



DHAULAGIRI

8,167M / 26,794FT



EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES





DHAULAGIRI EXPEDITION NOTES

EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: Available on demand April to June

Duration: 50 days

Departure: ex Kathmandu, Nepal

Price: Available on application

▲ Dhaulagiri casts its shadow from the summit ridge. Photo: Guy Cotter

Situated in Western Nepal, Dhaulagiri is one of the coveted 8,000m/26,250ft peaks, standing as the seventh highest mountain in the world. In Sanskrit, Dhaulagiri translates into Dhavali giri, meaning "White Mountain." Dhaulagiri is the highest mountain that lies entirely within Nepal.

In the pre-monsoon season (April to June), Adventure Consultants offers private expeditions to climb Mount Dhaulagiri. The logistics and leadership on the mountain will be provided by a senior Adventure Consultants guide, who will be supported by a cadre of top AC Sherpa climbers.

Dhaulagiri is located in Western Nepal, only a few kilometres across the valley to the west of Annapurna (the world's tenth highest mountain). The mountain's long ridges and valley glaciers offer feasible approaches and we will climb via the standard route, the North East Face, a route first climbed by the famous Kurt Diemberger along with Peter Diener, Albin Schelbert, with Sherpas Nawang Dorje and Nima Dorje of Nepal in May 1960.

EXPEDITION OUTLINE

The expedition commences from Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. From there we fly to Pokhara and then drive

onwards to the road end at Khara. We trek through deep remote valleys beginning at a height of 1,100m/3,608ft above sea level—leaving only 7,067m/23,185ft to go to reach the summit of Dhaulagiri!

The trek into the mountain will be both an opportunity to immerse ourselves into expedition life and to acclimatise ourselves for the upcoming ascent. We ascend through temperate climes, passing through small settlements where traditional agricultural techniques are still practised. We sleep in tents for the trek and enjoy sumptuous hot meals prepared by our remarkable cook team and served in our dining tent. We ascend through the tropical zone into the alpine zone over the duration of the trek. The final leg of the journey takes us under the immense western flank of Dhaulagiri to a sheltered Base Camp at 4,700m/15,420ft.

Our Sherpa team will move ahead to place camps and group gear ready for our arrival. We begin climbing steeply from the flat glacier above Base Camp, to then skirt below the 'little Eiger', a wall that is reminiscent



▲ Dhaulagiri Expedition Team Leader, Dean Staples

of the north face of the Eiger in Switzerland. The route then opens out into a wide glacier that leads us onto the broad north col where we will locate our first camp at 5,750m/18,865ft.

Above, on the route to Camp 2, we follow broad snow slopes that lead to a natural arête where we situate the camp at 6,500m/21,325ft. Above Camp 2 the route steepens and we climb by a steep arête for 900m to Camp 3 on the crest of the NE ridge.

Summit day will start in the depth of night and if conditions are favourable the climb should take about 7–10 hrs depending on the pace and condition of the climbers. We climb a sharp ridge above camp then make a rising traverse through rock and snow shelves and ledges to enter a large snowfield that we traverse until we tackle a forty-five degree gully that leads us to the broad summit.

The climbing is not especially technical, but any summit day on an 8,000m/26,250ft peak requires a solid foundation in mountaineering skills and experience to operate safely. Our strong guide and Sherpa team will fix ropes, break trail and make every effort to assist the group on what will be a memorable day with the objective to reach the summit of the seventh highest mountain in the world.

THE ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS DHAULAGIRI TEAM

The Dhaulagiri expedition has been designed to cater to experienced mountaineers with the benefit of a strong and experienced crew with a proven summit record. The climbing is physical and demanding and members must be in good condition to succeed.

Dhaulagiri is one of the lesser climbed 8,000m peaks, probably due to it being a little more remote than its more accessible cousins. A good portion of the climbing route is on relatively low-angle terrain and while there is no seriously steep terrain at any point on the route, the angle is very consistent above Camp 2. Here the

route follows a steepening blunt arête that is long and tiring with the altitude and heavy loads to carry. Finally, the ridge culminates at Camp 3 from where we follow a steep arête to a rock section that leads to the summit plateau which we cross to finish via a gully to the summit.

The expedition will be run in a reasonably 'lightweight' style without excessive bells-and-whistles, yet we will still have the appropriate level of support, equipment, food, communication, medical equipment, weather forecasts and resources to facilitate a fantastic expedition!

EXPEDITION LEADER

The expedition leader is AC Guide Dean Staples, a multi-talented IFMGA guide with over two decades of guiding experience.

Based in Lake Hawea, New Zealand, Dean leads international expeditions for AC. Dean is a super friendly guy, with great patience and leadership skills. Among a multitude of climbing achievements Dean has a total of 9 Everest summits and as lead guide on our 2013 Everest Expedition, he achieved a double summit of Everest and then Lhotse in just over 24 hours. Dean co-guided our successful 2017 Dhaulagiri expedition alongside AC CEO Guy Cotter.



▲ Views of Dhaulagiri from French Pass on the trek out. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Our expedition is supported by a strong and experienced Sherpa team. Photo: Guy Cotter

TEAM MEMBERS

Climbing Dhaulagiri is very physical due to the long distances between each camp and we, therefore, recommend expedition members embark on a thorough training routine for many months prior to your expedition.

We utilise our strong Sherpa team to establish camps and move group gear up the mountain while we team members progressively carry our own gear to the higher camps. There will be times when you will need to carry all your own kit at one time, especially when climbing to Camp 3, and when we descend after reaching the summit.

We provide the option for you to pay for Additional Sherpa Support so you can have your gear carried between camps. There is also the option to climb with a Personal Sherpa who will climb with you on all of the climbing days and carry the bulk of your load. It is important to note this must be arranged at the time of booking.

PREREQUISITE SKILLS

There is no definite measure for assessing the required skill level to climb Dhaulagiri so we prefer to discuss this on an individual basis. However, there are some broad guidelines that can be applied from the outset.

A successful team member will have been visiting the mountains for at least 3 seasons and made ascents of peaks up to 5,500–6,000m (18–20,000ft). It is quite common for members to have previously climbed

Denali in Alaska, Aconcagua in South America, perhaps another 8000m peak, or various South American volcanoes as training for Dhaulagiri.

You will be familiar with crevasse travel techniques, be current in the use of an avalanche transceiver, and have a good overall standard of fitness. Age itself is no barrier. To date, we have succeeded on Himalayan trips with members aged from 21 to 65.

A fierce determination and a burning desire to climb the mountain are essential prerequisites for this expedition. The guides and other expedition staff will provide the leadership, tactics and overall decision making required during the climb, but you will have to contribute to the day to day expedition requirements on the climb such as melting snow, personal cooking in with your tent mate on the mountain, helping with tents, etc.

TEAM SIZE

Team size may vary depending on your groups needs. Our maximum guide to climber ratio is 1:6.

The Base Camp will be staffed by a Sherpa Sirdar/Cook. A team of Climbing Sherpas will carry loads and support the summit climb.



▲ Topping out of the summit day couloir. Photo: Lydia Bradey



▲ Success and panoramic views from the summit. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Spectacular views towards the Annapurnas from Camp 2. Photo: Guy Cotter

ITINERARY

Dates: Pre-monsoon season (April to June)

Following is an ideal itinerary for our Private Dhaulagiri Expedition:

Day 1	Meet in Kathmandu, Nepal
Day 2	Gear checks, preparation and expedition briefing
Day 3	Fly Pokhara, drive to Khare
Days 4–10	Trek to Dhaulagiri Base Camp
Days 11–14	Rest and preparations at Dhaulagiri Base Camp
Days 15–46	Climbing period
Days 47–48	Cross French Pass and trek to Jomsom
Day 49	Flight Pokhara to Kathmandu
Day 50	Depart for home

THE ADVANTAGES OF CLIMBING WITH ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS

Adventure Consultants is renowned for the quality of its service and strategy applied to high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

We employ strong and specialised Expedition leaders and support staff, who are some of the most pre-eminent in the industry. We pride ourselves on operating with small teams, the best back-up and support available. This includes nutritious and ample quantities of food, comfortable Base Camp facilities, reliable communications systems and the necessary medical back up.

Many of our expedition members come to us because they have seen us in action on a previous trip and decide to opt for our level of service and proven experience. Others return because they know we do our very best to make expeditions safe and successful.



▲ Dhaulagiri Base Camp. Photo: Guy Cotter

FOOD

Food will be of the highest standard possible, given the remoteness of the situation. Please inform us if you have any special dietary requirements. Our Base Camp equipment and ample, nutritious meals are always the envy of other groups on the mountain!

VISAS

Expedition members will need to arrange their own entry visa into Nepal. This can be organised by a Nepalese embassy or consular office in your own country or at Kathmandu Airport on arrival in Nepal. Currently, the easiest and best place to obtain a visa is on arrival at Kathmandu Airport. Visa application forms can be downloaded off the internet and we will also send you a copy prior to your departure. You will need to get a 90-day for this expedition. Once in Kathmandu, the expedition's agent will provide an expedition permit to match.

COMMUNICATIONS

The expedition will be equipped with portable Thuraya satellite phone systems for the duration of the expedition in order to provide reliable voice communication for weather forecasting and limited personal use. Limited satellite phone time can be purchased at the rate of US\$3.00 per minute. If you anticipate high satellite phone usage please contact our office to discuss options for hiring a phone for your personal use.

EQUIPMENT LIST & REFERENCE NOTES

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all the necessary clothing and equipment to be individually provided, contained within a set of Expedition Reference Notes with all the details for the trip. These notes provide extensive information on everything from suggestions of what type of camera to bring to training advice for your expedition preparation.



▲Climbing above Camp 2. Photo: Guy Cotter

MEDICAL EXAMINATION & INSURANCE

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire by the expedition doctor and asked to visit their family physician to receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our Medical Advisor and treated with full confidentiality. We also require members to have rescue insurance and we will consult with individual team members as to your insurance needs and solutions for coverage.

PASSPORT PHOTOGRAPHS

Expedition members will need to provide a digital passport photograph for various climbing and trekking permits and a copy of their passport biodata page.

THE EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition, ex Kathmandu, is available upon application.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Private Western Guide
- Nepal government royalty fees
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All climbing and trekking permits
- Return fixed-wing flight Kathmandu to Pokhara

- Fixed-wing flight Jomsom to Pokhara
- Land transport in Nepal
- All team equipment, including personal tent at Base Camp
- All expedition staff: cooks, porters, Sherpa support
- Breakfast, lunch, dinner after departing Kathmandu and before arriving back in Kathmandu
- Oxygen (3 bottles)
- Summit or Top-Out oxygen mask
- Medical kit
- Base Camp email and satellite phone facilities
- Regular written and photo internet dispatches for families and friends to follow your progress

The expedition fee **does not** include the following:

- Air travel to and from Nepal
- Hotel accommodation and meals in Kathmandu
- Entry visa for Nepal
- Costs of early exit from the expedition
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel insurance/trip cancellation insurance/rescue insurance
- Additional meals, snacks, drinks, laundry, internet, single supplement rooms and other expenses outside the inclusions as listed above
- Additional services such as additional Sherpa support, Max Ox, private guide, etc.
- Gratuities
- Airport Taxes, satellite phone calls and email costs
- Additional costs that are out of the control of Adventure Consultants

NOTE: Actual inclusions for private trips may vary depending on individual trip customisations.

PAYMENTS

All payments should be made by bank transfer to the following bank and account:

Bank of New Zealand
Offshore Branch
42 Willis Street
Spark Central
Wellington,
New Zealand

for the account of Adventure Consultants Limited

Account Number: 1000-594771-0000

Account Type: US Dollars

Swift Address: BKNZNZ22

NOTE: All bank transfer charges are for the remitter's account.

We can also accept your deposit and balance payment by credit card (Visa, Mastercard and Amex) plus a 3% card charge.



DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit, dependent on the expedition fee, is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

BALANCE

The balance is payable 90 days before the trip departure date.

CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

An expedition member may cancel their participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of trip deposit.
- For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the balance payment fee.
- For cancellations within 60 days of the departure date a cancellation fee of 100% of the full fee applies.

We strongly recommend you take out trip cancellation insurance via your travel agent if you wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons.

HOW TO JOIN THIS EXPEDITION

If you would like to join the Private Dhaulagiri Expedition, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://www.adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/8000m-peaks/dhaulagiri/book-now>. Or contact us if you'd like further information and assistance in planning your trip.

CONTACT US

If you require more information, please contact us at:

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Adventure Consultants is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC). Adventure Consultants is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their 'Revitalise a Village' programmes.

Adventure Consultants perform to IFMGA/UIAGM standards and are world leaders in high altitude guiding.



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