

# Kanchenjunga Expedition

Difficulty	Duration	Region	Max. Altitude	Type	Group Size
Extreme	55 days	Kanchenjunga	8586m	Expedition	2-14 pax

## Overview

M.t Kanchanjunga is situated on the border between Nepal and India. It is a part of Eastern Himalayas located along the Nepal-Sikkim border about 20 kilometers South of Tibet. Mount Kanchanjunga is one of the fourteen mountains on Earth that are more than 8,000 meters high above sea level. At an elevation of 8,586 m (28,169 ft), it stands enormous and very charismatic making it the world's third tallest mountain and second highest in Nepal.

Renowned as the queen of mountains the name Kanchenjunga is derived from four words of Tibetan origin, usually rendered Kang-chen-dzo-nga (Kang: Snow, Chen: Big, Dzö: Treasury, Nga: Five), or Yang-chhen-dzö-nga and interpreted as the "Five Treasuries of the Great Snow" owing to the five major peaks in the region. The five peaks in Kanchenjunga are: Main, West, Central, South and Kangbachen and the five treasures of God are gold, silver, gems, grain, and holy books. The mountain holds an important place in the mythology and religious ritual of the local inhabitants. Also in the Kirant religion, Kanchenjunga is considered sacred and in the local Limbu language, Kanchenjunga is called Sewalungma means "Mountain that we offer Greetings to". The location of Mt. Kanchenjunga whether in Nepal or in India have always confused people but either answer is correct as it lies in both countries. It is located on the border of Nepal and Sikkim, just 46 miles northwest of Darjeeling. Three of the five peaks - The center, main and south peaks are situated in Taplejung, Nepal while the north peak lies in Sikkim India.

There are four climbing routes in Mt. Kanchenjunga out which three of which are in Nepal (South West, North West, and North East) and one in North East Sikkim. The safest routes considered are The North West and South West climbing routes however they are not simple. The climbing history shows that these two routes are the most popular and the North East climbing route from Sikkim recorded only three successful summits to date. A portion of the region is also shared with Bhutan. Nevertheless, the best Kanchenjunga trekking trails lies on Nepal's side. With many other attempts, Kanchenjunga was first climbed on May 25, 1955 by Joe Brown and George Band, who were part of a British expedition. In Taplejung district of Nepal, Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Project covering a total area of 2,035 square km (786 sq mi) and it is run by the World Wildlife Fund jointly associated with the Government of Nepal. The National Park is shared between the three countries Nepal, India and Bhutan. Of the 22,000 km<sup>2</sup> covered by the

park, 14,000 km<sup>2</sup> lies in India, 3,700 km<sup>2</sup> in Nepal and 4,600 km<sup>2</sup> in Bhutan. Mount Kanchenjunga is one of the most stunning Himalayas. The best months of Expedition are from April- May and from October – November. If you are expert climbers, you will have another memorable experience of life. And if you are just the beginner, you are definitely going to create a memorable experience for a lifetime!

## **Itinerary**

### **Days 1: Arrival in Kathmandu**

On your arrival in Kathmandu, Tribhuvan International Airport, our representative will welcome you & drive you to the hotel. It's a free day/evening. You can walk around Thamel for shopping.

### **Days 2-3: Sightseeing around Kathmandu**

Kathmandu is the historical and cultural heart of Nepal and has been a popular destination for tourists ever since Nepal opened its doors to visitors. The city presents a wonderful mix of Hinduism, Tibetan Buddhism and Western influence. There will be a guided tour to the largest Buddhist stupa in Nepal Boudhanath and after that to the most popular Hindu shrine dedicated to Lord Shiva- Pashupatinath. We take a tour to Patan or Lalitpur (the City of Artisans), which is 5km away from Kathmandu. We walk through Patan Durbar Square, and delight in the architectural wonders of the Malla era. Mahaboudha Temple, Kumbeshwor Temple, Krishna Temple and Golden Temple are the major attractions at the square.

### **Day 04: Fly to Bhadrapur**

After breakfast in Kathmandu, we take an early morning flight to Bhadrapur in the east of Nepal. The total flight time is around 45 minutes. Getting off at Bhadrapur, we will continue our trip with a drive to Taplejung. Overnight in Taplejung.

### **Day 05: Drive to Taplethok**

Waking up in Taplejung, we get ready for today's trek. But first, we drive to Taplethok, which is the starting point of our trek. Then, leaving Taplethok behind, we start to walk in the trails to reach Sekathum. In between the trails, we pass through numerous beautiful villages experiencing the local culture. Overnight in Sekathum.

## **Day 06: Trek to Amjilesa**

After breakfast in Sekathum, our trek to Amjilesa starts. Waterfalls and suspension bridges are a major part of today's trail. Amjilesa is the first Sherpa village we come across in the trek. The village of Amjilesa is mainly used during the time when the yaks and sheep are in the pastures so very few families live here full time. Overnight in Amjilesa.

## **Day 07: Trek to Gyabla**

After breakfast, we head off through various forests of rhododendron, pine, bamboo and oak. The settlements after Amjilesa are built more in Tibetan style. Today, we have the opportunity to see yaks, sheeps and blue sheeps on the trail. The last part of today's trail takes us up through dense forests and over a wooden bridge until we arrive in Gyabla. Overnight in Gyabla.

## **Day 08: Trek to Ghunsa**

Today's trek is a short one and it takes about 4 hours to reach Ghunsa depending on the fitness level. After breakfast at Gyabla, we walk again through dense forests past Phale village, which was a Tibetan refuge for people fleeing from the communist regime of China. We will reach Ghunsa early so we have time to explore around the place. Ghunsa is the largest settlement in the area with internet and phone services available. Overnight in Ghunsa.

## **Day 09: Rest for Altitude Acclimatize**

Ghunsa is considerably at a higher altitude so we take this day to relax and acclimatize in Ghunsa. There is a monastery to explore and a ridge to climb. From the ridge there are views of Jannu Peak which is worth the 5 hours plus round trip. Should you wish to climb up the ridge – and we recommend this as it helps acclimatize our bodies – we will take a packed lunch with us. Overnight in Ghunsa.

## **Day 10: Trek to Selele**

From Ghunsa, it is a steep uphill trek to Sele Le. This section is not inhabited by humans. The trail mostly passes through dense forests of juniper and moss. The trek from Ghunsa to Sele Le is challenging but the views you get to see amazing views in between. Overnight in Sele Le.

## **Day 11: Trek to Tseram**

The walk from Sele Le to Tseram is definitely a long one as well as challenging too.

We will start with a steep uphill section toward the top of Sele Le Pass. The aerial view of Kanchenjunga North Side is accompanied by the view of Mt. Makalu and Mt. Jannu. After reaching the Sele Le Pass, the uphill portion is almost over now. From the pass, Tseram is now a couple of hours downhill. There are numerous big boulders on the trail where you can attempt to climb the boulder and have some extra fun while descending. Descend down to Tseram following the trail. Overnight in Tseram.

### **Day 12: Trek to Yalung Base Camp**

After breakfast in Tseram, we set out across moraines from the Kanchenjunga Glacier, gently climbing upwards to Yalung Base Camp. At Yalung Base Camp we stand in awe of the surrounding mountains and drink up the atmosphere completed by Buddhist prayer flags fluttering in the wind. We camp here in Yalung Base Camp enjoying the tranquillity. Overnight in a tent in Yalung Base Camp.

### **Day 13-47: Kanchenjunga Climbing Period**

There are two famous climbing routes to Kanchenjunga. One is through the Kanchenjunga North Base Camp on Kanchenjunga Glacier and the other is South Base Camp on Yalung Glacier. Since the route from Yalung Glacier is accessible and comparatively easier, we take that route and successfully summit Kanchenjunga. We will camp in six different altitudes before finally pushing to the summit. Days 13 through 47 is for Kanchenjunga climbing period. After Yalung Base Camp, we set up another camp in Kanchenjunga Advanced Base Camp at 5400m. We take our time acclimatizing with the thin air and do some ice climbing nearby to keep ourselves fit. After Advanced Base Camp, the camps are Camp I, Camp II, Camp III and Camp IV at 6200m, 6400m, 7100m and 7550m respectively. After setting up our camp at Camp IV, we start our climb towards Kanchenjunga also taking into consideration the climate and weather of the area.

### **Day 48: Trek to Torangdin**

With the successful summit of Mt. Kanchenjunga, we descend down to Torangdin from Kanchenjunga South Base Camp today. We cross the Sinion La Pass and Sinelapche Pass simultaneously which takes us along a ridge with panoramic views of the mountain peaks nearby. After that, the trail is mostly downhill through a gorge. The final section of today's trek is a steep uphill over a landslide-area which takes you to Torangdin. Overnight in Torangdin.

### **Day 49: Trek to Yasang**

After breakfast, we head off on a downhill trail which quickly turns to a steep and long uphill hike. We pass over a landslide-prone area leading to Lasiya Bhanjyang, where we stop for lunch. Then after the trail is a steep downhill through more forests until we reach the big village of Yasang. Overnight in Yasang.

### **Day 50: Trek to Taplethok**

The walking will be easier today as we are back at a lower altitude. We will get to see interesting villages and terraced fields on today's route. We continue on to Taplethok where we get a jeep and drive to Taplejung. Overnight in Taplejung.

### **Day 51: Drive to Bhadrapur**

After breakfast today at Taplejung, we drive back to Bhadrapur where we stay for the night.

### **Day 52: Back to Kathmandu**

We take an early morning flight from Bhadrapur to Kathmandu. After reaching Kathmandu, you have the day to your own, you can choose to just relax in your hotel or look around the place. Overnight in Kathmandu

### **Day 53-54: Free Day**

Just relax at your hotel room and travel around the beautiful cultural city of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. You have the day to your own, so enjoy your last day in Nepal.

### **Day 55: Final Departure**

It's time to leave Nepal, of course with smiles and many memories to cherish. Depending on your flight time we will drop you at Tribhuvan International airport for your final departure to your destination.

## **Inclusion / Exclusion**

## **Cost Includes**

Arrival in International Airport and Departure.  
4 Night's 3 star hotel in Kathmandu with Bed & Breakfast.  
Kathmandu Sightseeing with Tour Guide.  
Entrance fee  
Climbing Permit  
Professional Mountain Guide between 2 client 1 Guide Climbing Period,  
Round Domestic Air Ticket  
Domestic airport departure taxes.  
Tea House Accomodation, brekfast lunch and dinner.  
All camping Equipment, two men tents, Dining tent, Kitchen Tent, Toilet Tent, Table & chairs.  
Breakfast, lunch, dinner climbing period.  
Guide, Cook, Kitchen staffs and porters/mules.  
High food and Tent  
Accident and emergency rescue Insurance and Equipment for Climbing Guide, cook, and staff.  
Group Climbing Equipment  
Base camp Charge  
Liaison officer

## **Cost Excludes**

Personal Climbing Gear and equipment  
International roundtrip airfare to and from Kathmandu  
Nepal Visa fee  
Lunch and Dinner in Kathmandu  
Extra night accommodation in Kathmandu because of late departure, early return from mountain(due to any reason) than the scheduled itinerary  
Excess baggage charges if you have more than 30KG luggage  
Personal Bill/Expenses  
Bar Bill and Drinking water during the Tea House Period  
Personal communications (Satellite phone, phone, fax, email)  
Personal Climbing Sherpa (must be arranged before the expedition)  
Sleeping bags  
Travel/rescue insurance  
Summit Bonus for climbing guide  
Any rescue costs or costs of early departure from the expedition  
Helicopter or charter flight  
Tipping for staff and guide