

CH>RITY
CH>LLENGE



TRIP NOTES

BELIEVE ACHIEVE INSPIRE

EVEREST BASE CAMP
NEPAL

Fri 22 Sep - Mon 09 Oct 2017





In aid of your choice of charity

22 Sep - 09 Oct 2017

18 DAYS | NEPAL | EXTREME

Eight of the world's 14 giants meet in the Nepalese Himalayas, including the greatest of them all: Mt. Everest standing at a formidable 8,848m. Beginning in Lukla, we follow in the footsteps of the Sherpa on this epic quest trekking at high altitude. Cross numerous rivers along the way until we reach the highest point at Kalapathar (5,545m). Take in the astonishing array of peaks and glaciers below, before celebrating in the mystical city of Kathmandu.

- Stand in the shadows of the world's highest mountain (8,848m)
- Overwhelming panoramic views
- Deep gorges and glacial lakes
- Sample Sherpa hospitality
- Explore Nepal's mystical capital, Kathmandu

YOUR CHALLENGE DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 Fri 22 Sep

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International departure from London

Your fundraising and training is about to pay off, the big day has finally arrived. Wave goodbye to family and friends before boarding your overnight flight to Kathmandu where your challenge will begin.

DAY 2 Sat 23 Sep

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Arrive Kathmandu

Welcome to Kathmandu, the gateway to the Nepali Himalaya. On landing in the capital, you'll be welcomed by the local Charity Challenge representative, who will transfer you to your hotel (you will stay in Mulkot, 3 hour transfer, if flying from Ramechhap the following day) for the first team dinner. This is the perfect opportunity for you to meet your fellow trekkers and ask any questions about your challenge ahead. After dinner, there will be time to prepare your trekking kit before getting an early night.

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 3 Sun 24 Sep

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Fly Kathmandu/Ramechhap to Lukla and trek to Tok-Tok village, 2,652m

You will have an early start as you transfer to Kathmandu/Ramechhap Airport where the adventure begins. The flight alone is an experience, so be sure to take in the scenery of towering, snow-capped mountains before you swoop dramatically into the runway. After arriving, there's a chance to pick up any last-minute kit and meet your sherpa crew. After lunch, there's a pleasant acclimatisation trek with a view of the kusum-kangru crossing at - Tok village. 6,369m. You finish at Tik-Tok village.

Accommodation: Teahouse

NB. This flight is weather dependant and can be subject to delay or cancellation. There are several acclimatisation/rest days built into the trip to allow for potential delays (up to three days). If flights are unable to take off after three days, we will implement an alternative trek itinerary.

DAY 4 Mon 25 Sep

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Trek to Namche Bazaar, 3,440m (approximately 7-8 hours)

As you leave Tok Tok this morning, you will cross the first suspension bridge of the trek, a truly breath-taking experience. You will follow the trail to Monjo, beneath the peak of Thermasarkhu (6,608m), and continue down the meandering path along the river. Finally, you will cross another spectacular bridge before reaching the foot of the steep ascent to Namche. Weather permitting, this may be your first chance to glimpse the summit of the mighty Everest. At the top, the colourful, bustling Sherpa Capital of Namche Bazaar is your final destination for the day.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 5 Tue 26 Sep

-

Acclimatisation day at Namche Bazaar

With Everest now in sight, you'll have time to acclimatise by walking to the top of Namche Bazaar. There is an optional walk to the Everest View Hotel, which boasts sweeping panoramic views. Alternatively, you can head to the Sherpa Culture museum to learn more about the region's fascinating mountaineering history. You will spend another night in Namche Bazaar, ready to continue trekking in the morning.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 6 Wed 27 Sep

-

Trek to Deboche, 3,800m (approximately 6 hours)

This morning follows the winding trail from Namche Bazaar, with exceptional views of Everest. From Shanasa, descend into Phungitenga (3,250m) a pretty settlement in the midst of alpine woods before taking on a tough ascent to Tengboche (3,867m). With its monastery and stunning views, Tengboche is arguably one of the most beautiful sites in the Himalayas. Continue along the trail to Deboche (3,800m) where you will spend the night in the shadow of the Ama Dablam peak.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 7 Thu 28 Sep

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Trek to Dingboche, 4,358m (approximately 6-7 hours)

Leaving Deboche, your route follows the long Prayer Mani Wall up towards Shomare. The altitude may start to take its toll as you climb higher above the Imjatse River. However, from here it's a lovely descent into the Imjatse Valley and the shadows of the Nuptse, Lohtse and Ama Dablam mountains. The village of Dingboche is where you will rest your weary legs for the night overlooking a patchwork of fields.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 8 Fri 29 Sep

-

Acclimatisation day in Dingboche

Today is another acclimatisation day. It is the perfect opportunity to explore the monastery and admire the incredible vistas from the ridge over Dingboche and the Imja Khola tributary. Spend the afternoon drinking tea in a coffee shop and resting up for the days ahead.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 9 Sat 30 Sep

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Trek to Loboche, 4,928m (approximately 5-6 hours)

Heading north, the trek follows the path above the village of Pheriche towards Thukla for lunch. The colourful memorial ground of fluttering prayer flags and monuments are dedicated to climbers who have lost their lives whilst mountaineering. It also serves as a reminder of how challenging the natural environment can be, so be sure to take a moment to appreciate your achievement so far. From here you have unrivalled views of Mt. Pumori and other peaks west of Everest. This is a good spot for a short break before continuing on for another 1½-2hrs up to Loboche.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 10 Sun 01 Oct

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Trek to Gorakshep, 5,160m (approximately 3 hours)

Set off on a rocky moraine path and climb above the glacial pond and icebergs of the Khumbu Glacier. After the last rocky moraine dunes, a short downhill walk brings you to the town of Gorakshep, below Kalapatthar (5,545m) and Mt. Pumori (7,145m). Gorakshep, famous for being Sir Edmund Hillary's base camp during his expedition to Mt. Everest in the 1950s, is your home for the night.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 11 Mon 02 Oct

-

There and back to Everest Base Camp, 5,357m (approximately 6 hours)

Today is the day - the finale of your trek to Everest Base Camp. The high altitude and difficult terrain makes the trekking a lot more strenuous, but the lively commotion from Everest Base Camp will help to spur you on. Celebrate with friends old and new as you reach Everest Base Camp, making sure to take plenty of photos to document your achievement. You will then head back to Gorakshep to sleep for the night.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 12 Tue 03 Oct

-

Ascent of Kalapatthar, 5,647m, and back to Pherice, 4,245m (approximately 3 hours)

Although optional, the steep hike to Kalapatthar is well worth it and is often considered one of the highlights of the trek. At Base Camp, the summit of Everest is hidden from view. From the top of Kalapatthar, however, you will be rewarded with breath-taking views of Everest's peak. Now it is time to start the descent back down to Lukla, beginning with an overnight stay in Pheriche 4,245m.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 13 Wed 04 Oct

-

Trek to Kanguma, 3,550m (approximately 5-6 hours)

The return journey will take you through the village of Pangboche, as you continue back along the Imja-Tse gorge and up to Tyangboche. The village of Kanguma is home for the night, sitting alongside the beautiful Dudh Koshi River.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 14 *Thu 05 Oct*

-

Kanguma to Chumoa, 2,710m (approximately 5-6 hours)

The morning climb from Kanguma is steep, pushing weary legs through pine forests and valleys towards Namche Bazaar. Enjoy lunch here, the largest Himalayan village, before continuing along the path towards Monjo and your teahouse for the evening.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 15 *Fri 06 Oct*

-

Trek back to Lukla (approximately 3-4 hours)

The last day of walking is pleasant, following the Bhote Kushi River towards the village of Phakding, before embarking on the final stretch of your journey. It's one last push to tackle the 45 minute uphill climb to Lukla where you will be staying in a traditional teahouse. Now it's time to revel in your success with a hard earned celebration meal and an evening spent sharing memories with your new found friends.

Accommodation: Teahouse

DAY 16 *Sat 07 Oct*

-

Lukla to Kathmandu

Bid farewell to Lukla and the magic of the Himalayas. Touching down in Kathmandu you will transfer to your hotel where a delicious celebration meal will await you.

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 17 *Sun 08 Oct*

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Kathmandu

Today is dedicated to exploring the wonders of the magical city of Kathmandu. You will have time to visit its many temples and monasteries, mingle with the monkeys at Swayambhunath Temple or go for a stroll through the Garden of Dreams. Don't forget to pick up some prayer flags before you head back to the hotel for your last supper together.

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 18 *Mon 09 Oct*

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Depart Nepal & arrive home

Today you depart from Nepal, leaving with fond memories and a great sense of achievement. Touching down in the UK, it may be harder than you expected to say goodbye to all your team mates so be sure to swap details before heading home to share the stories of your adventure.

NB

You will be using an internal airline to fly from Kathmandu to Lukla. Charity Challenge have audited several of the various airlines used within Nepal for this flight and, as a result of the audit, we now only use one of three airlines in Nepal who passed this specialist aviation audit. For emergencies only, we also have a list of approved helicopter companies, which have passed our due diligence processes. We are confident that we have done all we can to ensure that your EBC trek operates to the highest standards of safety that can be reasonably expected in light of the overall airline safety standards in Nepal. We still recommend that you educate yourself on the FCO's advice for Nepal before booking, particularly the advice on airline safety.

HOW TO FUND YOUR CHALLENGE

This page provides you details of the costs of your challenge.
The costs below are per person.

SELF FUNDER

-

Pay a registration fee of £495.00 when you book

Then a balance of £2034.00 (8 weeks before your challenge)

Raise as much as you can for your charity.

MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP

-

Registration fee of £495.00 when you book

Raise a minimum of £4150.00 for your charity.

FLEXI

-

Registration fee of £495.00 when you book

Then £495.00 towards challenge costs (8 weeks before your challenge)

Raise a minimum of £3140.00 for your charity.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Before you go

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- Members only benefits and discounts at a wide range of clothing and equipment suppliers including Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor, Runners Needs, Snow + Rock, Water to Go, The Altitude Centre, Sporttape and Nomad & MASTA.
- Access to your own password protected account including support materials and training schedules
- Risk assessment and emergency management planning
- Public liability insurance
- Discount on personal equipment from The Outdoor Shop, Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor and Nomad & MASTA
- Access to "ask the expert" re your kit requirements
- Access to training weekends (optional and at additional expense)
- Warm up exercise routines
- 16 and 20 week trek/bike training schedule
- Fitness training notes
- Sponsorship forms (online and hard copy)
- Template press release
- A-Z of fundraising ideas
- Support materials (itinerary, kit list, fact file, Q&As, health notes, travel tips, responsible travel policy and guidance)
- Fundraising advice

On your challenge

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- International flights to and from the UK (including all known UK air taxes, and fuel surcharges, at the time of costing)
- Internal road and air transfers as per the itinerary
- Accommodation during the challenge (usually in twin share)
- Three meals a day (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- Drinking water on challenge days
- Entrance fees to national parks or other places of interest visited on the itinerary
- All ground staff including English speaking guide, drivers, cooks, and porters
- Full back-up support including first-aid qualified staff and first-aid supplies
- Activity equipment such as bikes, tents and rafts as per the challenge activity
- A donation to a community project in one of the countries in which we operate
- A contribution towards funding the reduction of carbon emissions through Climate Care's portfolio of award winning projects
- A Charity Challenge T-Shirt
- All challenge management before, during and post event

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

Before you go

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- Travel to and from the UK airport of departure
- Visa
- Vaccinations (please check Trip Notes for requirements)
- Travel Insurance (you can buy at time of booking or in your Account Area, or provide your own policy details)
- Clothing and equipment listed on your Kit List

On your challenge

-
- Tips
- Departure Tax (if applicable)
- Personal spending money
- Any other specific items listed as not included in your Trip Notes

THE DETAILS

Fundraising deadlines

You will need to send your sponsorship money to the charity as you raise it. At least 80% of the minimum sponsorship required must be sent to the charity 10 weeks before departure (by 14/07/2017), and the remaining 20% within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 06/11/2017). If you have raised the necessary funds, the charity will then pay the balance of your challenge costs. The charity benefits by keeping the remaining sponsorship money and every pound over and above that you raise.

Prices include all known air taxes

We include ALL known air taxes (including fuel) at the time of costing. Many companies do not include air taxes at all, and clients are therefore hit with a surcharge of three or four hundreds of pounds just before departure. Our aim is to provide you with transparent pricing and clear instructions as to what is included in our prices and if applicable what isn't.

Typical group size

The typical group size is 16 - 30 participants

Small group supplement

The costs and sponsorship levels on our website are based on a minimum of 16 participants. We can run this trip with 10-15 people, but there will be a small group supplement of £75. This is payable by your charity if you book under the Minimum Sponsorship or Flexi options, and by yourself if you choose the Self Funder option. We will notify you 12 weeks before departure if this is necessary.

Optional extras

Business class upgrades*
Travel insurance
Single room supplements*
Extensions at end of trip*
Trek/bike training weekends*
(*subject to availability)

Travel insurance

Your safety when travelling with Charity Challenge is our main concern, which is why it is a booking condition that you have a suitable travel insurance policy, which covers you for the adventurous nature of your challenge, the activities you are undertaking, and the altitudes. We have chosen to partner with specialist travel insurance providers Campbell Irvine, who offer cover for an extensive number of adventurous activities. Cover is available directly from Campbell Irvine for most European residents and includes cover for emergency medical and repatriation and for your cancellation or curtailment of the challenge. Full details including costs may be found at <https://www.campbellirvine.com/charitychallenge>.

Level of Difficulty

The Everest Basecamp challenge is graded as extreme due to the rough terrain, high altitude, and basic facilities. A good level of fitness and regular training is required for this challenge. The more prepared you are for this challenge, the more you will enjoy it. Anyone who leads a fairly active and moderately healthy lifestyle should be able to complete the trek as long as they train regularly over a period of at least three months leading up to it, so as to build up stamina and endurance. Don't forget that the temperature and the altitudes will be very different from the UK and that you will be exercising constantly for a number of days. You can tell your supporters that on your Everest Basecamp Challenge you will be:

- Trekking for 12 days consecutively, without access to showers or proper washing facilities
- Trekking at altitudes of up to almost 6000m
- Suffering temperatures of down to below zero degrees
- Camping each night in locations with very basic facilities

Emergency evacuations

In the event of a medical emergency, depending on weather and service availability, an evacuation by helicopter may be the quickest and safest choice. Your Challenge Leader and the Expedition Doctor will discuss this with you, with the final decision resting with the doctor.

We appreciate that having to descend from the mountain will be a disappointment having trained and fundraised for the challenge, but the doctor will make the decision based on their professional assessment of your health and the impact of potentially continuing to ascend with lower levels of oxygen. Your safety is, and always will be, Charity Challenge's number one priority.

We will organise the logistics of the helicopter evacuation and in most cases, you would be taken to a hospital in Kathmandu. We will make the arrangements as quickly as possible to get you to safety, but it will be your responsibility to cover the costs for the helicopter evacuation before leaving Nepal. Therefore Charity Challenge requires you to have access to a minimum of USD \$8,000 (about £5,500) of available funds and we would highly recommend that you have sufficient funds on your credit card before you leave home. Whilst Charity Challenge can initially open an insurance claim on your behalf, you will need to process a claim on your return home to recover any costs as a result of the evacuation. In order to process the claim further down the line, and as a minimum, insurance companies will require the helicopter invoice, a receipt of payment and a medical report from the doctor/hospital.

Charity Challenge will help you make all necessary arrangements for your accommodation in Kathmandu, your return flight (if you return home earlier than the scheduled return date) and to advise you of the next steps depending on your particular situation. Once again, you will need to pay for additional services and keep receipts in order to recover costs once you return home.

Some airlines may require a "Fit To Fly" certificate, especially if the medical emergency was as a result of an altitude related condition.

Please refer to the Insurance tab for further information.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you have a suitable travel insurance policy whilst participating on the challenge. We have a special policy which covers among other things, medical (emergency, evacuation and repatriation) arrangements, cancellation and curtailment of the challenge, and more specifically for the adventurous activities undertaken on this challenge.

If you have your own travel insurance policy, you must ensure that it provides at least the same level of cover as our recommended policy. This should include protecting the charity in the event of your cancellation 56 days or less prior to departure; the specific activities on your challenge including trekking at high altitude (up to 6000 meters); medical (emergency, evacuation and repatriation) specifically for this trip covering helicopter evacuation.

If you choose not to purchase the Charity Challenge recommended travel insurance policy when you book, we will send you a disclaimer which you should complete and return.

Safety

Charity Challenge considers the safety of all of its participants and staff to be a top priority, and as such we have set up one of the most advanced and thorough safety management systems in the industry. In a nutshell, Our Challenge Safe brand formalises our ethos when it comes to safety, and brings together the procedures and risk management strategies that we use to audit all aspects of our challenges, from vehicles to accommodation to the activity itself. Your welfare is paramount!

In terms of your Everest Basecamp Challenge, there are a couple of important points that you should be aware of:

- You will be trekking for 12 days at high altitude, with its associated risks
- Smoke alarms are not a legal requirement in Nepal, and as such much of the accommodation used will not have these in place. Your tour leader will explain the fire safety precautions to you.
- Temperatures may go down to below zero at night and you should have adequate clothing to cope with this
- You will be using a domestic airline to fly in and out of Lukla, and as of 05th December 2013, the EU banned Nepalese airlines from operating in EU airspace. We recommend that you read the FCO's [travel advice for Nepal](#) to read more about air safety in Nepal before you travel.

Money

Currency: Nepal uses the Nepalese rupee. This is a closed currency which means that you will not be able to find Nepalese rupees outside of Nepal. For up to date currency exchange, go to www.xe.com. British Pounds, Euros and USD can be exchange at Kathmandu airport and in the city.

Credit Cards: These are accepted in all major hotels, banks and stores in Kathmandu. In addition, if you need to be evacuated from the mountain the only method of evacuation on Everest is by helicopter. For this, you will need a credit card with a limit of \$8000 in order to pay for the evacuation before being reimbursed by your travel insurance.

ATMs: ATMs are not always available and that when they are they do not always work. We would recommend that you exchange cash in the airport or use the ATMs there rather than relying on the city.

How much to bring: You will not need a large amount of money during this trip and other than at the start and end of the challenge, you will be in the mountains away from any foreign exchanges or banks. You will only need money for tips, additional food & drink, gifts & souvenirs, departure tax and for any other additional activities that you wish to do. On average we recommend around £250 and a credit card for emergencies as mentioned above.

Tipping: Tipping is personal and at your sole discretion. You should only tip if you feel that you have received good service. We recommend approx. US\$10 per person per challenge day and this should be given to the expedition leader at the end of the trip who will advise you how to distribute it among the support team at your final celebration in Lukla. NB: you may be approached by local porters at the airport. Their tips are not included; if you agree for them to take your bags to the transfer vehicle, please be prepared to tip them a small, nominal amount (\$1). However, our team will be there to help you with baggage.

Visa

You must hold a full ten-year passport with at least six months to run from the end of your expedition. Airlines may not carry passengers holding passports with less than 6 months validity. You can download your visa application form from the embassy website: www.nepembassy.org.uk/visa_information.html.

The validity of visa dates are counted from the date of arrival in Nepal. You should apply about 12 weeks before departure for a single-entry tourist visa. Do not apply too early otherwise it will run out before you leave for Nepal. It is valid for six months from the date of issue. We will send further visa advice at 3 months prior to departure.

Group Size

Each Group is intended to be a minimum of 16 people in order to run and a maximum of approximately 30 people. We will be able to run this challenge for 10 to 15 people by charging a small group supplement of £75 which will be added to your final balance invoice (self-funders) or charged to your charity (minimum sponsorship or flexi).

Vaccinations

For up to date vaccination information please check the NHS Government website 'Fit for Travel' at: <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home.aspxb>. Malaria precautions are essential in all areas below 1200m, all year round. The risk in Kathmandu and mountainous areas of similar or greater altitude is very small. Check with your doctor or nurse about suitable anti-malarial tablets

Flights

You will be making a return journey from London Heathrow indirectly to Kathmandu, Nepal. The flight takes approximately 16 hours. A copy of your e-ticket will be issued to you upon departure at the airport along with your luggage labels and a Charity Challenge t-shirt.

Internal flights

Your challenge begins and ends with internal flights between Kathmandu and Lukla, which can occasionally be delayed due to bad weather, sometimes for several days. To allow for such delays at the start of the challenge, we have built

into the itinerary up to three contingency days so that you still have a good chance of reaching the ultimate goal of Everest Base Camp as safely as possible. In these circumstances, however, you may lose your free day in Kathmandu at the end, and the days of trekking may vary slightly from the printed itinerary. Your challenge leader will have the final say over how any delay impacts the order of the itinerary based on the time available, the strength of the group, weather conditions on the mountain and so on.

The welfare and safety of all our participants and crew is our number one priority and we only use the safest airlines. In the event of delays we will continue to apply our stringent safety standards and rearrange alternative flights on these same airlines; your patience will be appreciated as this may be at odds with other travellers who may not adhere to the same standards which we will not compromise! In addition, if the delays mean that insufficient acclimatisation time remains, you may have to turn back before reaching Base Camp. If your flight back from Lukla to Kathmandu at the end of the itinerary is delayed, we will aim to get you back to Kathmandu as soon as the right flights are operational. However, this may mean that you miss your international connection and we will do everything we can to help you reschedule your flight at the earliest opportunity.

Responsible Tourism

At Charity Challenge we are committed to sustainable and responsible tourism, and work closely with bodies such as the [International Porter Protection Group](#) and [Climate Care](#) to ensure that our challenges benefit the local environments and communities in which they take place. We ensure that all rubbish is disposed of responsibly, and following local guidelines on cultural and environmental protection and respect, we aim to limit our impact on the natural environment. In addition to taking these practical steps to ensure that our challenges are sustainable, we also make a contribution each year to a number of local community projects, so as to give something back directly to the communities that we visit. Since 2000 we have donated almost £200,000 to such projects, supporting a range of initiatives, including schooling for children in Africa, shelter for street children in Brazil, and Orang-utan conservation in Indonesia. We recommend that any gifts brought over for children are given to the UK challenge leader and distributed where needed by them and our local Ground Agent. If you wish to do more, you should consider buying drinks, postcards and souvenirs from the local vendors. For many, it is their sole source of income. For more information, please visit our [Responsible Tourism](#) pages, where you will be able to view a list of the projects that we currently support.

Typical day

During the trekking days we rise early and pack up camp before breakfast, then trek carrying only daypacks for 6-8 hours. Lunch is prepared by the kitchen team and had on route in dining halls associated with the local tea houses; if it is possible then a picnic lunch will be provided. These stops will give you time to relax and view the remarkable scenery. The trek zone is remote and rare flora and fauna will be seen. The evenings are spent in beautifully located camps near lodges, where the food and facilities are fairly simple.

Please note the flight to Lukla can be subject to delay or cancellation due to weather conditions. The itinerary is put together with a number of acclimatisation/rest days so that if your flight were delayed for up to three days, you should still be able to complete the challenge. If flights are unable to take off after three days, we would implement an alternative Himalayan trekking itinerary.

Luggage allowance & valuables

As no formal clothes are needed, luggage should be kept to the absolute minimum – details on what to pack are provided in your Kit List. Your rucksack (suitcases are not appropriate) must not exceed 15kgs in weight (due to restrictions on what your mountain porters can carry). You can leave any gear you wish to in your hotel in Kathmandu while you trek. While trekking, yaks will transport your personal kit to the next camp, meaning that you will only have to carry a daypack.

Accommodation & toilets

The hotel in Kathmandu will be three star and located at the centre of town. Rooms are usually en-suite. During the trek and outside Kathmandu, you will camp in two person tents nearby to tea-houses. For a small fee, you can charge electrical items at the tea-houses. If you are travelling with a friend or partner who you wish to share with, please let Charity Challenge know in advance.

Toilet facilities can be used in the teahouses on route; when camping in the evening a long drop will be dug and a toilet tent provided for privacy. The facilities will be very basic.

Climate & terrain

February-May is the tail end of the dry season and Base Camp can be around -10 to -7c in the early evening.

Late Sept/October – November is the start of the dry season and early evening temperatures are from -5 to -10c.

Early morning hours, when most climbers set out to climb, are very cold. During the day temperatures are warmer than these quoted, if the sun is out, but at night it will always be well below zero. You must be prepared for the worst, as mountain weather conditions can be extremely unpredictable.

The terrain is on uneven mountain paths with steep ascents and descents each day. You will also be crossing numerous swing bridges, and you should tell your leader if you have any fears of heights. The itinerary is built up in a way that we have allowed plenty of time for you to acclimatize to the altitude.

Clothing & equipment

Good quality, durable kit could mean the difference between a fantastic challenge experience and an uncomfortable one. For this challenge, waterproof, well-worn in boots will be indispensable, particularly coupled with some really good quality walking socks. You don't need a clean pair every day, but enough to make sure you have dry socks each morning. The benefits of a comfortable day sack cannot be underestimated, so make sure that you train with this. Other essentials are high quality Gore-Tex waterproof and windproof jackets and trousers, technical/wicking t-shirts rather than cotton shirts, and a down jacket for the evenings in camp and your summit day/night. A full kit list for this challenge can be found [here](#) and once you book you will have access to kit discounts with our partners The Outdoor Shop, Outdoorhire and Cotswold Outdoor.

Food & Drink

The food in Kathmandu is varied. During the trek the food will be cooked on kerosene stoves by our kitchen team and will be simple. Most of the food will be carried from Kathmandu. Only seasonal vegetables and fresh meats are bought along the way where available. Boiled drinking water will be provided 3 times per day. Please let Charity Challenge know prior to departure if you have any specific dietary requirements or allergies.

Training & training weekends

This challenge is graded 'Extreme', which means that a good level of fitness is definitely required! We recommend that you have significant experience of trekking within the UK before departure. Don't forget that the temperature and the altitudes are different from the UK. While strength is important, endurance training should be your primary focus. Walking up hills and climbing stairs are both ways to condition your lower body. Begin slowly, without the weight of a pack, eventually adding weight as you increase your training pace. Take long hikes (6-8 hours) with a weighted pack, up and down hills or on small mountains (weigh your pack with water containers and pour out the water before your descent to minimise knee stress). Also see our [Fitness Training page](#).

Training weekends

We offer superb training weekends across various locations in the UK, from Saturday morning to Sunday afternoon. These training weekends not only help you become physically prepared for the challenge, but our experienced instructors and leaders will talk you through your clothing and equipment, camp craft, health and wellbeing, trekking skills (walking on different terrain/at altitude/at night/using walking poles), teamwork on expedition and many more themes designed to make you get the most out of your challenge. The weekends are great ways for you to get out into the mountains of the UK, while also meeting other Charity Challengers and sharing your experiences. To read more about our training weekends, including dates and prices, check out our dedicated page.

Leadership

We employ a number of first aid qualified challenge leaders, all of whom speak fluent English. They will be ultimately responsible for the running of the itinerary and the safety of your group.

Phone and WiFi

Apart from Kathmandu, there will be very limited phone and internet reception.



“

A must-do! The views are breath-taking, the people are wonderful and the trek itself is the most rewarding experience of my life!

Iona Nelson



“

Walking to Everest Base Camp is one of the most enjoyable things you will ever do. Beautiful scenery, beautiful people and a lot of satisfaction gained when you have made it to the camp and to the summit of Kala Pattar.

Ciarán Harkin



“

The mountains create the adventure, but the people in the group make the trip.

Paul Mills

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Any more questions?

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