Trip Notes

Mera Peak Climbing - 2015







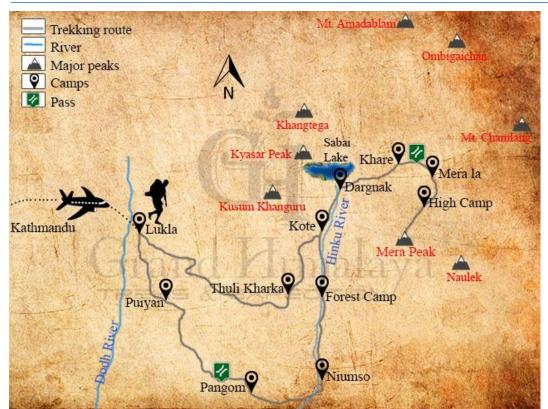
Climb the highest Nepal's permitted trekking peak and venture into a little visited and as yet unspoiled region of Nepal.



Table of contents

- Trip Facts
- Introduction
- Trek Highlight
- Grand Himalaya on Mera peak
- Travel Insurance recommendations
- Emergency evacuation
- Emergency contact
- Flexibility
- » Passport and visa
- Trip specific safety
- Upon arrival in Kathmandu
- » Accommodation in Kathmandu
- Accommodation on trek
- Meals on the trek
- Electricity Chargers
- Time Difference
- Mobile phones, Internet and Wi-Fi connectivity
- » Feedback
- Short Itinerary
- Itinerary Disclaimer
- Cost per person
- Includes and Excludes
- Booking conditions
- Cancellation
- » Note
- What to take
- Be a safe trekker
- » Important to note
- Essential gear checklist
- Grand Himalaya Physical & Electronic Address

Trip Facts



Duration

22 days from Kathmandu to Kathmandu

Latitude: 27.7000° N **Longitude:** 86.8683° E

Physical Grading: 3

He/she who has a high level of fitness and endurance, and who is high altitude trekking or cycling.

Trip style: Active

This trip is designed for outdoor adventurers who are ready to experience the new height and climb the most desired, less technical, and highest trekking peak of the Himalayas.

Service level: Basic

- ✓ Excellent value, competitive price
- ✓ For travellers preferring flexibility, convenience and the security of small groups
- ✓ Well-maintained campsites and/or simple and clean accommodations
- ✓ Highly experienced and educated Staffs, who are mainly the Sherpas from highlands of the Himalaya.
- ✓ Well designed itinerary by our experts, to suit from novice to experienced trekkers/mountaineers for the Himalayan adventure.

Trip type: Small group

Group trips average about 12 travellers per departure, depending on the adventure. The maximum is usually no more than 16.

Introduction

The bulk of Mera, considered to be one of highest Nepal's permitted trekking peak, rise to the south of Everest and dominates the watershed between the wild and heavily waded valleys of the Hinku and Hongu Drangkas. Mera (Peak) is a chance to venture into a little visited and as yet unspoiled region of Nepal where the hillsides are still densely forested and a need to be self-sufficient is essential. There is also, of course, the pleasure of going above 21,000 feet. Both the Hongu and Hinku valleys remain uninhabited although there are Kharka in the Upper Hinku basin where Sherpa from the South, near Pangkongma, graze their animals during the grassgrowing monsoon. The upper Hongu Basin is truly a mountain wilderness, a place of massive moraines, glacial lakes and spectacular peaks that include Chamlang and Baruntse.

Additionally, it offers some of the most amazing mountain landscape, pristine forest, and high altitude climbing in the world. We start this climb with a hair-raising flight into the small town of Lukla at 2,800 m (9,184 ft).

From there it is a six-day trek, with plenty of acclimatization days to keep us fit at our ever-increasing altitude, through some of Nepal's most pristine rhododendron, oak, silver fir and birch forests, past beautiful alpine lakes, and finally up to the foot of Mera Glacier where well establish base camp. We will set up two more high camps, the first over 300 m above B.C. on the Mera Glacier, and the second after we cross the Mera crevasse field at 5,800m. From here it is a steady and steep climb to reach the summit, with awe-inspiring views of Kanchenjunga and Makalu to the east, Everest and Lhotse to the north, and Ama Dablam and Cho-Oyu to the west.

Trek Highlight

- ***** Explore the ancient city of Kathmandu, Nepal:
 - -Visit the Bodhnath Stupa with its' 130 ft. dome
 - -Visit the ancient Pashupatinath Temple with a holy cremation site
- Scenic flights to/from Kathmandu and Mountain Village of Lukla.
- ❖ Hiking through small Sherpa villages, across rivers, up mountain valleys
- Spectacular views of the Himalayan giants Mt. Everest, Cho-Oyu, Kanchenjunga, Lhotse, Makalu, Nuptse, Chamlang, Baruntse, Amadablam etc.
- Enjoy and experience the camping trek in the Himalayas.
- Trek from the forests and fields of Nepal's middle hills to the alpine environment.
- Climb to the glaciated summit of Mera Peak 6476 meters above sea level.
- Experienced local guides are there to ensure your safety and enjoyment.
- Develop high altitude expedition experience and skills.
- ❖ Meet, trek and climb with the friendly and famous local Sherpa people.

Grand Himalaya on Mera Peak

Our aim is to provide you with a safe, enjoyable and successful expedition to Nepal. We provide all of our climbers with a smooth and efficient service to maximize both your enjoyment and your chances of a successful climb.

The benefits of climbing with us on Mera peak are:

A very well planned itinerary and acclimatization schedule based on our experience of leading expeditions to Mera Peak since 2005.

We provide a good level skilled of sherpa support. Our sherpas have at least climbed this peak few times and will be walking, climbing, and assisting the members all the time.

We have neat and clean, comfortable camp sites very often with separate tents for each team member, with folding backed chairs and tables in a mess tent and light (solar power).

Our amazing chef and the well trained kitchen crews will always feed you with the excellent food during the entire trip, with meals supplemented by western food.

We have high-quality mountain tents viz., Ozark-25 and North face with the reasonably thick foam mattress for each client.

Travel Insurance recommendations



Travel Insurance



We recommend cancellation insurance to protect your investment.

We require participants to have travel insurance that covers medical expenses, evacuation and repatriation. Please ensure that your chosen policy provides cover for the activities (Trekking and climbing with guide and roped up) and localities in which you will travel Nepal, to elevations up to (Altitude 6,461m/21,190ft) above sea level.

Emergency evacuation

Helicopter rescue services are available. Evidence of insurance will be required by the evacuation services before the helicopter will fly. It can be landed at Kote and up to Dargnak. However, emergency evacuation cost is not included in your expedition cost.

Most helicopters struggle above 5000m. Often a helicopter can only take one person at the limit of its operating altitude. There is no mountain rescue squad available, the victims have to be evacuated to a safe helicopter landing site preferably below 5000m.

Emergency Contact

Should you need to contact Grand Himalaya during a situation of dire need, here is the contact information furnished below:



- 1. Office Landline phone1: +977 1 4474479 (10am to 5pm/ Saturday off)
- 2. Namgya Sherpa (Managing Director) Cell No. + 977- 9851174471 (7/24)
- 3. Prem Gurung (Operations Director) Cell No.: + 977- 9851174470 (7/24)
- 4. Sonam Bhote (Marketing Director) Cell No. : + 977- 9851174472 (7/24)
- 5. Tendi Wongmu Sherpa (Sales Manager) Cell No. : + 977- 9841427120 (7/24)

Flexibility

Whereas every effort will be made to keep to the original itinerary; changes may occur due to snow conditions, electrical storms, or other imponderables of whatever nature whether physical, climatic, human or political.

Passport & visa

A passport with at least 6 months validity beyond the duration of the trip is required and it is your responsibility to obtain your own visa (this can be obtained on the arrival at Kathmandu international airport at a charge of:

- ➤ Single entry visa valid for 15 days US \$25
- ➤ Single Entry Visa for 30 days US \$40
- ➤ Multiple entry visa valid for 90 days US \$100.



You will need **one** passport size photograph for the visa. (We will forward you the visa form once you booked for the trip).

4 passport size photographs and passport details will also be required for the climbing permit (if climbing in Nepal) and these should be supplied to Grand Himalaya before the start of expedition on the **Post Box No: - 9935** Kathmandu, Nepal.

For more details, please check Travel Tips on our Website

Trip specific safety

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home you won't need it while travelling. The hotels we use in Kathmandu have a safety deposit box which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

Upon Arrival in Kathmandu

Upon your arrival at the Kathmandu Tribhuvan international airport, you look for a signboard of Grand Himalaya Treks & Expedition and you will notice our representative holding Grand Himalaya's board. He will welcome you with a garland and a bottle of mineral water, then assists you transfer to your respective hotel in Kathmandu in Grand Himalaya's Van/Coach.

On our every trip, we have all Airport pickup and drop shuttles included in the trip cost to protect you from any kind of hassles and tussles which is quite common to experience when you for the first time visit an alien country.

Please be aware of people wanting to help you with your bags as they will ask for money once you get to your van/coach.

Accommodation in Kathmandu

With Grand Himalaya trip cost, you will be accommodated in a 3 star category hotel in Kathmandu on B&B (Bed & Breakfast) basis. Team members will be accommodated on a twin share basis in large en-suite rooms. Single rooms are available if you prefer, for which a supplement is payable. However 5 star hotel accommodations will be arranged by Grand Himalaya on your request for additional cost. Your early booking the trip along with deposit of 25% of the total trip cost per person is highly required to make necessary accommodations in Kathmandu and Lodges in related trekking region, domestic flight reservation for your trip.

Important note:

➤ Power cuts can and are a regular occurrence in Nepal, especially throughout Kathmandu. Although the hotel has generators there may be times when these won't work.

Accommodation on trek

The entire trip is designed to have a camping trek apart from the farewell night in Lukla, where we will be staying at one among the finest lodge in the area and the team members will be accommodated on a twin share. Because it's a camping trek, we'll be sleeping in our tiny little castle, "Tent".

The food will be served in a snugly and spacious mess tent, well equipped with tables and backed chairs. There will be another mess tent for cooking meals for the entire team and for storing the food and vegetables. We have well maintained, neat and clean campsites. Most often the members' tents are put up away from kitchen mess tent and away from one another, so that you can have an uninterrupted slumber after day's exhaustion. Each and every member will have their own tent along with reasonably thick foam mattress, unless there are couples willing to share the tent

Meals on the Trek

This classic style of trekking are especially carried out in the isolated areas of Nepal, well furnished with the entire camping equipments along with the fresh food.

Our well experienced and qualified chefs will serve you with the Nepali versions of western recipes such as Italian pizza and pasta, American French fries and sandwich, Indian and Nepalese veg. curry rice, Chinese friend noodles and steam dumplings, Sherpas mix stew and Tibetan bread, and so on. Hot drinks, snacks, soup and desert are also in the list of our special menu. French toast, cornflakes, muesli, chapatti, scrambled and sunny side up fried eggs, accompanied by tea variety and fresh coffee are in the hit lists of our breakfast. And of course Nepali milk tea is served every day.

Electricity Chargers



Electricity

230V

50Hz

Electrical Plugs

European plug with two circular metal pins

Indian-style plug with two circular metal pins above a large circular grounding pin

Electrical Device Charging

Most of our hotels en route on the trek, there will be pay electric devices charging facility.

Time Difference

GMT is less than Nepal by 5 hours 45 minutes

Mobile phones, Internet and Wi-Fi connectivity

Trekking is a wonderful break from the wireless world, but in the towns and cities out here, it is now your choice whether you disconnect or stay connected.

Check your mobile phone roaming services prior to leaving to know whether you might have service.

Nepal - Kathmandu

Most overseas roaming-enabled mobile phones work in Kathmandu and Pokhara. You should be aware that occasionally an SMS (text) message sent to you will arrive 20 times. You can send messages out, normally without problem. Blackberry services and GPRS etc are now available. Local SIM cards can be bought from corner shops and start at around \$8 (cheap!), and refills by scratch cards, very easy and convenient. You need an UNLOCKED phone to use a local SIM. Internet cafés litter Thamel and other tourist haunts, so checking your Yahoo, Gmail etc. is easy and cheap. For laptop users there are more and more free Wi-Fi cafés.

Mera Region, Nepal

No cell phone coverage is available in the region of Mera peak but there is a landline phone in few places en route. There is no any internet cafe on the trek unless we arrive at Lukla.

Feedback

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is vital to us to enhance the quality of our services and adventures. Please help us to improve our services by filling the feedback questionnaire, which will be provided to you at the end of the trip.

The best quality service is our foremost priority.

"What is the shortest word in the English language that contains the letters: abcdef-?

Answer: feedback. We believe that feedback is one of the essential elements of progress."

Short Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Kathmandu

Day 2: City sightseeing tour in Kathmandu valley

Day 3-13: Fly to Lukla, trek to Pangom, Kote and Khare

Day 14-16: Climbing period

Day 17-19: Trek back to Lukla

Day 20: Fly back to kathmandu

Day 21: Leisure in Kathmandu

Day 22: Farewell departure to your home country

Itinerary disclaimer

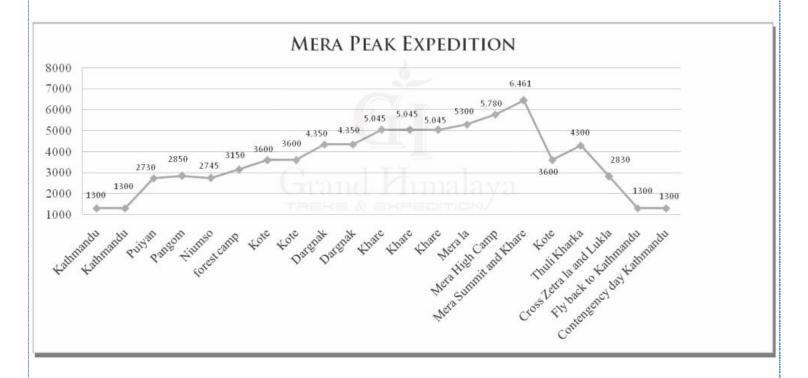
The itinerary is the strongest part of our trip. Stick to it and you will have little altitude related illness problems, go one day harder and you can be in big trouble. In our decade long experience as a guide and leader, we have tested these programs out several times. Sometimes they will seem slow but it's about enjoying the trip not pushing hard and having a headache all day. You need a very good reason to go faster. Going slower is Ok, just watch your overall progress. Shifting up one day instead of having a rest day can mean headaches and you then have to have a rest day later anyway!

Every effort will be made to keep to the above itinerary, but as this is Adventure Travel in a remote mountain region, we cannot guarantee it. Weather conditions and the health of climbers can all contribute to changes. The trek Leader/Guide and cook will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy going nature will be an asset! Issues that result in changes to trip finish dates, hotel or air tickets requirements etc need to be communicated to grand Himalaya HQ ASAP.

Furthermore, our Trip Notes is a general guide to the trek and region we are going to visit.

Any mention of specific destinations or flora and fauna is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or come across.

Altitude Profile in meters.



COST PER PERSON: USD\$ 3,100

Includes and Excludes

What the price includes

- 4 night hotel accommodation in Kathmandu in a 3 star category hotel. Breakfast is included. Accommodation is on a twin share basis.
- ☑ Mera peak climbing permit
- ☑ Trekking permits, National park entry fees & all government taxes.
- ☑ Domestic return flight ticket Kathmandu-Lukla-Kathmandu.
- All pickup and drop transportation from airport to airport both domestic & international airports plus domestic airport taxes.
- One day sightseeing tour in around Kathmandu (largest Buddhist stupa in the world at Bouddha Nath and the most important Hindu temple in the valley at Pasupati Nath).
- Meals during the trekking period. Three times a day, Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner tea/coffee/hot chocolate and soft drinks, sufficiently prepared by our well trained Nepali chefs.
- Best lodging & meals during the farewell night at Lukla.
- ☑ An experienced Sherpa guide

- ☑ Appropriate number of Sherpa staffs (4:1 ratio).
- ☑ A well trained cook & appropriate number of Kitchen boys.
- ☑ Appropriate number of porters.
- ☑ All necessary climbing hardware gear with fix rope.
- ☑ Quality high altitude food.
- ☑ High quality high Altitude tents.
- ☑ Necessary number of EPI gas with burner.
- High Camps pots
- Good quality member tent with sleeping mattress. Each and every member will have their own tent during the trek.
- ✓ Group dining tent with table /Chairs and light inside plus toilet and shower tents.
- ☑ Group kitchen tent for cooking meals for the entire team and for storing the food and vegetables.
- ☑ All campsite charges during the trek.
- ☑ Camping trek biodegradable and non-biodegradable garbage disposal fee to the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC).
- ☑ Cultural celebration meal at Nepali Chulo (Kitchen) restaurant with culture show after the trek.
- ☑ All local staff & porters properly insured & equipped.
- ☑ Oxygen & mask regulator set for medical use only.
- ☑ Comprehensive first aid kit (bring your personal first aid kit).

What the price does not include

- ☑ International & home country domestic airfares, transfers en route & excess baggage.
- Your personal insurance: Medical, mountain rescue cover and repatriation is obligatory.
- Your personal expenses e. g phone calls, laundry, alcoholic beverage and soft drinks.
- Main meals (Lunch & Dinner) in Kathmandu apart from celebration meal in Kathmandu.
- Your Nepal entry visa fee (USD \$40 available on entry) Valid for 30 days.
- Tipping to the guide & local staff (allow up to \$150 per person)
- **E** Cost of electronic appliances.
- Sost of emergency evacuation.
- Your personal climbing gears.
- Extra night accommodation in Kathmandu because of early arrival, late departure, early return from mountain (due to any reason) than the scheduled itinerary

Booking Conditions

A deposit of 25% of the total trip cost is payable at the time of booking and the final balance due 8 weeks before the start of the trip. The act of booking implies that you have accepted the ethos of the trip and any objective or subjective risks associated with it.

Cancellation

Should you wish to cancel your booking please inform us immediately in writing by email or letter. The following charges will apply, as a percentage of the trip:

✓ More than 42 days before departure – 25% of total cost

- \checkmark 42 to 29 days 50% of total cost
- ✓ 28 days to 15 days 75% of total cost and
- ✓ 14 days or less 100% of total cost.

These cancellation charges go to paying, amongst other things, outside Guides that have been contracted in, hotel or airline deposits, staff wages, setting up costs etc.

Note

No refund if any member breaking from the group due to illness or otherwise and not utilized any services. Medical evacuation costs, extra accommodation or any other fees associated with early departure, change of itinerary, or breaking from the group due to illness or otherwise. The cost may need to be paid by clients at the time and may be able to be claimed back from your travel insurance company.

What to take

This is a very active trip, meaning you will be on the move most of the time, so pack as lightly as possible. Please note that between every 2 members there will be 1 porter/mule and your trekking gear will be carried by the porter/mule in a water-proof duffel bag that we will provide you. The maximum the porters/mule is allowed to carry in Nepal is 30 Kg/22lbs, which means the average weight of each member's duffle bag shouldn't exceed 15Kgs. Besides, the airlines company that flies to the trekking areas of Nepal has a similar policy of allowing 15Kgs of luggage and 5Kgs of hand baggage for free, for every passenger.

Some of your luggage can be left in Kathmandu (the hotel may charge a storage fee), but you will need to take all your trekking gears with you.

Be a Safe Trekker

- 1. Keep your eyes on your team mate while trekking and try to cohere with the group at all times. Trekking tracks in the Himalayas are often connected with caravans and nomads trail, trails to the villages nearby the trekking route, domestic and wild animals trail, etc. These off the trekking track can often mislead you and consequently, people could wander off the track towards the hazardous door.
- 2. Try not to ascent rapidly especially first few days of the trekking, no matter how physically tough you are. I presume trekking in the Himalayas is entirely different than trekking in the Alps and Andes. Keep your eyes all around you when trekking because there is an utmost possibility of seeing wild lives and some other interesting sites, rather than speeding up towards the next camp and end up holding your heads rest of the day.
- 3. Drink plenty of plain fluids at least 4 liters a day. Keeping yourself hydrated after day's exhaustion is a must which can prevent you from having AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness). Avoid drinking alcohol once you hit high altitude, which is above the altitude of 3500 meters. Make yourself habit of drinking water, tea, soup, juice and so on, instead of alcohol. Drinking alcohol at high altitude has been scientifically proved to be making your body more susceptible to AMS.
- 4. Make sure you do not overload your daypack as this could cause pain to your shoulders/back. The heaviest item in your daypack should be your water, so your daypack should get lighter as the day goes on. If your daypack feels uncomfortable at any point, stop and readjust it.

- 5. Ensure that your feet and other extremities are kept warm and dry at all times. There have been cases of people not adequately dressed getting frost bite at high altitude due to the freezing temperatures. Remember, although the temperatures at the top may not seem cold, wild chill can reduce this temperature even further. Always be prepared with something to cover your face, warm gloves and thick walking socks.
- 6. We advise that you take some plasters/a blister prevention kit with you to keep your feet in good condition. Don't lace your boots too tightly/loosely and if they feel uncomfortable readjust them and apply plasters when necessary.
- 7. Keep your head torch in your daypack, always. You never know when and where you end up walking in the dark.
- 8. Walking poles can aid your trek, providing additional support and balance. Walking poles also helps to significantly reduce knee strain, particular during decent.
- 9. Your guides and sherpas are very much experience about the places you are trekking. So we always recommend you to follow their instructions and help yourselves by helping them to create a magnificent plus successful trip.

We the entire family members of Grand Himalaya would like to wish you safe and successful trips.

Important to note

- ➤ Please read the 'Checklist' section of this trip notes for additional details of what you need to bring for the trek on this trip.
- You will need to bring a comfortable medium sized day pack to carry the things that you will need during the day. This should have a waist strap or (better) a padded waist belt.
- ➤ The weather is subject to change in high altitude so layered clothing is recommended throughout the year.

✓ Essential gear checklist



Personal Clothing

\square 1 pair of 3 season	walking boots,	must be well
fitting & comfortable		

\Box 1	pair o	f Trainer	(approach)	shoes
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☐ 2+2 pairs of Warm woollen socks plus thin cool max socks
☐ A warm woollen base layer
☐ 2/3 Cotton or Cool max T-shirts
\square 1 suit of Thermal top & bottoms Icebreaker are recommended
☐ 1 suit of Wind proof jacket with hood (Gore-Tex)
☐ 1 Suit of Waterproof jacket & trouser

☐ A fleece jacket & trouser with side zips	☐ 4 season sleeping bag -20C	
☐ 1 Warm hat woollen which covers your ears.	☐Climbing harness with a belay loop, adjustable leg loops	
☐ Thick Gore-Tex & thin fleece gloves	_	
☐ 1+1 Sun & snow Glacier glasses 100% UV	☐ Water-proof bag for sleeping bag [e.g. dry bag or robust plastic bag(s)]	
protection with side flaps and a hard-sided storage case (i.e. Julbo/Cebe). 1 pair extra sunglasses (Also with UV protection in case your 1st pair breaks or lost)	☐ Belay/Abseiling gear: ATC or any belay plate, e.g. Wild Country variable controller	
	☐ Petzl Ascender (a.k.a Jumar)	
☐ 1 Down jacket (available for hire in Kathmandu at charge of \$ 2 per day) if required.	☐ 2 Non-locking carabiners	
☐ 1 Rucksack 50 litre	☐ 2 Locking carabiners (wide gate preferred)	
☐ 3 Walking trousers must be warm & comfortable	☐ 1 Lanyard (cow's tail) of 2 m of tubular webbing (climbing tape)	
☐ 1 pair of Sandal	☐ 2 Prusiks of 6mm cord: one long, one short	
☐ 1 Shade hat or baseball cap	(about 5m in total is required)	
☐ 1 Kit bags	☐ Pee bottle - wide mouth Nalgenes are good Optional	
☐ 1 Fleece scarf or neck gaiter	☐ 1 Head lamp with enough spare batteries (Petzl	
☐ Good quality Camera to capture the memorable	or Black Diamond)	
moments of your life in the Himalaya.	☐ 2 Water bottle (1 litre Nalgene) with wide mouth	
☐ Swim suit while you in Kathmandu hotel	☐ 1 Hydration bladder with drinking tube for	
Personal Equipment	lower altitude - (optional).	
☐ Double (usually plastic) mountaineering boots	☐ 1 pair warm gloves Fleece or wool	
(e.g. Scarpa Vega, Koflach□Arctis Expeditions, etc; sizes 6-12 available to rent)	☐ 1 pair Foldable Trekking-poles	
☐ 1 pair Gaiters for boots appropriate to type of	☐ 2 Lip guard. At least SPF 20.	
boot	☐ Pocket knife (Swiss knife)	
☐ Crampons of rapid-fix, quick-release bail type to suit your boots	☐ 1 set - Personal first-aid kit with Ibuprofen,	
☐ Ice axe: one only, 65-75cm in length	Amoxycillin, Ciprofloxacin, Immodium, Diamox, Stemetil, Paracetamol and any other doctor recommended medications. Blister on the feet are quite common problems during the walking or trekking period. So it might be good idea to have	
☐ Sleeping pad full length closed cell foam (mandatory) and/or? Length Therm-A-Rest for extra warmth and comfort		

some appropriate plasters, there are few different shape of Compeeds available now a days.	☐ Water purification Iodine tablets or Polar-pure crystals.			
Other Personal Gear	☐ Paperback books, Sudoku book, cards,			
☐ Valid Passport and passport size photos	Walkman, IPod etc			
☐ Fanny pack or wallet for travel documents,	☐ Personal toiletries as necessary			
money & passport	☐ Small padlock for duffel bag is also essential			
☐ Favourite snack foods	during the trek			
☐ 100ml Anti-Bacterial Hand Hygiene (Hand	☐ Towel			
Sanitizer) Gel	☐ 2/3 packets wet wipes for cleaning hand and face are useful			
 Equipment supplied by us ✓ 1 Kit bag (Kit bag with your name on it will be provided to you in Kathmandu for the trek. This will be included in your trek cost. Your travelling kit bag can remain at the Hotel in Kathmandu with spare clothes for after the trek.) ✓ Satellite phone if you are travelling in a remotest part of Nepal (pay for air time used: USD \$5/minute) 				
✓ Group medical kit (for altitude illness, trauma, reser	ve antibiotics)			
NOTE: You must have all of the above personal gear, clothing and equipment. It may be possible to buy some extra equipment (If forgotten) but don't rely on it.				
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