



# MOUNT EVEREST

8,850M / 29,035FT



**2026 EXPEDITION TRIP NOTES**









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## 2026 EXPEDITION DETAILS

**Dates:** April 7 to May 30, 2026

**Duration:** 54 days

**Departure:** ex Kathmandu, Nepal

**Price:** US\$83,000 per person

▲ View from the summit of Everest. Photo: Mike Roberts.

During the spring season of 2026, Adventure Consultants will operate its 30th expedition to Mount Everest via the South Col from Nepal.

This expedition will bring together the very best components in high altitude guiding to attempt Mount Everest. Calling on our many years of experience, our very qualified guides and Sherpa crew offer the most seasoned team in the industry and the most professionally run expeditions available. We can quite confidently say that our expedition offers you the most resources, the highest guide/Sherpa-to-client ratio with the best equipment, food and Base Camp support of any expedition operator, making Adventure Consultants the best value for money.

If you have a desire to stand on the highest summit in the world, this is an exciting opportunity and Adventure Consultants can provide you with an excellent chance of achieving that goal. We believe the ascent should be made in the best style possible, a philosophy that has seen us help our expedition members achieve many successful ascents and given us the best reputation in the arena of high altitude expedition guiding.

## THE ADVENTURE CONSULTANTS EVEREST TEAM

### LOGISTICS

The 2026 expedition is being organised by Guy Cotter, the director of Adventure Consultants and a veteran of 30 years of Everest expedition guiding and organisation. With technology constantly evolving, Adventure Consultants have kept abreast of all the new techniques and equipment advancements—encompassing the latest in weather forecasting facilities, equipment innovations and communications systems. Everest is not the place to be with an organisation that is 'learning the ropes', there is too much at stake for that. Adventure Consultants expedition staff, along with the operations and logistics team at the head office in New Zealand, provide the highest level of backup and support to the climbing team to maximise your chances of success.



▲ AC CEO Guy Cotter, organising Everest Expeditions for 30 years.

This is coupled with a very strong expedition guiding team and Sherpa contingent, who as you will come to see are second-to-none in the industry.

## EXPEDITION GUIDING TEAM

Our international guiding staff are the best in the industry. You will find the Adventure Consultants Mountain Guides companionable and strong expedition leaders with considerable abilities and a willingness to see you achieve your goals. The number of guides is determined by the team size but the normal ratio of guides to members is 1:4.

### Ang Dorjee Sherpa

Summitting Everest initially with us in 1992, Ang Dorjee has moved on to achieve 29 ascents of 8,000m peaks, including Everest 24 times! His skills as a climber are legendary. Ang Dorjee is originally from Pangboche Village in the Khumbu Valley of Nepal, but he now lives in the USA. He guides on Mount Rainier and leads

Aconcagua and Kilimanjaro expeditions for Adventure Consultants. He has guided on our successful Everest 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2023, 2024 and 2025 expeditions.

### Rob Smith

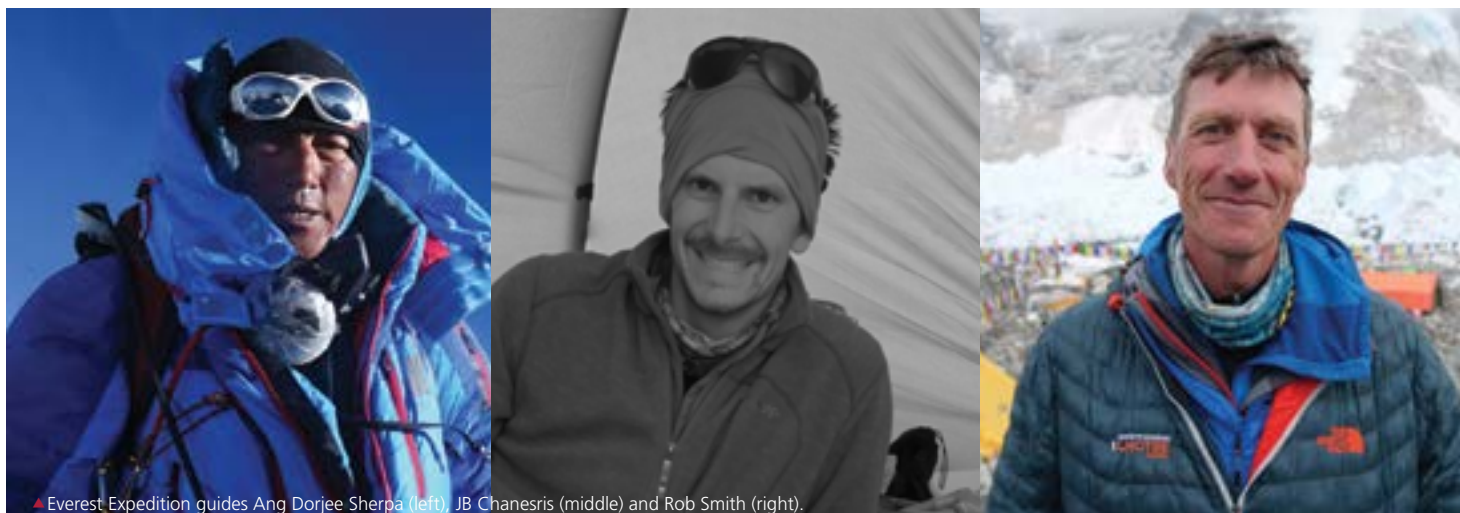
Rob Smith has been guiding since 2000. He divides his time guiding between the Antarctic summer seasons and the greater ranges of the Himalaya. Originally from Omagh, Northern Ireland, Rob is now based in Fort William, Scotland. He has guided for Adventure Consultants for many years and his notable guided ascents include Everest, Vinson Massif, Cho Oyu, Carstensz and Elbrus amongst many others. Rob has summited Everest 8 times and has climbed both the North and South routes.

### JB Chandesris

JB has been climbing and skiing his whole life and took the natural progression to guiding when he was 21. Initially JB worked mainly in the French Alps, before joining the AC team in New Zealand where he spent a number of summers and more recently in the Himalaya and Antarctica. JB's notable ascents include Everest, Manaslu, Dhaulagiri (8,167m) without oxygen, Aconcagua and Mount Vinson.

## SHERPA TEAM

Our Sherpa team has dozens of Everest summits between them. Da Jangbu Sherpa is the Expedition and Climbing Sirdar who has summited Everest an impressive 13 times and brings with him considerable knowledge and experience. Because of his leadership, we have a legendary group of Climbing Sherpas who operate in a harmonious atmosphere of cooperation and commitment to the expedition and its members. Our group of Climbing Sherpas is enthusiastic, motivated and regarded as the strongest and most cohesive group of Sherpas on Mount Everest. It is indicative of the reputation that our Sherpa team has earned that Sherpas from other expeditions enthusiastically pursue a future position with the AC team.



▲ Everest Expedition guides Ang Dorjee Sherpa (left), JB Chandesris (middle) and Rob Smith (right).





▲ Climbing the summit ridge between the South Summit and the Hillary Step. Photo: Charley Mace

Our cooking staff are very well known for the quality of the cuisine they produce and are coveted by other team leaders due to the reputation they have established. We have been developing the personnel within our Sherpa team for 30 years and they are an integral part of the Adventure Consultants Everest Team.

## WHAT IT TAKES TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST

The South Col route on Mount Everest is not an especially technically difficult climb—nor is it the ‘Yak Route’ some non-Everest climbers have termed it. However, it is imperative that expedition members are well versed in the latest techniques and have experience in the high mountain environment.

What the photographs do not show are the difficulties of operating at these extreme altitudes. It is a physically demanding ascent, requiring enormous determination and stamina. An expedition to Everest is not a place for those who will give up when the going gets uncomfortable or strenuous. Days can be up to 15 hours long and although we have lightened the loads you personally carry by having enough Sherpa support to carry your equipment, the days are still arduous and taxing, especially over the 7–9 weeks of the expedition.

The outcome of the expedition will be determined by three broad groups of factors. The first is environmental (weather and snow conditions, etc.). The second is the logistical approach taken by the expedition leaders and the strategies employed to embark on a summit bid. The third is your own preparation in the years prior to the expedition and how you perform whilst

the expedition is under way. We can help design a training programme that will both physically and mentally prepare you for the climb, but you need to commit the time and energy to ensure you attain the correct conditioning.

We know that the success of an expedition is determined by factors that are planned well in advance of the outset of the actual climbing. During our 29 previous seasons on Mount Everest, we have observed many other groups attempting to climb the mountain. Many try to emulate our strategies without committing to the level of resources that we provide.

Every step of the way, our head office staff will be there to answer your questions. If they can't, they will be happy to put you in touch with one of our Senior International Guides who will have first-hand knowledge of the climb.



▲ The Adventure Consultants Everest Sherpa team.



▲ Climbing a ladder in the Khumbu Icefall. Photo: Charley Mace



▲ Descending from the South Col after a successful summit. Photo: Charley Mace



▲ Ladder crevasse crossing on the way to Camp 2. Photo: Charley Mace

We recognise that no amount of finely tuned organisation will guarantee anyone the summit of Mount Everest. However, we do believe that our experience, combined with your enthusiasm and determination, will provide you with the best possible chance of standing on top of the world. Our track record on Everest is unmatched with 391 summits to date!

## HOW DO I CHOOSE BETWEEN THE VARIOUS EXPEDITION PROVIDERS?

It is very important to us that the climbers who join our team have expectations that are compatible with the programme we offer and the style of expedition we run. We don't want to merely 'fill our expedition' but instead we want a team made up of companionable people who are focused on reaching the summit in good style with the highest level of support and safety standards, as can be provided by a guiding service on Mount Everest accompanied by the best standards of food and equipment that is attainable.

So, what is the difference between us and the rest? We could make a lot of claims about how much better we are than the rest, but it is our clients who are the best judge. We are happy to put you in touch with some of

our past clients who are so impressed that they have offered testimonials, so please contact us for their contact details.

## WHICH ROUTE? NORTH OR SOUTH?

The South Col route from Nepal offers the best chance of success for most climbers. High royalty fees by the Nepalese government have created a large disparity between the costs of Everest expeditions from Nepal and Tibet.

We encourage you to research details about both sides of the mountain. People will argue the virtues of either of the two approaches. However, we maintain that the 'entire package' of the Nepal side makes it the preferred option: the delightful approach through the Sherpa homelands via the Khumbu Valley, enjoying Sherpa hospitality in modern lodges with good food and all the while, being impressed by the spectacular scenery of the incredible peaks of the lower Khumbu.

The Khumbu Icefall has a fearsome reputation and it is indeed a phenomenal route to climb. Yet it is an integral characteristic of the South side that it is a 'Climbers Route' that requires a mountaineer to be well skilled in the use of crampons and an ice axe. The Western Cwm is renowned for its phenomenal views





▲ Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse and the Khumbu Glacier with Everest Base Camp at its edge. Photo: Suze Kelly

of Lhotse, Nuptse, Pumori and Cho Oyu, and our Camp 2 is situated directly beneath the imposing black hulk of the notorious Southwest Face. As one climbs higher up the route to South Col, the views become even more outstanding with incredible vistas along the Himalayan chain and out towards the lowlands of Nepal. We ascend 900m/3,000ft from the South Col on summit day via moderate snow slopes with the occasional rock step to climb over. As we approach the South Summit, the dawn breaks to reveal astounding views from Kanchenjunga in the East to Shishapangma off to the West, with all the peaks of the Khumbu well below us. The traverse along the summit ridge is exposed and exciting. When we make our way up the Hillary Step, we can look 2,400m/7,900ft straight down onto our Camp 2 in the Western Cwm and 3,000m/9,800ft down the opposite side of the ridge into Tibet! The summit itself provides ample space for the obligatory summit photo and is a time to reflect on the journey thus far. For many, it is one of the most poignant moments of a lifetime.

After the summit we descend via the same route, losing height quickly and generally we arrive back at the South Col some 3–4 hours after leaving the summit. On the north side, climbers must do a long traverse and it is this feature where climbers cannot lose elevation quickly that can cause the demise of tired climbers, especially those who have run out of oxygen.

We only climb on Everest during the spring season because the weather becomes progressively warmer and the days longer. Winter winds have already scoured away much of the snow, which significantly reduces the snow avalanche hazard as well. Contrast this with the autumn; typically, as the expedition goes on, the days get shorter and colder with more snowfall. Consequently, very few expeditions are undertaken in the fall and those that do have quite a low percentage chance of success.

By the time you first arrive at Base Camp, a route will already be established with ropes and ladders through to Camp 1. Our strong Sherpa team will be busily involved in ferrying loads of equipment up the mountain. After a few days acclimatisation at Base Camp, you will climb through the icefall to Camp 1 and rest there for a day. The following day you will continue up the mellower slopes of the Western Cwm to Camp 2 to rest and acclimatise for several more days. A day-climb up the Lhotse Face towards Camp 3 will complete this first foray before returning to Base Camp. During this time, the guides and Sherpa climbers will be establishing the higher camps and stocking these with bottled oxygen for the summit climb.

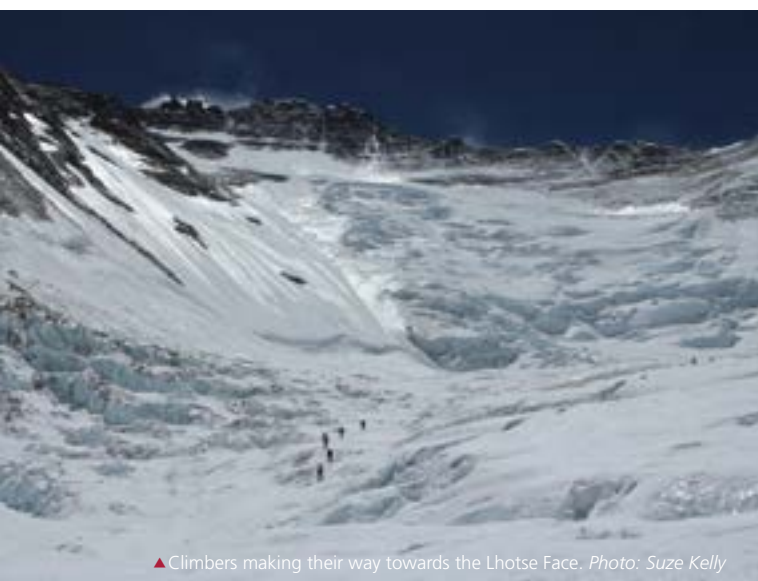
The second trip on to the mountain will involve either 'tagging' or sleeping one night at Camp 3 for



acclimatisation, before returning to Base Camp for a rest period. In a perfect scenario, weather and health would remain constant, and these two trips up the mountain would take around 3 weeks. In reality, factors such as weather can add several days to the acclimatisation process.

The most likely time for our summit climb will be 15–25 May. Our previous summit dates have been:

10 May 1990	19 May 2009
12 May 1992	22 May 2010
10 May 1993	11,13,19 May 2011
09 May 1994	19,25 May 2012



10 May 1996	19,20,21 May 2013
23 May 1997	19,20 May 2016
15 May 2000	21,22,27 May 2017
16 May 2002	16,19 May 2018
18 May 2003	23 May 2019
27 May 2004	23 May 2023
19 May 2006	23 May 2024
21 May 2007	18,24 May 2025
24 May 2008	

We will climb through the established camps with lightweight packs and climb to Camp 4 on the South Col. All climbers will be sleeping on bottled oxygen before setting out for the summit, carrying only very lightweight Russian oxygen bottles and using Summit oxygen masks. Sherpas and Western guides will accompany all members during the summit climb.

## PREREQUISITE EXPERIENCE

There is no definite measure for assessing the required skill level to climb Mount Everest, so we do like 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 five 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 and various Mexican volcanoes as training for Everest.

They will be familiar with crevasse rescue and glacier travel techniques and have a good overall standard of fitness. There will ideally be a broad set of climbing skills from basic rock climbing to advanced cramponing on snow and ice, and strong rope skills such as rappelling and rope ascending.

Age itself is no barrier. To date, we have succeeded on Mount Everest with members aged from 20 to 66 years of age. 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 still have to physically put one foot in front of the other to make it to the top and back.

We recommend that prospective members undertake another expedition with us before attempting Mount Everest. Your ability to reach Everest's summit may be dictated by your understanding of how your body responds to very high altitude and ascending other less demanding peaks at high altitude will increase your confidence and enhance your judgement during summit day on Everest. For example, Cho Oyu from Tibet is an excellent venue to learn about the problems of extreme high altitude, without the time or financial commitment that Everest requires.





▲ Climber negotiating ice blocks in the Khumbu Icefall. Photo: Guy Cotter

## TEAM SIZE

The team will have a maximum size of 3 guides and 12 members.

The Base Camp will be staffed by a medical doctor, Base Camp manager and Sherpa kitchen crew, usually totalling 7–10 people depending on group size.

A team of between fifteen and twenty Climbing Sherpas will carry loads and support the summit climb. Adventure Consultants have a ratio of at least one Sherpa for each team member or guide per person on summit day.

Sherpa cooks will occupy Camp 2 in the Western Cwm for the duration of the expedition. Their role is not only to provide us with tasty meals but also to maintain the integrity of Camp 2 during inclement weather. Often our assistant cook will trek down to meet us en route from Camp 1 with tea or juice!

## ITINERARY

Following is an ideal itinerary for our Everest Expedition:

7 April	Arrive Kathmandu, Nepal
8 April	Kathmandu preparations
9 April	Fly to Lukla
10–18 April	Trek to Base Camp
19 April–2 May	Establish camps and acclimatise
3–10 May	Rest Period
11–24 May	Summit Climb Period
25 May	Clean up
26–28 May	Trek to Lukla
29 May	Fly from Lukla back to Kathmandu
30 May	Depart Kathmandu

Please arrive into Kathmandu by mid-afternoon of April 7 as we have our first team briefing that very evening. Our permit for climbing Mount Everest allows us to stay on the mountain into June. We strongly suggest that you keep your homeward flight open dated and flexible so that we can extend into the latter part of May for a summit attempt if need be. We have May 30 as the probable finish date for departing from Kathmandu.

## OXYGEN

AC provides a high flow oxygen package for all team members included in the expedition fee.

Many have found this critical to their success on Everest and we have seen our summit rate increase dramatically with its use. The response from our team members has also been phenomenally positive. Climbers have reported having better energy levels, a better appetite, more warmth, a higher degree of strength and greater enjoyment on summit day.



▲ Adventure Consultants Everest Base Camp. Photo: Guy Cotter



▲ Oxygen increases your chance of summit day success. Photo: Charley Mace

We also ensure we have enough oxygen to wait a day at the South Col and Camp 4, before attempting the summit. Our experiences show that for those who really want to maximise their chance of success, then these high oxygen flow rates allow the best option for ensuring you only need to attempt Mount Everest one time!

## FAST TRACK

We are also able to offer a 'Fast Track' programme for climbers who wish to maximise their time and able to pre-acclimatise prior to arriving in Nepal with a system such as Hypoxico.

Under this programme you will fly directly from Kathmandu to Pheriche. From Pheriche, we will undertake an acclimatization climb of Lobuche (6,119m/20,075ft) before continuing onto Everest Base Camp on foot, where we will convene with the main team for their second rotation on the mountain.

The perfect option for those on a limited timeframe, please see our webpage at <https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/seven-summits/everest-fast-track> for further details. The minimum team size for this option is two.

## OTHER SERVICES

Another service we now include in the expedition price is 'Additional Sherpa Support'. This enables climbers to forego the carrying of heavy packs, which is often very debilitating at high altitude. For some climbers, the long climb with a pack up to the top camp at South Col can leave them too exhausted for summit day and hence this service greatly enhances your summit opportunity.

We are also able to offer Privately Guided Expeditions where you have the services of a top AC Western Guide, as well as your own Sherpa support team to work exclusively with you on the expedition to ensure your needs are best met. AC has been fortunate to work with many privately guided groups over the years with exceptional results.

You may also like to talk to us about other options such as an Everest Traverse South-North, personal communication systems, helicopter upgrade or the provision of a personal tent on the mountain.

For more information on these additional services, please contact our office for details.





▲ Climbing the Yellow Band on the Lhotse Face. Photo: Guy Cotter

## YOUR HEALTH

AC provides a dedicated doctor at Base Camp for the whole team as standard. Most other teams use a generic medical provider, whilst our doctor is there primarily for you and your team mates. The doctor will monitor your overall health throughout the expedition and our medical equipment and provisions are there to provide for your health care needs.

Ample resources will be on call to support every climber, not just the first team or fittest members. Remember, this is an expedition led by guides who have already climbed Everest and whose job it is to look after your interests. This should not be confused with a 'professionally led' expedition, where often you may be buying a place in a team with fewer support services and led by climbers who are attempting the summit primarily for themselves. There are also 'Sherpa led' expeditions where you are placed in the hands of a Sherpa for the climb. This can seem alluring, especially when some expedition operators will encourage you to join so they can fill their available spaces, but all too often these are expeditions with over 20 members! The Sherpas are not trained in medical techniques and are often reluctant to act effectively in situations requiring urgency. This is where the skills and experience of your Western Guide become invaluable. Too often expedition members find out the deficiencies of their guides/operators when things begin to go wrong and that is usually too late.

## VISAS

A 90-day single entry visa is required for this expedition and we recommend you apply for one online prior to your departure. The cost is US\$125 which is paid upon arrival at Kathmandu airport. Your Expedition Liaison will provide information on how to apply.

Once in Kathmandu, the expedition's agent will provide an expedition permit for the climb.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The expedition will be equipped with portable Thuraya satellite phone systems for the duration of the expedition in order to provide reliable email and voice communication globally for business, media or personal use. Limited satellite phone time can be purchased at the rate of US\$3.00 per minute. Our broadband satellite Wi-Fi connectivity will be available once the expedition is underway and is included in the expedition fee on the basis of a fair use policy. Please contact our office for details.



## EQUIPMENT & PRE-TRIP SUPPORT

We provide comprehensive pre-trip support once you book onto our expedition. You will be assigned an Expedition Liaison to assist with your pre-trip planning and we provide access to our travel app where you will find an array of extensive travel advice, from visa details to insurance and training tips.

A detailed equipment list will also be provided along with notes and recommendations on the best gear to purchase. Our equipment specialists are on-hand to assist with your equipment related questions.

## 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 the expedition doctor and Expedition Leader and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time. 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 climbing and trekking permits and a copy of their passport biodata page.

## THE EXPEDITION FEE

The cost of the expedition, ex Kathmandu, is US\$83,000\*.

*\*Price may change due to an expected rise in permit fees. Book before June 30, 2025 to lock in 2025 pricing.*

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- 1:4 Western Guide ratio and 1:1 Sherpa to climber ratio on summit day
- Bottled oxygen
- Personal equipment carried on the mountain
- Nepalese government royalty fees
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All climbing and trekking permits
- Helicopter air transport within Nepal
- All team equipment
- All expedition staff including Sherpa support





▲ Looking back towards the Hillary Step and South Summit. Photo: Rob Smith

- All food whilst away from Kathmandu
- All supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit
- Medical services from our Expedition Doctor
- Base Camp Wi-Fi (fair-use policy applies) and satellite phone facilities
- Internet dispatch page that is updated daily by guides and Base Camp staff, and semi-hourly on summit day
- dZi Foundation support for their “revitalize a village” programme—likely to include support for a Nepalese child’s education for a year.

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

- Air travel to and from Nepal
- Hotel accommodation and meals in Kathmandu
- Nepalese airport entry visas
- Extras on the trek in/out such bottled drinks, showers and laundry
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal Insurance/Trip Cancellation Insurance/ Medical Evacuation Insurance
- Actual satellite phone calls
- Gratuities for guides and Sherpa staff.

## PAYMENT DETAILS

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.



Everest on top of the world. Photo: Dean Staples

## DEPOSIT

A non-refundable deposit of US\$15,000 is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

## BALANCE

The balance of US\$68,000 is payable in two instalments of US\$34,000.

The first on 20 October 2025 and the second on 20 January 2026.

## CANCELLATION & REFUND POLICY

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

- a) Prior to 20 January 2026, then on the basis of a 50% refund of the 20 October 2025 balance payment.
- b) After 20 January 2026 but before departure to the mountain from Kathmandu then on the basis of no refund of any monies paid.

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 Everest Expedition, please complete our online booking form and forward your deposit payment at <https://adventureconsultants.com/expeditions/seven-summits/everest#DepartureBookingBlock>.

## CONTACT US

If you require more information or assistance planning your trip, please contact us at:

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▲ View of Everest from Lhotse. Photo: Guy Cotter



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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