



TRIP NOTES

BELIEVE ACHIEVE INSPIRE

CNX - RSPCA EVEREST BASE CAMP
NEPAL

Fri 27 Sep - Mon 14 Oct 2019





In aid of RSPCA

27 Sep - 14 Oct 2019

RSPCA.



18 DAYS | NEPAL | EXTREME

Are you ready to join the RSPCA for the challenge of a lifetime?

Beginning in Lukla, follow the footsteps made famous by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay to Everest Base Camp. The trek slowly winds through the forests of Khumbu, traversing gorges and rivers, and through quaint Sherpa villages. The peaks grow taller with each bend in the trail, and the goal becomes clearer – Everest shadowing each every step. The higher you go, the harder the trek becomes, pushing you and your body to the limit. However, the incredible views and support from your fellow Team Animal trekkers will take your mind off things. Arriving into Everest Base Camp is a joyous occasion and one to savour with new friends. Upon your descent, spend time exploring the chaotic, exotic and historic Kathmandu. This high altitude trek is not for the faint of heart, but our expert leaders and guides will ensure safety is a priority.

- 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 27 Sep

-

International departure from London

It's time for your long-awaited flight to Kathmandu, Nepal's capital. Here, you'll meet up with the rest of the RSPCA Team Animal and our Charity Challenge representative before saying goodbye to family and friends.

DAY 2 Sat 28 Sep

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Arrive Kathmandu

On landing in exotic Kathmandu, you'll be welcomed by the local Charity Challenge representative, who will transfer you to your hotel for the first team dinner. After dinner, there will be time to rearrange your kit in preparation for the trek.

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 3 Sun 29 Sep

-

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

An early rise and transfer to Kathmandu Airport for the exciting flight to Lukla. 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 6,369m.

Accommodation: Tea-house

NB. This flight is weather dependant and can be subject to delay or cancellation. There are a number of acclimatisation/rest days built in to counter potential delay for up to three days, allowing for completion of the challenge. If flights are unable to take off after three days, we will implement an alternative trek itinerary.

DAY 4 Mon 30 Sep

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

Cross the first suspension bridge of the trek as you leave Tok Tok, and follow the trail to Monjo, beneath the peak of Thermasarkhu (6,608m). From here, it's a meandering path along the river until the last bridge, where the ascent starts towards Namche Bazaar, the colourful Sherpa capital.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 5 Tue 01 Oct

-

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, with sweeping views over Mt. Everest, or to the Sherpa Culture museum to learn more about the region's mountaineering history. Spend the night back in Namche Bazaar

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 6 Wed 02 Oct

-

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

The 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 a tough ascent to Tyangboche (3,867m). Tyangboche, with its monastery and sweeping views, is arguably one of the most beautiful sites in the Himalayas. Continue along the trail to Deboche at 3,800m where and the group spends the night in the shadow of the Ama Dablam peak.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 7 Thu 03 Oct

-

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

Leaving Dingboche, the follows the long prayer mani wall and 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 into the shadows of mountains Nuptse, Lohtse and Ama Dablam. The village of Dingboche, is where you rest your weary legs, overlooking a patchwork of fields.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 8 Fri 04 Oct

-

Acclimatisation day in Dingboche

Today is another acclimatisation day. 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, or resting up for the days ahead.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 9 Sat 05 Oct

-

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 reminder of how challenging the natural environment can be so take a moment to appreciate your achievement so far.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 10 Sun 06 Oct

-

Trek to Gorakshep, 5,288m (approximately 3 hours)

Set off on a rocky moraine path and climb above the glacial pond and icebergs of 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). Home for the night is Gorakshep, famous as Sir Edmund Hillary's base camp during his expedition to Mt. Everest in the 1950s.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 11 Mon 07 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. Follow the lead of your Sherpa guide through the Khumbu ice-fall, and the ever changing trail. 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, before heading back to Gorakshep.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 12 Tue 08 Oct

-

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

Although optional, the steep hike to Kalapatthar is worth it, with breath-taking views of Everest. The descent back to Lukla starts, stopping for the evening in Pheriche, at 4,245m.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 13 Wed 09 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.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 14 Thu 10 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 before continuing along the path towards Monjo.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 15 Fri 11 Oct

-

Trek back to Lukla (approximately 3-4 hours)

The final day of walking is pleasant, following the Bhote Kushi River towards the village of Phakding, before embarking on the final leg of your journey. It's one last final push to tackle the 45 minute uphill climb to Lukla. The night will be spent in a traditional teahouse here where you will enjoy a celebratory dinner with your new Team Animal friends.

Accommodation: Tea-house

DAY 16 Sat 12 Oct

-

Lukla to Kathmandu

Bid farewell to Lukla and the magic of the Himalayas. Touching down in Kathmandu, you'll have the entire afternoon to relax or go bargain hunting in the Thamel district.

Accommodation: Hotel

DAY 17 Sun 13 Oct

-

Kathmandu

Today is dedicated to exploring the wonders of the magical city of Kathmandu and its many temples and monasteries. Mingle with the monkeys at Swayambhunath Temple or go for a stroll through the Garden of Dreams and pick up some prayer flags before your last supper together.

DAY 18 Mon 14 Oct

-

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. Be sure to swap details before heading home to share stories with family and friends.

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. As a result of these 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.



SELF FUNDER

Pay a registration fee of **£495** when you book.

Then a balance of **£2,229** (8 weeks before your challenge).

Raise a minimum of **£1,000** for RSPCA (80% due 10 weeks before your challenge).

MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP

Registration fee of **£495** when you book.

Raise a minimum of **£4,450** for RSPCA.

Please note that you can pay your registration fee in instalments. Refer to 'The Details' below.

SELF FUNDER OPTION

The full cost of this challenge is **£2,724**. You will be required to pay the registration fee of **£495** at the time of booking and the final balance of **£2,229**. **£1000** is required to be raised for RSPCA. At least 80% of the sponsorship target (£800) must be sent to the charity 10 weeks before departure (**by 19/07/2019**), and the remaining 20% (£200) within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 11/11/2019). As you have covered the full cost of the challenge, 100% of this fundraising will be retained by RSPCA.

MINIMUM SPONSORSHIP OPTION

You will be required to pay the registration fee of **£495** at the time of booking and raise a minimum amount of sponsorship, **£4,450** for RSPCA. You should send your sponsorship money to RSPCA as you raise it. At least 80% of the minimum sponsorship required (£3,560) must be sent to the charity 10 weeks before departure (by 19/07/2019), and the remaining 20% (£890) within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 11/11/2019). If you have raised the necessary funds, RSPCA will then pay the balance of your expedition costs (which will not exceed 49% of the minimum sponsorship target). The charity benefits by keeping the remaining sponsorship money and every pound over and above that you raise.

WHAT'S INCLUDED?**BEFORE YOU GO**

- Discount on personal equipment from Outdoorhire, Cotswold Outdoor and Cycle Surgery in the UK
- Access to your own password protected account including support materials and training schedules
- A training day with your fellow Team Animal trekkers
- Access to an RSPCA Everest Basecamp Facebook group to chat with other members of Team Animal and share training tips and advice.
- RSPCA fundraising pack and support with your fundraising from the RSPCA Events Team
- RSPCA training t-shirt and technical t-shirt for you to wear on the trek

ON YOUR CHALLENGE

- International flights to and from the UK (including all known UK air taxes at the time of costing)
- All ground staff including English speaking guide, drivers, cooks, and porters
- A Charity Challenge T-Shirt
- Three meals a day (unless otherwise stated in the itinerary)
- 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
- Accommodation during the challenge (usually twin-share or same-sex dormitories in the tea houses)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED?

BEFORE YOU GO

- 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)

ON YOUR CHALLENGE

- Tips
- Departure Tax (if applicable)

THE DETAILS

REGISTRATION FEE IN INSTALMENTS

The first instalment of £250 is due at the time of booking. The second instalment of £245 will automatically be debited from your credit/debit card 31 days after you book. We can only accept payment for your registration fee by instalments if you book and pay online. Please note that when paying your registration fee in instalments, a £10 admin fee will be added to your first registration fee payment. Please note that your booking will not be processed (and we will not send an authorisation request to your charity) until we receive the payment for your second instalment. Your place on the challenge will only be held until 31 days from your initial booking. If we are unable to take your second instalment, your booking will be cancelled and normal cancellation terms will apply.

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 19/07/2019), and the remaining 20% within 4 weeks of completing the challenge (by 11/11/2019). 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. If the air taxes increase between the time of costing and your departure, we will absorb up to £50 (depending on the challenge) before

passing on any increased costs. 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.

RAISING THE SPONSORSHIP

How we'll support you

We'll be there to help you every step of the way with our dedicated fundraising support from our friendly events team to help you reach your target.

If you have any questions about the trip or fundraising, call us on 0300 123 0598 or email us at events@rspca.org.uk.

TYPICAL GROUP SIZE

The typical group size is 15 - 22 participants

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- Extensions at end of trip*
- Business class upgrades*

(*subject to availability)

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We can provide a comprehensive travel insurance policy for this challenge which provides cover for medical (emergency, evacuation and repatriation), cancellation and curtailment and specifically covers the activities undertaken during the challenge. You can take this out when booking. The cost is £98.50.

Level of Difficulty

The Everest Basecamp challenge is graded as extreme. "Extreme" challenges will involve altitude and a great deal of endurance. These trips are not to be taken lightly and will take place in extreme environments, without home comforts. They are usually undertaken by someone with previous experience in a mountain setting, but who wants to take their experience to the next level physically and mentally. Training is essential to ensure you are suitably prepared for the challenge.

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
- Sleeping in tea houses in locations with very basic facilities

Typical day

During the trekking days, we rise early for breakfast, then trek carrying only daypacks for 6-8 hours. Lunch is prepared by the kitchen team and normally 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 teahouses.

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.

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.

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.

Flights

You will be making a return journey from London Heathrow indirectly to Kathmandu, Nepal. The flight takes approximately 16 hours. Your flight ticket will be emailed to you before your departure.

Internal flights

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. 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 and weather conditions on the mountain.

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 do not adhere to the same standards.

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.

Visa

You do require a visa to enter Nepal and must have an original passport with at least 6 months validity. We will send you further advice at 3 months prior to your departure. For all other visa information please go to the Nepalese Embassy Website <http://www.nepembassy.org.uk/tourist-visa/>

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.

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.

Vaccinations & altitude

Vaccinations

For up to date vaccination information please check the NHS Government website <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/country/159/nepal>

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

Advice on **altitude sickness** see <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/26/altitude-illness>

Medication

- carry medicines (including those bought over the counter) in their correctly labelled container, as issued by the pharmacist, in hand luggage
- consider packing a spare supply of medication in the hold luggage in case of loss of hand luggage
- a letter from the prescriber detailing the medicines with the generic names for the medications can be helpful for border control checks, and in case medicines have to be replaced or medical help is required
- carry a note from the prescribing physician on letterhead stationery for controlled substances and injection medications
- take out an appropriate level of travel health insurance including repatriation and specific cover for any pre-existing illnesses

N.B. Some medications are banned abroad so please check you can find further information at <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/factsheet/43/medicines-abroad>

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.

Training

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](#).

Challenge Training

If you would like to get a feel for our challenges ahead of your departure, why not consider booking on a 1 or 2 day UK Challenge?

We have a variety of challenges, covering all levels of difficulty, taking place in stunning National Parks across the UK that are led by highly qualified and experienced expedition and mountain leaders. These challenges will give you the perfect opportunity to monitor fitness levels, test out your kit, meet people in the great outdoors, share fundraising stories and gain valuable advice and support for the challenge ahead. We encourage participants to make use of our highly knowledgeable leaders and ask them any questions you may have about clothing and equipment, expedition health and wellbeing, trekking skills, walking techniques and teamwork!

We are offering all participants **50% off** the registration fee when you book on one of the UK challenges listed via the link below. Just use the code **TRAINING** when booking. T&C's – you must have an active booking on a challenge to avail of this offer. Discount cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Find out more [here](#)

Luggage allowance & valuables

On your international flight your luggage allowance is 23kg. You may want to take clothes with you for Kathmandu but do not wish to take on the trek so you are able to leave them at the hotel and pick them up on your return to the hotel at the end of your challenge.

On the internal flight Kathmandu to Lukla and return your luggage allowance is 15kg, including hand luggage. This is also the weight allowance that the porters are able to carry on the mountain.

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.

Group Size

Each Group is intended to be a minimum of 15 people in order to run and a maximum of approximately 22 people.

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.

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 stay in accommodation provided by the local tea houses (twin-share or single-sex dormitory). For a small fee, you may be able to 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 normally be used in the tea houses on route and will be available in the mornings and evenings at the tea houses where you are sleeping. Please be aware that the facilities will be very basic.

Food & Drink

The food in Kathmandu is varied. During the trek the food will be cooked in the teahouses. 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.

Money

Currency: Nepal uses the Nepalese Rupee. This is a closed currency which means that you will not be able to purchase your Rupees before the trip. British Pounds, Euros and USD can be exchanged at Kathmandu airport and in the city.

Credit Cards: Whilst these are accepted in all major hotels, banks and stores in Kathmandu, you will need to have cash along the trekking route.

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: Working ATMs are not always readily available. We would recommend that you exchange cash at 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. Along the trekking route, you will be able to charge your electronics and use the showers in the tea houses for a small fee (approx £3). You will also need money for tips, additional food & drink and gifts & souvenirs. On average, we recommend around £250 and a credit card for emergencies as mentioned above.

Tipping: Tipping is personal and at your sole discretion. We recommend approx. US\$10 per person per challenge-day. This should be given to the challenge leader who will distribute it among the support team, including guides, assistant guides, cooks and porterstrip.

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.

Phone and WiFi

There is increasingly better wifi and phone signal along the trek and in the tea houses but perhaps take the opportunity to take a break from the electronic world and concentrate on the beauty of nature.



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

CH>RITY CH>LLENGE

Any more questions?

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