



EVEREST BASE CAMP VIA GOKYO TREK ITINERARY

Taking the journey to the base of the World's highest peak, with our award-winning team, will be the highlight of any trekker's career! Our unique itinerary includes extra acclimatization at the critical point as well as 4 guides for every group of ten trekkers. The journey in the Everest Region, also known as the Solukhumbu Region, begins in the small village of Lukla. From here, the total distance to Everest Base Camp and back is just over 82 miles or 132km, covering over 6,000m/ 20,000 feet of elevation. This makes this spectacular journey to Mount Everest a challenging and rewarding experience.

This trek should not be taken lightly. When going to these levels of altitude, your body's acclimatization to the lack of oxygen is the real key to success, and because of this, we have added an extra day to our itinerary, which has given us **95% success rate**. This also gives you a safer and more enjoyable experience at high altitude. We will also cover the daily distances on the trail at a very slow and steady pace, to aid the acclimatization process. Even though we are giving you the best chance of success with our acclimatization schedule, you still need to play your part and come physically prepared for this adventure. We recommend 5 to 6 days a week of training in the lead up to your trip. We are your best resource for information on the trek and are available five days a week in support of your journey to Everest Base Camp. Once you sign up for our trip, we will send you our 40-page Dossier, giving you all the information you need to be safe and successful on your trip.

BRIEF ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive in Kathmandu
Day 2: Fly to Lukla - Monjo
Day 3: Namche Bazaar
Day 4: Namche Bazaar (Acclimatization Day)
Day 5: Namche Bazaar (Acclimatization Day)
Day 6: Dole
Day 7: Machherma
Day 8: Gokyo
Day 9: Gokyo (Acclimatization Day)
Day 10: Gokyo Ri to Thaknak
Day 11: Cho La Pass to Dzong La
Day 12: Lobuche
Day 13: Everest Base Camp back to Gorak Shep
Day 14: Kala Phattar down to Pheriche
Day 15: Namche
Day 16: Lukla
Day 17: Fly back to Kathmandu
Day 18: International flight home



Day 1: Arrive in Kathmandu – 1,400m/ 4,500 feet

Arrive in Kathmandu International Airport as early as possible on this day. We will provide your airport transfer to the hotel we include for the night. All accommodation on the trek is on a shared basis. If you want to arrive early, that is not a problem, we are happy to book additional nights in the hotel for you. We will have a group briefing this evening to go over the schedule for the coming days and answer any additional questions you may have.

Day 2: Fly to Lukla – Trek to Monjo – 2,850m/ 9,350 feet

Fly from Kathmandu or Ramechhap to Lukla *see note at bottom of itinerary. We will make an early morning start for the Twin Otter flight to Lukla (2,840m/9,317ft), the gateway to the Khumbu Region. This is an exciting flight, which should give a glimpse of Everest in the distance. In Lukla, we will meet the rest of our trek staff and set off straight away for our first night in the mountain village of Monjo. Depending on what time the flight arrives in Lukla, we may have to stop in the town of Phakding (2,600m/ 8,530 feet) for the night. Hopefully, the team will make it all the way to Monjo. Both villages are situated on the banks of the Dudh Kosi, which drains the whole of the Khumbu Region, and is the main trade route for the entire region. This can be the busiest part of the trail. Today we will walk for 3 hours to Phakding and for a total of 5 hours to Monjo. The total distance is 8.8 miles/ 13 km from Lukla to Monjo.

Day 3: Namche Bazaar – 3,440m/ 11,286 feet

Today we will continue up the banks of the Dudh Kosi River, towards Namche Bazaar. Just past Monjo, we will officially enter the Sagarmatha National Park before following the trail through small villages. We will take a tea break along the way. After tea, the trail then crosses the confluence of the Dudh Kosi and the Bhote Kosi, on a high suspension bridge. The trail then climbs steeply uphill for about two hours to reach Namche Bazaar (3,440m/11,286 feet). This is a prosperous trading town and the capital of the Khumbu Region. Just across the valley to the east stand the peaks of Thamserku and Kangtega, both very impressive mountains. From Monjo, the trek today is approximately 4 hours, and the total distance is 5 miles/ 8 km.

Day 4: Namche Bazaar (Acclimatization Day) – 3,600m/ 11,800 feet reached

Today is an acclimatization day where we will walk to the Sherpa Museum at 3,600m/ 11,811. From here you will have stunning views of Mount Everest and the surrounding mountains. The key is to rest, relax and acclimatize at this height and will make all the difference as we go to high and extreme altitudes. The afternoon will be spent leisurely in Namche Bazaar, resting, eating, and enjoying the sites! Remember that it is still important to continue to drink 4-5 liters



of water every day on the trail. Today, the walk up to the Sherpa Museum is only approximately 30 minutes.

Day 5: Namche Bazaar (Acclimatization Day) – 3,900m/ 12,800 feet reached

This is where our itinerary is different. Instead of heading up to 3,900m/ 12,800 feet and sleeping in Tengboche, we will stay in Namche another night giving you the best possible acclimatization program. During this critical acclimatization phase, we will spend time resting and trekking to higher altitudes to aid in the process. We will wake early for our acclimatization hike today, up to Shangbouche Hill at 3,900m/ 12,800 feet, for beautiful vistas of the whole Everest Region. The goal is to spend some time acclimatizing at this elevation before returning to Namche for lunch. The afternoon can be spent sampling the delights of the Namche Bakeries and local stores! The hike to Shangbouche Hill will take approximately four hours round trip.

Day 6: Dole – 4,110m/ 13,152 feet

After three nights of acclimatization in Namche we move off the main Everest trail and move to Dole at **4,110 m/ 13,152 ft.** We will climb steeply out of Namche Bazaar up to Khumjung Village. From Khumjung, we can enjoy outstanding views of Thamserku, Kantenga, and Ama Dablam. The most strenuous ascent of the day is past the Mong La, a very enchanting place nestled on the spur of Mt. Khumbila. An ancient historical Chorten stands at the center of the settlement of Mong La. We stop at the top of Mong La to admire the grandest views of surrounding snow-capped mountains and valleys while having lunch. While on the way it will not be unusual to spot wildlife, like pheasants, mountain goats, and the evasive musk deer. Traversing through forests, some waterfalls and bridges, we reach Dole, a small place with only a few teahouses. We will be trekking for **6/7 hours today** and cover 7.4km/4.6 miles.

Day 7: Machherma – 4,470m/ 14,663 feet

Today we move from Dole to Machherma at 4,470m/ 14,663 ft. We start the day with a steady climb up through a scenic ridge above Dole and the trail climbs via Lhabarma at 4220m/ 13,845ft to Luza at 4360m/ 14,304ft. The path is steep in most places as we pass through thorny bushes up to Lhabarma, which will offer us good views of Cho Oyu, the world's 6th highest mountain. You will also see Kantega, and Thamserku the trail takes us through many summer settlements and a charming hamlet of Luza 4,360m/ 14,304ft. The pace will be slow, and you need to keep well hydrated and do not overexert on the trail. Altitude sickness is real, and you need to take your time. While ascending from Luza, the Dudh Koshi valley is deep like a canyon with its sheer sides. Walking along the hill side above thundering Dudh koshi passing through some small hamlets and through sandy spurs, we reach Machherma. Machherma is the



last major settlement on the way up to Gokyo. The beautiful stream flowing down from the Kyajo Ri and Phari Lapche mountains runs through the middle of village before draining into the Dudh Koshi. It is the place where the Khumbu people got their first sight of Yeti in 1974. At this juncture, we can make a visit to the Himalayan Rescue Hospital for a lecture regarding altitude sickness, its precautions and primary treatment. Overnight at Machherma. We will be trekking for 4/5 hours today and will cover 7k/4.3 miles.

Day 8: Gokyo – 4,800m/ 15,744 feet

Machherma to Gokyo 4,800m/15,744 ft. Early on today's trail we will see fabulous views of both down the valley and of Mt. Kangtega, Thamserku, and the northern part of Cho-Oyu 8,201m/ 26,906ft. The valley widens as the trail reaches Pangka 4,480m/ 14,698ft after a gentle walk. Phangka is the place where an avalanche in 1995 killed 40 people. We descend to the riverbank before beginning to climb up to the terminal moraine of the Ngozamba Glacier. It is a steep climb on the moraine. After crossing an iron bridge over a stream, the trail levels out as it follows the valley past the first lake, known as Longpongo at 4,690m/ 15,387ft where we get a chance to observe the Lama footprints on a stone. At the sight of the second lake, Taboche Tsho, we become enchanted by the sparkling turquoise blue sheet of water sparkling in the sun. Little ahead of the second lake, we reach the third lake, the two linked by a surging stream. Gokyo village stands by the third lake and Cho-Oyu Mountain as a backdrop sets an amazing spectacular sight at this junction. After lunch, we explore around the third Lakes, Dudh Pokhari. We will spend the night at a teahouse with comfortable bedrooms. 4/5 hours of trekking today, covering approximately 7k/4.3 miles.

Day 9: Gokyo (Acclimatization Day) – 4,800m/ 15,744 feet

Gokyo Valley Acclimatization Day: There will be a hike up to the 5th and 6th Lakes. Today is full acclimatization day and we should not stay idle. If the weather is good, we grasp the opportunity to climb Gokyo Ri today instead of the next day to enjoy the scene from one of the best viewpoints of the Everest Region. The view across Nepal and stunning peaks and magical lakes are worth the effort. About 3 km north of Gokyo is situated the fourth lake with its high cliffs and peaks rising above it. The trail continues to the fifth lake. If interested, we climb on a hill at the edge of the Lakes to get astounding views of Cho-Oyu, Gyachung Kang, Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, and Makulu. We can see a lot more from here – the spot is called Scoundrel's Viewpoint. Beyond the fifth Lakes, we will be at Cho Oyu Base Camp. Scenery here is breathtaking with Cho Oyu and Gyachung Kang seeming just a stone's throw away. The northern part of the fifth lake provides fabulous views of Cho-Oyu Base Camp and the biggest glacier of the world- the Ngazumpa glacier. Moved by the charm, we may even try to go to the



sixth lake too but depends upon our own interest and time before heading back to Gokyo village. 4 -5 hours trekking today and covering approximately 6k/3.7 miles.

Day 10: Gokyo Ri – 5,357m/ 17,570 feet – Thaknak – 4,750m/ 15,580 feet

Hike up Gokyo Ri 5,357m/ 17,570 ft. then head to Thaknak 4,750 m/15,580 ft. If we have not climbed Gokyo Ri the day before we trek there today. Gokyo Ri is one of the highlights of this trip. Early morning, we will hike up to the Gokyo Ri (Gokyo Peak). Climbing to Gokyo Ri is strenuous as it is steep up and takes about 3 to 4 hours to reach the top. The trail vista of Gokyo village on the edge of the third lake overlooked by Cholatse and the broad Nogzumpa Glacier are astonishing. We are surrounded by panoramic mountains like Kusum Kanguru, Thamserku, K43, Kangtega, Taboche, Cholatse, Makalu, Lhotse, Nuptse, Everest, Changtse, and Pumori. Watching the sun bounce off Everest that towers over all surrounding peaks. Your visit to Gokyo Ri will be unforgettable. After being inspired by the highest mountains in the world we trek down to Gokyo. After a well-earned breakfast we trek to Thaknak for overnight scaling by the second Lakes and the Ngozumba Glacier. 5/6 hours of trekking today, covering approximately 5.2k/3.3 miles.

Day 11: Cho-la Pass – 5,367m/ 17,604 feet – Dzongla – 4,830m/ 15,939 feet

Thaknak over the Cho-la Pass 5,367m/ 17,604 ft to Dzongla 4,830m/ 15,939 ft. Crossing the Cho La Pass is very challenging and not to be underestimated. Today is the toughest day of the trek and we need to start early at 4-6am compared to other days on the trip. The pass is not technical, but it is steep and involves a glacier traverse on the eastern side. We need to be careful as the trail is steep, and the rocks glazed by ice making this tricky for inexperienced trekkers. The trail from Phedi climbs through a ravine and a rocky trail as we climb up continuously. While trekking through the side of a frozen lake we reach the top of the pass decorated with prayer flags. Ama Dablam commands the skyline over a range of mountains on the south even as Cholatse soar on the west and Lobuche East and Baruntse rises sharply to our right. We need to pass through some crevasses before we reach Dzongla, another beautiful place with a complete view of Cholatse, Ama Dablam, Lobuche peak and the Pheriche village far below. We will stay overnight at a very basic local lodge. 7/8 hours of trekking today and we will cover 15k/9 miles.

Day 12: Lobuche – 4,920m/ 16,142 feet

Dzongla to Lobuche 4,920m/ 16,142ft. Today's hike will be a bit shorter. Thus, we would get more time to observe and relax. We move down from Dzongla and cross a bridge onto a grassy trail. Enjoying the view of Lobuche Peak we stretch up eventually through a ridge. Ama Dablam,



Kangtega, Thamserku Taboche are seen looming prominently. Curving round through the wide gravelly riverbed, we will arrive in Lobuche, a small hamlet of lodges where we will spend the night. 2/3 hours of trekking today, covering 6.5k/4 miles.

Day 13: Everest Base Camp – 5,364m/ 17,600 feet – Gorak Shep - 5,180m/ 17,126 feet

Today is the day we trek to Everest Base Camp! We will be up early to start our trek to Gorak Shep, which takes approximately 3 hours to reach 5,180m/ 17,126 feet. Today is a very challenging day on the trail, as we cross glacial moraine on mixed rocky terrain with a lot of up and down hill to cover. Gorak Shep was the site of the 1953 Everest Expedition's Base Camp and where we will stop for an early lunch before continuing to Everest Base Camp. From Gorak Shep, we will traverse more glacial moraine, with landslide potential, for another two hours before reaching Everest Base Camp! Everest Base Camp sits on the Khumbu Glacier and weather depending, we will have time to explore this once and a lifetime chance to be at the base of the World's Highest Mountain! After approximately one hour here, we will retrace our steps back to Gorak Shep, where we spend the night. Total trekking time today is approximately 7 hours and covers 6.2 miles/ 10 km in distance.

Day 14: Kala Patthar (5,645m/ 18,520 feet) to Pheriche – 4,200m/ 13,780 feet

Today is another big day, but one to remember forever! Normally, the plan is to start hiking at around 4 am, because you want to arrive at the top of Kala Patthar just before sunrise. The trail from Gorak Shep leads steeply uphill all the way to the top of Kala Patthar at 5,645m/ 18,520 feet. This takes approximately 2 hours to reach the top and the views off of Kala Patthar are spectacular and you will be rewarded with the famous view of Mount Everest! After enjoying the mountain views at the top, we will return to Gorak Shep, which takes about one hour. There, we will pack bags and have breakfast before continuing back down the trail. We will then retrace our steps through the Lobuche, the Everest Memorial and usually stop in Thukla for lunch. From here, we will take the lower trail to the village of Pheriche at 4,200m/ 13,780 feet, for the night. The total distance today is 11.2 miles/ 18 km and will take approximately 7 – 8 hours.

Day 15: Pheriche to Namche – 3,440m/ 11,286 feet

The trek will be another long and challenging day. From Pheriche we head back through Pangbouche, then uphill into Tengbouche where we stop for tea. From Tengbouche, the trail continues downhill for one hour to our lunch spot, beside the river. After lunch, there is a one hour and thirty-minute ascent, back up to the Ama Dablam View Guesthouse, where we will have a final short break. There is another approximately hour and thirty minutes before we



reach Namche Bazaar. This is a long day as we will only arrive in Namche in the late afternoon. It is now time to take a shower, relax and get some rest! The hike today is approximately 8 hours and will cover 13.7 miles/ 22 km.

Day 16: Lukla – 2,850m/ 9,350 feet

Today is the final day of trekking!! It will be another long day as we must get all the way back to Lukla for the night. The day starts with a one-hour descent from Namche, back to the high suspension bridge. Following the river from here, you will have to trek up and down stairs and trails, retracing our steps back to Phakding, where we will stop for lunch. After lunch, it will be a gradual two-and-a-half-hour ascent back into Lukla at 2,850m/ 9,350 feet. The hike today will take approximately 8 hours, and we will not reach Lukla until late afternoon. The distance covered today is 13 miles/ 21 km and you will enjoy your final night spent in the Everest Region tonight.

Day 17: Fly to Kathmandu – 1,400m/ 4,500 feet

We will wake early today and have breakfast before returning to Lukla Airport for the flight back to Ramechhap or Kathmandu*. If the weather is cooperating, and the flight is direct to Kathmandu, then you would be back in the hotel in Kathmandu by early morning! If you must fly via Ramechhap, then you might not be in Kathmandu until late afternoon. You can spend the rest of your day at Leisure in Kathmandu, enjoying the sites, including Pashupatinath, Swayambhunath and the districts of Bhaktapur and Patan. Durbar Square is also on the essential list, as is the shopping area of Thamel or get a spa treatment at one of the many spas in Kathmandu. We include a team celebration dinner in a nearby restaurant and the night in the hotel is also included on a shared basis.

Day 18: Kathmandu

Today is the final day of our itinerary. We recommend that you do not book your return flight until no earlier than the evening on this day. That will be critical if there are any delays getting out of the mountains on the day before. We include your return transfer back to the international airport for your onward journey. If you want to spend any extra time in Kathmandu, we are happy to book additional nights for you in the hotel.

Important Notes:



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, road conditions, vehicle breakdowns and the health of participants can all contribute to changes. The trek leader will try to ensure that the trip runs according to plan, but an easy-going nature will be an asset!

*One of the main disruptions in the itinerary may come from the flights in/out of Lukla. Over the past seasons, the government has decided to move some of the Lukla flights from Kathmandu airport to an alternative airport, due to the massive influx of air traffic arriving and departing from the international airport. Therefore, some of the trips, especially during the busier times, will be diverted to a small airstrip approximately 4 - 6 hours from Kathmandu by road, Ramechhap Airport, in the Manthali district. If your group's flights do have to go from Ramechhap airport, then you would have to wake at approximately 2am on the morning you fly to Lukla, to make the 4+ hour drive to Ramechhap, to get the first-round flights. This can be a frustrating addition to the first day of your trip, but if the airlines decide that they want to move the flights to Ramechhap, we have no control over this, and it would be the only way to get a flight into Lukla.

Likewise, on the return journey back to Kathmandu, you could also have to make this journey from Lukla to Ramechhap and then drive back to Kathmandu. On the way back to Kathmandu, the car journey can be quite a bit longer due to traffic, so you could have 6-7 hours of driving time to get back to Kathmandu.

One way to avoid this drive to Ramechhap is to book a helicopter for your trip in and/or out of the mountains. We can make this arrangement for you, but it would be an extra cost to you if you made this decision. The price of the helicopter changes from season to season and day to day, but on average, you normally would expect to pay approximately \$450 - \$650 for a one-way seat on the helicopter. This would be paid directly to the helicopter company as we would not have a part in the pricing, nor would any money go to Ian Taylor Trekking for this helicopter flight.

Another thing that affects air travel in Nepal is weather related delays. Please note that often the Kathmandu/Ramechhap – Lukla – Kathmandu/Ramechhap flight gets delayed by a few hours or may even be canceled for one, two, or more days due to unfavorable weather conditions. These conditions may arise even in the best seasons. Hence, in such cases, you must be prepared for long waits either at Kathmandu, Ramechhap or Lukla airports, as this can happen either at the start or end of the trek or even both! If flights are not flying due to the weather, the only option that might be available to get you in or out of Lukla, might be to take a helicopter anyway, at an additional cost. Our team on the ground will be ready to organize



helicopters in such conditions. More information on this will be in our Dossier if you do sign up for the trip.

We are your number one resource for the trip and if you sign up for one of our trips, we will send out a 45+ page Dossier with an itemized kit list and further information on how to fully prepare for the trip. While you are waiting for the Dossier, here is a very useful page on the trek to Everest Base Camp: <https://iantaylortrekking.com/blog/all-you-need-to-know-about-trekking-to-everest-base-camp/>.

The Cost Includes:

- 4 Guides for every group of 10 trekkers
- Internal flights – Always aim to have first few rounds of flights per day
- Professional guides
- Portage of gear (Animals) (Carrying 15kg/33lb per person Maximum)
- 2 nights hotel and breakfast in Kathmandu (2 people sharing, 4 Star)
- All Tea House lodge accommodation when in the mountains
- All permits and National Park fees
- Insurance cover for our staff
- Full time office support on the ground in Kathmandu
- Airport Transfers to/from International Airport in Kathmandu
- Using the communal medical kit (you will need a personal kit as well)
- 3 meals a day while in the mountains
- 5 days a week expert support prior to trip
- Celebratory final meal in Kathmandu

The Cost Does Not Include:

- Nepalese Visa entry fee (\$50, which can change at any time)
- International flights
- Trekking insurance (compulsory)
- Tips for Guides/Porters (approximately \$300)
- Personal equipment
- Meals and drinks while in Kathmandu (excluding Breakfast)