Everest Base Camp and Chola Pass Trek – 18 Days

Everest Cho La Pass Trek Overview

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The Everest Cho La Pass Trek is an extraordinary high-altitude circuit across the legendary Khumbu region. On the Everest Cho La Pass Trek, you seamlessly blend the world-famous route to Everest Base Camp with the tranquil trails of the Gokyo Valley. Additionally, this comprehensive expedition takes you past turquoise glacial lakes, across dramatic mountain passes, and into historic Sherpa settlements nestled beneath towering 8,000-meter peaks..

Scenic Route & High Mountain Passes

First, your Everest Cho La Pass Trek adventure begins with an exhilarating flight to Lukla. You will follow the vibrant Dudh Koshi River Valley through Namche Bazaar, Tengboche, and Dingboche. Along the way, you walk past terraced fields and rhododendron forests framed by Ama Dablam and Lhotse. Consequently, you arrive at Everest Base Camp and ascend Kala Patthar (5,545 m) for stunning close-up views of Mount Everest.

Next, your route crosses the high-altitude Cho La Pass (5,420 m). You can also traverse the thrilling Renjo La Pass (5,360 m) into the serene Gokyo Valley. From there, you will witness the pristine Gokyo Lakes and climb Gokyo Ri (5,357 m) for sweeping mountain panoramas. Furthermore, you will cross the Ngozumpa Glacier, managed under protected sanctuary standards by the Nepal Tourism Board..

Sherpa Heritage & Himalayan Sanctuary

In addition, this journey offers a deep dive into the living cultural heritage of the Khumbu region. Inside Sagarmatha National Park, local Sherpa communities treat the surrounding peaks and forests as sacred sanctuaries. Environmental conservation in this alpine ecosystem is overseen

by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. You will visit centuries-old monasteries at Tengboche and Pangboche, where monks chant daily prayers.

Similarly, if you wish to explore other classic Himalayan adventures, you can discover our popular Annapurna Circuit Trek or book our culture-rich 14-Day Upper Mustang Trek. You can also arrange a pre-trek Kathmandu UNESCO World Heritage Tour. Ultimately, the Everest Cho La Pass Trek is a complete, unforgettable expedition designed for resilient hikers seeking the ultimate mountain experience.

Everest Cho La Pass Trek Highlights

- **Quadruple 8,000m Peak Views:** Marvel at Mount Everest (8,848m), Lhotse (8,516m), Makalu (8,481m), and Cho Oyu (8,188m).
- **Two High Mountain Passes:** Cross the adventurous Cho La Pass and the scenic Renjo La Pass.
- **Iconic Viewpoints:** Climb both Kala Patthar (5,545m) and Gokyo Ri (5,357m) for unforgettable sunrise vistas.
- **Gokyo Lakes & Glacier:** Discover the pristine turquoise lakes of Gokyo and cross the massive Ngozumpa Glacier.
- **Cultural Immersion:** Discover the rich Sherpa heritage at Thame Monastery and historic high-mountain villages.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu & Transfer to Hotel

Welcome to Nepal! Upon your arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport (KTM) in Kathmandu, our warm representative will be waiting at the arrival terminal to greet you with a traditional welcome. From the airport, you will be escorted to your hotel via private transport.

After checking in, you can take time to relax, unpack, and recover from your flight. If time permits, feel free to stroll through the vibrant streets of the neighborhood or enjoy a quiet evening at your hotel as you prepare for your Himalayan adventure.

- Accommodation: 3-Star Hotel in Kathmandu

- Location: Kathmandu
- Meal: Welcome Dinner
- Elevation: 1,400 m / 4,593 ft

Day 2: Full-Day Kathmandu Valley Sightseeing & Trek Briefing

Today, you will embark on a guided cultural tour of Kathmandu's most revered UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Your journey begins at Patan Durbar Square, famous for its exquisite Newari architecture, ancient palaces, and intricate wood carvings that reflect the royal history of Nepal. Next, you will visit Pashupatinath Temple, one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for Hindus worldwide, situated along the holy Bagmati River.

In the afternoon, you will explore Swayambhunath Stupa (the Monkey Temple), perched atop a hill offering sweeping views of the entire Kathmandu Valley. Afterward, you will visit the majestic Boudhanath Stupa, one of the largest spherical stupas in the world and the spiritual center of Tibetan Buddhism in Nepal. In the late afternoon, we will gather at our office for a pre-trip briefing, where you will meet your trek leader, review your equipment, and discuss the final preparations for your upcoming trek.

- Accommodation: 3-Star Hotel in Kathmandu
- Location: Kathmandu Valley
- Meal: Breakfast
- Elevation: 1,400m / 4,593ft

Day 3: Scenic Flight to Lukla & Trek to Phakding

Your Himalayan trekking adventure officially begins early this morning with a breathtaking flight to Lukla, the gateway to the Everest region. During this scenic flight, you will enjoy spectacular aerial views of lush forested hills, cascading waterfalls, terraced mountain fields, and soaring snow-capped peaks. Upon landing at Tenzing-Hillary Airport in Lukla, you will meet your support crew and begin your trek.

Leaving Lukla behind, you will follow a gentle trail heading north into the vibrant Dudh Koshi River Valley. The path winds through pine forests, past traditional Sherpa hamlets, and across suspension bridges decorated with colorful prayer flags. Your first day of trekking concludes at the picturesque riverside village of Phakding, where you can unwind and settle in for your first night in the mountains.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Lukla to Phakding
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 2,610m / 8,562ft *(Phakding)*
- Distance / Time: 8 km (5 miles) / Approx. 3 to 4 hours walking

Day 4: Trek from Phakding to Namche Bazaar

After a hearty breakfast, your trek continues along the scenic banks of the Dudh Koshi River toward Namche Bazaar, the vibrant cultural and economic hub of the Sherpa community. The trail winds through fragrant pine forests and crosses several suspension bridges before reaching the village of Monjo. Here, you will enter Sagarmatha National Park—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—for a brief permit check before descending toward Jorsalle for a lunch break.

In the afternoon, the journey becomes more challenging as you cross the famous Hillary Suspension Bridge, suspended high above the river gorge. From the bridge, the trail ascends steadily through lush pine and fir woodlands. Weather permitting, you will catch your very first sight of Mount Everest peeking above the Lhotse-Nuptse ridge along the way. Your efforts are rewarded as you step into the horseshoe-shaped amphitheater of Namche Bazaar, where you can settle in for the evening.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Phakding to Namche Bazaar
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 3,440m / 11,286ft *(Namche Bazaar)*
- Distance / Time: 11 km (6.8 miles) / Approx. 5 to 6 hours walking

Day 5: Trek from Namche Bazaar to Tengboche

The day begins with a scenic walk along the ridge of the Dudh Koshi Valley, offering sensational, sweeping views of Mount Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, Ama Dablam, Thamserku, and Kwangde. As you trek forward, the trail descends through quiet pine and rhododendron forests down to the riverbank at Phunki Thenga for a short rest and lunch break.

Crossing the suspension bridge over the Imja Khola, the trail shifts into a steady and challenging ascent through dense forests. The climb alternates between gradual inclines and steeper switchbacks until you reach the hilltop village of Tengboche, widely recognized as one of the most scenic settings in the entire Everest region. Here, you will visit the historic Tengboche Monastery—the largest monastery in Khumbu—where you can observe Buddhist monks performing evening rituals and prayers against a magnificent backdrop of snow-capped peaks.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Namche Bazaar to Tengboche
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 3,867m / 12,687ft *(Tengboche)*
- Distance / Time: 10 km (6.2 miles) / Approx. 5 to 6 hours walking

Day 6: Trek from Tengboche to Dingboche

Your trek today begins with a gentle descent through lush rhododendron and birch forests to the peaceful settlement of Deboche. Crossing a suspension bridge over the roaring Imja Khola, you will follow the valley path upward to Pangboche village. Home to one of the oldest monasteries in the Khumbu region, this historic settlement offers a wonderful opportunity to observe traditional Sherpa culture and admire up-close views of Mount Ama Dablam.

As you leave Pangboche and press onward toward Dingboche, the tree line fades into alpine shrubs and open stone pastures. The landscape becomes noticeably drier and more rugged as you gain altitude. Passing through Shomare, you will cross the Imja River once more before ascending into the broad Imja Valley to reach Dingboche, a picturesque village surrounded by stone walls built to protect summer crops from high mountain winds.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Tengboche to Dingboche
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 4,410m / 14,468ft *(Dingboche)*
- Distance / Time: 11 km (6.8 miles) / Approx. 5 to 6 hours walking

Day 7: Trek from Dingboche to Lobuche

Today's trek moves at a steady, deliberate pace as you ascend into higher altitudes where the terrain becomes progressively more rugged. Leaving Dingboche, you will walk along the high alpine ridge toward Thukla (Dughla). Here, you will cross a glacial stream flowing from the Khumbu Glacier before taking a brief rest before the steep ascent ahead.

The trail then climbs up the steep moraine to Thukla Pass, a poignant site home to memorial stupas and chortens built in honor of the climbers and trekkers who lost their lives on Mount Everest. Moving past these sobering memorials, the trail leads onto the glacial moraine toward

Lobuche, a small high-altitude settlement nestled beneath dramatic peaks. Surrounded by spectacular views of Mount Pumori, Nuptse, and Lobuche Peak, you can settle into your teahouse and warm up as evening temperatures drop significantly at this elevation.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Dingboche to Lobuche
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 4,940m / 16,207ft *(Lobuche)*
- Distance / Time: 12 km (7.5 miles) / Approx. 5 to 6 hours walking

Day 8: Trek from Lobuche to Gorak Shep & Visit Everest Base Camp

Your day begins with a relatively gentle trek along the lateral moraine of the Khumbu Glacier toward Gorak Shep, the last human settlement before Everest Base Camp. After checking into your teahouse and having a light meal, you will gear up for the main highlight of your journey: the trek to Everest Base Camp.

The path to Base Camp is demanding, navigating over loose rock, glacial rubble, and uneven moraine terrain. As you approach your destination, you will walk alongside the massive Khumbu Glacier and catch dramatic views of the famous Khumbu Icefall. Standing at Everest Base Camp ($5,364\text{m}$), surrounded by soaring Himalayan giants, offers an unforgettable sense of achievement. After taking time to soak in the incredible scenery and capture photos, you will trek back across the moraine to Gorak Shep for a well-deserved rest and a warm meal.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Lobuche to Gorak Shep & Everest Base Camp
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 5,164m / 16,942ft *(Gorak Shep)* & 5,364m / 17,598ft *(Everest Base Camp)*
- Distance / Time: 13 km (8 miles) / Approx. 7 to 8 hours walking

Day 9: Hike to Kala Patthar & Trek to Dzongla

This will be one of the most challenging yet deeply rewarding days of your expedition. Early in the morning, you will begin a steep ascent to Kala Patthar (5,545m), renowned as the ultimate viewpoint in the Khumbu region. Reaching the summit rewards you with an unmatched, panoramic vista of Mount Everest (8,848m), along with surrounding giants such as Nuptse, Pumori, Changtse, and Lhotse bathed in early daylight.

After taking in the breathtaking mountain views, you will descend back to Gorak Shep for breakfast. From Gorak Shep, you begin your journey toward the quiet village of Dzongla. The trail backtracks past Lobuche and veers off toward the base of Cho La Pass, offering serene vistas of Cholatse and Taboche peaks. Arriving in Dzongla, you can rest, rehydrate, and prepare for tomorrow's high-pass crossing.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Gorak Shep to Kala Patthar & Dzongla
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 5,545m / 18,192ft *(Kala Patthar)* & 4,830m / 15,846ft *(Dzongla)*
- Distance / Time: 15 km (9.3 miles) / Approx. 7 to 8 hours walking

Day 10: Trek from Dzongla to Thagnak via Cho La Pass

An early start is essential today as you tackle one of the absolute highlights and most thrilling milestones of your journey: crossing the high-altitude Cho La Pass (5,420m). The trail begins with a gradual climb before steepening across rocky terrain and snow-covered boulders. As you ascend toward the glacier, the path requires careful footing, but your efforts are continuously rewarded with awe-inspiring views of the surrounding ice fields and towering peaks.

Reaching the summit of Cho La Pass, draped in vibrant Tibetan prayer flags, offers a breathtaking 360-degree panorama of the Khumbu Himalayas. After celebrating the successful pass crossing, you will begin the careful descent down steep, rocky slopes and glacial moraines on the opposite side of the mountain. The trail gradually levels out as you arrive at the quiet, sheltered village of Thagnak (Dragnag), where you can relax and rest your legs after an exhilarating day.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Dzongla to Thagnak via Cho La Pass
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 5,420m / 17,782ft *(Cho La Pass)* & 4,700m / 15,420ft *(Thagnak)*
- Distance / Time: 10 km (6.2 miles) / Approx. 7 to 8 hours walking

Day 11: Trek from Thagnak to Gokyo

Leaving Thagnak, today's journey takes you across the remarkable Ngozumpa Glacier, the longest glacier in the Himalayas. Carefully navigating the rocky, undulating glacial moraine, you will make your way to the opposite side of the valley. From here, the trail becomes noticeably easier, leading you over gently ascending terrain toward the sacred Gokyo Lakes.

As you follow the path, you will pass the tranquil first and second lakes before arriving at the third lake, Dudh Pokhari. The picturesque village of Gokyo is nestled beautifully along its pristine shores. Though the high-altitude valley can be breezy, the breathtaking natural beauty of the vibrant turquoise waters, perfectly framed by the towering peak of Mount Cho Oyu, creates an unforgettable arrival. You will have the rest of the afternoon to relax, explore the lakeside, and take in this magnificent panoramic spectacle.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Thagnak to Gokyo
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

- Elevation: 4,790m / 15,715ft *(Gokyo)*
- Distance / Time: 5 km (3.1 miles) / Approx. 3 to 4 hours walking

Day 12: Climb Gokyo Ri & Explore the Gokyo Valley

Today is dedicated to exploration and acclimatization in the scenic Gokyo Valley, a vibrant mountain hub where local Sherpa families welcome trekkers with warm hospitality. Your morning begins early with a steep climb up to Gokyo Ri (5,357 m). The ascent takes approximately two hours, but every step is rewarded as the sun illuminates the majestic Mahalangur Himalayan range.

From the summit of Gokyo Ri, you will take in one of the grandest panoramas in all of Nepal, featuring four 8,000-meter giants—Mount Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, and Cho Oyu—alongside Gyachung Kang, Cholatse, and Taboche. Looking down, you will also enjoy spectacular views of the turquoise Gokyo Lakes and the vast Ngozumpa Glacier, the largest glacier in the Himalayas. After soaking in these unforgettable sights, you will descend back to the village for a well-earned breakfast and a restful afternoon around the lake.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Gokyo Valley & Gokyo Ri
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 5,357m / 17,575ft *(Gokyo Ri)* & 4,790m / 15,715ft *(Gokyo)*
- Distance / Time: 4 km (2.5 miles) / Approx. 3 to 4 hours round trip

Day 13: Trek from Gokyo to Lungden via Renjo La Pass

An early start brings another thrilling milestone on your journey as you tackle the high-altitude Renjo La Pass (5,360 m). The ascent presents a rewarding challenge, leading you along a winding path with breathtaking, backwards views over the turquoise Gokyo Lakes and the sprawling Ngozumpa Glacier. Reaching the pass offers a spectacular, unobstructed panorama of Mount Everest, Lhotse, Makalu, and Cho Oyu, with the tiny village of Gokyo resting far below.

Crossing the pass, you will descend into a tranquil, remote valley that closely resembles the arid Tibetan plateau beyond the northern border. Historically a key trade corridor, this route occasionally brings sightings of traditional Tibetan traders leading yak caravans laden with goods over the nearby Nangpa La pass. Following a stone staircase down the mountain slopes, you will gradually arrive at the quiet, traditional Sherpa village of Lungden (Lunde) for a well-deserved rest.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Gokyo to Lungden via Renjo La Pass
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 5,360m / 17,585ft *(Renjo La Pass)* & 4,380m / 14,370ft *(Lungden)*
- Distance / Time: 11 km (6.8 miles) / Approx. 7 to 8 hours walking

Day 14: Trek from Lungden to Thame

Today's trek offers a relaxing, mostly downhill walk through quiet high-altitude pastures as you leave the remote Bhote Koshi Valley and descend toward the traditional Sherpa village of Thame. Along the way, you will enjoy sensational views of snow-capped peaks including Thamserku, Kangtega, and Kusum Kanguru backdrop against the sprawling valley below.

Upon arriving in Thame, you will have plenty of time to explore this historic, sprawling settlement—famous for being the childhood home of legendary Sherpa mountaineers. A short uphill walk leads to the historic Thame Monastery, perched high on a cliff side about 150 m (492 feet) above the main village. Built nearly 300 years ago, this sacred monastery offers incredible valley views and serves as a major cultural center, hosting the vibrant Mani Rimdu festival each May.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Lungden to Thame
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 3,800m / 12,467ft *(Thame)*
- Distance / Time: 9 km (5.6 miles) / Approx. 4 to 5 hours walking

Day 15: Trek from Thame to Namche Bazaar

Your journey today begins along a gentle, scenic trail that winds gracefully above the Bhote Koshi River. As you descend toward Thamo, you will pass through small Sherpa hamlets and quiet woodlands. In Thamo, you can take a brief stop to visit the historic Khari Gompa, a serene nunnery nestled against the hillside that holds deep spiritual importance for the local community.

Continuing onward, the trail gradually levels out as you approach Namche Bazaar. Walking this familiar path brings a wonderful sense of accomplishment as you realize you have successfully completed the high passes and circuit of the Everest region. Upon arriving back in Namche, you can relax in a cozy café, celebrate your journey with fellow trekkers, and enjoy the comforts of the vibrant mountain town once again.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Thame to Namche Bazaar
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 3,440m / 11,286ft *(Namche Bazaar)*
- Distance / Time: 10 km (6.2 miles) / Approx. 4 to 5 hours walking

Day 16: Trek from Namche Bazaar to Lukla

On your final day on the trail, you will leave Namche Bazaar and begin a steep descent through the pine forests back toward the Dudh Koshi River Valley. Crossing the famous Hillary Suspension Bridge high above the gorge once more, you will trace the river back through Monjo and exit Sagarmatha National Park.

The path weaves through lush pine forests, past traditional Sherpa hamlets, and across several suspension bridges, bringing you to Phakding for a well-deserved rest and lunch break. From Phakding, a gentle final climb takes you past small villages, prayer wheels, and mani walls until you reach Lukla. Arriving back where your trekking journey first began, you can celebrate the successful completion of your epic Himalayan adventure with your trekking crew and enjoy your final night in the Khumbu region.

- Accommodation: Local Teahouse / Lodge
- Location: Namche Bazaar to Lukla
- Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
- Elevation: 2,860m / 9,383ft *(Lukla)*
- Distance / Time: 19 km (11.8 miles) / Approx. 6 to 8 hours walking

Day 17: Scenic Flight from Lukla to Kathmandu

After an early breakfast in Lukla, you will head to the airport for a thrilling, scenic mountain flight back to Kathmandu . As the twin-otter aircraft takes off, you will get one last breathtaking, aerial view of the majestic Himalayas that you have explored over the past two weeks.

Upon landing, our representative will transfer you back to your hotel in Kathmandu. The rest of the day is yours to unwind—take a hot shower, rest your muscles, enjoy a massage, or stroll through the colorful streets of Thamel for souvenir shopping. In the evening, you can enjoy a celebratory dinner to reflect on your incredible journey.

- Accommodation: Hotel in Kathmandu
- Location: Lukla to Kathmandu
- Meal: Breakfast
- Elevation: 1,400m / 4,593ft *(Kathmandu)*
- Flight Time: Approx. 30 to 40 minutes flight

Day 18: Final Departure

Thank you for being a part of our tour and travel family. Today marks the conclusion of your extraordinary adventure in Nepal. Depending on your flight schedule, our representative will meet you at your hotel and drop you off at Tribhuvan International Airport three hours prior to your scheduled departure flight.

If you choose to extend your stay, we would be delighted to organize additional trips or programs for you. We bid you a fond farewell, safe travels home, and look forward to welcoming you back to the Himalayas on your next journey!

- Accommodation: N/A (Departure Day)
- Location: Kathmandu to International Airport
- Meal: Breakfast

Inclusions

Transportation & Flights

- Airport Transfers: Private vehicle pick-up and drop-off for international and domestic

flights.

- Domestic Flights: Two-way flights (Kathmandu / Ramechhap – Lukla – Kathmandu / Ramechhap) for all travelers.
- Local Transfers: All ground transportation as specified in the itinerary.
- Airport Taxes: Covers all airport taxes for Kathmandu and Lukla.

Accommodation & Meals

- Kathmandu Hotel: Comfortable hotel accommodation in Kathmandu on a Bed & Breakfast (B&B) basis.
- Trek Accommodation: Teahouse / Lodge accommodation during the entire duration of the trek.
- Trek Meals: Full board meals (3 times a day: Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner) during the trek.
- High-Altitude Care: Hot, warming soup served at high elevations.
- Celebration: Special farewell dinner in Kathmandu.

Guide, Crew & Support Staff

- Guide Service: A licensed, professional trek and tour guide throughout the journey.
- Assistant Guide: An assistant guide included for groups larger than 10 passengers.
- Porter Service: 1 porter for every 2 trekkers to carry luggage.
- Staff Welfare: Complete food, accommodation, salary, and medical insurance for all guides and porters.

Permits, Taxes & Souvenirs

- Permits & Documentation: All necessary trekking permits (Sagarmatha National Park entry fee, Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality fee) and TIMS cards.

- Taxes: All applicable government and local taxes.
- First Aid: Comprehensive medical kit carried by the staff.
- Complimentary Items: Company T-shirt, detailed trekking route map, and an official Trip Completion Certificate.

Exclusions

Visa & Entry Fees

- Nepal Tourist Visa: Fee payable upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport or border points ($50 for 30 days).
- UNESCO Site Entry Fees: Monument and entrance fees during heritage sightseeing tours in Kathmandu Valley.

Meals & Accommodation Outside the Trek

- Kathmandu Meals: Lunch and dinner while staying in Kathmandu (only breakfast is provided).
- Extra Accommodation: Additional nights of hotel stays in Kathmandu beyond the planned itinerary (due to early arrival, delayed flight, or personal extension).

Insurance & Personal Expenses

- Travel Insurance: Personal medical and emergency high-altitude rescue insurance (helivac coverage up to 6,000m mandatory for trekkers).
- Teahouse Amenities: Hot showers, device/battery charging, and laundry services during the trek.
- Drinks & Beverages: Mineral water, boiled water, soft drinks, energy drinks, tea/coffee outside of meals, and bar/alcohol bills.
- Personal Gear: Personal trekking clothing, boots, sleeping bags, and equipment.

Tipping & Extras

- Staff Gratuities: Tips for your trekking guide, assistant guide, and porters (a traditional way to show appreciation for their service).

- Miscellaneous: Any expenses arising from unforeseen circumstances like weather delays, flight cancellations, landslides, or personal political/health emergencies.