

# Pisang Peak 6,091m /19,983ft

**'In between the great himalayan peaks of Damodar and Annapurna range of mountains'**

'Amidst diverse picturesque scenery, from the paddy terraces to the high arctic terrain, constant views of the world's highest mountain range including Annapurna, Manaslu and Dhaulagiris. In the worlds deepest Gorge in the backdrop of traditional Buddhist culture with charming villages in the ancient trans-himalayan trade route.'

## Introduction

This is one of the classic and rewarding adventures in Nepal. The dramatic deep valleys and scenery of mountain landscapes, diverse climate and its rich vegetation makes this trip a memorable and truly awe-inspiring. Trekking northwards from the road head at Beshishar onwards, entering the gorge of the Marsyangdi River, which cuts through the great Himalaya chain of high peaks between the Annapurnas and Manaslu, creating a valley that transcend by the high pass of Thorang-la to the deepest gorge of Kali-Gandaki river Valley which again passes through the high mountain range of Dhaulagiri and Annapurna, beginning this adventure from the low subtropics farmland of Nepal's 'middle hills' into the high alpine region on the north side of the Annapurnas, which is the domain of Tibetan Buddhism culture making this adventure a very picturesque from every aspect of trekking environments.

Pisang peak rises from yak pastures above the village of Pisang, in a uniform slope to the final summit pyramid which is an undistinguished snow and ice slope.

Looking from above Humdre the peak is more interesting and can be seen as a curved ridge, with the face above Pisang being the truncated southern end of the mountain. This is made up of steeply tilted rock, the dip slope of which faces the valley and is well seen in this peak and the great rock slabs further down the valley.

The peak obviously has a lot of scope for exploration and pioneering. The whole of the western flank, which is guarded by a hanging glacier which might appear to offer a considerable challenge, whilst a traverse of the whole summit ridge which connects to a more northern summit before curving back west looks a superb possibility.

Access to the western end of the ridge, however, looks problematical as the ridge is guarded by a huge rock slabs, a feature on this side of the valley.



## Inquiry

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## The Climb

South-West Face and Ridge.

The first ascent was made solo by J.Wellenkamp in 1955 during a German expedition to Annapurna. This same expedition also made an ascent of Chulu East. From upper Pisang village ascend a path through sparse wood and pastures to a kharka (shepard shelter) at 4,380 meters (14,370ft). which provides a good site for base camp. A faint trail continues on open hillside, following a ridge and climbing to a shoulder on the south-west ridge at 5,400m/17,716ft a suitable site for high camp.

Under some conditions this may be under snow. Above, a well defined ridge leads to the final snow slope which leads quite steeply although without difficulty to the summit. Descent is made by the same route.

### TRIP PROFILE

<b>Trek Grade</b>	Moderate to Adventurous .
<b>Trek &amp; Camping</b>	19/20 days.
<b>Climbing grade</b>	Alpine PD + .

### TRIP DEPARTURES

<b>Summer-Autumn (every year)</b>	14th April to 07th May . 25th September to 18th October.
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## OUTLINE ITINERARY

**DAY 01** Arrive Kathmandu and transfer to Hotel.

**DAY 02** Arrive Kathmandu and transfer to Hotel.

**DAY 03** Drive to Bulbule. 6-8 hrs bus rides.

**DAY 04** Bubule to Jagat. 6 hrs trek via Bahun-danda, Syange.

**DAY 05** Jagat to Dharapani. 6 hrs trek via Chamje, Tal.

**DAY 06** Dharapani to Chame. 6 hrs trek via Bagarchap.

**DAY 07** Chame to Pisang village 5 hrs trek.

**DAY 08** Rest day at Pisang for acclimatization and local hike.

**DAY 09** Pisang to Base Camp. 4-5 hours.

**DAY 10** Base Camp to High Camp at 5,400metere. 3-4 hours.

**DAY 11** At High Camp. Preparation for the climb.

**DAY 12** Climbing day.

**DAY 13** Trek back to Pisang village.

**DAY 14** Trek to Manang.

**DAY 15** Trek to Phedi.

**DAY 16** Trek to Muktinath via Thorang-la.

**DAY 17** Trek to Marpha via Jomsom.

**DAY 18** Trek to Lete.

**DAY 19** Trek to Tatopani.

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**DAY 20** Trek to Ghorepani.

**DAY 21** Trek to Tirkhedhunga.

**DAY 22** Trek and drive to Pokhara.

**DAY 23** Fly back to Kathmandu.

**DAY 24** International Departure.

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## Trip Dossier

### **DAY 01** Arrive Kathmandu.1,300m.

On arrival at Kathmandu International Airport, our staff will receive and escort you to the Hotel, where our guide will give you a brief orientation of the Hotel, Kathmandu, Trek / Camping, do's and don't and other related information that you might require while in Nepal.

### **DAY 02** A day in Kathmandu with half day sightseeing tour.

After your first night in Kathmandu, you will be well informed on arrival about the time for your half day guided sightseeing tour in Kathmandu at places of interest. Sometime, depending upon your flight arrival if it's late in the night we will do this tour in the afternoon instead of morning to give you a nice sleep and rest before you venture out of the Hotel for our interesting tour.

### **DAY 03** Drive to Bulbule or Nagdi via Khudi 6 hrs journeys.

After breakfast, a scenic driving journey on the Kathmandu- Pokhara highway. The drive diverts from the main highway from Dumre. This is an interesting drive through the foothills of the Himalaya. On arriving Beshishar overnight camp at near the village backyard. Behishar a large town and it's the district headquarter of Lamjung area. Depending upon the time of the season and road condition we might drive a little further towards a small village of Bulbule and beyond to Nagdi, to make it easier for the next day walk. The drive continues following the wide dirt motor able road for an hour or two, the walk continues through Khuldi and crossing few streams with short up's and downs. On reaching Khudi a short drive leads to Bulbule or as far to Nagdi village. Bulbule 790 m. Just before Bulbule cross the suspension bridge over River.

#### **DAY 04** Trek to Jagat. Approx 1,290m. 5-6 hrs walks.

From Bulbule the walk is gradual on the river bed with a great view of the cascading waterfall just on the outskirts of village. The track follows the river, after half an hour of easy walk a gradual climb of half an hour leads you to the overnight camp at Ngadi. After a good first day trek, today's walk begins with an easy winding path from Ngadi for an hour crossing this same river via a suspension bridge. The trail follows to a steep climb for an hour, reaching towards the lush farm terraces; from here the walk leads on the gradual path for a while, another half hour climb brings you at the top of Bhaundanda.

Bhaundanda a small village perched on a ridge further up from the Marsyangdi river valley. From here, the trek descends passing through farm terraces then reaching to a gradual winding path for an hour before Syange village, a short downhill walk brings you close to the river with great view of the waterfalls on the other side of the Marsyangdi River.

Syange village is reached after crossing a long suspension bridge; after a short break here trek continues on the gradual path for a while, then climbing up away from the river, the steep climb lasts for an hour. Once on the top of the ridge, magnificent view of the raging waterfalls can be seen on the route to Jagat near the cliff wall. From here another hour of pleasant walk brings you to the overnight stop at Jagat.

#### **DAY 05** Jagat to Dharapani, 1,860m. 6 hrs.

After Jagat, a gradual walk leads through the terraced farms with a short climb as Chamje village is reached; from Chamje the trail descends to cross a suspension bridge over the raging Marsyangdi River, here the valley narrows. Climbing steeply again, and passing number of teahouses, finally reaching a viewpoint where one can look north wards across a surprising level of pasture to the houses of Tal after a good three hours of morning walk, the village is situated on the gorge-valley by the side of the river Marsyangdi, which are dwarfed by the high mountains beyond, including the Kang Guru massif. Tal is the most southerly of the village of the Manang district. Chortens and prayer flags affirm to the Buddhist influence, which is increasingly predominant from this point onwards. Leaving Tal after lunch, the walk gets easier on the gentle path into a narrowing valley before descending to cross a bridge, from this spot the path winds up for another two to three hours of good walk till Dharapani is reached for the overnight stop. From here onwards the vegetation and the landscapes changes the climate as well gets cooler. Dharapani located at the confluence of the tributary Dudh Khola that joins Marsyangdi. The Manaslu route meets the Annapurana circuit trail here.

## **DAY 06** Trek to Chame. 2,670m. Approx. 5-6 hrs.

After a pleasant morning at Dharapani, our route turns towards west passing through the interesting Buddhist village of Bagarchap, after an hour walk from Bagarchap altitude gains slowly as you reach towards the apple country at Dhanaqi and to the alpine region, from here walk continues through farms, orchards and beautiful pine forest with grand views of Manaslu behind and of the towering peaks of Lamjung and Annapurna II, the trail follows the river Marsyangdi upstream passing by the villages of Ratamanang and Koto before Chame.

From Koto, half hour of pleasant walk brings you to the village town of Chame an important and as well the administration town of Manang region. Overnight camp near the village Chame has fresh running hot springs just below the village after the bridge on the bank of Marsyangdi River.

## **DAY 07** Trek to Pisang 3,150m. Approx. 6 hrs.

On leaving Chame the path passes through pine woods and small villages with few ups and downs till you reach Bratang a village with an apple orchard on the side of the road.

From here walk continues on the gradual path to the bridge, After crossing the bridge a short steep climb leads through the pine forest reaching the top ridge of Pisang village and towards the open valley, walk continues down hill through the forested area with great views of Pisang peak, Annapurna II and the Chulu peaks, on reaching Pisang welcomed by the long prayer wheel and then a short walk leads to the overnight camp near the village or little further in the woods.

## **DAY 08** At Pisang.

A leisure day in Pisang for optional hike around and to upper Pisang village, this free day enables and help you to acclimatize before heading towards higher elevation.

## **DAY 09** Trek to Julu. Approx. 3,900m. 5-6 hrs.

From Pisang, trek follows uphill with grand views of the high snow capped peaks, the climb continues further for half an hour to the top ridge where the scenery of the beautiful landscapes along with the first view of the Pisang and Manang valley can be seen, a wide U shaped valley hanging between the two lines of snow peaks. This grand spot offers dramatic views of the valleys, Hongdre village with its short air-strip and the great peaks of Gangapurna, Annapurna II, III, Tilicho, and on the right Chuli East, ahead lays Pisang peak. This great dramatic walk leads higher up till a yak herd or a Shepard shelter is reached which is an ideal spot for the Pisang peak base camp.

### **DAY 10** Trek to Higher Camp at 5,400m.

A faint trail continues on open hillside, following a ridge and climbing to a shoulder on the south-west ridge at a suitable site for high camp the highest camping spot of this trip. Which offers an excellent view of the surrounding snow capped peaks, landscapes and valleys.

### **DAY 11** At the High Camp.

An important day for proper acclamatisation for the climb.

Today our climbing Sherpa will scout the route of the climb and fix ropes where necessary for the next day climb.

### **DAY 12** Climbing Day.

A big day today, the most awaited moment, the climb leads towards the upper ridge with awe some view of Pisang Peak. Under some conditions this may be under snow. Above, a well defined ridge leads to the final snow slope which leads quite steeply although without difficulty to the summit. The strenuous climb for 3-4 hrs leads you to the top of the summit, a magnificent panoramic views awaits you. After a great memorable moment here, descent is made on the same route care should be taken on the downhill slope, on reaching the safe side back to the high camp and continue towards Pisang village for the overnight stop.

### **DAY 13** Trek to Manang 3,520m. Approx. 4-5 hrs.

From Pisang trek continues on with the grand views of the high snow capped peaks, and ascending steeply for half an hour to the ridge where you can observe the great views.

After reaching the ridge top, the trek is more or less gradual on the wide path most of the way to Manang via the village of Braga, with time to spend the morning visiting Braga Monastery. The largest in the district, it has an outstanding display of statues, thangkas and the religious manuscripts. From here it is only an hour walk to Manang for the overnight stop.

### **DAY 14** Manang to Thorung Phedi. 4,400m. 6-7 hrs walks.

After a wonderful time at Manang, the trail from here leads to a slow climb up for an hour, after the last village of Manang, the track gently winds up offering inspiring views of the Annapurna II, Gangapurna, Tiloché and the close up view of Chulu mid and west peaks, the trail heads up in the barren windswept terrain's with juniper bushes as the only surviving vegetation around this region, coming to a small settlements of Yak-Kharka for lunch. From here, the route heads north west passing through a small

place of Leder with close up views of Chulu west peak, the walk follows with a gentle climb for an hour, then descending to Jarsang khola, from the wooden bridge a short steady climb brings to a near level path on the side of the scree ridge, from Manang onwards there are good chances of seeing mountain antelopes like Thar and Ghoral or the mountain sheep, an opportunity of seeing some elusive wildlife's including the snow leopard. Walking on this gentle path leads to a descend by the stream and again to a steep climb of 30 minutes to our overnight camp at Thorang Phedi meaning bottom of the Thorang-la.

We might continue further up for an hour to camp at High Camp depending upon the condition of the members and porters.

### **DAY 15** Trek to Muktinath 3,800m.via Thorang-la 5,415m.Approx. 6-8 hrs.

Today another last big day going over the highest point of this trek over Thorang-la, starting very early in the morning after breakfast, so that we can reach the top of the pass before the chilly wind starts and as well to catch the magnificent views of the northern Annapurna, Damudhar, Bhirkuti and Dhaulagiri range of mountains with the sun rise. For this morning walk we advise all to have their flash or torch light handy can be dark for hours on the walk before the sunlight hits the trail. The trail from Phedi follows on the winding scree, gravel path the walk in the beginning can be quite strenuous on the steep.zig-zag path for an hour, on reaching the first ridge walk continues on the narrow gradual track for half hour or more till a small glacial pond is reached where there is a temporary teahouse shade. From here walk leads to another hour or two to the top of the pass on the winding uphill trail. Though the crossing of the Pass is not technically difficult, one has to take it slowly to avoid the complications of altitude and possible snow hazard. After about four hours of struggle from the bottom, then reaching up at the height of 5,415 meter at Thorang-la, from here one can get an impressive view of the stunning high Himalayan scenery.

The descent is steep and rough, but with an excellent views of the Dhaulagiri 8,167 m.

From here a long descend to the sacred village of Muktinath, on reaching the bottom of the pass at the only teahouse around, after a short break here walk continues on the gradual trail for another hour to Muktinath the holiest of all holy places, during auspicious time according to Hindu & Buddhist calendar this place is flooded with pilgrims from Nepal and India. Overnight camp at Muktinath overlooking excellent views of Dhaulagiri I, Tukuhe Peak and Nilgiri.

## **DAY 16** Muktinath to Marpha 2,670m. 6 hrs walks

Today's walk carries on with a 1,200m of descent to the Kaligandaki river valley floor, with a brief stop at Ekale bhatti. From here onwards the valley gets very windy in the afternoon time, the walk follows the gentle trail for another two hours till the large town of Jomsom is reached. Jomsom, the headquarter of the Mustang region with an airstrip just above the Kaligandaki River. Two hours of easy walk from here leads you at Marpha for the overnight stop, which is a little gem, with whitewashed houses, paved streets and numerous well kept lodges. Here you will have time to celebrate with the local apple products like cider, brandy and juice this area from Kagbeni to Larjung is famous for its delicious apple and its product.

## **DAY 17** Marpha to Lete, 2,480m. 6hrs walk.

From Marpha, an enjoyable walk following the Kaligandaki river down stream then reaching another charming Tukuhe village, located beneath the towering Tukuhe peak and Dhaulagiri, with spectacular views of Mt. Nilgiri's and the massif icefalls which tumbles down from the Dhaulagiri's east face, after an hour walk from Tukuhe leads to Larjung village, then cross the broad river bed, either by way of a series of temporary plank bridges over numerous channel if the river level is low, or via the a high suspension bridge, the usual route follows the east side of the valley. After an hour walk, reaching to the tree line of pines, oaks and rhododendron, the path meanders away from the river for a while for an hour then coming back to the river bed just before Kalapani village, just near Kalapani the trail leads to a suspension bridge over the gorge of raging Kaligandki River with awesome view of Dhualgiri peak and its icefall, from the bridge a short walk brings you to Kalapani village. Kalapani, another lovely village of more than 20 houses with excellent tea houses and lodge with grandeur view of Mt. Annapurna I, Nilgiri's and Dhaulagiri above the beautiful forest surrounding. An hour descends brings you at Lete for the overnight stop.

## **DAY 18** Trek to Tatopani 1,190m. Approx. 6-7 hrs.

Walk from Kalapani onwards leads to a dramatic change in the vegetation, from dry, arid desert to pine, conifer forests and paddy fields, walk passes between two giant peaks of Dhaulagiri and the Annapurnas. The first two hours of trek leads through the village of Ghasa. Below Ghasa, which is the southern end of the area dominated by Thakali people with fewer of this ethnic tribe till Tatopani, the architectural style change, with much ornately carved wood work in evidence. This pleasant walk amidst the beautiful surrounding continues back to the terraced paddy fields and into warm sub-tropical climate all the way to the village of Tatopani passing through the beautiful waterfalls of Rupsi Cahhare. Just before Dana there is a long section where the trail has for many years disrupted by the landslides and every travelers, including the many trains of pack animals which ply this route has to negotiate some quite steep detours. Nearing Tatopani (Hot Spring) village the valley again is quite constricted and it starts to feel quite warm with subtropics climate and vegetation, Tatopani is another nice village with large hot spring pools just by the bank of the River Kaligandaki.

**DAY 19** Trek to Ghorepani 2,750 m. Approx. 6 hrs.

After a wonderful time at Tatopani, trek towards east on the gradual trail for an hour crossing a suspension bridge over the Kaligandki River, the path follows the river for a while just arriving at the junction of the two trails; the other wide path follows the river all the way to Beni. While our route diverts from here taking an uphill climb, the first hour climb is quite steep to the top, where there is a small tea house, from here ahead of us lies a steep terraced hillside, dotted with farms and villages, from this spot a gradual climb leads towards the top ridge at Ghorepani, after leaving behind the terraced fields walking in the dense rhododendron forests and reaching to the village of Ghorapani. Overnight camp at Ghorepani Deurali for the best views of the sunset with excellent of Dhaulagiri and Annapurna ranges.

**DAY 20** Trek to Tikhedhunga. 1,500m approx 5 hours walk.

Early morning (if the day is promising) an hour hike to the top of Poon-Hill at 3,195m altitude, for the beautiful sunrise over the superb mountain panorama from Dhaulagiri-Annapurna to Mt. Manaslu range. After the busy photo session return back to camp at Ghorepani for breakfast. From Ghorepani the trail descends towards cool shade of rhododendron forest then reaching to the open area near the village of Ulleri. From this village a steep descend on the stone steps all the way to the overnight stop at Tikhedhunga.

**DAY 21** Trek to Nayapul and drive to Pokhara 3hrs walk & 2 hrs drive.

From Tikhedhunga, a pleasant walk continues on the gradual downhill path most of the way with occasional view of the Annapurnas after few hours of good walk reaching to the charming Bhirethati village. After this village half an hour walk follows the Modi River to Nayapul for the drive to Pokhara.

**DAY 22** From Pokhara Fly to Kathmandu.

Depending upon the flight time, and to give you more time at Pokhara. As per the flight schedule, make your way to the terminal for security check, this scenic flight from Pokhara takes half hour or less to Kathmandu, a panoramic view of the snow capped peaks can be seen from the plane. On arrival at Kathmandu domestic terminal, our staff will receive and escort you back to the Hotel.

**DAY 23** Free day at leisure in Kathmandu.

A free day in Kathmandu for individual activities and please inform our staff if you would like to go on another short tour in and around Kathmandu Valley or for scenic mountain flight.



## Inquiry

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### DAY 24 **Transfer to Airport for the International departure.**

Today as per your international flight time, keep your confirmed air ticket, departure tax (in local currency) and your passport handy. Our staff will take you to the airport for your final departure.

**Note:** The above itinerary should be taken only as a guide line; it could change due to weather, availability of clean water and campsite, trail or any other unforeseen conditions.

## Pokhara Valley

Pokhara is one of the most unique sub-tropical valley in the Himalaya and probably in the world, where one can marvel the beauty of the Himalayan landscape and reflection of the Annapurna massif including the towering majestic peak of Mt. Machhapuchare on its beautiful lakes.. Pokhara is situated in the mid western Nepal. It is linked by the main highway of 200 km driving distance from Kathmandu, and by air approximately 20 to 30 minutes flight with a sweeping panoramic views of the mid east to western Himalayan ranges.

Mother nature has certainly blessed this fertile valley with outstanding scenery of the landscapes, snow capped mountains, moderate tropical climate, and beautiful pristine lakes of Begans, Rupa and Phewa.

The most stunning of Pokhara's sights is the magnificent panorama of the Annapurna range which forms its backdrop. Annapurna massif includes Annapurna I to IV and Annapurna South.

Among these high peaks it is the towering majestic Mt. Machhapuchahre (Fish Tail) which dominates all others in this range. Pokhara with its natural beauty is also a starting point of Nepal's most popular adventure destinations. Most of the trekking, mountaineering expeditions begins from this remarkable place and it's an also an ideal spot for all types of holiday makers.

## Complimentary Services

Services as mentioned below are rendered complimentary upon confirmation of your booking with us:

- a. Complimentary tourist registration to respective consulate office or embassy
- b. Complimentary international flight ticket re-confirmation
- c. Complimentary Gurkha Encounter T-Shirt (subject to availability)



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- d. Complimentary welcome dinner in one of the finest local restaurants in Kathmandu with cultural shows presented by different ethnic groups
- e. Complimentary use of sleeping bags and down jackets

## Mode of Payment

To confirm your trip we request you an upfront payment of 40% of the quoted amount by authorizing the same with your credit card details filled up in our GE Booking Form.

### If you pay by cheque/ bank draft pls make it payable to:

Gurkha Encounters Pvt. Ltd.  
G P O Box: 20195  
Ganeshman's Building  
House No.: 135  
Chaksibari Street, Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Phone: +977 1 4267 882 and 889  
Fax: +977 1 4267 854

**Note:** If you pay by Master/Visa cards there is a bank service charge of 3.5% which will be charged as an extra; for payment through American Express there is a 5.5% bank service charge.

## Terms & Conditions

- ❖ The Company is not liable for any refunds after the departure date of the scheduled itinerary.
- ❖ Cancellation should be made 48 hours before departure and a 40% cancellation charge is approved besides tax, transportation and permit. See specific information below
- ❖ No refund will be given if the program ends before the provided itinerary date.
- ❖ The Company is not to be held responsible for your early termination of a trek should our experienced leader feels it is unsafe for you to continue due to fitness and/or health issues
- ❖ The Company is not liable for an unconvinced or rescheduling due to natural, political or bureaucratic circumstances
- ❖ The Company is not responsible for delays caused by local weather conditions resulting in international flights being missed
- ❖ The Company is not responsible for the financial implications of rescue. Please ensure you have the appropriate insurance to cover these situations before you arrive in Nepal
- ❖ Our staffs are very experienced in leading treks at all altitudes. It is their responsibility to ensure your safety, their conclusions regard safety are final and should you not follow their advice the Company can not be held responsible for the outcome.

If you wish to cancel your trip for any reason the following scale of charges will apply:



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### Date of Cancellation

2 months before departure

29 days to 2 months before departure

10 to 28 days before departure

Less than 10 days before departure

### Charge Incurred

Loss of deposit (40% of Total Trip Cost TTC)

50% of TTC

70% of TTC

100% of TTC

## Equipment List (General Items)

A pair of light hiking boots

A pair of sandals

2 pairs of woolen socks and 2 pair of hiking socks

1 medium poly pro shirt

1 pile jacket

1 down jacket

1 woolen hat

A pair of sunglasses

A pair of glove shells with liner or ski gloves (opt.)

A pair of woolen gloves

One Trekking pack 3000 cubic inches capacity

One Sunscreen lotion SPF 10 to 30 and One Sunscreen stick SPF 10 to 30

Two Reading books (Optional)

One Walkman (Opt) and Music tapes (Opt) iPods Digi Camera and its Charger

A one liter water bottle

A pair of Trekking poles

One flash light with 4 sets of batteries

one -5 to -20 sleeping bag

Two T-shirts and one long sleeve T/city shirt

Two Trekking baggy pant

## Toiletry Items

Towel, pre-moistened novelettes, wash cloth, lip balm, and any additional personal items such as toothbrush, comb, etc.



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## **Miscellaneous Items**

Photo equipment with plenty of films and spare batteries, reading/writing materials, postcards of hometown and/or photos of home and family to share with Nepalese people, safety pins, sewing kit, zip lock bags for small items.

## **Welcome to the Himalaya**

Namaste and welcome to the stunning and diverse geographical regions of the Himalaya.

This wonderful place is home to many of the highest mountains in the world including the world's highest, majestic Mount Everest, to some of the deepest gorges, lush valleys, great rivers, colorful people and ancient histories. You'll find a wide and fascinating diversity of landscapes, culture, people and activities within the Himalaya. From stunning scenery to vibrant and colorful culture, from the serenity and spiritualism of ancient temples and monasteries to the thrills and spills of some of the finest white water rides, from the challenge of the awesome peaks to the laid back relaxation of the valley, lakesides and quiet hill stations to the deep lush jungles of the lowlands, from romantic and intricate courtyards, exotic palaces and exquisite restaurants to high snowy passes where prayer flags flutter in the skies and from the solitude of the great peaks to the welcoming bustle and warmth of the local bazaars and courtyards. Whatever your interest, the Himalaya has something to offer everyone.

Gurkha Encounters is a leading trekking, adventure and eco travel company based in Kathmandu, Nepal and established in 1988. We specialize in the Himalayan regions of Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan and India, including Sikkim. Our services include advice, planning and organization of a wide range of adventure and trekking travel options and related services including: trekking and climbing expeditions among the world's highest peaks; jungle safaris; white-water rafting; mountain biking; family adventures; educational expeditions for schools and youth groups; short breaks, guided tours and sightseeing; special interest holidays; romantic breaks; volunteer placements and corporate services.

Our office staff, guides and other support staff are all from local villages and towns in the Himalaya and are all experienced and qualified professionals. Our extensive local knowledge as well as our experience and local contacts mean that we are able to provide the best service to you and we are proud of our reputation for quality, innovation and overall customer service with a focus on cultural and environmentally responsible travel. We aim to provide you with an excellent, friendly and personal service at competitive and fair prices for a truly memorable adventure travel experience.



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## **Small Group Travel**

Most of our trips, treks and tours are organised on a small group basis, usually with a maximum of 16 persons in a group. On family holidays the maximum number is 20 to allow a number of families to join a group. By keeping numbers small we are able to offer a friendly, personal and high quality service.

## **Tailor Made Private Charter Adventures**

We offer a very competitive complete tailor made service and are happy to design private charter programs for individuals and for groups as well as to tailor any of our packages to more closely meet your requirements. We have a wealth of experience in helping many clients in designing and planning individual adventures, ranging from romantic breaks to personal challenges, fundraising programs, student programs to extreme adventure expeditions, from low budget to no expense spared. We don't charge a fortune to tailor make a trip for you and we have plenty of ideas, suggestions and experience we're happy to share. We'll work closely with you to design your adventure. Our advertised brochure prices will give you an idea of what you can expect to pay but we'll provide individual quotes based upon your itinerary, requirements, budget and number of people traveling.

Let us take care of the research and arrangements for your flights, accommodation, guides, transport, permits, peak fees, equipment requirements, food and all ground handling service for treks, expeditions or tours, using our local knowledge, expertise and contacts. And you can get on with enjoying yourself.

## **Group and Club Organisers**

If you are organising a trip for a group or a club we will offer one free\* additional place for every 10 bookings made. You can use this for your own travel, use it to reduce the overall cost of the trip for everyone or perhaps offer it as a fantastic prize for your group members or for a charity. Contact us for more details and for conditions (\* permit fees, national park entry fees, airfares and departure taxes not included).

## **Contact Us**

We are always happy to provide more information and suggestions. If you are in Kathmandu, please visit our office in Thamel, Kathmandu. You can email us at [info@gurkhaencounters.com](mailto:info@gurkhaencounters.com), or telephone us on +977 1 4267 882 and 889 or fax on +977 1 4267854 or contact to our Managing Director (RAJ) Mobile +977 9851022717 / 9851082548. For general information please visit our website [www.gurkhaencounters.com](http://www.gurkhaencounters.com)



## **Inquiry**

✉ [info@gurkhaencounters.com](mailto:info@gurkhaencounters.com)

☎ **977 1 4267882**

**'Tapai lai Hardik Swagat Cha' - Welcome from our heart to the mighty Himalaya.**

## **Trekking in the Himalaya**

The Himalaya mountain regions provide some of the finest trekking routes available anywhere. Within the Himalaya, Nepal's mountainous, hilly and lowland Terai regions offer some of the most spectacular trekking in the world. Treks vary from high altitude routes some of which visit base camps used by mountaineering expeditions to easy short treks within the Kathmandu Valley and lower hill country where you'll travel through pretty villages, subtropical lowlands, vast meadows and forests, fast flowing rivers, deep canyons and even the cold and barren regions at the feet of the great mountain peaks. The views change with the seasons, with different stages of planting and harvesting cycles in the villages and valleys and the brilliant display of wild flowers in spring and autumn.

Trekking with us means an adventure walking holiday, with a small group of other trekkers, led by an experienced and professional English speaking local guide. We use professionally trained and experienced local Sherpa guides or Sirdars on our treks, tours and expeditions and are totally confident in their ability and experience. Local guides are integral to providing you with the best travel experience. Not only can they share local knowledge and insights, at the same time as you travel you are contributing to the local economy and supporting local communities at the same time as you travel. Whatever route you choose, you'll be sure to meet local people and enjoy stunning landscapes as you walk at your own pace through well established village trails. Whilst some of the popular trekking trails are used by climbing expeditions on their approach marches, most have been used for hundreds of years by the local Nepalese for everyday travel and trade.

### **Teahouse Trekking**

On the more popular treks in Nepal, particularly in the Everest, Langtang and the entire Annapurna regions, enterprising villagers have built teahouse lodges, similar to European style alpine lodges offering simple but comfortable accommodation and food. We offer a selection of single/twin sharing rooms in the best available lodges run to a high level of service. We also supply a four season sleeping bag and cotton liner free of charge on our teahouse treks. Hire of other key items if needed can be arranged in advance. During the trek you'll have 3 meals a day, with a mixture of European and Asian style dishes and large portions. Soft drinks, sweets, mineral water and alcohol are not included.

### **Fully provisioned camping style trekking**

This type of trek is staffed by a full Sherpa crew including a Sirdar (head man), cook and assistants. Porters, yaks, horses or mules carry your main baggage. It is the Sherpa crew's job to perform all the



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camp work, from setting up to providing freshly made meals, to leaving the site clean on departure. We provide twin share dome or A frame sleeping tents, a kitchen tent, mess tent and toilet tent. We also provide tables, chairs or stools, lanterns/candles, thin sleeping mattresses and all crockery and cutlery as well as a fully equipped kitchen set up. The Sherpa crew will cook, wash up, and provide hot water for washing and tea and coffee at night and for your wake up call. Food is a mixture of Asian and Western dishes, with lots of choice, freshly prepared. As with teahouse trekking you can expect 3 main meals each day. Soft drinks, sweets, mineral water and alcohol are not included.

A few of our teahouse treks involve crossing high passes and necessitate camping for a couple of nights. We provide full camping services for these nights including providing four season sleeping bags.

## **Our Grading System**

In Nepal, the trails often zigzag with plenty of ascents and descents and it is better to think in terms of hours spent walking rather than miles covered. A typical day's walking is from five to seven hours with a number of ascents and descents. This includes a one hour lunch stop, a comfortable pace of walking and time to enjoy your surroundings.

We use four grades for our treks, intended to give you a general sense of what to expect and to help you choose which adventure will suit you best. Factors such as weather conditions, altitude, fitness level, experience, interests and how you feel on a particular day all contribute to how easy or strenuous you find a trip. If you're unsure of whether a trek is suitable for you just contact us before making your booking.

**Wish you have memorable time with us!**