



10-DAY ADVENTURE

THE LANGTANG VALLEY

Nepal

An excellent trek if you are a little short on time or are nervous of starting on one of our longer, higher altitude expeditions. Despite being shorter, the Langtang trek captures all the best of Himalayan trekking with stunning scenery and fascinating culture.

This trek in the spectacular Langtang Valley is the closest you can get to the massive snow-capped mountains from the Kathmandu Valley. The Langtang Valley starts just north of Kathmandu, close to the border with Tibet. The valley is dominated by Langtang Lirung (7246m), the highest peak in the area. This is a superb introduction to trekking in Nepal among some of the most beautiful scenery in the whole country.

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- Closest trek to the Kathmandu Valley
- Breathtaking views of Ganjala Range, Dorje Lakpa Range and Khemjung Glacier
- Lodge-based accommodation



ITINERARY

DAY 1

ARRIVE IN KATHMANDU

All trekkers need to organise their own flights to Kathmandu International Airport (KTM). From Kathmandu Airport we will arrange a private transfer to your hotel. That night you will meet your local Kandoo representative and have a full pre-trek briefing.

Accommodation: **Hotel**

DAY 2

DRIVE TO SYABRU BESI

From Kathmandu, we take a long (approx. 8 hours) drive to Syabru Besi. After driving for 30km, we approach pristine villages on the banks of the river Trishuli. We also start to get views of the Annapurnas, Manaslu, Ganesh Himal and the peaks of the Langtang region.

Ascent: **100 m**

Max. altitude: **1400 m**

Accommodation: **Teahouse**

Meals included: **Breakfast**

DAY 3

TREK TO LAMA HOTEL

Today we start our trek by traversing the ridge on Syabru Besi's main road and soon reach Ghopcha Khola. Terraced fields and dense forest with a variety of plant species like oaks, maple, alder and bamboo open up. We may get to see yellow-throated martin, wild boar, langur monkey, red panda and Himalayan black bear en route. Further on, the trail crosses a stream and we pass several small bhattis (tea shops) along the way. As we continue ascending steeply along the trail, we come across a steel suspension bridge at 2000m where we will cross to the north bank of the Langtang Khola amid the spectacular vistas of cascading waterfalls. On reaching 2748 metres, we arrive at Lama Hotel where we will spend the night.

Hiking time: **6 - 7 hours**

Ascent: **1348 m**

Max. altitude: **2748 m**

Accommodation: **Teahouse**

DAY 4

TREK TO LANGTANG VILLAGE

From Lama Hotel, we ascend above the Langtang Khola where the trail becomes steeper. From here we can see the beautiful Langtang Lirung rising up to 7246m. The trail takes us across a log bridge and on to the meadows of Ghora Tabela at 3000m. We will see several lodges and a police check post. Further on, the route opens up into a wide valley of yak pastures and scattered Tamang villages with water-driven mills and prayer wheels. We arrive at Langtang village (3500m) which is headquarters for Langtang National Park. The village mainly consists of flat-roofed Tibetan style houses, hotels and cultivated lands yielding buckwheat, potatoes, wheat, turnips and barley.

Hiking time: **5 - 6 hours**

Ascent: **652 m**

Max. altitude: **3500 m**

Accommodation: **Teahouse**

DAY 5

TREK TO KYANGJIN

Today, the trail skirts gradually through rich yak pastures and interesting traditional villages of Muna and Singdun. We cross a wooden cantilever bridge and reach a wide valley after climbing across the glacial moraine. Finally, we climb up through the mountain pass to reach Kyangjin Gompa where there is a small monastery and a cheese factory.

Hiking time: **5 - 6 hours**
Ascent: **300 m**
Max. altitude: **3800 m**
Accommodation: **Teahouse**

DAY 6

EXPLORATION OF KYANGJIN

The furthest point of our trek, we will spend the day in Kyangjin where you will get the opportunity to explore the ancient monastery and cheese factory and just generally soak up the atmosphere. If you are feeling strong you can choose to climb Kyangjin Ri (4600m) from where you will get amazing views of the snow-capped peaks and glaciers.

Hiking time: **5 - 6 hours**
Ascent: **800 m**
Max. altitude: **4600 m**
Accommodation: **Teahouse**

DAY 7

TREK TO LAMA HOTEL

From Kyangjin, we take the route back to Lama Hotel. As we retrace our steps, we follow the Langtang Khola to Langtang village and on to Ghora Tabela. We stop briefly for lunch and thereafter continue the steep descent to Lama Hotel.

Hiking time: **6 - 7 hours**
Descent: **1052 m**
Max. altitude: **3800 m**
Accommodation: **Teahouse**

DAY 8

TREK TO SYABRU BESI

From Lama Hotel, we head back to Syabru Besi where we will have the opportunity to get an insight into the ancient culture and customs of the Tamang community.

Hiking time: **4 - 5 hours**
Descent: **1348 m**
Max. altitude: **2748 m**
Accommodation: **Teahouse**

DAY 9

DRIVE TO KATHMANDU

Today we will drive back to Kathmandu. You stay overnight in a hotel in Kathmandu.

Accommodation: **Hotel**

DAY 10

DEPARTURE FROM KATHMANDU

We will collect you from your hotel and transfer you to Kathmandu Airport for your departing flight.

Meals included: **Breakfast**

TRIP INFORMATION

DIFFICULTY

The Langtang trek is considered **moderate**. It's a great **introduction to trekking the Himalayas**, particularly if you are nervous of the more high altitude expeditions. The highest point on the trail is 3,800 meters. However, you will have the option to go higher if you wish. The Langtang trek can be completed by anyone with a basic fitness level and some determination.

FOOD & DRINK

You choose what you want to eat at the lodges, and settle your own bill in the morning. While you can eat heartily for very little money at any lodge, we do recommend that you budget £20 to £25 (\$30 to \$35) per day for meals and drinks. This will ensure that you not only have plenty of food, but that you enjoy it a lot more. Where once there was a choice of perhaps 5 different rice or lentil based meals at any one lodge, most now offer a wide menu of 40 or more choices from the basic (such as dhal bhat) to the sophisticated (yak steak with blue cheese sauce). Please note that we prefer some of the more expensive lodges, so the prices are higher than they might be at more spartan facilities.

One word of advice, place your meal order as soon as you can upon arriving at the lodge as it is strictly 'first ordered, first served', and the best lodges are quite busy at meal times.

ACCOMMODATION

Trekking in Nepal is more popular than ever. As a result, the standard of accommodation available on most of the trek routes has improved dramatically. Where there were once simple peasant huts, large hostels have been built featuring running water, indoor toilets (some en-suite) and electricity. However, while internet access, charging facilities and hot water are available, you will need to pay to use them - if you plan on using the internet and showering every day, then you should budget around \$10 per day.

However, development is still ongoing, and as you get higher into the mountains the lodges become more basic. Furnishing is generally fairly spartan, and most rooms feature little more than a bench bed and a thin mattress, so your sleeping kit will probably see some early use. Showers are not always available and it tends to be just the communal areas that are heated.

TRANSPORT

The general standard of driving throughout Nepal is poor and badly regulated. Roads in Kathmandu are very congested, many drivers are not properly licensed and vehicles are poorly maintained. During the monsoon season (June to September) many roads outside the Kathmandu valley are prone to landslides and may become impassable.

We insist on using a high standard of vehicle and driver for all of our transfers. In Nepal it is not a legal requirement to have seatbelts fitted in the back of vehicles, and while we try to use vehicles that do have rear seatbelts fitted, this cannot always be guaranteed. If you are unhappy about any aspect of the vehicle or the standard of driving, please speak to the driver or our local office immediately.

LUGGAGE

Kandoo Adventures operates an absolutely **strict limit of 15kg** for your main equipment bag which will be carried by a porter. This limit includes your sleeping bag, even if it is rented from us. This is more than sufficient for your needs on the trek. Your bag will be weighed before you leave the hotel to start the trek and if it is overweight you will have to take items out and leave them at the hotel.

All items must be packed in your main equipment bag. They should not be attached to the outside, as we are not responsible if items fall off when the bags are being carried on the trek.

HOW DO I GET THERE?

There are several ways to get to Nepal from Europe and the USA all of which involve an international flight to Tribhuvan International Airport which is the main airport in Kathmandu. There are a lot of flights that fly to Kathmandu through the Middle East. Qatar, Gulf and Air Emirates offer daily flights from Europe and the US to Kathmandu, with a stopover at their central hubs. You must be careful though, as some of these layovers are very long indeed. Check the schedules carefully, and consider using Qatar. They seem to have the shortest layovers (at Doha) by a substantial margin. The other alternative is to fly via Delhi, with BA, Air India or Jet and then catch a shorter flight up to Kathmandu. Again be careful of long layovers and be warned - some of the reviews for Air India are less than glowing!

BUDGET & CHANGE

The **Nepali Rupee** is a closed currency so you will not be able to buy this before you arrive. It is advisable to travel with US Dollars, as these are widely accepted. It is very important that US bills be new (post 2006), crisp and unturned. If you want some local currency then we can take you to an ATM or bank. Alternatively all the hotels in Kathmandu will change money for you. We recommend that you take local currency on the actual trek with you, as the teahouses prefer local currency to dollars. You will also get a more favourable exchange rate in Kathmandu.

If you are relying on a credit or debit card for emergency funds, make sure you tell your card issuer that you will be using it abroad, or you may find that it won't work when you really need it.

TIPS

We realize that tipping may not be a common practice in all countries but for Nepal it is a standard practice that all operators support. The decision on how much to tip should be determined by how well the team served you while you were on the trek. Tips are always discretionary and if you are not happy with the service you have received you do not have to pay tips. Tips can be made in US dollars or Nepali Rupees. It is very important that US bills be new (post 2006), crisp and unturned.

We are members of the Trekking Agencies Association of Nepal and the Nepal Mountaineering Association, and follow their guidelines when recommending tip levels for guides and porters. We would suggest you budget \$100-\$150 per trekker for your tip contribution.

We say goodbye to our porters in Syabru Besi before we return to Kathmandu. Any tips that you wish to give to the porters will need to be carried on the trek with you.

FORMALITIES & HEALTH

PASSPORT

Please double check that your passport is valid for 6 months beyond the date of arrival in Nepal. We recommend that you take a photocopy of your passport and keep it separate from the original, and this will be useful if the original is lost while you are travelling. You must carry your passport on the trek with you, as it is required for internal flights.

VISA

Most visitors to Nepal (including nationals from the UK, Europe, USA and Australia) require a tourist visa to enter Nepal. To secure a visa you will need to present proof that you have a return ticket, and proof that you have sufficient money to support yourself during your stay in Nepal. Visa can be obtained at your local Nepalese Embassy or on arrival at Kathmandu Tribhubhan International Airport. We highly recommend securing a visa before departure as this will ensure you have no problems passing immigration, as well as speed up the process of clearing immigration. You will need at least one blank visa page in your passport. Certain nationalities not mentioned above must apply for a visa in advance, so check with your local Nepalese Embassy. Visas are valid for 6 months from the date of issue, so do not send off your application too early.

For most of our trips, you may be ok with a 15 day tourist visa which costs USD30 (around GBP25). However, if you are adding any extra days in Kathmandu you would then require a 30 day tourist visa which USD50 (around GBP40). Visas can be extended once you are in Nepal, but overstaying your visa is taken very seriously, and can result in your being detained or not allowed to leave without paying a fine.

VACCINATIONS

The standard vaccinations required are diphtheria, tetanus, typhoid and hepatitis A, but you should always consult your doctor or travel clinic for the most up to date advice.

INSURANCE

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are fully and adequately insured for the duration of your trip. Please ensure that all activities, excursions and destinations in your itinerary are included in your travel insurance policy, in addition to your regular cover for cancellation and medical expenses. For the Annapurna Sanctuary, this means that you must be covered for trekking to 4500m. If you are trekking to Everest Base Camp you will be trekking to 5500m. If you are climbing Mera Peak or Island Peak you will be reaching an altitude over 6000m.

Please take a copy of your insurance policy to the pre-trek briefing, as the guide will need to collect your insurance details. We also ask that you keep a copy of your policy summary (containing policy number and the emergency contact number for your insurer) in your day sack at all times, so that we can access this information should we need to contact the insurer on your behalf.

HEALTH

Malaria

There is no risk of malaria in Kathmandu and on the majority of Himalayan treks that we operate, due to the altitude. However, there is a risk of malaria in areas of Nepal below 1,500m, particularly in the Terai district, the lowland region of Nepal adjacent to the Indian border. This region includes Chitwan National Park, so if you are planning a safari extension to your trek, you need to plan anti-malarial medication for this part of your trip. In addition to taking medication, we would recommend you take every precaution to prevent mosquito bites by wearing long-sleeved trousers and shirts at dusk and dawn when the mosquitos are active, and by using a DEET based mosquito repellent.

Altitude Sickness

Altitude sickness, also called Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), hypobaropathy and soroche, is an illness caused by exposure to low air pressure, especially low partial pressure of oxygen, which many trekkers experience at high altitudes. AMS is caused by exerting yourself at high altitudes, especially if you have not been properly acclimatised. It is most common at altitudes above 2400 metres. Your route into the Annapurna Sanctuary has been designed to aid your acclimatisation wherever possible, but the following will also help your body adjust:

Slow and steady. You need to keep your respiration rate low enough to maintain a normal conversation. If you are panting or breathing hard, you must slow down. There is no pressure on you to keep up with other members of your group.

Drink much more water than you think you need. Proper hydration helps acclimatisation dramatically. You need to drink at least three litres each day.

Diamox

There has been a lot of research on Diamox that shows it has been reasonably well proven to be helpful in avoiding AMS by speeding up the acclimatisation process. In the UK it is a prescription drug which must be prescribed by a doctor, but some doctors are reluctant to prescribe it. The concern is that by taking Diamox, people believe that they are immune from AMS and can ignore the symptoms. In reality, although Diamox can help prevent the symptoms, should symptoms still develop it means that you are not acclimatising and you have to take notice. Diamox is taken before you start trekking to prevent altitude sickness, not once you are on the trek and symptoms have developed.

Dehydration

You can easily become dehydrated at high altitudes. The lower air pressure forces you to breathe more quickly and deeply, and you lose a lot of water through your lungs. You will also be exerting yourself, and sweating, and may even suffer from diarrhoea. As a result, you will have to drink much more water than you normally would so you should drink at least 3 litres of fluids every day while trekking. Even when you do not feel thirsty you have to drink this amount as a minimum, preferably more. Stay on the look-out for signs of dehydration in yourself and your fellow trekkers. The most common symptoms include thirst, dry lips, nose or mouth, headache and feeling fatigued or lethargic.

EQUIPMENT & CLOTHING

EQUIPMENT SUPPLIED BY KANDOO ADVENTURES

We recommend that wherever possible you use your own gear for your trek as this is the best way to ensure your comfort and enjoyment. We recognise though that the cost of some items is very high and this may not be possible.

We do not have our own gear available for rental but there are many places offering gear for rental in Kathmandu and we can recommend a number of places for you. The quality of rental gear is very variable and it is your responsibility to check carefully the condition of any item you rent. We accept no responsibility for the quality of equipment hired. An indication of the likely rental costs is below.

- Four Season Sleeping Bag - \$2 per day
- Down Jacket - \$2 per day
- Trekking Poles - \$1 per day

Most of the rental shops close around 8pm, so if you are arriving on a late flight the day before the trek starts there will not be an opportunity for you to visit a rental store. If you are planning on renting equipment, you need to make sure you have allowed sufficient time at the beginning of your trip.

All rental equipment is included in your overall trekking bag weight, so make sure you have allowed for this when packing your bag at home. A sleeping bag will weigh around 2kg.

CLOTHING TO BRING

HEADGEAR

- Warm beanie style hat – knitted or fleece
- Neck gaiter or scarf. It can get dusty in Nepal and the air very cold. A scarf or balaclava comes in useful for keeping dust out and can double as a warm layer for your neck / face!
- Sun hat – preferably wide-brimmed for protection
- Sunglasses – high UV protection
- Headlamp (plus extra batteries)

UPPER BODY

- Thermal or fleece base layer (x2)
- Long sleeve shirt/tshirt – light or medium weight, moisture wicking (x3)
- Short sleeved shirt/tshirt – lightweight, moisture wicking (x2)
- Fleece or soft shell jacket (x2)
- Insulated jacket – down or primaloft
- Lightweight water/windproof hard shell outer jacket
- Gloves – lightweight, fleece or quick drying fabric
- Gloves or mittens – heavyweight, insulated, preferably water resistant

LEGS

- Leggings – thermal or fleece base layer (x1)
- Trekking trousers – light or medium weight (x2) – convertible trousers work well
- Waterproof hard shell trousers – ski pants work fine (x1)
- Gaiters

FEET

- Trekking boots – mid weight with good ankle support
- Training shoe or similar – to wear around the teahouses
- Micro-spikes – may be required in snowy conditions
- Mid-weight trekking socks (x5 pairs)
- Breathable, high-wicking liner socks (x3 pairs)
- Thermal trekking socks for upper reaches of your trek (x1 pair)

EQUIPMENT TO BRING

- Small Rucksack or Daypack (30-40 litres) to carry water and personal items
- Waterproof duffle bag (approx 80-100 litres) - max weight when full should be 15kg. This weight restriction includes your sleeping bag. Your duffle will be carried by a porter
- Sleeping bag (4 season or -10 Deg C) and compression sack
- Trekking poles
- Water bottle or hydration bag - must be able to carry 1.5-2L of water

OTHER ACCESSORIES

- Sunscreen and lip balm - high SPF
- Toiletries, including toilet paper, wet wipes and hand sanitiser - please carry all rubbish back off the trail
- Camera and spare batteries
- Plug adapter, for charging devices in teahouses and hotels
- Personal medication and first aid kit
- Personal snacks and energy bars - dried fruit and nuts are also a good source of energy
- Isotonic drink powder / energy drink powder to mix in with your water. This improves flavour and helps replace electrolytes
- Microfibre towel for wiping hands and face each day
- Ear plugs, if you are a light sleeper
- Pee bottle, useful for late night toilet needs
- Dry bag (only required if your main duffle bag is not waterproof)

HOW TO BOOK THIS TRIP

1 CHOOSE YOUR DATE AND CHECK AVAILABILITY

A full list of available dates can be found on our website.

2 CONTACT US

Contact us by phone, email or through our website. We will answer any questions you may have and send you a personalized itinerary and quote.

3 COMPLETE BOOKING AND PAYMENT

When you are ready to book, we will send you a link to our online booking forms and participation agreements. We accept all major credit and debit cards and require a low 20% deposit to secure your place.

