklace' as the ridges on each side are like the arms of a mother protecting her child. The hanging glacier is the dablam and this is the traditional pendant worn by Sherpa women. There is no doubt that the majestic Ama Dablam is one of the most beautiful mountains in the world.

We pass the two lodges at Kenjuma and then make the descent on a steep trail to Phunke Tenga. We often have lunch at one of the lodges by the river. Afterwards, we walk uphill through a forest for about two hours to Tengboche. The setting of Tengboche monastery is magical and it is a lovely building. At 3pm every day, the monks have their prayers and it is a special experience to watch this ceremony. Once leaving Tengboche the path descends through trees to Deboche and to our lodge taking about 20 minutes. We chose to stay at Deboche rather than Tengboche as it is warmer lower down in the trees, it is less busy and Rivendell is a lovely lodge to stay at.

DAY 7: TREK TO PANGBOCHE (3,930M)

Walking 3.5km (2 to 3 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Highland Sherpa Resort in Pangboche

After leaving Tengboche we descend through pine forest to Deboche and down to the Imja Khola. We cross a bridge over the gorge and then follow the path on the other side. There are stunning views of Ama Dablam ahead. We pass chortens and mani walls as we gain height to reach the village of Pangboche. The walk to Pangboche takes about 2 to 3 hours. Today is a shorter walk and this is to help the acclimatisation process now that we are close to 4,000m. We ascend in height at a slow rate to avoid getting altitude sickness.

After arrival at the lodge we will have lunch. In the afternoon we walk around to explore the village. Upper Pangboche is the old part of the village with traditional Sherpa houses. This is a 15 minutes hike uphill from our lodge. We visit the oldest monastery in Khumbu set among old juniper trees.

DAY 8: DAY WALK TO AMA DABLAM BASE CAMP (4,576M)

Walking 8km (5 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Highland Sherpa Resort in Pangboche

After breakfast we head off the walk towards Ama Dablam Base Camp. This is an opportunity to get away from the main trail and explore a quieter area in the Khumbu. Today's walk will also help acclimatisation and you will feel the benefits later on.

We cross Imja Khola on a suspension bridge below Pangboche. We follow a trail uphill through juniper and heather. The mountain views are a 360 degrees panorama. Ama Dablam Base Camp is at a height of 4,576m in a yak pasture beneath the west face of the mountain. The summit is 2,300m above us and from here we get a sense of the immense scale of the mountain. The climbing route follows the southwest ridge. Base Camp affords particularly fine views of Kangtega (6,783m), Thamserku (6,618m) and Taboche (6,542m). After enjoying some time at Ama Dablam Base Camp you return by the same trail back to Pangboche.

DAY 9: TREK TO DINGBOCHE (4,410M)

Walking 6.5km (4 to 5 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Hotel Brightstar in Dingboche

We leave Pangboche on a path that passes through yak herders huts and walled fields. We walk past the lodges at Shomare (4,010m) and Orsho (4,190m). We cross a bridge and make a final steep ascent to Dingboche. The village of Dingboche is a scenic place surrounded by high peaks. The altitude is at 4,240m and we spend two nights here for acclimatisation before moving higher.

DAY 10: ACCLIMATISING WALK UP NANGKARTSHANG PEAK (5,080M)

Walking 3.5km (3 to 4 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Hotel Brightstar in Dingboche

This morning we walk up Nangkartshang Peak. We follow a steep, rocky trail above Dingboche to the summit at an altitude of 5,080m. There are fantastic views of Ama Dablam, Taboche, Cholatse and Mount Makalu to the East. By walking up Nangkartshang Peak this helps acclimatisation to high altitude. We walk back to our lodge in Pangboche for lunch. In the afternoon it is best to rest to allow your body to adapt before pushing higher tomorrow.

DAY 11: TREK TO LOBUCH (4,931M)

Walking 8km (5 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Oxygen Resort in Lobuche

From Dingboche we climb the ridge behind the village next to the large chorten. The trail flattens out and we walk across the high grassy plateau above the Pheriche valley. Before Dughla we cross a bridge over a stream and then arrive at the two lodges located here. From Dughla the steep trail climbs onto the terminal moraine of the Khumbu glacier. We pass a poignant place where there is a line of memorials in tribute to the climbers who have died on Everest. The panorama of the peaks from this point is beautiful. From the memorial the route descends a little and follows the side of the valley to Lobuche. Here there is a cluster of teahouse lodges. Taboche and Nuptse Peaks are particularly spectacular from Lobuche.

DAY 12: TREK TO EVEREST BASE CAMP (5,300M) AND BACK TO GORAKSHEP (5,160M)

Walking 12km (8 to 9 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Snowland lodge in Gorakshep

Today is one of the highlights of the trek as you walk to Everest Base Camp. After an early start we follow the undulating trail along the western side of the Khumbu valley. The views today are magnificent with towering snowy peaks. The conical peak of Mount Pumori soon comes into view. The Everest view point of Kala Patar is on a lower ridge of this mountain.

After Lobuche pass (5,110m) the trail is rockier as we walk along the lateral moraine of Khumbu glacier. After about 2 to 3 hours from Lobuche we descend to a sandy basin to reach the lodges at Gorakshep. After a light lunch we set off for the walk to Everest Base Camp. This is approximately a 5 to 6 hour return trek back to Gorakshep where we sleep tonight.

After crossing the sandy flats at Gorakshep we climb back onto the lateral moraine. After a couple of hours we drop down onto the glacier. The trail then winds up and down and through icy seracs to Everest Base Camp. From here there are fantastic close up views of the Khumbu icefall. In spring season Base Camp is a tented village with mountaineers from around the world. We celebrate our achievement and enjoy the moment. Afterwards we retrace our trail back to Gorakshep.

DAY 13: ASCEND KALA PATAR (5,545M) AND RETURN TO LOBUCH

Walking 11km (6 to 7 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Oxygen Resort in Lobuche

In the morning at first light we leave the lodge to climb up to the summit of Kalapatar at an altitude of 5,545m. We do not leave earlier in the morning as it is too cold and walking in the darkness is risky. Kalapatar is the highest point reached on the Everest Base Camp trek. It is hard work walking uphill when at high altitude and you will be out of breath even if well acclimatised. The walk to the top takes about 2 to 3 hour. It is well worth the effort for the great views of the summit of Mount Everest. There are other Himalayan giants of Pumori, Changtse, Nuptse and Lhotse. We spend time on the summit to allow you to sit down and reflect. The majestic beauty of the mountains and ice flutes surrounds us.

We return down the same trail back to the teahouse lodge at Gorakshep. We have lunch and then head off for our return to Lobuche

DAY 14: TREK TO DZONGLA (4,830M)

Walking 6.5km (4 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge in Dzongla

From Lobuche we walk downhill and after 45 minutes we turn off the main trail. From this junction we traverse around a spur above the Chola Tscho lake and follow the valley to Dzongla. This is a beautiful spot at the base of the Cho La pass surrounded by high mountains. We see the impressive peaks of Taboche and Cholatse with Ama Dablam visible down the valley.

DAY 15: CROSS THE CHO LA (5,420M) AND WALK TO DRAGNAG (4,700M)

Walking 8km (7 to 8 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge in Dragnag

Cho La connects Everest Base Camp trail to the Gokyo valley. Crossing the pass is a scenic route without any serious technical difficulties. The hardest section is the descent from Cho La and for about 200m we scramble down a steep rocky slope. Once over the pass the trail descends to Dragnag.

Bad weather and poor conditions can make this a challenging route. If there is deep snow on the ground we may not be able to cross the pass in a safe manner. It is for this reason we choose the optimal dates for success based on our experience of trekking in Nepal. We also include micro crampons, trekking poles and gaiters on our kit list. This personal equipment will increase chances of crossing the pass in marginal conditions.

DAY 16: TREK TO GOKYO (4,750M)

Walking 4km (3 to 4 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Gokyo Resort

From Dragnag we cross the Ngozumba Glacier and hike up to the lodges at Gokyo.

DAY 17: MORNING WALK UP GOKYO RI (5,357M) AND IN AFTERNOON EXPLORE GOKYO LAKES

2km to Gokyo Ri (1 to 2 hours)

Walking to Gokyo 5th lake 9km (4 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Gokyo Resort

We have an early start for the climb up to the top of Gokyo Ri at an altitude of 5,357m. The view from the top is generally considered to be the best of the Everest range. Gokyo Ri is further away from Mount Everest than the viewpoint at Kalapatar. We have a wider panoramic view of the high Himalaya with more peaks seen compared to Everest Base Camp trek. We get back at the lodge for a late breakfast. The rest of the day we explore the Gokyo valley following the Ngozumba Glacier to the North. We walk towards Cho Oyu Base Camp passing the Gokyo lakes. Few trekking groups venture into this area so it is likely you will have it to ourselves to enjoy.

DAY 18: CROSS RENJO LA (5,345M) AND TREK TO LANGDEN IN THE THAME VALLEY

Walking 9km (7 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge in Langden

Today we walk up Renjo La at an altitude of 5,345m. As we are well acclimatised by now the ascent will feel less strenuous than our previous walks over 5,000m. At the top of the pass we have another wonderful view of Everest, Nuptse, Lhotse and Makalu. On the other side of the pass we see the Rolwaling

peaks. The trail descends down past lakes and yak pastures. We join the Thame valley and this is one of the main trading routes with Tibet over the Nangpa La.

DAY 19: RETURN TO NAMCHE BAZAAR (3,445M)

Walking 16km (6 to 7 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Zamling Guest House in Namche

We descend from our lodge at Langden down the Thame valley. This is less visited by trekkers as it is away from the main Everest Base Camp trail. The path descends to the picturesque village of Thame with a backdrop of snow covered peaks. The late Sherpa Tenzing Norgay's house is near the top of the village where he lived with his first wife. Apa Sherpa who has climbed to the summit of Mount Everest twenty one times also lives in Thame village. Above the village is an important monastery over 600 years old.

After leaving Thame the path descends to a bridge with water roaring below. On the rock there are large wall paintings of Guru Padmasambhava. We follow the trail down the valley following the Bhote Khosi river. We walk through open pastures and pass through the small hamlets of Samsing and Thamo. It is a beautiful valley with their traditional houses and terraced fields. We enter Namche on a high trail then walk to our lodge.

DAY 20: RETURN TO LUKLA

Walking 15km (8 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Numbur Lodge in Lukla

From Namche we continue our descent down the trail following the Dudh Koshi valley. This is along the same trail as our ascent and the villages we pass through will be familiar. At Chaurikharka we start the ascent of the final hill of the trek to reach Lukla. On arriving at Numbur Lodge we can enjoy our last evening with the guides and wonderful porters.

DAY 21: FLY TO KATHMANDU

Fly to Kathmandu

Breakfast

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

If the weather is clear in Lukla then we will get a morning flight back to Kathmandu. We will meet you at the airport and drive you back to the hotel. You can then spend the rest of the day doing what you please.

DAY 22: AT LEISURE IN KATHMANDU

Breakfast

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

Today is a free day to relax in Kathmandu after the trek. You can do some independent sightseeing around the city. You can enjoy spending time at the restaurants and cafes. The reason for having an extra day as a buffer is in case of any delays or cancellations flying back from Lukla. This helps to minimise the risk of missing your international flight back home.

DAY 23: FLY BACK HOME

Fly home

Breakfast

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

DATES & PRICES

2024

Dates	Trip Leader	Price	Single Supplement: Room/ Tent	Availability
27 Apr 2024 to 19 May 2024	Local Leader	US\$3,095pp	US\$240pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee
05 Oct 2024 to 27 Oct 2024	Local Leader	US\$3,095pp	US\$240pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee
26 Oct 2024 to 17 Nov 2024	Local Leader	US\$3,095pp	US\$240pp / NA	Guaranteed

2025

Dates	Trip Leader	Price	Single Supplement: Room/ Tent	Availability
05 Apr 2025 to 27 Apr 2025	Local Leader	US\$3,150pp	US\$240pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee
26 Apr 2025 to 18 May 2025	Local Leader	US\$3,150pp	US\$240pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee
04 Oct 2025 to 26 Oct 2025	Local Leader	US\$3,150pp	US\$240pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee
25 Oct 2025 to 16 Nov 2025	Local Leader	US\$3,150pp	US\$240pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

A Typical Day On Trek

TYPICAL DAY ON A TEAHOUSE TREK IN NEPAL

We provide a comfortable experience on our teahouse lodge-style treks. Our team works hard to support you so that you can relax and enjoy [trekking in Nepal](#). The lodges provide your meals in a communal dining room. You will sleep in private rooms with a shared bathroom. There is a range of standards and service in teahouse lodges depending on location. i.e. lodges at higher altitudes and places with fewer trekkers tend to have more basic facilities.

The day starts with getting up in your room shared with another trekker in our group. Before heading for breakfast you pack your overnight gear into your main bag (this could be a duffel, kit bag, or rucksack). You would have given your breakfast orders to the guide to pass onto the kitchen last night. At the designated time the group will assemble in the dining room to eat breakfast. Breakfast includes cereal, porridge, or rice pudding and an egg dish with bread or toast plus two cups of hot drinks such as tea, coffee, or lemon ginger honey.

While the group is having breakfast the porters arrange their loads and set off in the cool of the morning. After breakfast, between 7am and 8am, we start walking. The pace of the trek is moderate as there is plenty of time in the itinerary to reach the lodge for tonight. Enjoy the scenery, take photos, and explore the local villages. Lunch will be around midday at a teahouse lodge by the side of the trail. This includes one dish such as fried rice, dal bhat, momos, or pasta plus two cups of hot drinks.

After lunch, we continue the walk and on most days we arrive at the lodge around mid-afternoon. On arrival, you will get a hot drink and biscuits. For dinner, you get a two-course dinner (soup and main meal). The menus are quite standard with a range of dishes such as dal bhat, momos, and the famous Sherpa stew. Dal bhat is a Nepalese dish of rice and lentils with vegetable curry. It is also possible to order spaghetti and pasta; pizzas; vegetable burgers and chips and fried rice. We also provide up to two cups of hot drinks per meal.

After supper, the leaders will discuss the plan for the next day. Afterward, people might stay in the dining room chatting about the day's events or playing cards. After a tiring day, most people head to their rooms quite early for the night. Tomorrow is likely to be very similar to today!

You can read more about [Teahouse Trekking in Nepal](#) on our Blog. This article explains the facilities available at a teahouse lodge. It also describes the advantages and disadvantages of camping-style treks. Plus the amount to budget for extra costs. We also touch upon what to pack for a teahouse trek, safety, and security plus responsible use of the lodge.

Meal Plan

MEAL PLAN

We include all meals at the teahouse lodges (breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner) while on the trek. Importantly, we clearly define what dishes and drinks we provide so there is no confusion in terms of what is allowed. Given the amount of food and drinks we include, there should be no need to spend any extra money on additional food. However, some people will pay for extra treats along the way such as to get cake and a coffee at the bakeries and cafes!

If you are comparing our prices with other operators you should be careful to compare apples with apples. These days many operators do not include meals in their packages when staying at the teahouse lodges. The food at the lodges is expensive and will cost an average of £25 (US\$35) per person per day. If you are paying for the meals directly to the lodges you would need to carry a lot of cash including the tip money too. Having this amount of money with you will be a security risk and for peace of mind, it is better to pay for the meals to us when booking the trip. Also, it will be difficult to know in advance how much cash to bring with you on the trek (there are no ATMs when on trek). Furthermore, in practice, it will be complicated and time-consuming for you and the guides to work out individual bills after checking out each day from the lodge.

With our meal plan, you can select your dishes from the menu at the lodge. In our package, we include the cost of your breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. Breakfast includes cereal, porridge, or rice

pudding and an egg dish with bread or toast. Lunch includes one dish such as fried rice, dal bhat, momos, or pasta. For afternoon tea, you get a hot drink plus biscuits. Dinner is two courses including soup and the main dish chosen by you from the menu. You are allowed two cups of hot drinks per meal so this means a total of seven cups per day.

We cater to a variety of dietary requirements. There are always meals that are suitable for vegetarians. During booking, we find out if you have any dietary needs and agree upon meal plans before departure. If you have any questions about the food provided please get in touch with us to discuss further.

Communications

COMMUNICATIONS

We bring a Thuraya satellite phone for logistical, safety and personal use. Personal calls charged at £4 (US\$5 or €4.50) per minute and £2 (US\$3 €4.50) to send and receive SMS text.

Kit List

KIT LIST FOR EVEREST HIGH PASSES TREK

This is the mandatory kit list for the safety of everyone in the group and to ensure a successful trek. You must have the following items tailored for Everest High Passes trek. The group leader will check your gear in Kathmandu before departure for the trek.

As a reminder, the weather on this trek will vary season to season and day to day as you ascend to higher elevations. At the start of the trek you will experience warm conditions with temperatures up to 20 Celsius. You experience the coldest temperatures in Gorak Shep at an altitude of 5,200m. Overnight lows here will be down to around -15 Celsius.

You should bring a rucksack or backpack for gear required during the day. Your pack should contain items such as warm clothes, jacket, camera, water bottles, personal first aid kit and snacks. **The weight limit is 5kg.** A porter will carry the rest of your personal equipment packed in a duffel or kit bag. **The weight limit for your duffel bag is 15kg.** Please mark your bag on the outside for easy identification.

Print the kit list and tick items off as you pack them then weigh your kit bag before you come on trek.

Footwear

- Walking Boots. A pair of water repellent boots with ankle support. Boots must be in good condition, the best approach is to get new boots and break in before the trek.
- Trail shoes. Used around the lodge.
- Walking socks.
- Gaiters. A pair of knee high gaiters used to keep boots dry if walking through snow or on wet ground.

Clothing

- Waterproof and Windproof jacket (with hood) and trousers (goretex or similar). For use if it rains or snows during the trek and in windy conditions.
- Trekking trousers. (eg. Mountain Hardwear Mesa V2 or The North Face Paramount Peak).
- Soft Shell Trousers.
- Long sleeve tops or shirts (not cotton).
- Micro fleece.
- Mid to heavyweight fleece or synthetic/ primaloft top.
- Sleeveless/ gilet or body warmer type fleece / synthetic top. This will help keep your core warm while not bulking when layering up. Gilet used in combination with base layers, other fleeces and down jacket. This provides the most warmth and insulation.
- Thermals or base layer for top & bottom (merino wool or synthetic).
- Fleece or synthetic leggings. Worn around the camp or added as a layer when the temperatures start to drop higher up.
- Medium weight down jacket.

Head and Gloves

- Fleece gloves.
- Warm mittens and/or gloves.
- Wool or fleece hat.
- Sun hat.
- Bandana or scarf (eg. Buff Headwear).
- Head torch. Bring extra batteries.
- Sunglasses. The lenses need to be Category 4 rated. They should have side protection or wraparound design.

For crossing the passes

- Trekking poles (Black Diamond with “Flick Lock” are best). Two poles are mandatory for your safety. These will be helpful on steep sections of the trail and river crossings. Also for walking on snow or ice higher up.
- [Kahtoola Microspikes](#) or [YakTrax Summits](#). These are for your security when descending passes with snowy or icy conditions. They fit onto your walking boots.
- Gaiters. A pair of knee high gaiters used to keep boots dry if walking through snow or on wet ground.

Personal equipment

- Sleeping bag. Overnight lows down to -15 Celsius. It is possible to rent a bag from Shonas Rental in Kathmandu.
- Fleece or silk liner for your sleeping bag. A liner protects your sleeping bag from getting dirty. Also helps by adding extra insulation to keep you warm at night.
- Day pack. Recommended size is around 30 litres. You need to have enough space to carry water bottles, camera, snacks and extra clothing. The pack should have a good waist belt. It is also a good idea to bring a rain cover to keep the contents dry.
- Trekking poles (Black Diamond with “Flick Lock” are best). Two poles are mandatory for your safety. These will be helpful on steep sections of the trail and river crossings. Also for walking on snow or ice higher up.
- Stuff sacks for keeping your gear dry and organised. Or even better are fold dry bags such as from Exped.
- Two water bottles. Nalgene wide mouth bottles are the best. You may use a hydration pack lower down but the tube will freeze in the cold so ensure you still have two water bottles.
- Pee bottle. Recommended as means you do not have to get up to find the toilet tent at night! For men you can use an old water bottle. For women take a look at SheWee.
- Sunscreen and lip salve with a high SPF.
- Water purification tablets (Pristine, Biox Aqua or Aqua Mira).
- Favourite snack food.
- Books and cards etc.
- Camera with spare batteries and memory cards.
- Insurance certificate.
- Earplugs (optional).
- Baby wipes (optional).
- Hand sanitizer. Keep this in your day pack for use after a toilet break during the trek or before eating any snacks. We provide sanitizer for use before meals.
- Covid lateral flow test kit (i.e. at least one pack of seven tests). Please test yourself after arrival to Nepal and if at any time you have symptoms of Covid during the trip.
- Face masks. A mask helps protect those around you from Covid infection, and it also helps protect you. An N95 respirator is the most protective face covering that you can get against omicron and other viruses. An N95 is a disposable face covering that filters out at least 95% of airborne particles. An alternative to the N95 mask is the KN95 mask, which is the Chinese equivalent of the US standard.

Travelling

- Duffel bag for your personal gear on the trek. Will be carried by a porter. Rugged and waterproof made of a plastic material. Size 80-100 litres. Eg. Mountain Equipment or Rab. 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 with soap, travel towel, toilet paper, toothbrush etc.

We provide a [comprehensive group first aid kit](#). Please bring personal medications and other items you might use such as:

- Any personal medications.
- 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).

Threat and risk assessment

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR EVEREST TREKS

You should be aware trekking in a developing country involves a risk of personal injury or death. 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 and unpredictable weather. There could be last-minute changes to the itinerary beyond our control. The ability to work in a team is an important aspect of our trips.

We have performed a threat and risk assessment for our Everest trek. Our trips have a degree of risk. This is part of the attraction of adventure travel and why so many people choose to join this type of holiday. By identifying the hazards we assess the level of risk. We have control measures in place to reduce this happening or to reduce the impact.

Our risk assessment is available to clients on request. We have listed below a summary of the significant risks and hazards identified by us:

- Falls and trips resulting in physical injury eg. slipping on ice or falling off the path.
- Altitude illness including but not limited to AMS, HACE, and HAPE.
- Climatic injuries (dehydration, sunburn, heat exhaustion, hypothermia, or heat stroke). Please note during the months of April and October it will be very hot and humid for the first three days of the trek.
- Crossing a river with no bridge resulting in drowning and/ or a fall.
- Rockfall and landslides.
- Snow and ice avalanches.
- Lightning strike.
- Wildlife, pack animals (e.g. donkeys or horses) or stray dogs. Pack animals can knock people off the path. Dogs can attack and bite. Discuss rabies vaccination with your doctor.
- Earthquake.
- Risk of fire in the hotel or lodge.
- Endemic local diseases. Discuss vaccinations with your doctor before departure.
- Physiological injury. Such as heart attack, appendicitis, hernia, toothache, etc. in a remote area.
- Road traffics.
- Flight accidents. Read paragraph "Internal flight".
- Contaminated food and/ or water.

This trip visits a remote area. You are away from the usual emergency services and medical facilities. Evacuation for a serious injury requiring hospitalisation could take up to several days. This delay could impede your ensuing recovery. Helicopters are the usual means of evacuation. They are not always available or hindered by poor weather and flying conditions.

Internal Flights

INTERNAL FLIGHTS IN NEPAL

Flights from Nepal's Short Take-Off & Landing ("STOL") airstrips are dependent on weather. Delays often happen if there is poor visibility or high winds. For our itineraries with flights to or from STOL, we include one extra day in Kathmandu at the end of the trip. This is in case of delays flying back. If the delays are longer we will help reschedule your international flights. There is likely to be a fee charged by the airline

for this. You also have to pay for costs incurred in Kathmandu as a result of the delay such as accommodation and meals.

You should read the Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office ("FCDO") travel advice for Nepal. For their latest advice take a look at their [Safety & Security section under Air Travel](#). There have been some recent air accidents in Nepal. The European Union has banned Nepalese airlines from flying to Europe. For more information on Nepal's air safety profile take a look at [Aviation Safety Network](#).

Weather and conditions

WEATHER AND CONDITIONS FOR EVEREST HIGH PASSES TREK

Everest High Passes trek has a wide range of temperatures. This depends on the season, altitude and time of day. Below Namche Bazaar the nights will be cool around 5 Celsius. During the day temperatures sometimes rise to 20 Celsius. At higher altitudes temperatures range from about 15 Celsius to -15 Celsius.

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

We have chosen the dates for optimal conditions on the high passes. By April and May in Spring season the weather is warmer and the snowline is higher than March. This decreases the chance of snow blocking the Cho La pass and the Renjo La pass. In Autumn season we organise the trek during October also because the weather is warmer. Later into November the temperatures cool off and there is a higher chance of snow at 5,000m altitude.

We have written a blog article [When is the best time to go trekking in Nepal Himalaya?](#) This has information about the weather and conditions in Spring and Autumn seasons. It also explains the differences between the trekking regions of Nepal.

Suggested reading

SUGGESTED READING AND MAPS FOR EVEREST TREKS

Maps

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

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

Mount Everest National Geographic Society 1:50,000

Books

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

ACCOMMODATION

TEA HOUSE LODGE IN EVEREST REGION



In a tea house lodge in Nepal there are twin share rooms with a common bathroom and a heated communal dining room. We inspect and select the best lodges in each location.

We provide all meals at the lodges. This includes breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and biscuits plus two course dinner (soup and main meal). You can choose your dishes for all meals from the menu. We also provide two hot drinks included per meal.

HOTEL AMBASSADOR IN KATHMANDU



We have used [Hotel Ambassador](#) in Kathmandu for our groups since it was rebuilt in 2017. Since then we have received positive feedback on their service and location. This is our first choice hotel for trekking groups in Kathmandu. Rooms are well appointed with a reliable supply of hot water for use in the shower. The windows have double glazing so it keeps the rooms very quiet. They serve an excellent breakfast buffet from 7am to 10am. A sundowner on their rooftop bar and restaurant called Foreign Affairs is a must do!

TRIP REVIEWS

REVIEW BY POD51 ON 21/12/2022

Fantastic trek in Nepal The Everest High Passes Trek arranged by The Mountain Company. Stunning views and wonderful experience in the mountains. I loved the challenge of the passes on a well planned itinerary. Stayed in very friendly and well managed Teahouses and Lodges. Loved those mountains. Roland Hunter and The Mountain Company are top class. They know the Region so well and have excellent guides and team ...

REVIEW BY CUMBRIAN TREKKER 22/12/2022

First class support from The Mountain Company for our Everest High Passes trek during October 2022 The pre trip information was detailed and thorough. We had a valuable pre trek and post trek discussion when all our questions were dealt with. The guides and porters provided excellent support and they were cheerful companions throughout the journey. The itinerary allowed time for careful acclimatisation and the trekking days were planned to achieve the objectives in a sufficiently demanding but enjoyable way. The Mountain Company provided a first class service throughout. We had confidence in the Company and in their staff in Nepal. ...

REVIEW BY SUE_H ON 17/05/2022

The holiday was everything I expected and more. The bustling madness that is Kathmandu has a unique

charm all of its own, and the days spent sightseeing before and after the trek was interesting, thought-provoking, and very special. The main purpose of the holiday, of course, was the trek to Gokyo RI... the Lukla flight and particularly the landing, with the harsh mountainous landscape and the short steep runway was definitely memorable, however, the trails were quiet, there was fantastic camaraderie amongst trekkers and the accommodation in the main exceeded my expectations. There were times when I got quite emotional enjoying the views that I had previously only experienced as pictures in books. This was a holiday that I will remember forever. This is an amazing caring company... that did everything they could to make sure we had the best of times! The guides and porters were all lovely people who showed us the utmost care, and consideration....they watched us carefully on the trek and were always aware if someone needed that bit of extra encouragement and support. Unfortunately, I was taken ill during the trek and the director personally contacted my insurance company, arranged a helicopter evacuation, and was at the hospital to meet me. Thank You so much. ...

Notes downloaded on: 20-04-2024

