

Ruby Valley Circuit Trek - 12 Days

URL: <https://nepalalternativetreks.com/trip/ruby-valley-circuit-trek/>

Ruby Valley Circuit Trek Quick Information

Weather

-5°C to 22°C

Duration

12 Days

Difficulty

Moderate

Accommodation

Lodge/Homestay/Camping

Meals Included

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with
tea/coffee

Transportation

Bus/Jeep

Daily Activity

06 hours walking

Religion

Buddhist, Hindu & Christian

Ethnic People

Tamang, Gurung, Ghale

Region of Nepal

Ganesh Himal Region

Max Altitude

3900m./12870ft.

Per Person Cost

USD 990

Best Season

Sept, Oct, Nov, March, April &
May

Geographic Terrain

Mountain, Forest, Hills,
Villages, Rivers, Terrace, Hot
Spring, Waterfall

Group Discounts Available

No. of Persons	Price per Person
Group Of 1 - 4	USD \$990.00
Group Of 5 - 8	USD \$970.00
Group Of 9 - 12	USD \$950.00
Group Of 13 - 18	USD \$930.00

Note: Our fixed group departure dates, services and price is guaranteed even if the group numbers are 1 person to maximum 18 persons. We will provide a guide cum porter if there is only 1 person to operate the trek and one more assistant guide if group size is above 10 persons. And of course, guide cum porter will carry 10 kg luggage.

Ruby Valley Circuit Trek Overview

The 12-day Ruby Valley Circuit Trekking offers an off-the-beaten-path adventure through the culturally rich and naturally stunning Tamang and Gurung villages renowned for their distinctive cultures and extensive traditions.

You get to explore some very distant, less-traveled places of Nepal on this uncharted trekking route and witness panoramic views of renowned peaks like Ganesh Himal, Langtang Lirung, Boudha Himal, Hiunchuli Dorje Lakpa, and other pristine mountains in western and central Nepal. Most trekking days involve gentle descents through the traditional Tamang and Gurung communities of Tipling, Shertung, Chalish, and Borang. Also, after completing the trek's final leg from Borang to Dharka Phedi, the Ruby Valley Trek experience ends with a jeep transport to Kathmandu.

Why is the Valley named Ruby Valley?

The name 'Ruby Valley' comes from the mining of rubies in that area. Situated in Nepal's region, this valley was famous for its ruby, which was discovered in the rivers and hills nearby. The local communities mined this gemstone and established the Valley as a source of rubies in the Himalayan region. The tradition of ruby mining in the Ruby Valley dates back years.

The rubies found there were prized for their quality and color. Although ruby mining activity has declined over time, the name 'Ruby Valley' serves as a reminder of its connection to gemstone mining. Today, this valley attracts many hikers and tourists because of its beauty, cultural diversity, and rich mining heritage,

Highlights of Circuit Trek To Ruby Valley

- Panoramic views of Ganesh Himal and Langtang Himal.
- Exploration of traditional Tamang and Gurung villages.
- Reaching the 3,850-meter-high Pangsang Pass.
- Walking through the scenic and secluded Ruby Valley.
- Spotting diverse wildlife like red pandas and Himalayan black bears.
- Soaking in natural hot springs along the trek.
- Enjoying a less crowded and tranquil trekking route.
- Experiencing local festivals such as Lhosar (Tamang New Year).
- Observing traditional agricultural practices in rural communities.
- Staying in local homes through community-based homestays.

Weather

Best Time for Ruby Valley Circuit Trekking

Spring (March to May)

Spring is considered one of the best times to trek to Ruby Valley. During this season, the weather is mild, and the days are longer, providing ample daylight for trekking. In spring, daytime temperatures range from 10°C to 20°C (50°F to 68°F) at lower altitudes and cooler temperatures at higher elevations.

Additionally, the clear skies offer stunning views of the surrounding mountains, making it a photographer's delight. However, as this is a popular trekking season, some trails and teahouses may be crowded, so early booking and planning are advisable.

Summer/Monsoon (June to August)

The summer season coincides with the monsoon in Nepal, bringing heavy rainfall, especially in July and August. Summer makes the trek much more challenging due to slippery and muddy trails and the risk of landslides and floods.

The dense fog and frequent rain showers can obscure mountain views, and sponges are common in forested areas. Additionally, fewer trekkers on the trails offer a more solitary and peaceful experience. If trekking in the monsoon season, it is essential to have proper rain gear and be prepared for weather-related delays.

Autumn (September to November)

Autumn is the perfect season for the Ruby Valley trek. Daytime temperatures range from 10°C to 20°C (50°F to 68°F), and the nights are more relaxed but manageable with proper gear. The trails are less muddy compared to the monsoon season, and the risk of landslides decreases significantly. The post-monsoon air is clean, and the landscapes are dotted with colorful autumn foliage. However, this is the peak trekking season, so trails and teahouses can be crowded. Early reservations for accommodations and permits are recommended.

Winter (December to February)

Winter trekking in the Ruby Valley Circuit is suitable for those who are prepared for cold weather and want to avoid the crowds. The temperatures can drop significantly, especially at higher altitudes, with daytime temperatures ranging from -5°C to 10°C (23°F to 50°F) and much colder nights. The higher passes, like Pansang La, can be covered in snow, making the trek more challenging and sometimes impassable.

Despite the cold, winter offers crystal-clear skies and stunning views of snow-capped peaks. The trails are less crowded, providing a more tranquil trekking experience. Proper winter gear, including warm clothing, sleeping bags, and possibly microspikes for icy trails, is essential for a safe and comfortable trek during this season.

January

-5°C to 5°C

February

-3°C to 7°C

March

0°C to 10°C

April

3°C to 15°C

May

7°C to 18°C

June

10°C to 20°C

July

12°C to 21°C

August

11°C to 21°C

September

9°C to 19°C

October

5°C to 16°C

November

0°C to 11°C

December

-3°C to 7°C

Difficulty

Trek difficulty Ruby Valley Circuit Trekking

Hikers consider the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek moderate to challenging. This is due to altitude, terrain, daily distances, and remote spots. The trek reaches its highest point at Pansang La Pass. It's about 3,850 meters (12,631 feet) high. Trekkers may get altitude sickness there and need to acclimate.

The terrain in the trek has steep ups and downs. The paths are rocky, uneven, and sometimes slippery. This is especially true in forests or after rain. Trekkers must walk far each day. They walk for 6-8 hours. This requires good fitness and stamina. Also, the trek's location is remote, with few services and help in an emergency. Thus, relying only on oneself is vital to having a great time.

12 Days Ruby Valley Circuit Trek Itinerary

Day 1: Drive to Arkhet - Trek to Lapu Danda

Our adventure begins with an early morning drive from Kathmandu to Arkhet (640m). We will follow the picturesque Manaslu route. Upon reaching Arkhet, we cross the river and begin our ascent to Lapu Danda. We reach Lapu Danda by late afternoon. There, we set up for our overnight stay. We enjoy the peaceful place and get ready for the journey ahead.

Destination:

130km./Drive to Arkhet (Avg.
05 hrs) - Trek to Lapu Danda (Avg.
1:30 hrs)

Accommodation

Lodge in Lapu Danda

Altitude:

(1026m./5385ft.)

Meals

Lunch, Dinner

Day 2: Trek to Lamo Dhunga

Today's trek takes us from Lapu Danda through the quaint village of Dhunchet and into a lush, verdant forest. Along the way, we can hear the sounds of birds chirping and the sight of waterfalls and streams. The path is moderately challenging, with a mix of ascents and descents, leading us to Lamo Dhunga by the evening. We'll arrive at Lamo Dhunga in the evening, set up camp, and enjoy a peaceful night under the stars, surrounded by the sounds of nature.

Destination:

14km./06 hours walk

Accommodation

Camping

Altitude:

(1930m./6369ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3: Trek to Nauban Kharka

We continue our trek through the forest, which dominates most of today's journey. The trail is relatively easy compared to previous days, allowing us to take in the beauty of the towering trees and diverse flora. We stop for a lunch break, soaking in the natural beauty and refreshing ourselves for the remainder of the day's trek. In the late afternoon, we arrive at our campsite at Nauban Kharka, a serene spot in the forest.

Destination:

14km./06 hours walk

Accommodation

Camping

Altitude:

(2710m./8943ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 4: Trek to Lapagaon

Today's trek includes crossing the Myanghal Bhanjyang. It is a mountain pass that offers stunning, expansive landscape views. After the pass, we begin our descent towards Lapagaon. As we descend, we will pass through terraced fields and small villages. We reach Lapagaon by evening. We set up camp for the night. We enjoy the local community's hospitality and the village's beauty.

Destination:

13km./05 hours walk

Accommodation

Home Stay

Altitude:

(1700m./5610ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5: Trek to Sertung

We start the day by descending the river, crossing two bridges, and continuing our journey. The trail then leads us through the village of Borang, where we take a lunch break. After lunch, we continue our trek to Sertung. Upon arrival in Sertung, we set up camp. We had the chance to visit Phyangchet Monastery in the afternoon. We experienced the spiritual side of the region. We spend the night in Sertung, enjoying the warm hospitality of the Tamang people.

Destination:

12km./05 hours walk

Accommodation

Local Lodge

Altitude:

(1900m./6270ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 6: Rest Day in Sertung

Today is a rest day in Sertung, allowing us to explore the village and interact with the locals. Sertung is known for its rich \cultural heritage and traditional practices. We can visit the Phyangchet Monastery if we haven't already. We can learn about the local religion and enjoy the peaceful vibe. You'll need to be less robotic sounding by changing sentence structure and using different word choices. It's a day of relaxation and cultural exploration, preparing us for the days of trekking ahead.

Destination:	Accommodation	Altitude:
9km/ 06 hours round trip walk	Lodge or Camping	(1900m./ 6270ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 7: Trek to Tipling Village (Lapdung)

We leave Sertung and head towards Marmelung Kharka, passing through the village of Tipling. Tipling is another Tamang village. The trail then ascends towards Marmelung Kharka. We reached Marmelung Kharka. We set up camp for the night in this idyllic place. We enjoyed the fresh mountain air and the meadow's peace.

Destination:	Accommodation	Altitude:
13km./05 hours walk	Camping	(3000m./9900ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 8 : Trek to Pansang La

Today's trek is one of the most challenging as we make a steep ascent to Pansang La, the trek's highest point. Pansang La offers panoramic vistas of the surrounding mountains and valleys. We reach the top in the afternoon and set up camp, spending the night at this high-altitude location. The evening is spent marveling at the spectacular scenery and reflecting on the journey.

Destination:	Accommodation	Altitude:
12km/06 hours walk	Local Lodge	(3850m./12705ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 9: Trek to Gokchet

We descend from Pansang La, heading south on the Tiru Danda towards Gokchet. The trail is less challenging than the previous day, and because of this, we can enjoy the region's scenic beauty. Gokchet is a small village below the Sing La, offering a peaceful retreat after the day's trek. We set up camp for the night in Gokchet, enjoying the serene environment and preparing for the next day's journey.

Destination:

14km./06 hours walk

Accommodation

Camping

Altitude:

(3660m./12078ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10: Trek to Gongam Bhanjyang

Today's trek involves crossing the Sing La, another high pass. Then, we will descend towards Gongam Bhanjyang. The ascent to Sing La is hard. The trail goes through many terrains: forests, fields, and rocky paths. But the descent offers a mix of easy and moderate trails. We arrive in Gongam Bhanjyang by evening, where we set up camp for the night.

Destination:

14km./05 hours walk

Accommodation

Camping

Altitude:

(2900m./9570ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 11: Trek to Kispang Pokhari

We continue our descent through forests and farmland, heading towards Kispang Pokhari. The trail is less demanding, allowing us to enjoy the region's changing landscapes and natural beauty. Kispang Pokhari is a charming village where we camped for our last night on the trek. The evening is spent reflecting on the journey and enjoying the peaceful environment.

Destination:

12km./05 hours walk

Accommodation

Camping

Altitude:

(1790m./5907ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 12: Drive to Kathmandu

Our trek concludes with a drive back to Kathmandu. We leave Kispang Pokhari in the morning, passing through scenic countryside and small towns. Upon reaching Kathmandu, we checked in at the group hotel and rested well. The evening is free. You can explore the city, visit local markets, or relax at the hotel. It marks the end of our memorable Ruby Valley Circuit Trek.

Destination:140km./06 hours drive to
Kathmandu**Altitude:**

(1295m./4273ft.)

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch

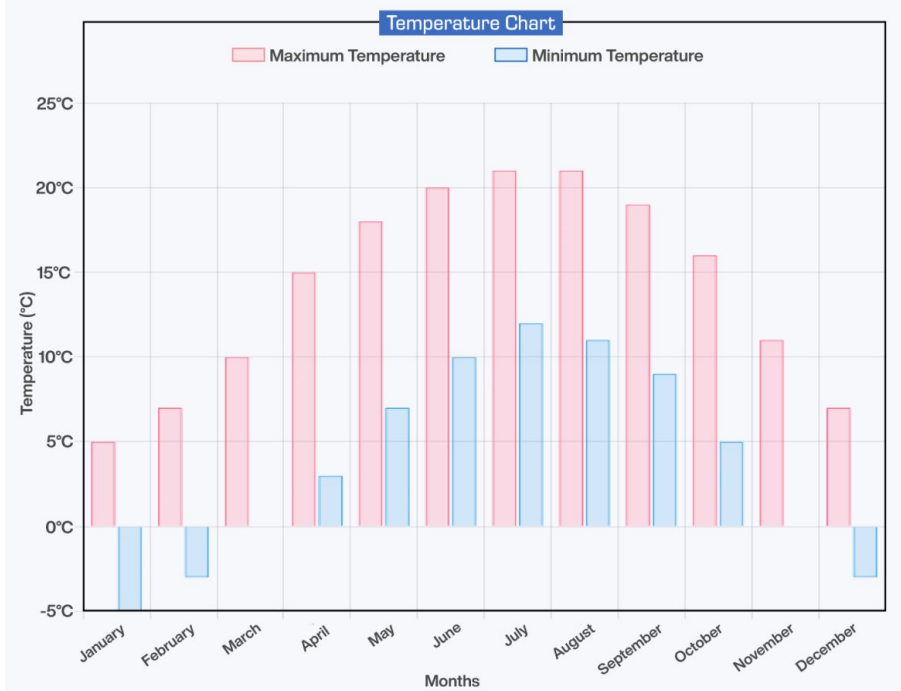
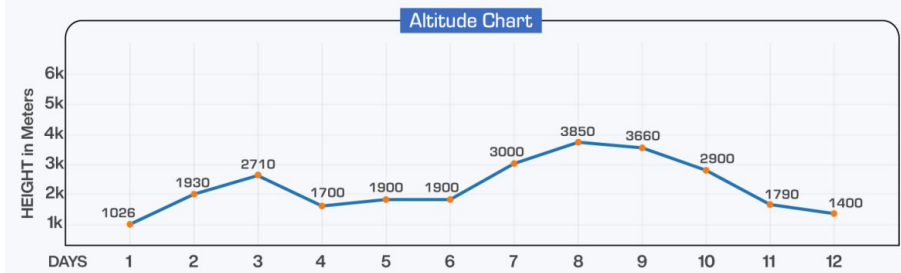
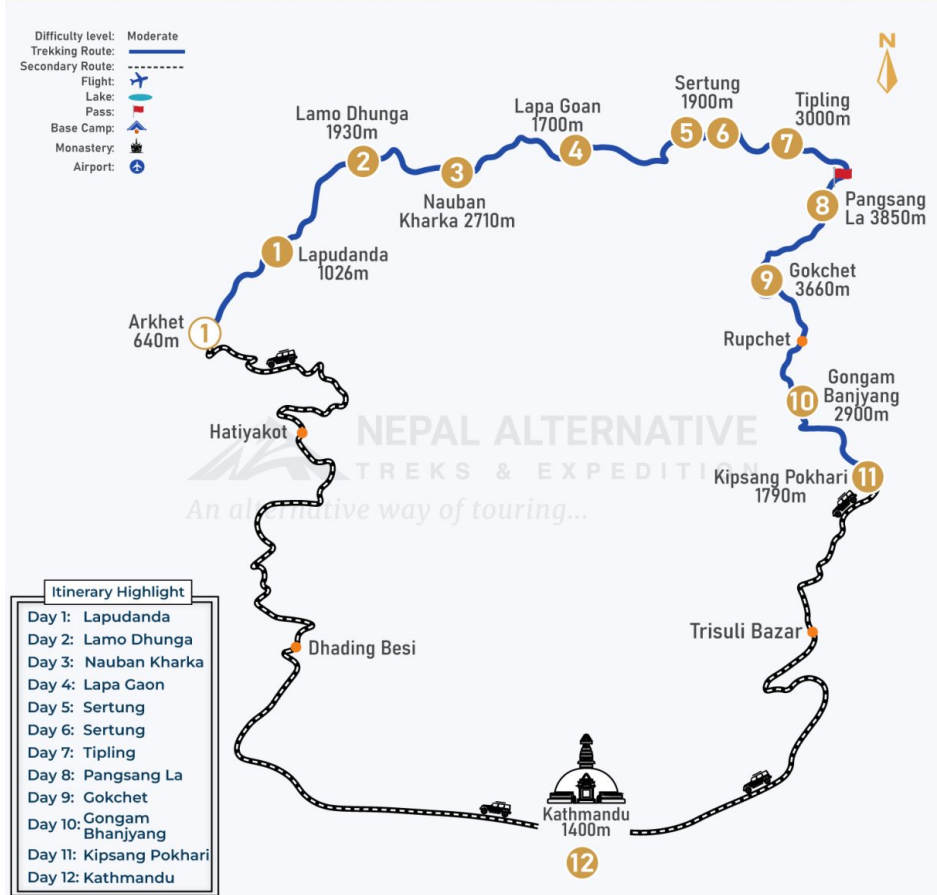
What's Included

- Pick Up at Tribhuvan International Airport and Transfer to Hotel in Kathmandu .
- All meals during the trekking (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner with tea/coffee).
- Accommodation (Lodge/ Home stay/ Tented) during the trekking.
- One experienced, well trained, fluent English speaking, friendly, specialized in Ganesh himal/Langtang region and government authorized trekking guide, cook.
- 1 Porter per 2 Trekkers and keep luggage weight under 10kg per person.
- Kitchen utensil and camping gears.
- Guide and staff's food, accommodation, salary, insurance, transportation and equipments.
- Overland transportation as per mentioned in the itinerary.
- All necessary permits and documents.
- A Trekking map, Water purification, Oxygen saturation check up everyday, duffle bag, company t-shirt, first aid medical and trekking completion certificate etc.
- Assistance for emergency rescue evacuation.
- Government tax and service charge.
- Public Liability Insurance.

What's Not included

- Hotel accommodation and meals in Kathmandu.
- Hard and soft table drinks such as coke, fanta, mineral water, beer, laundry, phone bill etc.
- Personal Travel insurance.
- International Flight Tickets.
- Nepal Tourist Visa Fee
- Tips for guide and staff. (Highly suggested).

Ruby Valley Circuit Trek Route Map



Traveler Reviews

Unforgettable Trekking Experience!

I did the Ruby Valley Circuit trek – this is a new and completely undiscovered route! I didn't see a single other tourist for the entire time, and felt so lucky to have all the views to myself! Tej who organised the trek and my guide and porters were phenomenal, the views were spectacular and learning about the different cultures in this part of Nepal was so interesting. 100% recommend if you're looking for an off-the-beaten-path experience!

Rating: 5/5

EdotL (Ethan)

UK

Additional Trip Information

What kind of accomodation to expect from Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

Along the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek, trekkers find many lodging options. The lodgings are tailored to the rugged terrain and local hospitality. Local families manage teahouses. They offer basic yet comfortable accommodation. This includes shared rooms with beds, blankets, and communal bathrooms. Trekkers may find community lodges in more significant settlements like Sertung and Lapagaon. They offer more amenities, like private rooms and attached bathrooms. But, their quality varies widely. Booking, particularly during peak seasons like autumn, is advisable to secure preferred accommodations.

Ruby Valley Circuit Trek Meals & Cuisine Information

The culinary experience along the trek revolves around hearty Nepali meals served in teahouses and lodges. Dal Bhat is a staple dish. It includes lentil soup, rice, vegetables, and pickles. It is the cornerstone of meals. They sometimes add meat like chicken or buffalo. Vegetarian alternatives are commonly available upon request. Teahouses have fixed menus with local flavors. They ensure trekkers are fed and energized for the day's journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need a special permit for the Ruby Valley Circuit Trekking?

Yes, it would be best to have special permits for the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek. These include the Manaslu Conservation Area Permit (MCAP). They also include the Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP). You can obtain these permits from the Nepal Tourism Board or authorized trekking agencies.

What kind of accommodations are available during the trek?

Accommodations during the trek mainly consist of teahouses and campsites. Teahouses provide beds, blankets, and shared bathrooms. Campsites offer a more immersive experience in scenic places. They provide tents, sleeping bags, and mattresses.

What food options are available during the trek?

Along the trek, you'll eat typical Nepali dishes. These include dal bhat (rice with lentils), momos (dumplings), and noodles. You'll eat them at teahouses. Some teahouses also offer Western food items like pizza and pasta.

Can I trek the Ruby Valley Circuit independently?

Yes, it is possible to trek the Ruby Valley Circuit independently. However, it is recommended to hire a guide or porter. They can help with navigation and safety. They also support local communities. Guides also provide cultural insights and help with logistics.

Is it safe to drink water during the trek?

No, it is not safe to drink tap water during the trek. Drink bottled or purified water treated with tablets or a filtration system to avoid waterborne illnesses.

What should I pack for the Ruby Valley Circuit Trekking?

Pack essentials. These include warm clothes, a sleeping bag, comfy trekking shoes, a backpack, a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, bug spray, a first aid kit, and a refillable water bottle. Layering is crucial due to varying temperatures.

What wildlife can I expect to see during the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

Wildlife sightings may include bird species such as eagles, vultures, and pheasants. Mammals like yaks, mules, and mountain goats are also common. However, larger animals like snow leopards and bears are rare to encounter.

What is the altitude profile of the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

The trek starts at lower elevations, around 640 meters, and reaches its highest point at Pangsang Pass (3,842 meters). Understanding the altitude profile helps in acclimatization planning. It also prepares trekkers for altitude challenges.

What are the weather conditions like during the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

The trekking seasons are March to May and September to November. The weather is usually stable then, with clear skies and mild temperatures. Mornings and evenings can be chilly, especially at higher elevations, so layered clothing is essential.

How do I prepare for the altitude on the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

Adequate physical fitness and gradual acclimatization are crucial to managing altitude. Including regular cardio exercises and altitude training in your preparation is recommended. Drinking plenty of water, eating nutritious meals, and following the guidance of your guide is crucial.

Are there any health risks or challenges on the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

Yes, the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek has health risks and challenges. Common challenges include altitude sickness, dehydration, and exhaustion. Trekkers should be aware of the symptoms of altitude sickness and acclimatize properly. You should carry a first aid kit. Also, bring medications for common ailments and travel insurance. The insurance should cover trekking activities.

How do I get to the starting point of the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek?

The trek usually starts with a drive from Kathmandu to Arkhet or another designated starting point. The journey takes several hours by road, passing through scenic landscapes and rural villages. Private vehicles or arranged transportation by trekking agencies are standard options.

Can I extend or customize the Ruby Valley Circuit Trek itinerary?

Yes, the trek itinerary can be customized based on your preferences and trekking abilities. With proper planning and consulting with your trekking agency or guide, you can add side trips to nearby attractions or extra rest days.

Cancellation Policy

We understand that plans can change willy-nilly. However it is our responsibility to ensure fairness and transparency among our customers regarding our cancellation policy. So we kindly request all travelers to carefully review the cancellation and refund policy before confirming their trip.

After your trip starts, we cannot provide a refund for any voluntary withdrawal, cancellation, or early departure by the traveler. This means ***the full amount paid to us will not be refunded after the trip has begun.*** Likewise, if during the trip, any services such as accommodation, sightseeing, meals, transportation, etc. included in the itinerary/trip are not used by the customer, no refunds or reuse will be provided to whatever portion remains unused on the trip.

Also, please note that ***last-minute cancellations are non-refundable.*** You have to understand that many trip arrangements such as accommodation, transportation, permits, guides, and operational logistics are confirmed and pre-booked. Thus, cancellations made at the last minute create non-recoverable costs for the company and so do for our clients. In addition, cancellations made shortly before the departure date or after the trip has started will be considered as last-minute cancellations and will not be eligible for any refund.

Still, the company will use their discretion in setting the conditions for the refunds, therefore, few of the conditions mentioned are subject to change. The company holds every right to cancel the trips booked by the customers before it is guaranteed to run or an official agreement is signed. A trip is guaranteed to

run once it has two fully paid travelers unless minimum numbers state otherwise.

Unfortunate circumstances such as unforeseen natural disaster, canceled flights, strike, industrial action, wars, riots, quarantine, government intervention, weather, the deteriorating health condition of a group member, etc. could lead to cancellation of trips. In such cases, the customer can either ask to get back the 90% of the total trip cost paid to the company (13% Government Tax will be deducted) or reuse the cost in an alternative trip with the same price, immediately, in the following season of the same year.

The company will require a written notice in case of any cancellation. Please ensure the date of the trip cancellation is the date on which the written cancellation is received by the company. If you cancel the trip anytime prior to the departure date of the actual trip, 90% of the total cost is reusable for a year or refund.

Trip Amendment

First and foremost, please note that all the amendment conditions are applied to the trips listed on this site only. Below are a few notes to take about the amendment fees in case of any changes during, while, or after the booking:

If the company receives a request on the booking amendments at least 60 days prior to the trip, a total of USD 50/person is charged to the customer. However, if the customer's request for a booking amendment in less than 60 days before the trip departure, then the charges will be as per the cancellation policy mentioned above. In case of any changes in the price of the trip during the procedure of booking and the amendments, the new cost will be applied to the trips. Please note that these changes might not be applied by the company, but can be levied upon the company by the third parties i.e. the hotels or the service providers working with the company.

Any changes, amendments, or additions in aggregation to the trips you have booked, for example, hotels, transfers, additional days, etc. will account for no additional fee.

Health Conditions

Nepal Alternative Treks places the highest priority on the safety and well-being of all travelers. We need to ensure the traveler's well-being and health condition at the time of booking. While travelers can participate without medical documentation, those with chronic illnesses or long-term medical conditions must obtain a doctor's consent before joining the trip. This is to ensure their health is not badly affected during the adventure and that they can safely enjoy the journey.

The company will not be responsible for any type of mishaps and will not bear the medical and evacuation expenses on behalf of the participant. Therefore, we request our clients to consult their doctors for a thorough checkup and vaccination before booking a trip with us. In addition, clients with specific health needs or concerns should inform the Company in advance. This allows us to provide guidance and, if required, arrange additional services to make the trip safer and more comfortable. If needed, clients may also request additional services related to the length of the trip or stay in the country of travel.

Weather and other unfavorable conditions

Clients should be well aware of the unpredictability of the weather conditions in the mountainous regions. The unfortunate weather conditions, especially in the Everest, Jomsom, and Kanchenjunga regions, can sometimes lead to unfavorable circumstances that include delay or cancellation of flights. The Company will cover the expenses of accommodations and food in the departing location until the arrangement of flights is done. However, the Company holds every right to reroute the original trip or transports which will be in favor of the situation without any addition in the cost. Please note that the company will not be responsible for any missed international flights, losses caused by Altitude Sickness, or any other unpredictable circumstances, and the participants will have to pay all the charges incurred. Nonetheless, the Company will connect and assist you to make the necessary alternative arrangements, but, the additional charge will be covered by the customers themselves.

Regardless of stating every condition and information about the trips on the website and brochures of the Company, we will not be responsible for the unforeseeable situations that may arise before or during the trips. The Company will, however, try its level best to give prior notice about it and take alternate strategies to deal with it. These booking conditions may only be waived in special circumstances, and in writing, by a letter from the Chief of the Company. Note that all the legal agreements set up and signed between the client and the Company shall be subjected to and governed by the Nepalese law.

Note: All the Terms and Conditions mentioned are prepared as per the laws of the Government of Nepal and is governed by them. Therefore, only the head of the Company gets to intervene and holds the authority to make any amendments.

Address

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