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Exclusive Nepal – a luxury tour

From

To

2010

Dec 2011

Available on request

Grade: Easy to mod
Max elevation 3860m



Duration: 10 Days

Best times to visit – Spring season
March to end of May. Autumn season
end of September to mid November

Land only price per person (join in Kathmandu) Guaranteed to run for a minimum 4 persons. Includes use of down jacket and sleeping bag on trek. Luxury hotel in Kathmandu, deluxe & luxury hotels and lodges elsewhere

Group Size	Minimum group size 4
Exclusive Nepal	£3595
Flight Price	From £600
Single hotel supplement	£520

Introduction:

This is an exclusive luxury tour where you'll stay in the very best luxury hotels and lodges of Nepal and travel in style. You'll visit stunning World Heritage Sites with your private expert guide for a real insight into the heart of Nepalese society and culture. Retrace part of Sir Edmund Hillary's historic expedition to summit Everest, traveling in luxury by private charter helicopter to visit stunning centuries old Tengboche Monastery in the lap of Everest. Soar with the eagles as you paraglide over breathtaking mountain ranges, secret valleys and ancient temples and share the fresh Himalayan airspace with the Himalayan Griffon. Travel deep into tropical jungle on safari by charter elephant for close up encounters with the many rare and protected species including the Royal Bengal Tiger. Experience unique shopping & skilled craftsmanship in vibrant Kathmandu. Relax in luxury surroundings with nothing but the best in the heart of the Himalaya.



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Day 01: Arrive Kathmandu

Namaste and welcome to Nepal. You'll be met and assisted at the airport by our local representatives who will arrange your transfer by private car to check in at your five star luxury hotel. The remainder of today is free to relax until this evening when a private car will take you to dinner at the very special heritage location Dwarika's Village. Dwarika's is a magnificent historic building of intricate hand made carved wood and terracotta work, elegant courtyards and serene pools all created over the centuries by the best craftsmen in Nepal. The aura is of intimate luxury and timeless Nepali hospitality offering a wonderful introduction to the rich, vibrant and ancient cultures of Nepal.

You'll be served a six course dinner in the Krishnarpan Suite of the Nepali Royal Cuisine Restaurant where you'll dine at tables designed with centuries old hand crafted woodwork, served on antique traditional plates and utensils and with hosts and hostesses wearing ethnic dress. After dinner a private car will take you back to your hotel to relax for the night.

Day 02: Kathmandu and Valley

After breakfast today take time to enjoy a day of relaxed sightseeing on a guided tour of some of the highlights and World Heritage Sites of Kathmandu and the surrounding Valley. You'll travel by air conditioned car or van with your local English speaking guide. We'll take a relaxed tour of Kathmandu city where we'll explore Kathmandu's central Durbar Square, a World Heritage Site and enchanting melange of ancient palace buildings, courtyards and pagoda temples. We'll visit the living goddess Kumari temple as well as Hanuman Dhoka and Kastamandap temple in this centre of religious and social life.

We'll visit Swoyambhunath Stupa, also known as the Monkey Temple and another World Heritage Site as well as one of the holiest Buddhist sites in Nepal. It watches over the valley from and has fine views over Kathmandu and a wealth of interesting features as well as the great stupa itself and of course the resident troupes of monkeys. Explore the ancient streets of Patan, the City of Fine Arts with its wonderful central square and myriad of temples and wonderful architecture.

Join the devotees, pilgrims and wandering siddhus (holy men) at Pashupatinath. Pashupatinath is the most important Hindu temple in Nepal as well as being one of the most important Shiva temples on the subcontinent, situated on the banks of the holy Bagmati River. Take time to walk around Bodhnath (Boudha) stupa, the largest in Nepal and one of the largest in the world. Boudha is also the centre of Tibetan culture in Nepal and a wonderfully vibrant, interesting community. Later this afternoon we'll drive back to Kathmandu where the remainder of the evening is free for you to explore the surrounding area or simply relax at the hotel.

Day 03: Chitwan National Park

After breakfast this morning it's time to leave Kathmandu for the moment and we'll drive (around 4 ½ hours) through scenic Nepalese countryside to the Chitwan National Park, a beautiful World Heritage Site as well as one of Asia's finest wildlife sanctuaries. This is the most easily accessible safari destination in Nepal with more than 43 species of animal residing here, including the endangered One-Horned Rhino, Royal Bengal Tiger, Ghariyal Crocodile, Four-Horned Antelope, Striped Hyena and many more. Arriving at Chitwan it's time to check in to the famous Tiger Tops Resort and enjoy a leisurely lunch.



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Tiger Tops is located in the very heart of the Chitwan National Park and is well known for offering a first class jungle experience and the leader in conservation and environmental approaches with experienced and dedicated staff and a charming and stylish setting. Tiger Tops is also the location of the wonderful annual Elephant Polo Tournament, also a very memorable sight. The rooms in the lodge are elevated in tree houses so you'll be able to enjoy fantastic views over the jungle.

After lunch there's plenty of time to join in some of the jungle activities including an elephant safari, guided jungle walks and canoeing. This evening relax in luxury at the lodge with all the sights and sounds of the jungle around you or sit back with a drink from the late bar that stays open as long as you want it.

Day 04: Chitwan National Park

After breakfast this morning the entire day is dedicated to jungle activities beginning with a jungle safari. Travel into the jungle by charter elephant, what's known as a 'silent safari' as it allows you to get close to the wild animals and birds living here without disturbing them. Some of the species you can expect to see include the rhino, antelope, hyena and if you're lucky the more elusive Royal Bengal Tiger. You'll also have the chance to take a guided jungle walk and short canoe trip to learn more about the local wildlife in the park and a relaxing way to float down the river as well as join one of the cultural programs. This is the ideal way to see the many butterflies, birds and plant species as well as smaller aquatic animals. After our cultural program and safari it's time to return to the lodge for an evening of rest and relaxation enjoying the jungle sights and sounds.

Day 05: Pokhara

This morning we'll leave Chitwan and drive to the charming lakeside resort town of Pokhara. Pokhara is the hip place to be and one of the best places to relax in Nepal as well as the starting point for many treks and adventure activities. It's an enchanting town with a laid back atmosphere, nestled in a lush tranquil valley on the shores of Lake Phewa against a stunning backdrop of the Annapurna range and the dominating presence of Machhapuchhre. On arrival it's time to check in to your luxury hotel, Fishtail Lodge. Located in the centre of Phewa Lake with access by shuttle boat, Fishtail is a unique boutique lodge set in lush gardens and blending into the landscape. This afternoon, enjoy a spot of relaxing boating on Phewa Lake and visits to the nearby attractions of King Mahendra Cave and Davis Waterfalls. The remainder of the evening is free to rest and relax and enjoy the area particularly around the lakeside.

Day 06: Pokhara

This morning we'll take an early morning trip to Sunrise spot and enjoy a tandem paraglide through the skies over Pokhara Valley to get a very different and wonderful perspective on the landscape. This afternoon we'll drive to the base of Sarangkot hill and take a short excursion where we'll stay overnight in a luxury tented camp to enjoy the night skies and peace of the area.

Day 07: Kathmandu and Nagarkot

Today we'll transfer to the airport at Pokhara to catch the short (20 minutes) scenic flight back to Kathmandu. From the airport at Kathmandu we'll be met and drive by private car to the City of Devotees, Bhaktapur. This traditional and traffic free town is the third major in the Valley. Your guided tour takes you to explore the medieval like squares, courtyards and temples of this vibrant town. After a



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stop for lunch at a restaurant in Bhaktapur it's time to continue the drive as we travel on to the peaceful hill station of Nagarkot on the very rim of the Valley. Arriving in Nagarkot it's time to check in to our luxury lodge and to rest and relax for the rest of the night.

Day 08: Tengboche

Nagarkot is the best place to watch the sun rise over the entire Himalayan range and well worth getting an early start today. After breakfast we'll be picked up by private charter helicopter where we'll retrace part of the route followed by Sir Edmund Hillary on his historic expedition to summit Everest. En route we'll stop for a few hours at famous Tengboche Monastery (3860m) to explore this wonderful centuries old Buddhist monastery, situated at the lap of mount Everest, to enjoy close up morning views of Everest and to relax. From Tengboche we'll start our return journey and fly back to Kathmandu. On arrival you'll be able to check into your luxury five star hotel and the remainder of the evening is at leisure.

Day 09: Kathmandu

Today is a full day at leisure in Kathmandu to explore the local streets or to visit some of the many wonderful and varied places to buy beautiful silks, jewellery, paintings and arts and crafts items. Private transportation to help you take your purchases back to the hotel can be made available on request.

Day 10: Departure

Today is free to relax until departure or to commence any additional trips or activities you may have booked. If departing, you'll be transferred to the International Airport by private car in time for your return flight home.

Extending your holiday

There are many choices and options if you'd like to extend your holiday before or after your main booking. Here are just a few suggestions of extensions available for this trip:

Enjoy the adrenaline rush of white water rafting in Nepal

Relax by the lakeside in Pokhara, Nepal

See the wonder of the Taj Mahal and enjoy relaxed sightseeing around Delhi

Play a round of golf on an international standard course in the Himalayan foothills

Explore the exclusive Land of the Thunder Dragon – in the Kingdom of Bhutan

Relax at a luxury spa in the Himalayan foothills

Visit the mysterious and ancient land of Tibet and travel across the 'roof of the world'

Please contact our UK office if you'd like to extend your stay by booking one of the above options, if you would like ideas or advice on how best to spend your time and budget or if you would like help with arranging any special celebrations during your trip.

Useful Information

The following information is aimed at helping you to decide whether this trip is right for you. Additional information can be found on our website and in our brochure. If you have any questions or would like advice on any aspect of this trip please contact us and we'll be happy to go through everything with you.



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Day to Day Itinerary

It must be realized that with adventure travel changes to an itinerary may occur, for example due to unexpected weather conditions. The day to day itinerary is provided as a general guideline and is intended to give you a general sense of what to expect, including places visited and activities during the trip to help with your decision regards which trip is the best one for you. Activities and timings may vary slightly from those outlined Your guide will make any changes necessary and all arrangements during the trip, including explaining reasons for any changes to the itinerary that may occur.

Trip Duration and Grading

This trip is 10 days with Day 1 beginning in Kathmandu and ending with departure from Kathmandu on Day 10. The trip has been easy to moderate. There are some higher altitudes for example when visiting Tengboche by charter helicopter but generally this is a low altitude guided trip. There will be some short day walks as part of your sightseeing, usually for a few hours, for example when visiting World Heritage sites in Kathmandu, Pokhara and other destinations during the trip.

Group Size

The maximum number of persons on this trip will be 16 and the minimum number 4 persons. By keeping group sizes small it means we can provide a more personal service to you.

Local Representatives and Guides

You will be met at the airport on arrival by our local representatives who will always be available to help with your arrival, departure and any queries or requirements during your trip. The group will be accompanied by a local English speaking guide throughout the trip. Once you have confirmed your booking we will send you details of how you will be met on arrival and you will meet your guide just after you arrive.

Accommodation

During this trip you will spend 4 nights a luxury five star hotel in Kathmandu. On safari you will spend 2 nights at a luxury safari lodge. In Pokhara you will spend 1 night at a luxury five star hotel and 1 night at a luxury tented camp. You'll also spend 1 night at a luxury mountain lodge resort in Nagarkot.

All accommodation is based on double or twin share. If you are traveling on your own and are happy to share with someone, we will arrange for you to share a room with someone of the same sex, at no extra charge. If you request a single room the single room supplement charge for this trip will apply. It is usually possible to arrange single room accommodation but please contact our office to confirm this.

Meals

Meals on half board basis will be provided throughout this trip except for the days spent on safari when all meals on full board basis will be provided. Half board basis is to allow you the opportunity and freedom to try out some of the many wonderful eating places in the places visited and particularly in Kathmandu and in Pokhara. Snacks, bottled drinks including mineral water and alcohol are not included in the price.



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Flight Inclusive Price and International Flights

The flight inclusive price is based on best available price (at the time of producing our current brochure) of economy return flights from the UK added to the 'land only' price. Flight prices are subject to change and do vary throughout the year. We use a variety of airlines and scheduled flights on our trips including British Airways, Air India, Gulf Air, Qatar Air etc. Our ATOL number is T7199 and we work with other ATOL holders to issue flight tickets. For exact air fares and flight classes available at the time you wish to travel please contact us.

Land Only Option

Our trips are based on 'land only' as well as flight inclusive options to allow you the flexibility to choose to make your own arrangements for flights or perhaps to arrive a few days earlier or leave a few days later than the trip or to join the trip from anywhere in the world. If you choose the land only option we will provide full details of how and when to meet the rest of your group, details of your hotel and local contacts upon confirmation of your booking. All accommodation during your trip is included in the price although additional days before or after the start and end dates of your trip are not included. We are happy to book additional accommodation or optional activities, based on your requirements and budget, on request.

Please note that whilst at all times we aim to run our trip even with just a few persons, on some of the longer treks or trips, should the group size be less than our minimum operating level we may cancel the trip up to 6 weeks before departure. In the rare event that this happens, we will offer alternative dates or trips or refunds as appropriate and agreed with you. If you are arranging your own flights and accommodation prior to the start date of a group trip we recommend that you book fully flexible and refundable accommodation and transport if booking more than 6 weeks in advance, as should we need to cancel the trip compensation will not be paid for any arrangements that have been made independently.

Climate and Weather

Nepal has a monsoonal two season year with the dry season from October to May and the wet season (monsoon) from June to September. From end September/start October to end November is one of the best times to visit. The vegetation is lush after the rains of the monsoon and the air is clean and fresh. The next best time to visit is February to April at the end of the dry season. It can be a little dusty at this time but the weather is warm and pleasant and its' a great time to see many wildflowers in bloom. December and January are still good in terms of climate and visibility but can be chilly particularly at higher altitudes as well as in the evening in Kathmandu. May and early June can be very hot and uncomfortable and mid June to September can be cloudy with poor visibility and muddy trails although some treks (rainshadow treks) can still be undertaken even during the monsoon.

Clothing and Equipment

Generally lightweight to medium weight clothing in natural fabrics is best with warm clothing a must for chilly evenings and at high altitude. For visits to more remote areas including Everest Base Camp, a warm down jacket, hat and gloves are suitable. It's also useful to wear several layers of clothing as temperatures can change suddenly. To a large extent it depends where you plan to go and what you plan to do. For example during winter if you are on safari in the southern Terai region you'll need a tshirt. At the same time if you're in Kathamandu you'll probably need a jacket as well. And if you're at Everest



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Base Camp you'll need to be very well wrapped up. During the monsoon you'll need a light rain jacket. We also suggest you take comfortable walking shoes and a small day pack or shoulder bag as well as sunscreen, a hat and good sunglasses. In the mountains and at high altitude the weather can change rapidly so it is important to have appropriate clothing and equipment. Clothing is easily and cheaply available in Kathmandu so it's rarely a problem if you forget to pack something. On fully provisioned camping style treks we provide twin share dome or A frame sleeping tents, kitchen tent, mess tent, toilet tent, tables, chairs, stools, lanterns/candles, thin sleeping mattresses, all crockery and cutlery and a fully equipped kitchen set up. Upon booking with us we will send you a suggested clothing and equipment list appropriate to your trip including details of any must have items or items that can be hired (if required).

Baggage Allowance

We request that you aim for a maximum weight of 15 to 20 kg for your main baggage including clothing and personal equipment. Many of our trips involve porters and/or local flights and 15kg is the maximum safe weight allowance for porters and permitted on local flights. International flights will usually permit up to 20kg maximum weight. If trekking, some additional baggage can usually be stored until you return from your trek. Remember you may also want to leave some weight allowance for any items you have bought during your trip! The Himalayan Adventure Company and our local partners are not responsible for excess baggage charges.

FREE Himalayan Adventure Company Travel Gift

On confirmation of booking we will provide a complimentary travel gift (subject to availability). The gifts vary each year and past gifts have included trek bags and t-shirts. We aim to make the gifts useful during this and other travel adventures

Passport and Visa Requirements

A full valid passport and a current visa is required for all trips and treks. Passports must have at least 6 months validity after the completion date of your trip. To secure your booking and avoid any additional charges, information (e.g. spelling of name) provided to us on your booking form must match exactly the details as shown in your passport.

To enter Nepal you will require a visa which can be obtained in advance from the Nepalese Embassy in London (UK applications) or on arrival at the airport in Kathmandu for a fee of US\$25. The visa process has changed in 2008 and all visas are now multiple entry. We will provide up to date information on visa requirements, costs and the application process on confirmation of your booking or on request.

You are responsible for ensuring you have a valid passport and visa prior to departure. Where appropriate, we will arrange any special permits or visas required to visit specific restricted areas included as part of the itinerary whilst you are in the country and may request information from you to allow us to do this.

Permits

To enter certain areas e.g. National Parks or other trekking or protected areas, you may require a permit. All our trip prices include the cost of relevant permits and entrance fees. Where this is not the case, for example you have booked a tailor made private trip, we will inform you of any required permit fees before you make a booking with us.



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Health and Medical Information

It is your responsibility to ensure you are well and fit enough to join the trip. If you are unsure of this please contact our office to talk it through with one of our experienced staff members. We also recommend you speak to your GP if you are in any way unsure of your fitness level required to join the trip. We also suggest you have a thorough medical and dental check up before you travel. You may need specific vaccinations appropriate to the country or area you will visit. You must tell us if you have an existing medical condition or disability that might affect your holiday before you make a booking with us. If, in our reasonable opinion, your chosen holiday is not suitable for your medical condition, disability or level of fitness, we reserve the right to cancel the contract or to suggest more appropriate alternative options for you. A group medical kit will be carried on each trip or trek but we also recommend that individuals carry their own basic first aid kit and we will send a suggested list of items for this when you make a booking.

For useful health and general travel advice and information we suggest you visit the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/knowbeforeyougo> and also obtain a copy of the UK Department of Health leaflet *Advice on Health for Travellers* or speak to your local GP or practice nurse for their recommendations.

What's Included in the Price?

Airport pickup and transfer, local English speaking guide services, briefing on arrival, all accommodation during the trip on double/twin share basis, meals on half board basis throughout and on full board basis for the time spent on safari at Chitwan, all sightseeing and activities as per the trip itinerary, all entrance fees and permits required, all transportation during the trip (by car, boat, local flight, helicopter etc), a 6 course banquet in the Krishnarpan Suite at Dwarika's Village on arrival, a group first aid kit, a free Himalayan Adventure Company travel gift, complimentary Safe Seat Plan issued to all our clients confirming 100% financial security for your booking with us at all times.

What's Not Included in the Price?

Visa fees, international flights (available on request), personal travel insurance (available on request – UK residents only), vaccinations, airport departure and re-entry fees, additional private bus, car or jeep rental to any destination on the trek other than transport provided during the trip, bar/alcoholic beverages, bottled water, personal expenses e.g. for souvenirs, personal clothes, food or snacks during transfer journeys, tips for guides, porters, driver etc, alternative transportation, accommodation or other service required as a result of flight delays, weather conditions, road blockage/conditions, strikes, illness or other unexpected event outside of our control (payable locally and directly if required), international flights (unless requested), laundry, optional trips, holiday extensions and activities (available on request), excess luggage charges, additional accommodation before or after the start and end dates specified (available on request).

Our Experience

We have a love of and respect for the Himalaya. Our founders and office staff are all experienced travelers who share many years of helping other travelers achieve their ambitions. The fact that we specialise in travel to the Himalaya and that we have extensive local knowledge and experience of the area means that we can offer you a wide range of travel options and provide the best standards of service to you. Being an independent specialist travel operator means we can offer a friendly personal



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service and are able to be flexible and use our experience and contacts to build new and tailor made programs as well as to continue to develop new and improved services. We have a wealth of experience in helping many individuals and groups in designing and planning adventures, ranging from romantic breaks to personal challenges to school study programmes to extreme adventure expeditions, from low budget to no expense spared and we have lots of ideas, suggestions and experience to share with you. We are also delighted to say that many of our clients return again and again to travel with us and many of our new clients are through recommendations and word of mouth from happy and satisfied clients who have previously traveled with us.

Fair Pricing

We aim to provide you with the best service at fair and competitive prices and excellent value for money. As part of this, most of our trips are priced for different group sizes with the higher price applicable for smaller groups. With larger groups the price drops so that everyone benefits from a cheaper holiday. We offer 'land only' prices, for travellers who prefer to make their own international flight and transfer arrangements but are happy to arrange flights for you on request, using a variety of international carriers from regional and national airports. Our ATOL number is T7199 and we work with other ATOL holders to issue flight tickets. Additionally, we offer special discounts for groups of 10 or over, schools and group leaders. Contact us for more information.



Your Financial Protection

We understand how important it is that the money you spend on your holiday is securely protected. You may also have concerns about booking with an independent operator. To give you peace of mind and confidence in our service to you we have a number of ways in which we protect the money you pay for your holiday. The company is a full member of the Travel Trust Association (<http://www.traveltrust.co.uk>) membership number U3237, in compliance with the EC Directive on Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours. Our ATOL number is T7199 and we work with ATOL licence holders to issue flight tickets. For flight bookings the money you pay is protected under the ATOL holder's licence. For all other arrangements, your payment to us is held in a separate Trust Fund and only released to us on your return. In addition, we provide free to you, a 'Safe Seat Plan' insurance cover which means that in the unlikely case of your money not being held in the Trust Account or of our insolvency, you will be fully reimbursed for the loss of any monies paid to us, up to a limit of £11 000 per person. Therefore, for your peace of mind and confidence, all money you have paid to us is always 100% protected and available to pay for the services you have booked.

Insurance

Before confirming your booking we will need to see evidence of adequate travel insurance. Contact us for more information.

Responsible Tourism

We believe that tourism should benefit local communities and that responsible travel does not mean a compromise in standards. We aim to promote responsible travel that respects and benefits local cultures, communities and environments and we support Tourism Concern, are a sponsor of the



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International Porter Protection Group and a friend of The Sahara Group. We only work with local guides and communities in each region where we operate and we work with local partners, guides, office and support staff and ensure they have good facilities and fair wages and we work as a team to ensure you a wonderful adventure holiday.

Suggested Reading

We recommend you learn about the places and cultures you will visit before you travel so that you can enjoy your travel even more. Below are just a few varied suggestions to get you started:

Lonely Planet Nepal (Travel Guide), Tony Wheeler, Richard Everist, Lindsay Brown (Editor), Bradley Mayhew (Editor), Wanda Vivequin (Editor), Lonely Planet Nepali Phrasebook (Phrasebooks) Mary-Jo O'Rourke, Bimal Shrestha, Trekking the Peaks of Nepal Bill O'Connor, The Ghosts of Everest: The Authorised Story of the Search for Mallory and Irvine, Jochen Hemmleb, Larry A. Johnson, Eric R. Simonson.

How to Book

Once you have chosen your trek or trip, contact our office to check availability and ask any questions you may have. We'll hold a provisional booking for 7 days. Please read our Terms and Conditions prior to making your booking. Then email, post or fax us your completed booking form (available in our brochure or downloaded from our website) along with the appropriate non refundable deposit of £250 per person and (if applicable) any payments for flight bookings. All flight fares are subject to change and availability until final confirmation and as they vary so much throughout the year, all flights must be paid in full at the time of confirmation. If you choose to phone us with your debit or credit card details, a signed and completed booking form will still be required for confirmation of booking. Bookings will only be confirmed once we receive a completed and signed booking form along with appropriate payment.

We will confirm your booking and email you a trip dossier which will include confirmation of your booking, receipt of payment/invoice, a day by day itinerary, visa and trekking permit instructions, vaccination and health information, a suggested first aid pack list, a suggested equipment and clothing list, a suggested reading list appropriate to your destination, a responsible travel briefing and other useful information relevant to your booking.

The final balance for your booking will be due 12 weeks (3 months) before departure. **NO REMINDER WILL BE SENT.** Your Himalayan Adventure Company travel gift will be mailed to you separately, usually a few weeks before your departure date. For clients outside the UK, a gift will be sent on payment of delivery costs only.

We wish you a wonderful Himalayan adventure.

