

Trek & Climb On Mardi Himal at 5,555m

'in the least, unfrequented area of Annapurna region, breathe taking scenery, traditional rural villages, warm friendly locals, serene woodlands, on the isolated trail in complete wilderness and tranquility in the close backdrop of the towering majestic Mt.Machhapuchere / Fish Tail'

Introduction

A fabulous adventure in a short duration of time, adventurer who is interested for a good challenging climb on the less technical peak then this is just for you, a scenic journey in just one week. Our trek and climb unto Mardi Himal which takes you in the southern Annapurna region. A beautiful peak and to be on top of over 5,550 meter and in the less climbed mountain certainly adds a life time adventure thrill and achievement and to be within this unspoiled area, where you will be in complete harmony and in tranquility with the nature in this complete wilderness.

Mardi Himal's East Face is separated from Machhapuchare ridge by a col (circa 5,200m/17,060ft). The normal route of ascent reaches this col from glaciated amphitheatre that rises above a hidden plateau, also known as 'Other Sanctuary'.

These regions are seldom frequented by westerners and the ridges south of Mardi Himal. The area is quite steep sided and heavily wooded with bamboo and rhododendron. Above the forest, high alpine pastures provide good grazing and a habitat for undisturbed wildlife.

As it is lowly altitude the mountain obviously has a great deal of potential for those interested in small scale exploratory climbing and the ridges will certainly present climbing challenges at a reasonable standard.

This rarely visited area provides a tough trek isolated from the teahouses and lodges, which dominate most of the trekking in and around the Annapurna Range.

The trail to base camp is short and sharp on ill-defined trails that would be particularly difficult in wet and snowy conditions.

It is located, approximately fifteen miles or 45k.m. north of Pokhara as the crow flies, this mountain is the most southerly of the Annapurna range. From some viewpoints it seems little more than an outlier



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on the southwest flank of Mt. Machhapuchare (Fish Tail). Mardi Himal is the lowest and least climbed and visited of all the trekking peaks in Nepal.

Western mountaineers first noticed this mountain by the photographs of Basil Goodfellow, taken in 1953. It was climbed to its summit by a route on its east flank by Jimmy Roberts with two Sherpas. As seen from the south, Mardi Himal terminated the Southwest ridge of Mt. Machhapuchare as a distinct and separate mass, at right angles to that ridge. On Mardi Himal South West Face are three well-defined ridges rising from rock buttresses and separated by hanging glaciers. It is the most southerly of these is said to have been climbed, but no such details has been recorded.

TRIP PROFILE

Total duration	15 / 16 days.
Trek Grade	Moderate to Adventurous.
Trek Duration	11 / 12 days.
Climbing Grade	Alpine PD .
Highest Point	5,555m at Mardi Himal.

TRIP DEPARTURES

Spring-summer-autumn	25th April to 10th May.
(Every Year)	6th September to 21st October.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

DAY 01 Arrive in Kathmandu.

DAY 02 A day in Kathmand with half day sightseeing tour.

DAY 03 Drive to Pokhara and beyond and walk to Mardipul.

DAY 04 Trek from Mardipul to Riban 1,675m or further.

DAY 05 From Riban trek towards Kumai past Odane Hill 2,510m.

DAY 06 Trek to Khorchon 3,568m.

DAY 07 Trek to Base Camp 4,100m.

DAY 08 At BC for acclimatization and preparation for the climb.

DAY 09 Trek and climb to High Camp at 4,650m.

DAY 10 Climbing Day and return to BC.

DAY 11 Trek all the way to Kumai.

DAY 12 Trek all the way on route Mardipul for the overnight stop.

DAY 13 Trek and drive to Pokhara.

DAY 14 From Pokhara Fly to Kathmandu.

DAY 15 Free day at leisure in Kathmandu.

DAY 16 Transfer to Airport for the International departure.



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Trip Dossier

DAY 01 Arrive in Kathmandu.

On arrival at Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport you will be received by our staff 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.

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 Pokhara and beyond and walk to Mardipul.

After breakfast, a scenic drive on the Kathmandu- Pokhara highway. This is an interesting drive through the foothills of the Himalaya. On arriving at the outskirts of Pokhara a short walk leads you to the first overnight camp by the bank of Mardi River and the village Mardipul, with time for a cool splash by the river.

DAY 04 Trek from Mardipul to Riban 1,675m or further.

Today's first day walk leads to a gradual uphill with grand view of the Mt.Machhapuchare, then trek to the east bank of Mardi upstream right up to the Gurung village of Riban or little further depending upon the available campsite for the overnight.

The walk is short today just about 3-4 hrs, with enough time for local hike around.

DAY 05 From Riban trek towards Kumai past Odane Hill 2,510m.

The trail today leads to a much steeper as it climbs uphill from the village, past a Chautara (a resting place) from here the path divides, the trail leads past some cow sheds, and from here onwards the route is steeper through the bamboo forest towards a massive slab of rock. Despite the steepness the route offers tremendous views of the surrounding country.

The path passes through a small clearing, Lalghar kharka, and continues along a faint track to another clearing marking a high point on the ridge of Odane Hill. From here the trail continues along the

ridgeline, some of the trails here can lead you astray. Overnight camp will be before Kumai depending upon the availability of fresh spring water and good campsite.

DAY 06 Trek to Khorchon 3,568m.

Our journey continues on this absolute wilderness, the path can be quite misleading for some portion, then after all the hard work on reaching the ridgeline the view from here will be a reward with cool mountain air and magnificent panoramic view of the three of the world's highest mountain from the whole Annapurna range a distant of Mt.Dhaulagiri and to the Manaslu range to the east. The path climbs steeply along the ridgeline to grazing pastures called Khorchon for the overnight stop after 5-6 hrs of good walk.

DAY 07 Trek to Base Camp 4,100m.

After a wonderful stop at the summer pasture, walk continues on the steep path across a ridgeline to a hidden plateau beneath the south face of Mardi Himal and the South West Ridge of Mt.Machhapuchere this is also known as the Other Sanctuary.

DAY 08 At BC for acclimatization and preparation for the climb.

A well deserved rest day after the hard walk to here, a leisure day for local short hike around, while our guides will go beyond high camp to scout the area for the next day ascent to the summit and as well to fix the rope where necessary.

DAY 09 Trek and climb to High Camp at 4,650m.

After a good acclimatizing rest day, today's' walk leads further with a climb just at the base of Mardi peak, this will be the high camp, and it is necessary and to make it easy for the next day climb to the summit.

DAY 10 Climbing Day and return to BC.

DAY 11 Trek all the way to Kumai.

Retrace the journey back to Kumai around.

DAY 12 Trek all the way on route Mardipul for the overnight stop.

Retrace your walk all the way to Mardipul, the downhill section in some portion can be quite steep care should be taken.



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DAY 13 Trek and drive to Pokhara.

After a wonderful time in the high hills of Annapurna region, a gentle walk on the gradual trail ends this memorable adventure at the road head near Pokhara suburb, where our vehicle will be waiting for the short drive to Pokhara. On reaching Pokhara bid farewell to the trekking crews with afternoon free for a local tour around Pokhara at places of interest.

DAY 14 From Pokhara Fly to Kathmandu.

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 15 Free day at leisure in Kathmandu.

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

DAY 16 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 Begnas, Rupa and Phewa.



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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)
- 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.



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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:

Date of Cancellation	Charge Incurred
2 months before departure	Loss of deposit (40% of Total Trip Cost TTC)
29 days to 2 months before departure	50% of TTC
10 to 28 days before departure	70% of TTC
Less than 10 days before departure	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



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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.

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.



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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.

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.



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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, 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

‘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



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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 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



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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!