

BASIC INFORMATION

Schedule

Fall trek 2009 dates: October 24th to November 8th, starting and ending in Kathmandu

Cost

The cost of the treks to Tipling, Lapa and Ilam is \$2500 for all participants including, medical professionals, those in training, and non-medical participants. This covers all expenses except airfare to Nepal, modest hotel accommodations in Kathmandu, and personal expenses.

Contact Information

To obtain specific trek information or to participate in a trek, please contact:

Anil Parajuli
info@himalayan-healthcare.org
or
anilhhc@mos.com.np

Other Information

Nepali immigration information, including visa requirements, is available at:

<http://www.immi.gov.np>

Please review US State Department information regarding Nepal at:

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/5283.htm>

<http://nepal.usembassy.gov/>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_927.html



TREK ITINERARIES (may vary)

Sample trek itineraries are downloadable from the HHC website. The treks at present occur in either of our two work sites, Dhading region in the Ganesh Himals, NNW of Kathmandu near the Tibetan border, or Ilam in the far east.

Dhading Trek (Tipling and Lapa)

Travel to the area takes a full day of driving, followed by 3 to 4 days rigorous trekking to reach the medical clinic. A typical itinerary is:

Trek Duration: 12-13 days Departing and returning from Kathmandu

Trek Destination: Tipling and Lapa Village, Ganesh Himals (NW of Kathmandu, close to Tibetan border)

Trek Starting Point: Parbati Kunda (Gompa), nine to ten hour's drive from Kathmandu

Trek Ending Point: Trishuli Bazaar (2,700 ft.)

Highest Point on Trek: Phangsang Pass (14,000 ft +) Mountain Ranges: Ganesh, Langtang & Manaslu Himals

Ilam Trek

Trek Duration: 13 -14 days

Trek Destination: Mabu Village & Ilam Bazaar in Ilam District (600 KM east of Kathmandu, close to the Darjeeling border)

Trek Starting Point: Deurali Bazaar, One hour flight from Kathmandu to Biratnagar & seven hours drive onwards.

Trek End Point: Ilam Bazaar (4000 ft.) Highest Point on Trek: Sandankphu (11,700 ft.)

Mountains Ranges: Kangchenjunga (Kangchendzonga) Himal, Makalu & Khumbu Himal Ranges Day 1: Fly to Biratnagar, drive to Ilam Bazaar and then to Deurali Bazaar (flight time 1 hr, drive 6 hrs.)

Day 2: Kalapani School (6300ft) campsite (six hr. walk).

Day 3: Gentle uphill to Simle (6720ft) then sharp uphill through forest to Kalapokhari camp (10,195ft)(about 4hrs.). Lunch and overnight.

Day 4: Steep ascent to Sandakphu (11,811ft)(4hrs.) Lunch and overnight at camp. Short day because of altitude.

Day 5: Sunrise at Sandakphu, late descent to Mabu Gompa (Monastery Camping Grounds (7,000 ft?) (6hrs.).

Day 6: Steep downhill through the village of Mabu to Mabu (5,700ft)(2 hr) Camp, lunch, set medical camp at local school, overnight at Mabu Camp.

Day 7-8: MABU Medical Camp.

Day 9: Walk to Sulubung (2 hrs.), Medical Camp at Sulubung Day 10-11: Medical Camp at Sulubung

Day 12: Half day camp, walk to Ilam (3hrs.), Overnight at Ilam. Day 13:

Breakfast, Drive to Chandragarhi (3 hr).

Fly to Kathmandu. Overnight at Hotel. Day 14 extra day



SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Doctor:

We are delighted that you will be participating in the [*dates*] medical mission organized by Himalayan HealthCare, Inc.

In order to complete your registration we will need a few important items including:

1. A completed medical questionnaire and doctors certificate
2. A copy of your medical license
3. Signed Legal Release and Discharge Form
4. Deposit check for [*deposit amount*]
5. Photocopy of the inside cover of your passport
6. Signed copy of this letter.

Enclosed are a medical questionnaire and a doctor's certificate to be completed by you and your personal physician. In addition, for legal purposes we are required to retain on file a copy of your medical license, as well as a signed Release & Discharge document. Please send these to our office at your earliest convenience. The HHC mailing address is:

Himalayan HealthCare, Inc.
P.O. Box 737
Planetarium Station
New York, NY 10024

You can also email scanned documents to dnjsailor@hotmail.com or info@himalayan-healthcare.org.

To confirm your participation please send a deposit for US\$1200 made payable to Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. by [*deposit deadline*]. The balance of US\$1300, along with all the completed documents is due by [*final deadline*]. Because it is very difficult to add participants at the last minute, we must retain your deposit as a processing fee and refund the remaining portion to you if you decide to cancel your participation prior to the documentation deadline. If you should cancel your participation after documentation deadline, we regret that we will not be able to offer any refund. Please sign the enclosed copy of this letter to acknowledge your understanding of these terms and enclose it with your deposit.

We have enclosed a clothing and equipment list. Please pack your belongings in a duffle bag so that it will be easier for the porters to carry it during the trek. You will only have to carry a light daypack with items such as your water bottle, camera, raingear,



sweater, sunscreen lotion, snacks, etc. You can obtain a visa for Nepal at the Nepali embassy in your country or upon your arrival in Kathmandu. Americans can also obtain visas at the consulate in New York. If you are flying through India you will need to obtain a visa for India from the Indian embassy or consulate in your country. Please send us a copy of the inside of your passport, so that we can start the process for obtaining your trekking permit. In addition, you will need to bring four passport size photos with you to Nepal for a visa and permit to be collected by HHC staff at airport on arrival.

Once you have finalized your travel plans, please e-mail the data regarding the date, flight and time of your arrival in Kathmandu, as well as your departure information to our Nepal Project Coordinator, Anil Parajuli at info@himalayan-healthcare.org or anilhhc@mos.com.np, so that HHC staff or our local agent can meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. **It is important that you plan to arrive no later than the early afternoon of the proposed date (it is preferable that you arrive earlier if possible) and to plan on departing Kathmandu no sooner than the proposed departure date above.**

Himalayan HealthCare will reserve rooms for all trek participants at a medium-priced hotel in Kathmandu. For logistical reasons, it is important that everyone stay at the same hotel for the two nights prior to the trek and one night after. Rates for single rooms without breakfast are approximately \$60-100 per night and for double rooms approximately \$30-50.

If you have any questions, please call me at (716)-432-9495 or email me at dnjsailor@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Johnson, M.D.
President

I understand that US\$1000 will be retained as a processing fee if I decide to cancel my participation after all arrangement is confirmed by HHC (by email or letter). I also understand that if I cancel my participation any time within one month of the trek date (*latest arrival date in Kathmandu*), I will not be entitled to a refund.

Date: _____

Signature: _____



Himalayan HealthCare, Inc.

**AGREEMENT FOR PARTICIPANTS RELEASE AND DISCHARGE,
ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS**

This document affects your legal rights. You must read and understand it before initialing or signing it.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Date: _____

I, the above-named person, being above age eighteen, in consideration of the right to participate in Himalayan HealthCare's medical trek, hereby acknowledge, understand and agree with Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., and release and discharge Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., on behalf of myself, my heirs, assigns, personal representative and estate as follows:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISKS

I understand and acknowledge that the medical trek I am about to participate in bears certain known risks and unanticipated risks which could result in injury, death, illness or disease, physical or mental, or damage to myself, to my property or to third parties. I understand that there are risks inherent in the nature of the medical trek itself including but not limited to the hazards of traveling in mountainous terrain and underdeveloped areas, accident or illness in remote places without medical facilities, and travel by bus, automobile or other conveyance and accidents connected with their use.

I understand and acknowledge that the above list is not complete or exhaustive, and that there are other risks that may also result in injury, death, illness or disease, or damage to me, to my property or to third parties.

**I have read this section, and initial to show that I understand and agree: _____



ACCEPTANCE OF RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY

Being aware that this medical trek entails risks of injury to myself and a risk or injury to third parties as a result of my actions, I agree and promise to accept and assume all responsibility and risk for injury, death, illness or disease, or damage to myself or to my property arising from my participation in this medical trek.

I am further aware that Nepal has experienced political instability from time to time, and that various governmental agencies and other organizations publish periodic updates on the situation as well as travel advisories for specific districts. I am aware of this situation, and also aware that certain of such organizations (including the US State Department) have recently issued a statement that Maoist groups in Nepal have threatened to take action against non-governmental organizations affiliated with other nations, including the United States. I am informed about these risks and accept the possibility of political activity and/or physical harm due to political unrest. I acknowledge that HHC reserves the right to make last-minute changes in trek locations, itineraries, or even to cancel a trek if deemed advisable in HHC's sole discretion.

I agree and promise to accept and assume all responsibility and risk for injury, death, illness or disease, or damage to third parties and their property arising from my participation in this medical trek. My participation in this medical trek is purely voluntary; no one is forcing me to participate, and I elect to participate with full understanding of the potential risks.

**I have read this section, and initial to show that I understand and agree: _____

RELEASE

I hereby voluntarily release and forever discharge Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., its agents or employees from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions or rights of action, which are related to, arise out of, or are in any way connected with my participation in this medical trek, including specifically but not limited to the negligent acts or omissions of Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., its agents or employees, and all other persons or entities, for any and all injury, death, illness or disease, and damage to myself, or damage to my property or to third parties.

I further agree and promise to hold harmless and indemnify Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., its agents or employees, from all defense costs, including attorney's fees, or from any other costs incurred in connection with claims for bodily injury or property damage which I may negligently or intentionally cause to third parties in the course of my participation in this event.

I further agree and promise not to sue, assert or otherwise maintain or assert any claim against Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., its agents or employees, for any injury,



death, illness or disease, or damage to myself or damage to my property arising from or connected with my participation in this medical trek or from any claim asserted against me by third parties.

**I have read this section, and initial to show that I understand and agree: _____

PARTICIPANT INSURANCE BENEFITS

I understand and acknowledge that Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. will not provide me with any insurance coverage benefits and that it is my responsibility to purchase adequate insurance.

**I have read this section, and initial to show that I understand and agree: _____

My signature below indicates that I have read this entire document, understand it completely, and agree to be bound by its terms. I am aware that I am giving up important legal rights I might have. I sign of my own free will.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT: _____

DATE: _____

PHOTO RELEASE

I hereby authorize and give full consent to Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. to copyright or use all photographs, slides and films which I appear while participating in a medical trek sponsored by Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. I further agree that Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. may transfer, use or cause to be used these photographs, slides or films for any and all exhibitions, public displays, publications, commercials, art and advertising purposes without limitation or reservation.

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT: _____

DATE: _____



HIMALAYAN HEALTHCARE MEDICAL QUESTIONNAIRE

This medical questionnaire is an important way we try to create a safe journey for you. Your trip will entail traveling into areas where medical facilities are non-existent, and evacuation may be delayed for several days.

Many of our travelers have had a variety of medical conditions and have experienced no problems during the trip. Nevertheless, we must be aware of these conditions prior to your departure. Therefore, it is very important that you be very complete and candid in providing us with the requested information.

We endeavor to prevent medical problems in the field and it is critical that our medical trek leaders possess all relevant medical history to manage a medical emergency. **FAILURE TO DISCLOSE SUCH INFORMATION COULD RESULT IN SERIOUS HARM TO YOU AND YOUR FELLOW MEDICAL TREK MEMBERS.**

If we have any questions about your capability to complete the trip, we will call and discuss it with you and/or your doctor (with your permission). If we think you should not participate in the trip, we will refund all trip payments, except a \$100 processing fee. Each trip participant is responsible for any medical expenses. We cannot refund the cost of medical examinations or other expenses you incur in preparing for your trip.

If you arrive with a preexisting condition or injury, which is not indicated, on your medical forms and you are subsequently forced to leave the trip because of this condition, you will be charged all extra evacuation expenses and will not receive a refund of any unused trip services.

Name _____

Trip Dates _____

Please continue on the next page with the questionnaire, sign, date and return to us as soon as possible.

Thank you.



If you check yes to any question below, please provide an explanation below.
Every item must be completed. Incomplete forms will be returned.

YES

NO

1. Do you have any existing medical problems?

2. Are you under the regular care of a physician?

3. Does your health prevent you from participating in any physical activities?

4. Are you taking any prescriptive medications regularly? Which ones and why?

5. Have you been hospitalized in the past five years?
Please explain.

6. Do you have any allergies or reactions to any medications, foods, insects or other agents?
Which ones and what effects?

7. Have you ever had any of the following?

Please circle if yes and explain in detail.

Epilepsy

Diabetes

Asthma

Heart Disease

Lung Disease

High Blood Pressure

Hepatitis or Jaundice

Arthritis

Intestinal Problems

Foot, leg or back problems

Altitude Illness

Mental Illness



Your place on the trip you have selected will be confirmed when we receive all forms, filled out and signed. All medical information will be kept strictly confidential.

I hereby certify to Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. that I take full responsibility for my medical, psychological and physical condition during the duration of my travels with Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. I am unaware of any medical, psychological and physical problems that would, in any way, impair my ability to make this trip as outlined in the trip itinerary. Should any problems arise during the course of my travels with Himalayan HealthCare, Inc., I take full responsibility for the provision of medical care, and I take full financial responsibility for having adequate medical coverage.

If necessary, I have described any comments or special considerations that the trip leader should be aware of for my medical and physical safety. If my medical, psychological or physical condition changes significantly from the date of my signing of this form to the trip departure date or any time thereafter, I will take responsibility for promptly notifying the trip leader.

Applicant's Signature _____

Date _____



MEDICAL CERTIFICATE
(To be completed by a licensed physician)

To the physician:

Your patient has signed up to participate on a medical trek to Nepal sponsored by Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. Your patient will be trekking into remote areas where medical facilities are non-existent and evacuation may be delayed for several days. **IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU COUNSEL YOUR PATIENT ON THE APPROPRIATENESS OF THE TRIP THEY HAVE SELECTED AND PROVIDE US WITH ANY INFORMATION THAT WILL ASSIST OUR LEADERS IN MANAGING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY IN THE FIELD.**

We request that you conduct a thorough physical examination of your patient, after reviewing the nature of the trip (description of trek detailed below), the environmental conditions on the trip, the patient's age and past medical history will indicate that you should evaluate some or all of the following: cardiovascular and respiratory status, peripheral circulation, blood pressure and any potentially debilitating problems (e.g. gall bladder disease, kidney stones, asthma, active ulcer, colitis, hernia, pilonidal cyst, back problems). Lab data might include a CBC, urinalysis, blood sugar, BUN or creatinine, resting cardiogram. Testing of pulmonary function, a recent chest x-ray and an exercise EKG are appropriate if history indicates. A published protocol for cardiac evaluation of travelers to high altitude is enclosed for your review.

If you have any questions concerning the difficulty and environmental conditions on this trip, please contact Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. at info@himalayan-healthcare.org or (716)-432-9495. Thank you for your cooperation.

Name _____

Trip Date _____

Description of Trek:

Moderate to strenuous hiking, averaging 7-8 hours per day of sustained walking, altitudes up to 15,000 feet, carrying a light daypack.

Please comment on any medical or psychological conditions, which would limit participation in the above trip. We ask that you document (on additional pages if needed) any past, existing or potential health conditions, even minor ones):

Please continue on the next page, sign and date.



How long have you known the patient?

Do you feel that further examination by a specialist is indicated?

If so, what kind of specialist?

Applicant named above has been examined on (date) _____ and was found physically and mentally qualified to participate on Himalayan HealthCare, Inc. medical trek as described above.

Name and Address of Physician

Phone (____) _____

Examining physician's signature X _____

Date of exam _____



SUGGESTED APPROACH TO EVALUATION OF INDIVIDUALS FOR TREKKING OR HIGH ALTITUDE TRAVEL: All persons over 50 years of age should have a thorough medical history, physical examination, electrocardiogram and chest X-ray (if not recorded within the past 5 years). Four general categories of individual should be evaluated as follows:

- 1) Asymptomatic without evidence of coronary disease, no risk factors for coronary disease. Risk category: LOW. Treadmill is optional.
- 2) Asymptomatic, with one or more risk factors for coronary disease. Treadmill test indicated.
 - a) Treadmill test negative or minimally positive. Risk category: LOW.
 - b) Treadmill strongly positive: thallium scan indicated.
 - (i) Thallium scan normal. Risk category: LOW
 - (iii) Thallium scan strong positive. Risk category: HIGH. Coronary arteriography indicated.
- 3) Known coronary artery disease, such as history of prior infarct, ECG evidence of prior infarct, history of unstable angina, presence of stable angina, prior bypass surgery or angioplasty. Treadmill indicated.
 - a) Treadmill test strongly positive. Risk category: HIGH
 - b) Treadmill test negative or minimally positive. Risk category: LOW.
- 4) Age less than 50 years.
 - a) One or more risk factors for coronary disease. Treadmill test optional.
 - b) No risk factor for coronary disease. Treadmill test not indicated.

DEFINITIONS FOR ABOVE GUIDELINES:

1. Risk factors for coronary disease increase the possibility for coronary disease:
 - Family history (sudden death, infarct, angina before 55 years in family members).
 - History of or presence of hypertension.
 - ST segment depression of any magnitude in the resting electrocardiogram; and
 - Prior episode of chest pain.
2. Treadmill test negative or minimally positive: patient can walk ≥ 9 minutes (through Stage 3 Bruce protocol) without chest pain and with ≤ 1 mm ST segment depression.



3. Strongly positive treadmill test: patient walks ≤ 6 minutes (Bruce protocol) and has either chest pain and/or ≥ 2 mm ST segment depression.
4. Risk categories:
 - LOW RISK: minimal risk for a coronary event (angina, infarct, sudden death over 5 years of 2-4%; and
 - HIGH RISK: substantial risk for a coronary event in 5 years of 1-10-20%; requires coronary arteriography.

Hultgren HW: Coronary heart disease and trekking. J. Wilderness Medicine, 1990; 1:154-161.



HEALTH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRAVELERS TO NEPAL

Please Read This Material Before Trip Departure

Official Health Data

Requirements

Yellow fever: A yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers coming from infected areas.

Reportable Disease Status

Cholera: Officially considered infected. Infection reported in these districts: Baitadi, Jhapa, and Kathmandu.

Malaria Information

Risk areas: Malaria risk exists throughout the year in rural areas below 1,200 meters in the Terai districts: Dhanusha, Mahotari, Sanahi, Rautahat, Bara, Parsa, Rupendehi, Kapilvastu and especially along the border with India. There is no risk in Kathmandu. Chloroquine resistance is confirmed in all risk areas.

Data

(1987) indicate 27,000 reported cases annually. WHO reports risk is predominantly in *P. vivax* form with *P. falciparum* accounting for 15% of cases.

Protective measures: CDC recommends that travelers visiting risk areas undertake chemoprophylaxis with mefloquine in addition to personal protective measures. NOTE: Some persons using mefloquine may experience vomiting, dizziness, vertigo or fainting. Therefore, caution should be exercised while driving or operating machinery. If you experience unexplained anxiety, depression, restlessness or confusion, stop taking mefloquine and consult your physician immediately.

Medical Facilities in Nepal: Medical care is extremely limited. Any serious illness may require evacuation to the nearest adequate medical facility (usually Bangkok). Doctors and hospitals expect immediate cash payment for health services.

Medical insurance is not always valid outside the country of issuance. Supplemental health insurance which specifically covers overseas treatment and evacuation to the nearest adequate medical facility is useful. Additional



information on health problems can be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control's international traveler's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>.

Health Precautions

General Cautions

Recent medical and dental exams should ensure that the traveler is in good health. Carry appropriate health and accident insurance documents and copies of any important medical records. Bring an adequate supply of all prescription and other medications as well as any necessary personal hygiene items, including a spare pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses if necessary.

Drink only bottled beverages (including water) or beverages made with boiled water. Do not use ice cubes or eat raw seafood, rare meat or dairy products. Eat well-cooked foods while they are still hot and fruits that can be peeled without contamination. Avoid roadside stands and street vendors.

Swim only in well-maintained, chlorinated pools or water known to be free from pollution. Wear clothing, which reduces exposed skin, and apply repellants containing DEET to remaining areas. Sleep in well-screened accommodations. Carry anti-diarrheal medication. Reduce problems related to sun exposure by using sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, sunscreen lotions and lip protection.

Specific Concerns

AIDS occurs. Blood supply may not be adequately screened and/or single-use, disposable needles and syringes may be unavailable. When possible, travelers should defer medical treatment until reaching a facility where safety can be assured.

Immunizations

These recommendations are not absolute and should not be construed to apply to all travelers. A final decision regarding immunizations will be based on the traveler's medical history, proposed itinerary, and duration of stay and purpose for traveling.

Cholera: Although limited in effectiveness, vaccination may be appropriate for persons living and/or working in less than sanitary conditions for more than 3 months where medical facilities are unavailable. Vaccination may also be appropriate for travelers with impaired gastric defenses who are planning an extended visit or being exposed to unsanitary conditions. Vaccination is not advised for pregnant women, infants younger than 6 months old, or persons with a history of severe reaction to the vaccine.



Hepatitis A: Immune globulin (IG), or Hepatitis A vaccine is recommended for all susceptible travelers, especially as length of stay increases. IG is particularly important for persons who will be living in or visiting rural areas, eating or drinking in settings of poor or uncertain sanitation, or who will have close contact with local persons (especially young children) in settings with poor sanitary conditions.

Japanese encephalitis: Consider vaccination if staying a month or more in the southern lowlands (Terai) from July to December, especially if travel includes rural areas. Also, consider if staying less than 30 days during that period and at high risk (in case of epidemic outbreak or extensive outdoor exposure in rural areas).

Meningitis: Meningococcal vaccine is recommended for travelers to Nepal. Pregnancy is a relative contraindication to vaccination, and the vaccine should not be administered to children younger than 2 years old.

Polio: A one-time booster dose of OPV or IPV is recommended for travelers who have previously completed a full primary series of OPV or IPV (3 doses of vaccine, 2 months interval between first and second dose, and 6-12 months interval between second and third dose). Pregnancy is a relative contraindication for administration of IPV and to a lesser degree to OPV. If immediate protection for a pregnant woman is required, OPV is recommended. Refer to CDC guidelines for persons who have not completed the primary series.

Rabies: Pre-exposure vaccination should be considered for persons staying longer than 30 days who are expected to be at risk to bites from domestic and/or wild animals (particularly dogs), or for persons engaged in high risk activities such as spelunking or animal handling. Need for vaccination is more important if potential exposure is in rural areas and if adequate post-exposure care is not readily available.

Typhoid: Vaccination should be considered for persons staying longer than 3 weeks, adventurous eaters, and, those who will venture off the usual tourist routes into small cities, villages and rural areas. Importance of vaccination increases as access to reasonable medical care becomes limited. Contraindications depend on vaccine type.

Note: All standard vaccines (i.e., MMR, Td, DPT, influenza, pneumococcal, etc.) should be kept up-to-date as a matter of good health practice unrelated to travel. One-time measles booster is recommended for persons born after 1956.



Disease Risk Summary

The general lack of basic public sanitation and sewage management pose major health problems in all parts of Kathmandu and Nepal.

Insect-borne illness:

- Encephalitis (Japanese type) - common (hyperendemic; annual outbreaks begin in July following the monsoon rains [May-July] and primarily affect southern areas below 2,500 feet [765 meters])
- Leishmaniasis (visceral) - prevalent
- Sandfly fever - prevalent

Food-borne and water-borne illness: common throughout the area, in particular cholera and other watery diarrheas, (especially during the monsoon season from July through September), the dysenteries, typhoid fever, viral hepatitis, and helminthic (parasitic worm) infections.

- Brucellosis – common
- Echinococcosis (hydatid disease)- common
- Poliomyelitis - prevalent

Other hazards:

- Rabies in animals is a hazard in most areas.
- Trachoma - common



PERSONAL EQUIPMENT LIST

Note that this is a complete list, suitable for the more demanding Dhading treks (snow in the spring trek); treks in Ilam are typically less demanding with more moderate weather conditions. Trekkers should use their own judgment in packing and should feel free to consult with HHC about packing choices.

Footwear

Medium weight hiking boots, good quality, well water proofed, new laces
3 pairs lightweight socks
2 pairs heavy socks, wool/polyester, worn over lightweight socks
1 pair running type shoes, or sandals

Underwear

4 (or more) pairs regular underwear
1 pair long underwear, light/medium weight, polypro or capilene tops & bottoms

Outerwear

Pile jacket, full zip is best for temperature regulation
Synthetic fill vest (optional, but recommended)
Outer shell, wind/rain protection, with hood, gore-tex or similar, big enough to go over everything
Wind/rain pants or bibs, gore-tex or similar
Note: the layers above work much better than a single huge parka

Pants

1 pair walking shorts, supplex nylon or similar 2 pairs long hiking pants, one should not be cotton

Shirts

3 cotton Tee shirts (or more)
1 long sleeve shirt, lightweight
1 long sleeve shirt, warm

Head

Baseball type sun hat or brimmed hat, for sun and
Rain warm ski hat
Scarf or neck gaiter

Hands

1 pair light or midweight gloves

Pack

1 daypack, approx 2,000 cu in, padded straps etc, a couple of outside pockets
1 big duffle bag, ballistic nylon, heavy duty, big enough for everything, lockable



Note: everything has to fit in this bag.

Sleeping Bag rated at about zero F., nights at altitude are cold. (*Outfitter supplies pads and tents.*)

Other:

1 Medium size towel

A complete change of clothes (and a small bag to leave them in)

2 Water bottles, Nalgene is best, wide mouth preferred, 1 liter size

Pee bottle; suggest different shape from water bottle, narrow neck is better,
less chance of spillage (practice at home)

Swiss Army knife, with scissors & tweezers

Head lamp, and lithium batteries are best, no need for high-tech halogen
bulbs flashlight, pocket sized

Sunscreen, minimum 15 spf

Chapstick(s) with sun block

Sunglasses, and extra prescription lenses or contacts (very important)

Miscellaneous Travel Items:

Neck pouch to carry passport while traveling Passport, photocopy of passport

4 extra passport size pictures for visas and permits

Money belt

A horseshoe shaped inflatable pillow

Granola bars, peanuts, etc. and a liter or two of bottled water Diary

List of postcard mailing addresses

A couple of books (paperback)

Personal kit, toothbrush, etc.

Personal Medical kit with:

Pepto Bismol, Advil, Band-Aids, Betadyne swabs, moleskin (for blisters),
antibiotic ointment, gauze pads, tape

Immunizations: (based on IAMAT recommendations)

Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B vaccines, Typhoid, Meningitis, Tetanus, Polio (adult
booster if you've never had one)



NEPAL

January, 2009

COUNTRY DESCRIPTION: Nepal is a developing country in south-central Asia. The country has now been declared a republic with a president as the head of state. The Constituent Assembly (CA) will be finalizing the new constitution in about two years.

It borders India and shares Mount Everest with Tibet. It covers 56,827 square miles (147,181 sq. km) and has a population of 28 million. Kathmandu is Nepal's capital. Nepal contains the Mahabharat Mountains and the Himalayan Mountains, with average heights ranging between 8,000 and 14,000 feet (2,400 and 4,300 meters).

There are three general regions in Nepal, and each one differs in climate. The Himalayan region has long, harsh winters and short, cool summers. The hill and valley region has a cool, wet climate during the summer, and winters are dry and cold. The Terai region is more moderate than the other two. Winter, which is from November to March, brings average temperatures of 66° F (19°C) in the south and 55° (13 ° C) in the north where the mountain ranges are. Temperatures in the summer (April to June) range from 70 ° F (21 ° C) to 82 ° F (28 ° C). Annual precipitation averages 70 to 75 inches (178 to 191 cm) in the east and 30 to 35 inches (76 to 89 cm) in the west. The most rain falls in the Terai region where the weather is best described as being "subtropical monsoon" and rainfall is heaviest from July to mid-October.

Nepal has extensive tourist facilities, which vary widely in quality and price.

ENTRY/EXIT REQUIREMENTS: A passport and visa are required. Travelers may obtain visas prior to travel or purchase fifteen-day multiple-entry visas (\$25), one-month multiple-entry visas (\$40), or three-month multiple-entry visas (\$100) upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu and at the following land border points of entry: Kakarvitta, Jhapa District (Eastern Nepal); Birgunj, Parsa District (Central Nepal); Kodari, Sindhupalchowk District (Northern Border); Belahia, Bhairahawa (Rupandehi District, Western Nepal); Jamunaha, Nepalgunj (Banke District, Mid-Western Nepal); Mohana, Dhangadhi (Kailali District, Far Western Nepal); and Gadda Chauki, Mahendranagar (Kanchanpur District, Far Western Nepal). Visas and information on entry/exit requirements can be obtained from the Embassy of Nepal at 2131 Leroy Place NW, Washington, DC 20008, telephone (202) 667-4550 or the Consulate General in New York at (212) 370-3988.

Upon departure from Tribhuvan International Airport, all foreigners must pay an airport exit tax (currently approximately \$27), regardless of the length of their stay. Tourists may stay in Nepal no longer than 150 days in any given calendar year.



Travelers occasionally report immigration difficulties with Chinese authorities when crossing the Nepal-China border over land in either direction. Chinese authorities often require American and other foreign tourists to organize "group" tours through established travel agencies as a pre-requisite for obtaining visas and entry permits into Tibet. U.S. citizens planning to travel to Tibet from Nepal may contact the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu for current information on the status of the border-crossing points. Travelers may also wish to check with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Nepal for current regulations on entry into Tibet.

Travelers can obtain additional information by contacting the Nepali embassy or a consulate in their own countries. See <http://www.immi.gov.np> for more information. Visit the Embassy of Nepal web site at <http://www.nepalembassyusa.org/> for the most current visa information.

In an effort to prevent international child abduction, many governments have initiated procedures at entry/exit points. These often include requiring documentary evidence of relationship and permission for the child's travel from the parent(s) or legal guardian not present. Having such documentation on hand, even if not required, may facilitate entry/departure.

Information on Crime: Petty crime, especially theft of personal property, is common. While acts of violent crime in Nepal are rare, several recent attacks against lone foreign trekkers have been reported. The loss or theft of a U.S. passport abroad should be reported immediately to local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Useful information on safeguarding valuables, protecting personnel security and other matters while traveling abroad is available at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1180.html.

Drug Penalties: Foreign citizens are subject to the laws and legal practices of the countries in which they are traveling. Penalties for possession, use or trafficking in illegal drugs are strictly enforced. Convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and fines.

Additional: Check with your own government for information about embassy locations in Nepal and the possibility of registering with your embassy while in Nepal.

SAFETY/SECURITY: Since May 2006, the Maoist insurgency in Nepal that began in 1996 has stopped. In spite of the cautions by the various governments around the world, Nepal is officially declared a safe destination to travel. All businesses are open and the airlines, roads and trek destinations are functional. Please check with your embassies for any cautions.

Americans are advised to consult [the U.S. Embassy in Nepal's](#) website



at <http://nepal.usembassy.gov> for up-to-date information on the latest security information. A link to the Embassy's website is provided in the Registration/Embassy Location section below.

CRIME INFORMATION: Although the rate of violent crime is low in Kathmandu relative to that in comparably sized cities, minor street crime does occur in Kathmandu as well as in other areas frequented by foreigners. To avoid being victimized, visitors should avoid walking alone after dark and carrying large sums of cash or expensive jewelry. In addition, visitors should consider exchanging money only at banks and hotels and limiting shopping to daylight hours. Valuables should be stored in the hotel safety deposit box and should never be left unattended in hotel rooms. Travelers should be especially alert at or near major tourist sites, where most pick pocketing occurs. Passports and cash should be carried in a protected neck pouch or money belt--not in a backpack. The loss or theft abroad of a passport should be reported immediately to local police and to the nearest Embassy or Consulate. If you are the victim of a crime while overseas, in addition to reporting to local police, please contact the nearest Embassy or Consulate for assistance. The Embassy/Consulate staff can, for example, assist you to find appropriate medical care, to contact family members or friends and explain how funds could be transferred. Although the investigation and prosecution of a crime is solely the responsibility of local authorities, consular officers can help you to understand the local criminal justice process and to find an attorney if needed.

U.S. citizens may refer to the Bureau of Consular Affairs home page at <http://travel.state.gov> for ways to promote a trouble-free journey. The pamphlets are available by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, [U.S. Government Printing Office](http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs), Washington, D.C. 20402, via the Internet at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Medical care is limited and is generally not up to Western standards. But centers like the CIWEC (Canadian) Clinic and Nepal International Clinic have international physicians. Serious illnesses often require evacuation to the nearest adequate medical facility (in Singapore, Bangkok or New Delhi). Illnesses and injuries suffered while on trek in remote areas often require evacuation by helicopter to Kathmandu. Your travel agent will help.



MEDICAL INSURANCE: Kindly consult your medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policies apply overseas and whether they will cover emergency expenses such as helicopter rescues and other medical evacuations. Medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the country, unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Many travel agents and private companies offer insurance plans that will cover health care expenses incurred overseas, including emergency rescue services such as medical evacuations. Helicopter evacuation from within Nepal to Kathmandu typically costs between \$3,000 and \$10,000. An air ambulance medevac to Singapore costs in excess of \$55,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses you incur. Some insurance policies also include coverage for psychiatric treatment and for disposition of remains in the event of death.

MEDICAL INSURANCE (For US citizens only): The US Department of State strongly urges travelers to consult with their medical insurance company prior to traveling abroad to confirm whether their policies apply overseas and whether they will cover emergency expenses such as helicopter rescues and other medical evacuations. Medical insurance plans seldom cover health costs incurred outside the country, unless supplemental coverage is purchased. Many travel agents and private companies offer insurance plans that will cover health care expenses incurred overseas, including emergency rescue services such as medical evacuations. Helicopter evacuation from within Nepal to Kathmandu typically costs between \$3,000 and \$10,000. An air ambulance medevac to Singapore costs in excess of \$55,000. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas often face extreme difficulties. When consulting with your insurer prior to your trip, ascertain whether payment will be made to the overseas healthcare provider or whether you will be reimbursed later for expenses you incur. Some insurance policies also include coverage for psychiatric treatment and for disposition of remains in the event of death.

U.S. Medicare and Medicaid programs do not provide payment for medical services outside the United States. When making a decision regarding health insurance, Americans should consider that many foreign doctors and hospitals require payment in cash prior to providing service and that a medical evacuation on commercial airlines to the U.S. may cost in excess of \$50,000. Useful information on medical emergencies abroad, including overseas insurance programs, is provided in the US Department of State's website at http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1185.html.

OTHER HEALTH INFORMATION: Please check with your country's health ministry for vaccinations before traveling to Nepal. For information about



outbreaks of infectious diseases abroad, consult [the World Health Organization's](http://www.who.int/en) website at <http://www.who.int/en>. Further health information for travelers is available at <http://www.who.int/ihf>.

For US citizens, information on vaccinations and other health precautions may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's hotline for international travelers at 1-877-FYI-TRIP (1-877-394-8747) or via the CDC's web site at <http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/default.aspx>.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND ROAD CONDITIONS: While in foreign country, citizens of developed nations may encounter road conditions that differ significantly from their own. The information below concerning Nepal is provided for general reference only, and may not be totally accurate in a particular location or circumstance.

Safety of Public Transportation: Poor Urban Road
Conditions/Maintenance: Poor Rural Road
Conditions/Maintenance: Poor
Availability of Roadside Assistance: Poor

Please ask HHC or HHC recommended travel agents to help rent a mobile phone if you are traveling to destinations outside of Kathmandu.

In general, roads are in poor condition and lack basic safety features. Many mountain and hill roads are impassable during monsoon season (June-September) due to landslides, and are hazardous even in the best weather. Avoid travel on night buses; fatal accidents are frequent. In the Kathmandu Valley, motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and animals, all traveling at different speeds, congest narrow roads. Traffic is poorly regulated, and the volume of vehicles on the roads has been increasing by 15 percent a year. Many drivers are neither properly licensed nor trained. Many vehicles are poorly maintained. Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings are non-existent in most areas, and drivers do not yield the right-of-way to pedestrians. Pedestrians account for over 40% of all traffic fatalities in Nepal.

INFORMATION FOR TREKKERS: Since June 2006, all the popular trek destinations like the Everest region above Lukla, Upper Mustang and the Annapurna Circuit region are open to tourists after the Moaists declared peace.

The other popular trek are trails from Jiri (in Dolakha District), the trails to Makalu Base Camp (in Sankuwasabha District), and trekking routes in the Kanchenjunga area (in the eastern Taplejung District). The Dhaulagiri, Manaslu and Langtang trails are also popular amount the trekkers.

Trekkers are however advised never to hike alone or to become separated



from larger traveling parties while on a trail.

To ease efforts to locate trekkers and make arrangements for medical evacuations, trekkers are strongly encouraged to contact their Embassy in Kathmandu for the latest security information and to register their itinerary before undertaking treks outside the Kathmandu Valley (see Registration / Embassy Location below). Trekkers are also advised to leave their itinerary with family or friends in their country and to check in at police checkpoints where trekking permits are logged.

Trekking in Nepal involves walking over rugged, steep terrain, where one is exposed to the elements, often at high altitudes. Many popular trekking routes in Nepal cross passes as high as 18,000 feet. Most embassies in Kathmandu strongly advise all citizens to exercise extreme caution when trekking at higher altitudes. Only experienced mountain travelers should tackle the Himalayas. Trekkers of all ages, experience, and fitness levels can experience Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), which can be deadly.

Trekkers should also be alert to the possibility of avalanches and landslides, even when trails are clear. Avalanches at the narrow gorge above Deurali on the route to the Annapurna Base Camp regularly result in the deaths of trekkers and climbers. Avalanches and landslides caused by severe storms have killed many foreign trekkers and their Nepalese guides, and have stranded hundreds of others.

More than any other factor, solo trekking contributes to injuries and deaths. The safest option for all trekkers is to join an organized group and/or use a reputable firm that provides an experienced guide and porters who communicate in both Nepali and English. Before leaving Kathmandu, trekkers can check with their embassies or the Himalayan Rescue Association (phone 977-1-440292/440293) for good information about trail conditions and possible hazards in the high country.

AVIATION SAFETY OVERSIGHT: For US citizens only: As there is no direct commercial air service by local carriers at present or economic authority to operate such service, between the U.S. and Nepal, [the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration \(FAA\)](#) has not assessed Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority for compliance with international aviation safety standards. For further information, travelers may contact the Department of Transportation within the U.S. at 1-800- 322-7873, or visit the FAA Internet home page at http://www.faa.gov/safety/programs_initiatives/oversight/iasa.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) separately assesses some foreign air carriers for suitability as official providers of air services. For information regarding the DOD policy on specific carriers, travelers may contact the DOD



at (703)-697-7288.

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS: Nepalese customs authorities may enforce strict regulations concerning importation (even temporary) into or export from Nepal of items such as valuable metals, articles of archeological and religious importance, wildlife and related articles, drugs, arms and ammunition, and communications equipment. It is advisable to contact your embassy or Nepal's Consulate General in your country for specific information regarding customs requirements.

Nepal has a controlled, or fixed, currency exchange rate with the Indian Rupee. To manage this rate of exchange, the Government of Nepal requires travelers to declare either the import or export of currency. As of this writing, travelers must declare any cash currency carried that exceeds \$2,000 in value by filling out a custom's declaration form. Travelers should ensure that they keep a copy of the declaration form after customs officials have put the endorsement on the form to prevent any problems upon departure. It is also illegal to possess 500 or 1,000 Indian Rupee notes in Nepal.

CRIMINAL PENALTIES: While in a foreign country, travelers are subject to that country's laws and regulations, which sometimes differ significantly from those in your country (this includes the U.S.) and may not afford the protections available to the individual under your country's law. Penalties for breaking the law can be more severe than those in your country for similar offenses.

Persons violating Nepalese laws, even unknowingly, may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession of, use of, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Nepal are strict, and convicted offenders can expect jail sentences and heavy fines.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS: Nepal is an earthquake-prone country. General information about natural disaster preparedness is available via the Internet. The [the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](http://www.fema.gov/) at <http://www.fema.gov/>, has a site which might help you understand more.

CHILDREN'S ISSUES: For information on international adoption of children and international parental child abduction, please refer to your embassy.

For the U.S., please visit http://travel.state.gov/family/family_1732.html or telephone (202) 501-4444.

REGISTRATION/EMBASSY LOCATION: Most embassies strongly encourage citizens to register at the embassy or their consular section in Nepal and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Nepal.



Americans living in or visiting Nepal are strongly encouraged to register at the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Nepal and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Nepal. The U.S. Embassy is located at Maharajgunj in Kathmandu, telephone 977-1-400-7200; fax 977-1-400-7272. Citizens may also register by accessing [the U.S. Embassy's home page](http://nepal.usembassy.gov/) at <http://nepal.usembassy.gov/> or by e-mail at usembktn@state.gov or consktm@state.gov. Please include the following information: full name; date of birth; U.S. passport number, date and place of issuance; home address and phone number; emergency contact person's name, phone number, fax or e-mail address; travel/medevac insurance information; address and phone number in Nepal; travel or trekking agency contact in Nepal; planned itinerary in Nepal; and traveling companions' names and nationalities. Finally, please indicate to whom, if anyone, the Embassy may divulge information regarding your welfare and whereabouts in Nepal.



EMERGENCY & OTHER PHONE NUMBERS in KATHMANDU, NEPAL (977-1):

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ambulance, Maiti Nepal | 4494816 |
| Bir Hospital | 4223807/ 4221988 |
| Patan Hospital (Lagankhel) | 5521034/ 5522278 |
| Teaching Hospital (Maharajgunj) | 4412707/4412808 |
| B & B Hospital (Gwarko) | 5531930/5531933/5533206 |
| Teku Hospital (Teku) | 4253395/ 4253396 |
| AWON Kalimati Clinic (Kalimati) | 4271873, 2020347 |
| Blood Bank | 4225344 |

Organization/Associations

Phone Numbers

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Police (Emergency) | 100,110,120 |
| Tourist Police (Bhrikuti Mandap) | 4247041/4700750 |
| Nepal Tourism Board | 4256909/4256229 |
| Department of Immigration | 4223590 / 4222453 // |
| Ambulance, Bishal Bazaar | 4244121 |
| Ambulance, Nepal Chamber | 4228094 |
| Ambulance, Paropakar | 4260859 |
| Ambulance, Red Cross | 4228094 |
| CIWEC Dental Clinic (Durbar Marg) | 4440100 |
| Homeopathic Clinic (Kalimati) | 4277431 |
| Kunfen Tibetan Medical Center (Chhetrapati) | 4251920 |
| Himalaya International Clinic (Thamel) | 4225455, 4223197 |
| Nepal International Clinic (Lal Durbar) | 4434642/4435357 |
| Himalayan Rescue Association (Dhobichaur) | 4440292/ 4440293 |
| Everest International Clinic (Balkhu) | 4274179 |
| Tilganga Eye Hospital (Tilganga) | 4493775/ 4493684 |
| Homeopathic Treatment Centre | 4522092 |
| Friends of Shanta Bhawan (Jorpati) | 4470181 |
| Central Oral Health Clinic (Kantipath) | 4245572 |
| Ask me (Balaju) | 2030303 |
| Night Taxi Service (New Road) | 4224374/ 4266642 |
| Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) | 4472251/ 4470748/ 4470311 |
| AT&T Card Access | 0800-77001 |

This replaces the Country Specific Information for Nepal dated June 27, 2007, to update the sections on Country Description, Entry/Exit Requirements, Bandhs, Crime, Medical Facilities and Health Information, and Special Circumstances.

