

Trip Name : Everest High Passes And Island Peak

Starting Point	Fly in KTM-Lukla
Ending Point	Fly out Lukla-KTM
Type	TeaHouse/Camping Trek
Grade	Difficult
Duration	20 Days
Daily Walk	5-7 hours
People in Group	Minimum 1 and Maximum 12
Best Time	April to May and September to November
Max. Elevation	6160 mt.

### Trip Highlights:

- One of Nepal's most popular trekking peaks bounded by glaciers
- Outstanding views of Lhotse, Baruntse and Makalu from the top
- The mountain bears a resemblance to an island in a sea of ice
- British Expedition team made the first ascent in 1953
- Crossing of three major high passes-Renjo la, Chola and Kongma la
- A side trip to the world famous Everest Base Camp and Kalapatthar

### Trip Details:

Everest region has become a popular destination for short trekking trips, longer treks, high passes, adventure peaks, challenging expeditions of mountains above 8000 meters including the highest Mt. Everest (8,848m/29,028ft), the story of Yeti and the Sherpa culture. If you want to achieve a summit on a trekking peak and spend as much time as possible in the Everest region including trekking over high passes, here we have designed a trek combined with a peak to fulfill your expectations. We have named this trip as Everest High Passes and Island Peak Climbing. The trip includes a trek via Renjo la pass, Gokyo Ri, Chola pass, Everest Base Camp, Kalapatthar, Kongma La pass and finally climbing of Island Peak.

Our Everest high passes trek provides an all-round experience of the famous Khumbu Valley. This is regarded as a hard trek advancing to the Renjo la Pass (5,340m/17,520ft), Gokyo Ri (5,360m/17,586ft) and the tough Chola Pass (5,330m/17,487ft) making a circuit of Tawache (6,367m/20,890ft) and Cholatse (6,440m/21,129ft), Everest Base Camp (5,364m/17,598ft), Kalapatthar (5,545m/18,192ft) and finally Kongma la Pass (5,535m/18,160ft). The trip is focused on adventure, Sherpa culture and their social life. The highest peak in the world and magnificent panoramas of the Himalayas, lakes, high passes of Renjo, Chola and Kongma la are the stunning highlights of this trek. The summit of Gokyo Ri (5,360m/17,586ft) provides a lifetime memory from where a 360 degree view of Mt. Cho Oyu, Mt. Everest and Mt. Makalu is truly panoramic. The crossing of Chola pass involves a long steady climb up the valley from Thangnak (also spelt as Tagnak) and a drop of about 300 meters into the valley again and then a steep climb of about 500 meters across the loose rocks and boulders to the top. The trek then continues up to Kalapatthar and Everest Base Camp. After Everest Base Camp, we take a challenge across the Kongma la pass and reach Chhukung in a day. After gaining enough acclimatization and strength, we are now ready for our long awaited mission of Island Peak expedition.

Island Peak (6,160m/20,211ft) is one of the most popular trekking peaks in Nepal, situated at the top of the Imja valley in the Khumbu region and surrounded by the Imja, Lhotse and Lhotse Shar glaciers. Island Peak

was named by Eric Shipton in 1952. When the peak is viewed from above Dingboche, the mountain does resemble to an island in a sea of ice. It was renamed as 'Imja Tse' in 1983 although most people still refer to it as Island Peak. The classic expedition route to the summit is the narrow North ridge but it is the southwest ridge which is the most common route used. The most difficult section of the Peak is a mixed rock and ice wall at a slope of around 45 degrees that leads to the narrow summit ridge. The views from the summit are stunning with Lhotse soaring above to its North, Baruntse to the southeast and Makalu to the east. We take the classic expedition route to the summit through the narrow North ridge but it is the southwest ridge which is the most common route used by climbers. It is believed that the most difficult section is a mixed rock and ice wall on a slope of around 45 degrees that leads to the narrow summit ridge of the Peak. From the summit, the views are stunning with Lhotse soaring above to its North, Baruntse to the southeast and Makalu to the east. After the summit of Island Peak, we trek back to Lukla along the Dudh Koshi valley via Tengboche and Namche Bazaar.

**Note:**

- **Special group expeditions can be arranged in any seasons.**
- **Discounts available to a group of four and above.**

**How We Make This Trip Responsible?**

Trekking Encounters promotes Responsible Tourism and strictly follows the responsible travel guide lines.

**Cost Includes:**

- Permit fees for Island Peak and Sagarmatha National Park
- Three times meals a day (B/L/D) served at teahouse/lodge and at our own kitchen during climbing period
- Accommodations in the mountains at teahouse/lodge/tents
- An English speaking and experienced Trekking Guide
- Experienced NMA registered Climbing Sherpa Guide/Sardar
- An experienced Cook and kitchen crew for camping period
- Necessary porters
- Necessary climbing equipment including Top quality high mountain Tents, Fixed and Main ropes, Ice-screws, Safety ropes, Jumars, Karabiners, etc.
- Staff insurance, salary, food, accommodation and their transportation
- Regular flights for Kathmandu-Lukla-Kathmandu and ground transfers to/from airport
- Satellite phone support for expeditions and trekking peaks (on demand)
- Emergency co-operation service and first aid kit box
- A certificate by Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) on successful summit of peak climb

**Complimentary:**

- A Trekking Encounters T-shirt
- A farewell Nepali dinner with live culture program

**Cost Excludes:**

- Hotel and meals in Kathmandu
- Bar and beverages bills, bottled water
- Nature of personal expenses
- Personal cloths and equipment such as sleeping bag, jacket, boots etc.
- Personal climbing equipment such as Plastic Boots, Ice-axe, Gaiters, Crampons, Harness, etc.
- Insurance for accidental, medical and evacuation

- Tips to the staff
- Refundable Garbage Deposit of US \$500
- International Airfare and Taxes

## **Add-Ons:**

### **Kathmandu City Tour**

**Activity:** Cultural tour to the World Heritage Sites.

**Major sites:** Swoyambhunath, Boudhanath, Pashupatinath, Kathmandu/Patan/Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changunarayan Temple.

**Duration:** Full/Half day.

**Frequency:** Tour can be organized in any day and at your suitable time.

**Cost:** US\$ 50 per person. Group discounts available.

**Ground transfer:** Included by a private vehicle as per group size (Car/Van/Bus).

**Guide:** English Speaking City Tour Guide included. Additional language Guides are also available on demand.

**Meals:** Not included.

**Entrance fee:** Applicable and not included.

### **Mt. Everest Flight**

**Activity:** Mount Everest sightseeing flight.

**Duration:** One hour.

**Frequency:** Everyday in the morning between 6am to 9am.

**Cost:** US\$ 224 per person. Group discounts available.

**Ground transfer:** Included by a private vehicle. Two persons minimum needed.

**Airport tax:** Included.

**Airline:** Buddha Air, Simrik Airlines and Yeti Airlines.

### **Jungle Safari in Chitwan National Park**

**Activities:** Jungle safari on elephant-back, jungle walk, canoe ride, jeep drive, experience of Tharu culture.

**Accommodation:** Resorts, Hotels and Lodges.

**Transportation:** Private Car included (Kathmandu/Pokhara-Kathmandu).

**Meals:** Included.

**Duration:** 3 days and 2 nights.

**Cost:** Starts from US\$ 225 per person.

### **Jungle Safari in Bardia National Park**

**Activities:** Jungle safari on elephant-back, jungle walk, boat ride, jeep drive.

**Accommodation:** Jungle lodges.

**Transportation:** Not included.

**Meals:** Included.

**Duration:** 4 days and 3 nights.

**Cost:** Starts from US\$ 475 per person.

### **Bird Watching in Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve**

**Activities:** Bird watching, boat ride and wildlife viewing on jeep drive.

**Accommodation:** Resorts, Tented camps.

**Transportation:** Not included.

**Meals:** Included.

**Duration:** 3 days and 2 nights.

**Cost:** Starts from US\$ 480 per person.

### **Rafting in Nepal**

**Trishuli River:** 2/3 Class – 1 Day – 17 Kilometers – Cost starts from US\$ 30 per person.

**Seti River:** 3 Class – 2 Days – 32 Kilometers – Cost starts from US\$ 80 per person.

**KaliGandaki River:** 4 Class – 3 Days – 56 Kilometers – Cost starts from US\$ 140 per person.

**BhoteKoshi River:** 4/5 Class – 2 Days – 18 Kilometers – Cost starts from US\$ 85 per person.

- **Cost includes:** Top quality Rafting equipment, Highly trained Crew, Well organized camping, Hygienic food.

- **Transportation:** Bus transportation included and depends.

### **Bungy Jumping / Canyoning / Paragliding / Ultralight Flight**

We can check and deliver information and cost as per your interest received for Bungy Jumping, Canyoning, Paragliding and Ultralight Flight. Bungy and Canyoning can also be customized together.

### **Shopping Tours**

Package available on demand.

**Shopping items:** Pashmina items, Paubha/Thangka, Woolen Carpets, Root Art, Ceramics, Shaligram (Holy Rocks), Masks of deities, Khukuri, Tea, Spices, Garments and Knitwear, Musical Instruments and Music, Glass Ornaments, Jewelry and Gems, Metal Wares, Sculptures, Wood Carvings, Rudraksha (Rosary), Incense, Natural Buttons, Fiber Products, Wood Game Boards, Fancy Hats, Bamboo Crafts, Bags and Accessories, Leather Articles, Lokta Paper and items made by Lokta, Nepali Dolls, Home Decors, Books and Maps and innumerable other unique items which are found nowhere else.

### **Trip Itinerary:**

#### **Day 01 : Fly Kathmandu to Lukla (2,840m/9,318ft) and trek to Phakding (2,610m/8,563ft).**

We set off early morning from our hotel to domestic airport for Lukla flights. After a 35 minute scenic mountain flight by a small aircraft, we land in Lukla airport (Tenzing-Hillary airport). Today's trek from Lukla to Phakding is only about 3-4 hours. The trail from Lukla is seen broad and clear. From the airstrip it heads north through a kani (arch) and then slopes downhill to a low agricultural land. A splendid view of the difficult trekking peak Kusum Kangaru (6,367m/20,889ft) is seen while walking ahead. The trail is rich with teahouses, prayer wheels, gompas (Buddhist monastery) and huge boulders decorated with Buddhist mantra (prayer chant). Finally we arrive in the village separated in two parts with about a 10 minute trek between them, and a long suspension bridge over the Dudh Koshi River. This village is called Phakding where we stay overnight.

#### **Day 02 : Trek Phakding to Namche Bazaar (3,446m/11,306ft).**

Today's trek is about 5-6 hours. After crossing the suspension bridge at Phakding, we trek for 2-3 hours following the climbs steeply up rough stone steps before reaching the long paved Monjo village on the edge of Sagarmatha National Park. In addition to the lodges, single-roofed houses and a few basic shops, there is a small gumpa nearby. The trek from Monjo to Namche Bazaar will take another 3-4 hours. There is an entrance to the Sagarmatha National Park where an entry permit must be showed or obtained and kept

safely for showing on exiting the park. Once passed through the gate, the trail drops to river level which is set among fields of huge cabbages, crosses to the west bank of the Dudh Koshi river on a long suspension bridge and passes teahouses and lodges in Jorsale (2,775m/9,104ft). This is the last available accommodation before Namche Bazaar. About halfway up, at a bend on this ascent we should get our first brief view of Mt. Everest, Nuptse and Lhotse. As our trek continues up mostly among trees, we will eventually come to a group of buildings, then broad stone steps and finally arrive in one of the lower streets of our overnight stop Namche Bazaar. This town is known as the Sherpa "Capital" and gateway to the Mt. Everest. Namche Bazaar has many facilities – a post office, banks, ATMs, money exchange centre, a health post, a dental clinic, numerous shops, restaurants, cyber cafés and telephone facilities, a gompa and several chortens. The headquarters of the Sagarmatha National Park and a military post are situated above the town. We stay two overnights in Namche Bazaar for acclimatization and excursion around. Trekking time 5-6 hours.

### **Day 03 : Rest and acclimatisation day in Namche Bazaar.**

Today we stay in Namche Bazaar for acclimatisation. Because of the altitude, it will be necessary for us to spend a minimum of two nights here. On this day, we have the choice of just relaxing and roaming round this interesting hill town, or alternatively trekking round a nearby 3-4 hour circuit with stunning views. On this excursion trek, we pass through two traditional Sherpa villages Khumjung (3,780m/12,402ft) which has a chorten at its entrance and Khunde (3,841m/12,602ft) where there is a small hospital. This day helps a lot for acclimatisation for our further trekking and climbing of Island Peak.

### **Day 04 : Trek Namche Bazaar to Thame (3,820m/12,533ft).**

Today our trek starts by passing the town's gompa and continues round the steep hillside to cross the rim where there is a profusion of mani stones, carved boulders and prayer flags. The trail then proceeds through pine and juniper woods to reach the village of Phurte (3,390m/11,122ft) which has simple teahouses, lodges, traditional Sherpa homes, a mani wall and a chorten. The trail now loses height, winds round several wooded spurs, passes through a kani (arch), crosses a wooden cantilever bridge and enters the village of Thesiyo. From this point the route starts to rise, passes another chorten and reaches the large strung-out village of Thamo (3,493m/11,460ft) with a school, mani stones, prayer flags, lodges and teahouses. Now climbing fairly steeply the trail passes through a number of houses at Samde and reaches a point from which there is a fine view to the east of the trekking peak of Pharchamo (6,187m/20,300ft). The trail now makes a short steep descent, passes a rock face decorated with three brightly painted Buddhas, crosses a bridge over the Bhote Koshi River, zigzags up to run alongside the Thame Khola (River) and comes to the walled fields and typical Sherpa homes of Thame, our overnight stop. Tenzing Norgay Sherpa who ascended Mt. Everest with Sir Edmund Hillary in 1953, spent his childhood in Thame. There is a school in the village, built by Sir Edmund Hillary's Himalayan Trust and to the west a gompa perched almost 150 meters above the fields. Thame is the village where the Everest region and the Rolwaling valley join. Trekking time 4-5 hours.

### **Day 05 : Trek Thame to Marlung/Marulung (4,210m/13,813ft).**

Today after taking our breakfast we are ready for the next camp towards Marlung. We pass through the terrain from Thame to Marlung which is alpine zone and very less vegetation is found. This is relatively a less trekked valley so that the trekkers enjoy with their peace of mind while trekking. As we pass by the village of Tarngga, the superb views of Kongde Ri (6,187m/20,300ft) is seen down the trail. About an hour further trek on a gradually rising trail brings us to Marlung. We stay overnight at Marlung. There are only a few teahouses found with basic facilities. Trekking time 5-6 hours.

### **Day 06 : Trek Marlung to Gokyo (4,790m/15,716ft) crossing over Renjo la pass (5,340m/17,520ft).**

Today we have a long and tough trekking day. We start our trek early morning after breakfast and climb a small rising hill. We then cross a stream and reach Lungden. We continue our trek further towards the top of Renjo La pass (5,340m/17,520ft). The views are outstanding from this top. The Everest itself, Lhotse, Cholatse and Taboche can be seen shining in the sun. Views from Renjo La are much like that from Gokyo Ri with third Gokyo Lake and Gokyo Village beneath the gray smear of Ngozumpa Glacier. We walk further to Gokyo through the glacier and reach Gokyo, our overnight stop. Trekking time 8-9 hours.

**Day 07 : Rest day at Gokyo, climb at Gokyo Ri (5,360m/17,586ft) in the morning.**

We spend two nights in Gokyo to help with altitude acclimatisation. In the morning, if weather permits, we climb the hill that rises above the northern shore of Lake Dudh Pokhari, called Gokyo Ri. The summit is marked by large cairns and prayer flags. Also from the top, Gokyo's turquoise lake, far below has a picturesque view. An excursion to fourth and fifth lake is recommended for passionate trekkers.

**Day 08 : Trek Gokyo to Thangnak (4,950m/16,241ft).**

Today we continue our trek to Thangnak (Dragnag), at a point beyond the southern end of Lake Taboche Tsho, where a cairn marks a fork in the trail, we branch left, make an easy rise across the slope and crest the moraine wall at a saddle. From here we will get a splendid view northwards along the length of the Ngozumpa Glacier to Cho Oyu and also to Cholatse and Taboche in the south-east. The way now descends onto the glacier, weaves round ice cliffs, over rocky humps, skirts small lakes and crosses flats of glacial sand. Here there are impressive views in every direction. Having crossed the glaciers, the route descends into the ablation valley below our overnight stop Thangnak, which consists of three very basic simple lodges and a couple of huts. Trekking time 3-4 hours.

**Day 09 : Trek Thangnak to Dzonglha (4,830m/15,847ft) crossing over Chola pass (5,330m/17,487ft).**

Today the trail climbs steadily to a cairn on the crest of a moraine ridge, descends into a valley and arrives at a rough area of rocks and boulders, sometimes known as Cho La Base Camp and also as Phedi (4,930m/16,175ft) which means "at the foot of the hill". We will now stay close to the right hand rock wall where cairns indicate the route down. The views ahead will now be magnificent. The steep descent now continues down rocky "steps" to reach an easy path, which will take us to the bed of the valley. The remainder of the trek to our overnight stop Dzonglha is through this beautiful valley and we will be able to enjoy the stunning views. Dzonglha consists of a few simple lodges and camping grounds in a walled enclosure. There is a terrific close view of Cholatse's north-east face (6,335m/20,785ft) seen from Dzonglha and below to the south lies Chola Tsho lake (4,590m/15,059ft). We stay overnight at Dzonglha. Trekking time 6-7 hours.

**Day 10 : Trek Dzonglha to Lobuche (4,910m/16,109ft).**

Today we continue the trek along the moraine of the glacier. The views of Kalapatthar and Pumori on the way are truly magnificent. The trail now enters the Khumbu valley, crosses to the western side from which one gets a clear view of the massive Nuptse (7,861m/25,791ft) and finally arrives at Lobuche. This is a busy place with trekkers camping in various spots on the far side of the stream and around the lodges. We stay overnight at Lobuche. It can be very cold overnight here. Trekking time 2-3 hours.

**Day 11 : Trek Lobuche to Everest Base Camp (5,364m/17,598ft), return trek to Gorakshep (5,140m/16,864ft).**

Today, we set off to the Everest Base Camp with the trail initially crossing a stream below Lobuche and then progressing along the left-hand side of the valley, before rising to a higher narrower step. Soon we will reach a point where a narrow side valley cuts off to the left. After about 200m it takes us to the “Italian Pyramid”, a stone-built lodge and scientific station which collects meteorological and seismic (earthquake) data. Continuing on, the main trail comes to a more open area, climbs a moraine where edelweiss grows on a slope – crosses a sandy stretch, weaves among heaps of moraine, climbs once again and then drops down to Gorakshep. The trail to Base Camp begins just beyond the Gorakshep Lake, runs for some way along the moraine crest and then appears to descend to the Khumbu glacier. Once in the centre of the glacier, the route signs are somewhat dubious – e.g. the occasional cairn of yak dung! – but we will be okay with our experienced guide. Although Everest Base Camp does not provide a view of the world’s highest mountain itself, tomorrow’s trek will more than compensate for this – today we will get a real close-up of the impressive Khumbu ice fall. The Base Camp can be quite a bustling place with expeditions camping, porters, trekkers and yaks, etc. Having achieved our first goal, and after resting, we will return to Gorakshep for our overnight stay. It consists of three lodges on the rim of a level basin of glacial sand, with the small lake nearby. Tibetan snow cocks chase one another noisily across this sand flat. Although it is very close, Everest is not visible from Gorakshep, however there is a stunning view of the majestic Nuptse, soaring high in the east. We stay overnight at Gorakshep. Trekking time 7-8 hours.

#### **Day 12 : Trek/Climb Gorakshep to Kalapatthar (5,545m/18,192ft) and return trek to Lobuche.**

Today’s trip is not only literally the “high point” of our entire trek but it also has the absolutely high point with unbelievable views from the summit of Kalapatthar. The long awaited trek starts around 5.00am. The climb takes about 1-2 hours (depending upon the route chosen) to reach the summit. On the arrival at the summit, one can experience the most fantastic sunrise over Mt. Everest. Kalapatthar is a spur of Pumori (7,165m/23,507ft) and in Hindi means “black rock” which is appropriate. It has two summits and two ascent routes, both paths being clearly visible from Gorakshep. The left-hand path which wriggles its way to the secondary summit (5,545m/18,192ft) takes 1-1:30 hours and the other which zig-zags up the eastern flank to the higher summit (5,623m/18,448ft) takes 1:30-2 hours. Neither route is technically difficult. Another alternative is available which takes in both summits, climb the left-hand trail to gain the lower top, marked with a number of slender cairns and then continue along the ridge scrambling over rocks and reach the higher summit with its flutter of prayer flags. From both summits, a truly incredible panorama is spread before you. Although Everest is of course the main focus of attention, the ice cone of Nuptse which from this view point appears higher than Everest, has stunning beauty. Having really soaked up these incredible views we will return downhill to Gorakshep and then continue our trek to Lobuche after breakfast. We stay overnight at Lobuche. Trekking time 5-6 hours.

#### **Day 13 : Trek Lobuche to Chhukung (4,730m/15,519ft) crossing over Kongma la pass (5,535m/18,160ft).**

Today we start our trek early morning after breakfast along the Khumbu Glacier over the Kongma La pass (5,535m/18,160ft). We can see cairn wrapped in prayer flags marking the pass. Then we descend a gradual walks up the Imja Khola valley and reach Chhukung. Trekking time 7-8 hours. Alternatively, you may take another route via Dingboche to Chhukung if you do not like to undertake the Kongma La pass trek.

#### **Day 14 : Trek Chhukung to Island Peak Base Camp (5,200m/17,061ft). Basic training for climbing.**

The trail from Chhukung leads fairly steep way that goes through the moraine from the Lhotse Glacier and along a streamside. Trekking time 3-4 hours. After lunch, our Sherpa climbing guide will conduct training on peak climbing techniques and using of climbing gears such as climbing boots and crampons, harness, ascender and to go up and down on ropes. It is not mandatory to have prior training experiences for Island

Peak but we believe that some training opportunities will boost up your confidence and climbing skills and increase the chances of scaling the summit. The training might be useful for those who are doing their first expeditions though.

**Day 15 : Climbing day: Summit Island Peak (6,160m/20,211ft). Trek back to Base Camp or Chhukung.**

We start our climb early in the morning, generally between 1-2am. Rope needs to be fixed up for the glacier as it contains several crevasses. We follow the guide's footsteps and he fixes a rope wherever necessary. A steep snow slope leads us onto the summit of Island Peak (6,160m/20,211ft). It's a great moment to be on the summit. The views are awesome from the summit and after taking enough pictures, we descend back to Base Camp or continue our trek to Chhukung for overnight rest. This is a celebration time on the success of Island peak climb. Total climbing/trekking time 8-10 hours.

**Day 16 : Spare day for weather.**

The spare day is for smooth journey. We can use this day if the weather gets worse and we are unable to complete the summit on the planned day. This day can be useful if someone gets problems in acclimatising well enough to make the ascent.

**Day 17 : Trek Chhukung to Pangboche (3,930m/12,894ft).**

We set off southward down the west bank of the Imja Khola, cross a bridge over the Khumbu Khola close to where it is joined by the Imja Khola and proceed down the west bank and reach Pangboche. There is a famous gumpa at Pangboche believed to have been the oldest in the Khumbu region. We stay overnight at Pangboche. Trekking time 4-5 hours.

**Day 18 : Return trek Pangboche to Namche Bazaar.**

We descend through the alpine dessert and enter into landscapes of pine forests. The trail then leads to a steep uphill climb into Tengboche. We pay a visit to the Tengboche Monastery. We then trek through a steep descent and the final steep climb traverses the hill side into Namche Bazaar. Trekking time 5-6 hours.

**Day 19 : Return trek Namche Bazaar to Lukla.**

Again we proceed southward, retracing the route trekked on day 1 and 2, crossing and re-crossing the Dudh Koshi at intervals. We stay overnight in Lukla. Trekking time 6-7 hours.

**Day 20 : Fly Lukla to Kathmandu.**

We take the 35 minute breathtaking flight from Lukla.

**Option available for extending your trip with Jungle Safari adventure, white water rafting or a trip of your choice.**