

# MANASLU CIRCUIT WITH TSUM



**COUNTRIES VISITED:** **NEPAL**

**TRIP TYPE:** Trekking

**TRIP GRADE:** Strenuous

**TRIP STYLE:** Tea House

**5 Based On 7 Reviews**

**KG Carbon Footprint**

**TRIP LEADER:** Local Leader

**GROUP SIZE:** 2 - 10 people

**NEXT DEPARTURE:** 19 Oct 2024

**7 Trees Planted for each Booking**

Manaslu Circuit is one of the classic treks in Nepal around an 8,000m peak called Mount Manaslu. This trek also includes a visit to Tsum Valley.

Manaslu Circuit with Tsum trek is a walk around Manaslu including a visit to Tsum valley. This itinerary is six days longer than the [Manaslu Circuit trek](#). Tsum Valley is a new place to explore with little impact from tourism. Tsum is one of Buddhism's sacred hidden valleys called "Beyul". It has important ancient monasteries and remote villages. If you have the time it is well worth adding the Tsum trek to your trekking holiday in the Manaslu region.

Mount Manaslu is the world's eighth highest mountain at an elevation of 8,156m. A Japanese and Nepalese team climbed to the summit for the first time in 1956.

While trekking around Manaslu you see the spectacular landscape of the Nepal Himalaya. The view from Larkya La is superb of Himal Chuli, Cheo Himal, and Himlung Himal mountains. The Manaslu trek starts at Soti Khola village a few hours further up the valley from the town of Arughat. The trekking trail passes through bamboo forests in the narrow Buri Gandaki gorge. After trekking to Tsum Valley we rejoin Manaslu Circuit at Deng village. From Lho village we enter the Nupri region inhabited by Tibetan immigrants. Like in Tsum we see colourful Buddhist prayer flags, mani walls, and monasteries.

We spend two nights at Samagaon and Samdo villages for essential acclimatisation. From Samagaon you can walk towards Manaslu Base Camp. From Samdo there is an attractive trail to follow toward Tibet where there are often blue sheep. After Samdo village we start the approach towards the Larkya La pass at an altitude of 5,213m. The pass day is hard work although no previous mountaineering experience is required.

The Manaslu Tsum trek has similar scenery and landscape to [Half Annapurna Circuit](#) to the West. In the Manaslu region there is now a network of teahouse lodges and is no longer a full camping trek. As the lodges are more basic than for [Everest Base Camp](#) or [Annapurna Base Camp](#) we also bring tents as a backup in case.

## REASONS TO CHOOSE US

- The gradual ascent profile for this trekking holiday works well for acclimatisation. We organise a longer trek around Manaslu by visiting the Tsum valley. We spend two nights for essential acclimatisation at Samagaon (3,450m) and Samdo (3,860m).
- We include all meals at the teahouse lodges (breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner) while on the trek. Importantly, we clearly define what dishes and drinks we provide so there is no confusion in terms of what is allowed. Given the amount of food and drinks we include, there should be no need to spend any extra money on additional food.
- We are Himalayan trekking specialists having operated trips in Nepal for many years. [Roland Hunter](#) has designed the itinerary from his first-hand experience of this trek.
- Our [AITO Traveller Reviews for Manaslu Circuit with Tsum Valley](#) and also our [AITO Traveller Reviews for Manaslu Circuit](#) have a holiday rating of 100%. Based on client feedback we won the 2018 Gold Award as AITO Tour Operator of the Year. Read more about our [Testimonials and Awards](#).
- We review weather forecasts for the Manaslu region throughout the duration of this trek.
- We send a Thuraya satellite phone on our group treks in Nepal. Your leader will have reliable communications for logistics, planning, and group safety.
- We provide the porters with windproof jackets & trousers and shelter. We follow International Porter Protection Group ("IPPG") guidelines.
- We bring a comprehensive medical aid kit.
- Our team with first-hand knowledge of this trek provides pre-trip support. During high season we have someone from our UK Operations team based in Kathmandu.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All internal transport and transfers including airport collections.
- Twin share room at Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu and The Old Inn in Bandipur.
- All meals are included while on the trek. Breakfast only in Kathmandu and Bandipur. In total for Manaslu Circuit with Tsum, we provide 22 Breakfasts, 18 Lunches, and 18 Dinners. The meals at the teahouse lodges cost in the region of **£425 (US\$540)** per person. You can select your dishes from the menu at the lodge. The trek meals are breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. Breakfast includes cereal, porridge, or rice pudding and an egg dish with bread or toast. Lunch includes one dish such as fried rice, dal bhat, momos, or pasta. For afternoon tea, you get a hot drink plus biscuits. Dinner is two courses including soup and the main dish chosen by you from the menu. You are allowed two cups of hot drinks per meal so this means a total of seven cups per day.
- Twin-share room with common bathroom at the teahouse lodge while on trek.
- All trekking arrangements including permits and fees, trekking guide(s), and porter(s). We provide one trekking guide for a group size of two people and two guides for a group size of three people and three guides for a group size of six people plus.
- Weather forecasts for the Manaslu region during your trek.
- Thuraya satellite phone to ensure our guides have reliable communications with us for logistics, planning, and group safety.
- Manaslu trekking map is given to you on arrival to Kathmandu.
- UK-registered charity, Pipal Tree, will plant 7 trees for Manaslu Circuit with Tsum for you in the Gurkha Memorial Forest in southern Nepal.
- Full financial protection for bookings from the UK and internationally (ABTOT). Our Air Travel Organiser's Licence (ATOL) number is 10921. Our Association of Bonded Travel Operators Trust (ABTOT) membership number is 5365).
- Pre-departure support and advice from The Mountain Company by email, phone, Zoom, or face-to-face

meetings. After booking with us we will send our comprehensive “Nepal Pre-Trip Information” notes.

## WHAT’S NOT INCLUDED

- International flight to/from Kathmandu.
- Travel & trekking insurance.
- Nepal visa for 30 days at US\$40.
- Lunch and evening meals in Kathmandu and Bandipur.
- Personal clothing & equipment please see the Appendix for suggested kit list.
- Tips to the trek crew. Each trekker should budget for giving tips into the group fund. This should be in the region of 11,500 Nepalese rupees (approx. £75 or US\$95).
- Other items not listed in “What is included”.

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1: ARRIVE IN KATHMANDU (1,400M)

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Arrive in Kathmandu

No meals

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

Flying into Kathmandu on a clear day is in itself an unforgettable experience. The Himalayan peaks are only a short distance north of the capital of Nepal as seen from the plane. After customs, you will pass into the passenger pick-up area outside the building. You will see a Mountain Company signboard. Our representative will be waiting to welcome you to Nepal.

After transferring to your hotel we will give you a full trek briefing. The rest of the day will be yours to explore Kathmandu and to make final preparations for the trek. You will hear the Nepalese word for hello ‘Namaste’, you will never forget that word after this holiday.

### DAY 2: SIGHTSEEING IN KATHMANDU

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Sightseeing in Kathmandu

Breakfast

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

This is a one-day guided sightseeing tour of the Kathmandu Valley. We visit three out of the seven World Heritage Sites. You start off by visiting Patan Durbar Square. Afterward, you drive to the Buddhist stupa at Boudhanath. The last stop of the day is at the Hindu shrine of Pashupatinath. The tour is likely to finish around 4pm and the rest of the day is free to further explore Kathmandu.

Three major towns in the valley, are Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur. Each place has great artistic and architectural traditions. Kathmandu is the capital and the largest city in the country. Patan, the second largest separated from Kathmandu by the Bagmati river. Bhaktapur, the third largest, is towards the eastern end of the valley. Its relative isolation is reflected in its slower pace and more medieval atmosphere. In Kathmandu, there is a bustle of activity, especially in the bazaars and markets. While the city has expanded over the last 10 years it is still possible to see traditional buildings and temples.

### DAY 3: DRIVE TO MACHHA KHOLA (930M)

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Drive to Machha Khola (9 to 10 hours driving)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We leave Kathmandu early in the morning by private vehicle. It is a scenic drive with occasional glimpses of mountain peaks. After exiting the Kathmandu valley we drive along the Pokhara road. We turn off to head North following Buri Gandaki to Arughat Bazaar. Along the way, we see traditional villages surrounded by rice paddies.

After the busy market town of Dhading Besi, the road is no longer hard-topped. It is likely to be quite dusty on the bus so it is a good idea to bring a buff or scarf along with you. The road extends beyond Arughat so these days we continue the drive further up the valley to Machha Khola. This village is a better trailhead than Arughat as it saves two days walking along the dusty road. For the first night of the Manaslu Circuit trek, we have an overnight stay in one of the tea houses at Machha Khola.

### DAY 4: TREK TO JAGAT (1,440M)

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Walking 14.5km (7 to 8 hours)

Walking ascent 825m

Walking descent 375m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

Today we start the journey into the mountains. Our route heads North following the Buri Gandaki river, sometimes called Budhi Gandaki. We walk through terraced fields and a forest path often lined with troops of monkeys. The path follows the Buri Gandaki river climbing up and down ridges. We pass through the villages of Khorlabesi and Tatopani. After crossing the bridge over to the east bank of Buri Gandaki we hike through the forest to Dobhan. Further along, we cross the bridge over the Yaru Khola river. Shortly after we cross another suspension bridge over Buri Gandaki to Jagat village. We enter inside the Manaslu Conservation Area where we have to show our trekking permits at the police check post.

Hiking during the months of both April and early October will be very hot and humid. Temperatures are often more than 30 Degrees Celsius for the first two days of the trek. These dates are the optimal conditions for crossing the high pass. Please be aware of the hot start to the trek. It is important to bring plenty of water, wear a sun hat and apply sun cream.

### DAY 5: TREK TO LOKPA IN TSUM VALLEY (2,240M)

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Walking 12km (6 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

After Jagat you cross a bridge over Dudh Pokhari khola. We trek through the villages of Salleri and

Sirdibas. The trail then descends to cross the bridge over Buri Gandaki to the larger village of Philim. At Philim there is a checkpoint to enter Tsum Valley where the authorities check our permits. We continue to Lokpa located above the confluence of Buddhi Gandaki and Siyar khola.

## **DAY 6: TREK TO CHUMLING IN TSUM VALLEY (2,386M)**

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Walking 7km (4 to 5 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We walk along the south bank of Siyar khola on an undulating path through forest. We cross bridges over tributaries Lungwa khola and Sarli khola. Later on we cross another bridge over Siyar khola to the North bank. After this bridge there is a climb up to Chumling where you stay for the night.

## **DAY 7: TREK TO CHHOKANG PARO IN TSUM VALLEY (3,031M)**

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Walking 9km (5 to 6 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

The trail stays on the North bank of Siyar khola. We cross bridges over the rivers of Udilu khola, Samatikring khola and Sarpu khola. You hike through the village of Gho then further uphill to the village of Chhokang Paro.

## **DAY 8: TREK TO NILE IN TSUM VALLEY (3,360M)**

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Walking 9km (4 to 5 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

The trail continues along the North of Siyar khola where the valley is now much wider than before. We walk through the villages of Phurbe and Pangdun before continuing to Nile where we stay for the night.

## **DAY 9: TREK TO MU GOMPA (3,700M) AND DESCEND TO RACHEN (3,240M)**

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Walking 15km (8 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We follow the trail up to Mu Gompa and visit the monastery. Drupa Rinpoche established Mu Gompa. He was a Bhutanese lama who meditated in the caves close to the current location of the monastery. Mu Gompa is at an altitude of 3,700m and located in a position surrounded by high mountains.

We descend to Nile for lunch and in the afternoon we descend to Rachen Gompa. This nunnery is well worth visiting to see its Buddhist thanka murals.

## **DAY 10: TREK TO CHUMLING IN TSUM VALLEY (2,386M)**

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Walking 13km (7 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We descend down the same trail to Chumling village.

## **DAY 11: TREK TO DENG (1,860M)**

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Walking 13km (7 to 8 hours)

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

From Chumling we descend to Lokpa village. We then cross the bridge over Buri Gandaki to join the main Manaslu Circuit trail up to Deng village. We enter Deng through a Buddhist stone arch known as a Kani.

## **DAY 12: TREK TO NAMRUNG (2,540M)**

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Walking 16.5km (7 to 8 hours)

Walking ascent 1,100m

Walking descent 350m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

A short distance out of Deng, the trail crosses back over the Buri Gandaki onto what is now its north bank near Rana. From the bridge the trail climbs a little before heading west on level ground. Shortly after we pass a large waterfall. Once over a wooden bridge, the trail contours up and out of the canyon. We climb high above the river before dropping into the Shringi Khola valley. After the suspension bridge over the Shringi Khola there is a steep climb. The trail traverses along the Buri Gandaki as it flows between vertical walls of rock.

After a few more ups and downs through forests, the trail turns a corner and arrives at Ghap. We enter through an intricate kani with well-preserved paintings and elegant mani wall. After leaving Ghap, you pass more mani walls on the southern side of the river. We walk through a forest and the trail climbs along the river. We pass a waterfall and continue through fir and rhododendron. The trail climbs and finally we enter Namrung through another stone archway.



**DAY 13: TREK TO SAMAGAON (3,450M)**

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Walking 18km (8 to 9 hours)

Walking ascent 1,190m

Walking descent 320m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

Not long after leaving Namrung we arrive to Banjam with its wide fields. Soon after Banjam the trail steepens as we walk up to the next village of Lihi with a fine view of Ganesh Himal.

A further hour along the trail we arrive to Sho and then followed by another hour to Lho. From this village there are views of Mount Manaslu and the Kutang Himal. After leaving Lho the next village is Shyala. This place is on a plateau then after you cross a bridge over Numla khola. After crossing a boulder field, the trail emerges to the fields near Samagaon village. There is a lot to explore here, it is a little piece of Tibet with many gompas and a traditional Tibetan village.

**DAY 14: ACCLIMATISATION DAY AT SAMAGAON (3,450M)**

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Explore around Samagaon

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We spend two nights at Samagaon to help acclimatisation to the high altitude. There are several options for good day walks. One of them is to walk towards Manaslu Base Camp with views of Manaslu and Peak 29. We can also walk up to Phung Gyen Monastery located on a ridge above the village.

**DAY 15: TREK TO SAMDO (3,860M)**

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Walking 7km (3 hours)

Walking ascent 390m

Walking descent 50m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We follow the Buri Gandaki northwards to a bridge over a side stream. We walk along a trail passing several mani walls on the trail toward Samdo. The valley widens and there is juniper and birch forest. After passing the stone huts at Kermo Kharka, we descend off a shelf to cross a wooden bridge. We climb up between a fork in the river to a promontory. From this vantage point, one can see the white stone kani marking the entrance to Samdo.

## **DAY 16: ACCLIMATISING DAY AT SAMDO (3,860M)**

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Explore around Samdo

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

We spend two nights at Samdo to help acclimatisation before ascending to Larkya La. There is a good day walk towards Gya La which is the trading pass with Tibet. There are blue sheep in this area so look out for these on the grassy slopes.

## **DAY 17: TREK TO DHARAMSALA (4,460M)**

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Walking 5.5km (3 to 4 hours)

Walking ascent 640m

Walking descent 40m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

After breakfast, we leave Samdo and start the ascent to the Larkya La pass. We descend through fields to an old mani wall and stone arch. After dropping to the river we cross over on a wooden bridge. This place shows up on maps as the mythical Larka Bazaar. This used to be a flourishing market, but nothing remains there.

Another mani wall marks the beginning of the ascent to the pass. The trail climbs through tundra and juniper. We can see the Larkya Glacier coming from Manaslu from here. We stay on the ridge to the right to find a trail that crosses over the top of two ravines. The trail becomes steeper and ascends up the side of a gorge to a viewpoint at the edge of a huge gorge at 4,000m. Near Larkya Glacier, we reach Larkya Phedi, where there is a small lodge. This is very basic accommodation built for trekkers crossing the Larkya La.

## **DAY 18: CROSS THE LARKYA LA (5,135M), TREK TO BIMTANG (3,590M)**

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Walking 14km (8 to 9 hours)

Walking ascent 580m

Walking descent 1,345m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

After an early morning start, we follow the trail up long gentle climb across moraine. We descend a short way to a lake. Then it becomes rough and indistinct as it crosses to the south of steep grassy slopes. The trail stays on the moraine to a ridge marked by two cairns. From here we can see the prayer flags marking the Larkya La pass. We descend to four frozen lakes then make the final steep climb to the pass.



The summit of Larkya La pass is at 5,213m. The view of the Himalayas is superb and Mount Manaslu is centre stage. The conditions for crossing the pass vary depending on time of year. We include micro crampons, gaiters and walking poles in our kit list. You will use this equipment if the pass is icy and slippery.

On the descent from the pass the trail follows the top of the moraine. We make a set of steep, rough switchbacks as we cross the moraine. Then we descend a less steep slope on loose gravel to another grassy moraine at 4,450m. The trail now becomes easier to follow and reaches a small meadow and spring at 4,080m. The valley becomes wider as the trails heads down to a large meadow. We pass a mani wall then enter the cluster of lodges at Bimthang at an altitude of 3,590m.

## **DAY 19: TREK TO DHARAPANI (1,860M)**

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Walking 22km (8 hours)

Walking ascent 140m

Walkign descent 1,990m

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Teahouse lodge

From Bimthang the trail drops to a glacial stream and these are the headwaters of the Dudh Khola. We cross a wooden bridge and descend into pine and rhododendron forest to Hompuk at 3,430m. The trail improves as it descends to a fork in the river and then follows the river at 3,030m. Not far from here you reach Karche's fenced fields. We cross a landslide before making a steep climb to a ridge decorated with prayer flags. We make a descent to the river bank at Gho.

The trail continues through fields and intermittent stands of rhododendron and oak. We arrive the large Gurung village of Tilje. We exit the village through a stone arch and cross the Dudh Khola. We follow along its embankment descending through scrub forest. We see the walls of the Marsyangdi Valley and finally the houses of Dharapani appear in the distance. We pass through Thonje via a wooden bridge and through a chorten-shaped arch. Then Dharapani lies across a long suspension bridge over the Marsyangdi.

## **DAY 20: DRIVE VIA BESISAHAR TO BANDIPUR**

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Drive to Bandipur (6 hours)

Breakfast and Lunch

The Old Inn in Bandipur

After Dharapani we are now on the popular Annapurna Circuit. As there is a road, these days we drive by jeeps down to Besisahar. It will be a bumpy ride but we feel that it is a better option rather than walking on a dusty road with passing vehicles. After reaching Besisahar, we switch vehicles to our private bus sent from Kathmandu to collect you. From here, we drive on a black-topped road down to the main Pokhara to Kathmandu highway. Then we drive up to the traditional Newari town of Bandipur where we stay the night in a hotel. We stay at The Old Inn in Bandipur, this is a lovely hotel in a traditional house in the main square of Bandipur.

Bandipur is a small town located on a ridge above the Kathmandu to Pokhara road and has superb views of the Himalayan peaks to the north (Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Manaslu, and Ganesh Himal). Bandipur has been considerably developed for tourists whereby some of the old houses have been carefully converted to hotels and there are thankfully few concrete buildings like elsewhere in Nepal. Compared to the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu the small town of Bandipur is a very peaceful place as vehicles are not allowed

into the main square.

DAY 21: DRIVE TO KATHMANDU

Drive to Kathmandu (4 hours)

Breakfast

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

Today we drive back to Kathmandu on the main highway from Pokhara.

DAY 22: AT LEISURE IN KATHMANDU

Breakfast

Hotel Ambassador in Kathmandu

Today is a free day to relax in Kathmandu after the trek. You can do some independent sightseeing around the city. You can enjoy spending time at restaurants and cafes. The reason for having an extra day as a buffer is in case of any delays or cancellations driving back from Dharapani. This helps to minimise the risk of missing your international flight back home.

DAY 23: FLY BACK HOME

Fly home

Breakfast

Transfer to Kathmandu airport for the flight back home. End of trip.

DATES & PRICES

2024

Dates	Trip Leader	Price	Single Supplement: Room/Tent	Availability
19 Oct 2024 to 10 Nov 2024	Local Leader	US\$3,295pp	US\$250pp / NA	1 Left to Guarantee

2025

Dates	Trip Leader	Price	Single Supplement: Room/Tent	Availability
19 Apr 2025 to 11 May 2025	Local Leader	US\$3,295pp	US\$250pp / NA	2 Left to Guarantee
18 Oct 2025 to 09 Nov	Local	US\$3,295pp	US\$250pp / NA	2 Left to

Dates	Trip Leader	Price	Single Supplement: Room/Tent	Availability
2025	Leader			Guarantee

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Meal Plan

### MEAL PLAN

We include all meals at the teahouse lodges (breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner) while on the trek. Importantly, we clearly define what dishes and drinks we provide so there is no confusion in terms of what is allowed. Given the amount of food and drinks we include, there should be no need to spend any extra money on additional food. However, some people will pay for extra treats along the way such as to get cake and a coffee at the bakeries and cafes!

If you are comparing our prices with other operators you should be careful to compare apples with apples. These days many operators do not include meals in their packages when staying at the teahouse lodges. The food at the lodges is expensive and will cost an average of £25 (US\$35) per person per day. If you are paying for the meals directly to the lodges you would need to carry a lot of cash including the tip money too. Having this amount of money with you will be a security risk and for peace of mind, it is better to pay for the meals to us when booking the trip. Also, it will be difficult to know in advance how much cash to bring with you on the trek (there are no ATMs when on trek). Furthermore, in practice, it will be complicated and time-consuming for you and the guides to work out individual bills after checking out each day from the lodge.

With our meal plan, you can select your dishes from the menu at the lodge. In our package, we include the cost of your breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and dinner. Breakfast includes cereal, porridge, or rice pudding and an egg dish with bread or toast. Lunch includes one dish such as fried rice, dal bhat, momos, or pasta. For afternoon tea, you get a hot drink plus biscuits. Dinner is two courses including soup and the main dish chosen by you from the menu. You are allowed two cups of hot drinks per meal so this means a total of seven cups per day.

We cater to a variety of dietary requirements. There are always meals that are suitable for vegetarians. During booking, we find out if you have any dietary needs and agree upon meal plans before departure. If you have any questions about the food provided please get in touch with us to discuss further.

### Communications

### COMMUNICATIONS

We bring a Thuraya satellite phone for logistical, safety and personal use. Personal calls charged at £4 (US\$5 or €4.50) per minute and £2 (US\$3 €4.50) to send and receive SMS text.

### Kit List

### KIT LIST FOR MANASLU CIRCUIT

This is the mandatory kit list for the safety of everyone in the group and to ensure a successful trek. You must have the following items tailored for Manaslu Circuit trek. The group leader will check your gear in Kathmandu before departure for the trek.

As a reminder, the weather on this trek will vary season to season and day to day as you ascend to higher elevations. At the start of the trek you will experience warm conditions with temperatures up to 25 Celsius. You experience the coldest temperatures in Larkya Phedi at an altitude of 4,460m. Overnight lows here will be down to around -12 Celsius.

You should bring a rucksack or backpack for gear required during the day. Your pack should contain items such as warm clothes, jacket, camera, water bottles, personal first aid kit and snacks. **The weight limit**

**is 5kg.** A porter will carry the rest of your personal equipment packed in a duffel or kit bag. **The weight limit for your duffel bag is 15kg.** Please mark your bag on the outside for easy identification.

Print the kit list and tick items off as you pack them then weigh your kit bag before you come on trek.

### Footwear

- Walking Boots. A pair of water repellent boots with ankle support. Boots must be in good condition, the best approach is to get new boots and break in before the trek.
- Trail shoes. Used around lodge.
- Walking socks.

### For crossing the passes

- Trekking poles (Black Diamond with "Flick Lock" are best). Two poles are mandatory for your safety. These will be helpful on steep sections of the trail and river crossings. Also for walking on snow or ice higher up.
- [Kahtoola Microspikes](#) or [YakTrax Summits](#). These are for your security when descending passes with snowy or icy conditions. They fit onto your walking boots.
- Gaiters. A pair of knee high gaiters used to keep boots dry if walking through snow or on wet ground.

### Clothing

- Waterproof and Windproof jacket (with hood) and trousers (goretex or similar). For use if it rains or snows during the trek and in windy conditions.
- Trekking trousers. (eg. Mountain Hardwear Mesa V2 or The North Face Paramount Peak).
- Soft Shell Trousers.
- Long sleeve tops or shirts (not cotton).
- Micro fleece.
- Mid to heavyweight fleece or synthetic/ primaloft top.
- Sleeveless/ gilet or body warmer type fleece / synthetic top. This will help keep your core warm while not bulking when layering up. Gilet used in combination with base layers, other fleeces and down jacket. This provides the most warmth and insulation.
- Thermals or base layer for top & bottom (merino wool or synthetic).
- Fleece or synthetic leggings. Worn around the camp or added as a layer when the temperatures start to drop higher up.
- Medium weight down jacket.

### Head and Gloves

- Fleece gloves.
- Warm mittens and/or gloves.
- Wool or fleece hat.
- Sun hat.
- Bandana or scarf (eg. Buff Headwear)
- Head torch. Bring extra batteries.
- Sunglasses. The lenses need to be Category 4 rated. They should have side protection or wraparound design.

### Personal equipment

- Sleeping bag. Overnight lows down to -12 Celsius. It is possible to rent a bag from Shonas Rental in Kathmandu.
- Fleece or silk liner for your sleeping bag. A liner protects your sleeping bag from getting dirty. Also helps by adding extra insulation to keep you warm at night.
- Day pack. Recommended size is around 30 litres. You need to have enough space to carry water bottles, camera, snacks and extra clothing. The pack should have a good waist belt. It is also a good idea to bring a rain cover to keep the contents dry.
- Trekking poles (Black Diamond with "Flick Lock" are best). Two poles are mandatory for your safety. These will be helpful on steep sections of the trail and river crossings. Also for walking on snow or ice higher up.
- Stuff sacks for keeping your gear dry and organised. Or even better are fold dry bags such as from

Exped.

- Two water bottles. Nalgene wide mouth bottles are the best. You may use a hydration pack lower down but the tube will freeze in the cold so ensure you still have two water bottles.
- Pee bottle. Recommended as means you do not have to get up to find the toilet tent at night! For men you can use an old water bottle. For women take a look at [SheWee](#).
- Sunscreen and lip salve with a high SPF.
- Water purification tablets (Pristine, Biox Aqua or Aqua Mira).
- Favourite snack food.
- Books and cards etc.
- Camera with spare batteries and memory cards.
- Insurance certificate.
- Earplugs (optional).
- Baby wipes (optional).
- Hand sanitizer. Keep this in your day pack for use after a toilet break during the trek or before eating any snacks. We provide sanitizer for use before meals.

## Travelling

- Duffel bag for your personal gear on the trek. Will be carried by a porter. Rugged and waterproof made of a plastic material. Size 80-100 litres. Eg. Mountain Equipment or Rab. Bring a small combination padlock to secure the bag.
- Travel clothes. You will need casual clothing for air travel days and time spent in Kathmandu.
- Toiletry bag with soap, travel towel, toilet paper, toothbrush etc.

We provide a [comprehensive group first aid kit](#). Please bring personal medications and other items you might use such as:

- Any personal medications.
- Blister treatment (Compeed patches are the best)
- Rehydration powder (eg Dioralyte).
- Analgesics (paracetamol, ibuprofen and aspirin).
- Plasters and zinc oxide tape.
- Throat lozenges.
- Diamox (helps with acclimatisation).

Threat and risk assessment

## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR MANASLU CIRCUIT

You should be aware trekking in a developing country involves a risk of personal injury or death. You must accept these risks and be responsible for your own actions and involvement. Adventure travel requires an open and flexible attitude. You may experience extreme conditions and unpredictable weather. There could be last-minute changes to the itinerary beyond our control. The ability to work in a team is an important aspect of our trips.

We have performed a threat and risk assessment for our Around Manaslu trek. Our trips have a degree of risk. This is part of the attraction of adventure travel and why so many people choose to join this type of holiday. By identifying the hazards we assess the level of risk. We have control measures in place to reduce this happening or to reduce the impact.

Our risk assessment is available to clients on request. We have listed below a summary of the significant risks and hazards identified by us:

- Falls and trips resulting in physical injury eg. slipping on ice or falling off the path.
- Altitude sickness includes but is not limited to acute mountain sickness (AMS), high altitude cerebral edema (HACE), and high altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE).
- Getting lost or becoming separated from the group eg. crossing Larkya La pass in a whiteout.
- Climatic injuries (dehydration, sunburn, heat exhaustion, hypothermia or heat stroke). Please note during the months of April and October it will be very hot and humid for the first three days of the trek.
- Crossing a river with no bridge resulting in drowning and/ or a fall.
- Rockfall and landslides.

- Snow and ice avalanches.
- Lightning strike.
- Wildlife, pack animals (e.g. donkeys or horses), or stray dogs. Pack animals can knock people off the path. Dogs can attack and bite. Discuss rabies vaccination with your doctor.
- Earthquake.
- Risk of fire in the hotel or lodge.
- Endemic local diseases. Discuss vaccinations with your doctor before departure.
- Physiological injury. Such as heart attack, appendicitis, hernia, toothache, etc. in a remote area.
- Road traffic accident. We use a private bus from Kathmandu to Arughat and back from Besisahar to Kathmandu. Due to local rules, we cannot drive our bus to Machha Khola and Dharapani. It is necessary to use local jeeps for these sections of the road.
- Contaminated food and/ or water.

This trip visits a remote area. You are away from the usual emergency services and medical facilities. Evacuation for a serious injury requiring hospitalisation could take up to several days. This delay could impede your ensuing recovery. Helicopters are the usual means of evacuation. They are not always available or hindered by poor weather and flying conditions.

Weather and conditions

## **WEATHER AND CONDITIONS FOR MANASLU CIRCUIT**

Manaslu Circuit trek itinerary has a wide range of temperatures. This depends on the season, altitude and time of day. In the mountains between 1,000m and 3,500m, the nights will be cool around 5 Celsius. During the day temperatures sometimes rise to 20 Celsius. At higher altitudes temperatures range from about 15 Celsius to -12 Celsius. The conditions of the Manaslu region are very similar to the more popular Annapurna region with Annapurna Circuit and Annapurna Base Camp treks.

The trekking season in Nepal is from late September to May. October and November is generally recognised as having the best weather. Spring is a popular time of year to trek the Manaslu Circuit with warmer weather than in Autumn. Also, there is the advantage of seeing spring flowers and rhododendrons in bloom.

We have written a blog article [When is the best time to go trekking in Nepal Himalaya?](#) This has information about the weather and conditions in Spring and Autumn seasons. It also explains the differences between the trekking regions of Nepal.



## ACCOMMODATION

### TEAHOUSE LODGE IN NEPAL



While on a teahouse lodge trek in Nepal, there are twin share rooms with common bathroom and a heated communal dining room. We will provide all meals at the lodges and include breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, and biscuits plus a two-course dinner (soup and main meal) plus up to two cups of hot drinks per meal. We regularly inspect and select the best lodges in each location.

## HOTEL AMBASSADOR IN KATHMANDU



We have used [Hotel Ambassador](#) in Kathmandu for our groups since it was rebuilt in 2017. Since then we have received positive feedback on their service and location. This is our first choice hotel for trekking groups in Kathmandu. Rooms are well appointed with a reliable supply of hot water for use in the shower. The windows have double glazing so it keeps the rooms very quiet. They serve an excellent breakfast buffet from 7am to 10am. A sundowner on their rooftop bar and restaurant called Foreign Affairs is a must do!

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## TRIP REVIEWS

### REVIEW BY DOUGLASL ON 03/04/2024

I can highly recommend the Manaslu Circuit with Tsum Valley trek. This was my second visit to Nepal and I wanted to get up into the high Himalayas and a bit more off the beaten track. This trek did not disappoint. If you can find the time adding the Tsum Valley to the Manaslu Circuit is a must. It is a wonderful hidden valley of ancient Buddhist monasteries and temples. For me, that was the highlight. Despite the remoteness, the tea houses were better than I had expected. The joy of the trek is the journey through a stunningly beautiful landscape at walking pace. The Mountain Company is spectacularly efficiently run. It was reassuring to know that if anything did go wrong they would have it in hand. The trek was an amazing adventure. ...

### REVIEW BY SIMONC 04/11/2023

Himalayan magic on the Manaslu circuit and Tsum ValleyA first class service from The Mountain Company ensured that my first time in Nepal was a enjoyable and truly memorable experience. From the beauty and solitude of the TSUM valley a hidden valley in the Manaslu national park and the awe inspiring mountains on the circuit. Such a breadth of land scapes and amazing people. I loved the bustle of Kathmandu and the contrast with the mountains was a perfect combination for me. A first class service from The Mountain Company ensured that my first time in Nepal was a enjoyable and truly memorable experience. The logistics team, guides and porters could not have been more responsive and helpful. ...

**REVIEW BY COVID JOHN ON 12/06/2023**

Superb support Five days into my Trek around Manaslu I tested positive for covid. I was in a tiny, remote mountain village with no signal on my phone. My trekking guides supported me to contact both my insurers and Roland, Mountain Co CEO. Roland gave me support and reassurance as my insurers dallied over my request for helicopter evacuation. Indeed, Roland chased them for me numerous times before the heli arrived 30 hours after my first request. Holiday insurance has a job to do and eventually, it did what I'd paid for, but without Roland, who went the extra mile, I'd probably still be in a remote mountain village drinking ginger tea! From first contact to my next booking (yes, I'm going back to Manaslu with The Mountain Company - unfinished business) Roland couldn't have been more informed and supportive. But I'd expect that really..... nevertheless it wasn't always the case with other companies I approached for this trip. When disaster strikes you really find out if a company can back up its promises. The Mountain Company most certainly did and Roland followed up, visiting me in hospital and providing some non-essential treats that were most welcome, demonstrating a personal touch to go with the high standard of professionalism I found in every interaction I had with the Mountain Co. ...

**Notes downloaded on:** 01-05-2024

