

## Mera Peak - Expedition Information Pack

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### Fitness & Training:

We have classified Mera Peak as a level 7 expedition, for more information about our levels system [click here](#). Mera Peak (6,476m) is extremely tough. Classified as a trekking peak, it involves no technical mountaineering however it is far from easy. The complexities of proper acclimatisation, high winds, extreme cold and a long summit day make Mera Peak a formidable challenge. Although it is not essential, we recommend that all participants should have previous experience at high altitude (>5000m). Participants should have a high level of fitness. It is your responsibility to contact us if you have any concerns regarding your level of fitness, health or ability to complete the trek. We strongly recommend that you read the expedition itinerary in full before signing up to this challenge.

**Hillwalking:** Everybody is different, so we cannot recommend a specific pre-expedition fitness programme. However please remember the fitter you are the more you will enjoy the expedition. We would recommend hiking at least twice per month in preparation for this expedition. In the three months prior to departure try to include two long training hikes (6-8 hours at a comfortable, steady pace) on consecutive days with an 8kg rucksack. You or someone in your party should have walking experience and the necessary navigational skills whenever you go out on the hills.

Remember; getting time on your feet is more important than completing hikes quickly! This is about building stamina and endurance.

**In the Gym:** Although hillwalking is best, you should also aim to complete at least three cardio training sessions per week. The type of training is not important you just need to elevate your heart rate for 45 minutes to an hour. Typical sessions might be running, cycling, swimming, spin classes, circuit training, kettlebells or HIIT classes.

If you have low muscle mass in your legs, we suggest that you add strength training to your schedule. Developing muscle mass will protect your joints and this is very important especially on long descents.

If you have any old injuries, weak joints, soft tissue injuries or any other issues which affect your mobility we suggest you address these issues now. It goes without saying that if you are experiencing discomfort or pain during short training sessions the problem has the potential to become more serious when exercising for long durations on continuous days. Please visit your physiotherapist in an effort to address the issue and strengthen the weakened area.

Remember; it doesn't matter what kind of training you do – find something that you enjoy and you will stick with it!

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### Training Weekends:


We hold training weekends prior to all expeditions, where you will meet an Earth's Edge expedition leader and your fellow adventurers! An experienced expedition leader will give a full expedition brief, lead two training hikes and offer expert advice on all aspects of the expedition including training, equipment, weather, and more. These events are also a lot of fun and they take place in Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, which is a stunning location! When you book an expedition with Earth's Edge an account is generated for you on our website. You need to log on to your account to register for your training weekend.

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**Equipment:**

You are responsible for having the necessary personal equipment you need for this trek. If you are buying any new equipment for this expedition such as a rucksack, boots, base layers etc., be sure to use it before departure. All gear should be well broken in to avoid blisters and chafing! When you sign up to an Earth's Edge expedition you are entitled to a loyalty card with our equipment partner; Great Outdoors. Great Outdoors has an excellent range of expedition equipment, very knowledgeable staff and is 100% Irish owned. The loyalty card entitles you to a 15% discount until the day your expedition departs and 10% discount thereafter. To apply for a loyalty card please forward your confirmation email and your postal address to [web@greatoutdoors.ie](mailto:web@greatoutdoors.ie) and they will send you a loyalty card. You can also take a copy of the email into their George's Street Store and they will generate a loyalty card for you while you wait. Allow 10 minutes for this.

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EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST	
Synthetic mountaineering boots. (This item may be available to rent upon request.) -Examples of suitable boots; La Sportiva G2SM, Scarpa Phantom 6000 or similar. -Examples of unsuitable boots; La Sportiva Nepal Extreme, Scarpa Mont Blanc, Meindl Island Pro or similar.	
Gaiters if your boots do not have a built-in gaiter. Rental boots typically do not come with built-in gaiters.	
12 point crampons (If you don't have crampons we will provide them for you).	
Walking ice axe (60 – 70cm): The ideal length of the ice axe depends on your height. Under 1.7m use 60cm, Between 1.7 & 1.9m use 65cm and over 1.9m use a 70cm tool. (If you don't have an ice axe we will provide one for you).	
Sling (approx size 120cm x 10mm) x 2. (If you don't have slings, we will provide them for you.)	
Climbing harness & two screw gate carabiners. (If you do not have a climbing harness & two screw gate carabiners we will provide them for you.)	
Trekking boots. If you are buying new boots for this trip please ensure they are well broken in before departure. Few things will make you more miserable during the trek than blisters.	
Runners or sandals (to wear in transit & at lower altitude when not trekking).	
Mid-weight hiking socks x 3. At least three pairs, some people choose to bring a pair of socks for each day of trekking.	
Heavyweight hiking socks x 2.	
Lightweight liner socks (for summit night).	
Underwear, we recommend you bring enough so you are comfortable at all times. Synthetic rather than cotton underwear is advisable	
Shorts x 1.	
Lightweight trousers x 1.	
Synthetic/wool/silk long johns x 2 (for night time use and summit night).	
Waterproof trousers (N.B. make sure the trousers have zips to the knee at least).	
Long sleeve base layer x 2 (silk, wool, or synthetic).	
Short sleeve base layer x 2 (as above).	
Mid weight fleece, down or soft shell jackets x 2.	
A down jacket. It must be heavy weight with a hood (at least 900 grams in weight).	
Waterproof jacket.	
Waterproof poncho.	
A fleece hat to wear in the mornings and evenings.	
A buff.	
Category 3 or 4 sunglasses.	
Category 3 or 4 ski goggles.	
A sun hat with a wide brim to cover the face and neck.	
A pair of lightweight wool or synthetic liner gloves.	
A pair of heavy mountaineering gloves.	
A pair of heavy down mitts.	
Walking poles.	

Rucksack: This is a small rucksack (35 to 45 litres) to carry the equipment you will need while trekking such as your camera, spare jacket, waterproof jacket, water bottle and packed lunch.	
Duffel bag (100-150 litres) to carry your equipment while trekking. We recommend you use something strong and sturdy as this bag will be carried by the support team.	
Dry bags. To organise and water proof your equipment inside your bags.	
Water bottles: Three wide mouth 1 litre water bottles. If you wish to bring a water bladder to use at lower elevations you can but it will not work at high altitude so you need bottles.	
Water bottle insulators for each of your bottles.	
A 500ml thermos flask.	
A warm sleeping bag (comfort rating of -20°C or lower).	
A sleeping bag liner (This helps to keep your sleeping bag clean and adds an extra season).	
Spare laces.	
Suncream at least factor 30.	
SPF lip balm.	
Insect repellent, deet based products are best.	
Hand sanitizer. You need to have enough supplies for the duration of your expedition.	
Toiletries, N.B as little as possible, if you are travelling with friends try to share toiletries. * Wet wipes and a nail brush are very useful.	
Toilet roll.	
Personal first aid kit. You need to have enough supplies for the duration of your expedition. We recommend you carry the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Rehydration salts</li> <li>● Plasters</li> <li>● Compeed</li> <li>● Paracetamol</li> <li>● Ibuprofen</li> <li>● Buscopan</li> <li>● Throat lozenges</li> <li>● Nasal spray</li> <li>● Decongestant such as sudafed</li> <li>● Antibiotics suitable to treat traveller's diarrhoea <i>Azithromycin or something with similar coverage would be the most suitable antibiotic, please consult your doctor for up-to-date advice. The expedition medic will have a full medical kit to deal with issues of a more serious nature.</i></li> </ul>	
Personal medication. Please carry any medication you are currently taking on a regular basis such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Asthma inhalers</li> <li>● Nutritional supplements</li> <li>● Blood pressure tablets</li> </ul> If you suffer or have suffered from any skin condition, bring appropriate creams such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Canesten</li> <li>● Zovirax</li> <li>● Anusol</li> <li>● Hydrocortisone 1%</li> </ul>	
Small towel for washing.	
Personal snacks; although sufficient food and snacks are supplied throughout the trek you should consider bringing your own supply of high energy snacks for the expedition. Bring snacks you enjoy eating such as sweets, energy bars & chocolate.	
Headtorch with spare batteries.	
A spare set of clothes to wear after you finish the expedition.	
A photocopy of your travel insurance and passport.	
Vaccination booklet (if required).	
<b>OPTIONAL ITEMS</b>	
Diamox (Tablet form not capsules); if you have decided to take it. For more information about Diamox its uses and side effects please refer to the information on AMS and Diamox in this document.	
We ensure that all drinking water provided to you is treated correctly but you may still wish to bring your own personal supply of tablets/drops for water purification such as iodine or chlorine. Powdered	

fruit juice can be used to disguise the taste of the purification.	
Power adaptor – Plug <a href="#">type C</a> is used in Nepal	
Ear plugs.	
For glasses/contact wearers we advise bringing both glasses & contact lenses. Daily disposable lenses rather than monthlies are highly recommended.	
A camera.	
A book and/or writing paper.	
Hand warmer sachets.	

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### Flights:

For those that book a flight inclusive package with us, we will send the flight details via e-mail approximately two months prior to departure. We will also include information on the baggage allowance and packing instructions. For those that book a land only package please consult us prior to booking your flights. It is important you are on time for the trek briefing on the first day.

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### Description & Detailed Itinerary:

We are the only company in the world who have an International guide and doctor on our Mera Peak (6,476m) expeditions while keeping group sizes sustainably small. Having an expedition leader and doctor on all our Mera Peak treks allows us to deliver an unrivalled level of safety and service for each and every one of our clients. Having smaller group sizes allows us to minimise our environmental impact and foster a stronger team dynamic.

Mera Peak (6,476m) is well known as the highest trekking peak in Nepal. This impressive mountain is located on the edge of the famous Khumbu region which is steeped in mountaineering history. Mera Peak was first climbed in 1953 by Jimmy Roberts as part of the extensive exploration which took place in the region at the time.

We like to take the less travelled route to Mera Peak Base Camp. After an exciting flight from Kathmandu to Lukla, we head south to the remote region of the Hinku Valley. We trek through Pangkongma and Nashing Dingma villages getting to enjoy the sites and sounds of traditional Nepalese life. This route brings us around, rather than over the Zatrwa La Pass (4,630m). Proper acclimatisation is a key factor in a successful summit attempt on Mera Peak and adapting this route plays a key role in ensuring the team is properly acclimatised before pushing for higher elevations. We spend 11 days trekking to Base Camp, visiting ancient monasteries along the way and allowing for two rest and acclimatisation days to ensure we arrive fresh and ready to take on the challenge ahead.

Once we arrive at Mera Peak it is a technically straightforward mountain to climb. The main challenges being proper acclimatisation, weather and snow conditions. Our itinerary includes spare summit days to facilitate these adverse conditions and ensure we can make our push for the summit in the best possible weather window. Poor snow conditions can make the summit day very challenging but the view from the summit is one of the best in all the Himalayas. On a clear day we will be able to see hundreds of huge peaks; including five of the world's six highest peaks, Everest (8,848m), Lhotse (8,516m), Cho You (8,201m), Makalu (8,481m) and Kangchenjunga (8,586m).

Mera Peak is ideal for those with a good level of fitness and a keen sense of adventure! Previous experience on mountains above 5,000m is essential.

### Day 1: Depart Dublin.

Depart Dublin for Kathmandu. Overnight flight.

### Day 2: Arrive in Kathmandu

Arrive in Kathmandu. On arrival, explore Kathmandu or relax in the hotel. There will be a full expedition briefing given by the expedition leader in the afternoon. Overnight hotel.

### Day 3: Transfer to Ramechhap 5 hrs; Fly Ramechhap to Lukla, 35 minutes; Trek Lukla to Poyan, 3 hrs

Early morning transfer to Ramechhap. From Ramechhap we take the exciting flight from Ramechhap to Lukla. The views from the 14-seater planes are amazing. From Lukla we head in the opposite direction to those going up the Everest trail, through thick forest in a southerly direction. We handrail the Dudh Kosi river flowing fast 1,000m below us in a deep canyon. We descend 600m to our lunch spot at the Handi Khola River and then ascend 600m to reach Poyan village. Overnight tea house. Altitude 2,730m.

### Day 4: Poyan to Panggom, 8 hrs.

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We start with a gentle downhill which is followed by an hour long ascent to reach a shoulder which offers stunning views of the surrounding landscape. From the shoulder we have a long descent on a rough trail to reach Kharte for lunch. From Kharte we descend for another short while and then ascend for three hours to reach Panggom. A visit to the monastery, which is perched high above the village is on the cards for anyone who still has power in their legs! Overnight tea house. Altitude 2,846m.

**Day 5: Panggom to Najingdingma, 8 hrs**

We start the day with an hour long ascent to reach the Narkung La pass (3,180m) which offers our first views of Mera Peak, if the weather is clear. From the pass we descend 1,100m over three hours to reach the Hinku Hola river for lunch. After crossing the river on a suspension bridge, we climb for three hours to reach our tea house in Najingdingma. Overnight tea house. Altitude 2,600m.

**Day 6: Najingdingma to Chalemkharka, 6 hrs.**

The trail starts out flat as we pass through the meadows in Najingdingma. Soon we ascend a steep path to reach the tree covered ridge line above the village. Once on the ridge we follow it all the way to Chalemkharka. Despite the 1,000 metres in elevation gain it is not a very tough day and the views from the ridge of the surrounding landscape are fantastic. Overnight tea house. Altitude 3,600m.

**Day 7: Rest Day Chalemkharka.**

After a late start we go on an hour long acclimatisation hike gaining over 200 metres above the tea house. After our hike the day is spent relaxing, washing and eating. There is also plenty of time for naps and reading to rest up the body in preparation for the next four days of hiking into Khare! Overnight tea house.

**Day 8: Chalemkharka to Kholakharka via the Kongke Luchho La pass (4,450m), 7 hrs.**

Most of the day is spent climbing to the Kongke Luchho La pass which takes five to six hours. The trail is both steep and gentle at different stages but the underfoot conditions are good. The views from the pass including Kangchenjunga (8,586m), Makalu (8,485m) and Cho Oyu (8,188m) the world's 3rd, 5th & 6th highest mountains are incredible. After the pass we descend for one hour to reach the tea house in Kholakharka. Altitude 4,200m.

**Day 9: Kholakharka to Khote, 6 hrs.**

From Kholakharka we ascend for almost an hour climbing out of a stunning natural bowl. From there we descend all the way to the Hinku Khola river. Once we reach the river it takes us just over an hour to reach our tea house in Khare. Altitude 3,582m

**Day 10: Khote to Tangnag, 5 hrs.**

We enjoy an easier day today as we follow the Hinku Khola river to Tangnag. Although we ascend 700 metres the terrain is very gradual and we enjoy great views of Mera Peak. We stop to visit the Lungsumgpa Gompa, a 200 year old Buddhist monastery. From there we continue on to Tangnag, a summer grazing area with some basic shops and lodges. Overnight tea house. Altitude 4,279m.

**Day 11: Tangnag to Khare, 3hrs**

From Tangnag the trail follows a large lateral moraine which offers stunning views of the surrounding peaks. We get good views of the route on the glacier between base camp and high camp which heightens the excitement about the days ahead. The last 45 minutes up to Khare are quite steep but a warm tea house and bucket showers await us! Overnight tea house. Altitude 4,900m.

**Day 12: Rest Day Khare.**

After a very relaxed morning we go for an acclimatisation hike along a ridge above Khare ascending 300 meters in roughly 90 minutes. We return for lunch and then spend the afternoon relaxing and packing for the upper mountain. Overnight tea house

**Day 13: Khare to Base Camp, 2hrs**

We have a relaxed morning in Khare, staying in the tea house until the early afternoon. The trek to base camp is over mixed terrain with a couple of sections through old rock fall. The camp is located on a huge rock band beside the Mera glacier. Altitude 5,200m

**Day 14: Base Camp to High Camp, 6hrs.**



From base camp we walk for 5 minutes to reach the glacier and put on crampons. In the first hour there are two steeper sections and after that it's a gradual pull all the way to high camp. On a clear day the views of the higher Himalaya are second to none. High camp on Mera peak is perched precariously on the edge of a cliff with great views of Chamlang (7,321m) and Kangchenjunga (8,586m) in the distance. Overnight camp. Altitude 5,800m.

**Day 15: Summit Day! 12-14 hrs.**

We rise early and begin the ascent on the glacier in darkness. The terrain is not that steep but never relents all the way to the summit. As the sun comes up the giant peaks come into view behind us. None of the terrain can be described as technical, we do cross a couple of crevasses but they are very obvious and easy to navigate. The last 50 meters to reach the summit are a little steeper. Depending on conditions it's either fine to walk up or sometimes there is a fixed line we can use. The views from the summit including Everest, Lhotse, Cho Oyu, Makalu and Kangchenjunga are simply majestic. After taking as much time as the weather allows we descend back through high camp for a quick snack and then on to the tea house in Khare for the night. At this lower elevation a good night's sleep is much more achievable. Overnight tea house. Altitude 4,900m.

**Day 16 & 17: Spare Summit Days.**

Spare days to allow for bad weather. In the event that we summit Mera Peak on Day 15 we will begin the descent back to Lukla on Day 16.

**Day 18: Khare to Kothe, 6 hrs**

We retrace our steps all the way back to the oxygen rich air in Kothe. Overnight tea house. Altitude 3,582m.

**Day 19: Kothe to Thuli Kharka, 8 hrs.**

From Kothe we descend along the Hinku Khola river, with Mera peak standing out behind us. After an hour we start to climb up away from the river and reach our lunch spot at Tashing Ongna. After lunch we climb for another three hours to reach Thuli Kharka. Overnight tea house. Altitude 4,300m.

**Day 20: Thuli Kharka to Lukla via the Zatrwa La Pass, 8 hrs**

From Thuli Kharka we climb steadily for two hours to reach the Zatrwa La Pass (4,600m). It's a tough climb but the views of the Lukla Valley, Cho Oyu, Kongde Peak and Kusum Khangru are breathtaking. From the pass we descend to Chutang and on to Lukla village. In the evening we enjoy our last dinner in the tea house with all the Sherpas and say our goodbyes. Overnight tea house. Altitude 2,850m.

**Day 21: Fly Lukla to Ramechhap, transfer to Kathmandu.**

We fly back to Ramechhap in the morning and transfer back to Kathmandu where we check into our hotel. We then have some free time for resting at the hotel or exploring the surrounding area. In the evening, we enjoy a celebratory meal in one of Kathmandu's best restaurants. Overnight hotel.

**Day 22: Kathmandu to Dublin.**

Enjoy a free morning in Kathmandu for some exploration and shopping. In the evening, we depart for Dublin. Overnight flight.

**Day 23: Arrive in Dublin.**

Arrive back in Dublin in the morning. Expedition ends.

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<b>Expedition Costs:</b>	<b>Euro</b>	<b>Sterling</b>	<b>US Dollar</b>
Total costs excluding international flights. (Land only)	€4,799	£4,249	\$5,182
Total costs including international flights from Dublin.	€6,099	-	-

A deposit of €399/£399/\$399 is taken at the time of booking, a part payment of €1,000/£1000/\$1000 is due six months prior to departure and the final balance is due three months prior to departure. Prices in US Dollar and Sterling were accurate at the time of writing. For up to date prices based on today's exchange rate please visit our website.

**Expedition Costs Include:**

- International flights from Dublin to Kathmandu return economy class.

- Internal flights in Nepal.
- Experienced expedition leader.
- Experienced expedition doctor.
- Training Weekend.
- Earth's Edge guides and a full support team.
- All accommodation based on twin sharing in hotels in Kathmandu, tea houses on the trail and camping at higher elevations.
- All meals and drinking water are included except in Kathmandu and Ramechhap where accommodation is based on B&B.
- A celebratory dinner at the end of the expedition.
- All transport throughout the expedition.
- All group gear consisting of first aid kits, mountaineering equipment, cooking equipment etc.
- An Earth's Edge bandana for all participants.

#### **Expedition Costs Exclude:**

- Personal travel insurance.
- Medical vaccinations.
- Tourist visas.
- Personal equipment.
- Personal spending and tips.
- Expenses of a personal nature like laundry, phone calls, alcohol, excess baggage charges and any costs arising out of unforeseen circumstances such as bad weather, landslides, road conditions and any other circumstances beyond our control.

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#### **Spending Money & Tips:**

We recommend that you bring €400 in cash and a debit/credit card with you to Nepal. There are ATMs throughout Kathmandu where you can withdraw cash using your card. If you intend on using your card on the trek, we recommend notifying your bank that you will be abroad and possibly using your card. On the trek, it is best to have some Rupees as it is difficult to get change for foreign currency when buying small items. It is possible to convert US Dollars to Nepalese Rupees in or near our Kathmandu hotel. Our recommended tip for Mera Peak is €200, please give your tip to the Earth's Edge Expedition Leader and they will distribute the tip among all of our Earth's Edge team in Nepal. The recommended spending amount above includes the tip for the Earth's Edge Team.

In the unlikely event that flights to or from Lukla are cancelled due to inclement weather, additional spending money may be required. The domestic airline will aim to get us on the next available flight when weather conditions are favourable, either later the same day or on one of the following days. We visit this region when the weather is most favourable but please be aware there can be bad weather during the trekking season from time to time. In some cases, the weather may be too bad for planes to fly but helicopters can operate, as they can fly in less favourable conditions. Should it be required, the cost of helicopter hire must be covered by you as changes due to weather are outside the control of Earth's Edge and as per our booking conditions, we don't cover costs associated with changes outside our control (Force Majeure). The cost of helicopter hire is not fixed but should cost in the region of \$80 - \$300 per person per flight.

Whilst on the trail, wifi and hot showers are available in some tea houses at a cost of approx US\$5 each. Drinking water is provided by Earth's Edge on each day of the trek, this water is filtered and treated with purification tablets. If you wish to change the flavour of the water it is recommended to use electrolyte tablets/sachets or add concentrated flavour drink.

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#### **Weather:**

Temperatures on the expedition may vary from 0 to 30 degrees during the day and -30 to 10 degrees at night. It's best to be prepared for lower temperatures due to wind chill or the weather turning bad. Usually the days are hot and the nights are cold. You should be ready for inclement weather at all times as the weather can change rather quickly at high altitude. For accurate weather information please review these two websites;

Mountain Forecasts: [www.mountain-forecast.com](http://www.mountain-forecast.com)

Norwegian Meteorological Institute: [www.yr.no](http://www.yr.no)

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### **Altitude Considerations:**

The human body is quite capable of adapting to a very wide range of barometric pressures and there is plenty of oxygen even at the highest point of this expedition. However, the process of adaptation or acclimatisation does take time and the most important rule is to gain height slowly. Keeping well hydrated is also a huge factor in avoiding AMS (Acute Mountain Sickness). You will be encouraged to drink at least three litres of water per day. Five litres per day is ideal. You should eat well, snack regularly between meals and do not under any circumstances try to diet on this expedition. This will keep your energy levels high throughout the expedition. Although frustrating at times, remember to keep your walking pace slow and steady which will in turn have the same effect on your heart rate. It is those who can set and maintain the correct pace on the approach days that are strongest at higher elevations.

AMS is brought on by lower oxygen levels at higher altitudes. Symptoms include breathlessness, headache, poor sleep, nausea & dizziness. AMS is treated simply by not ascending to higher elevations or in more severe cases descending to lower elevations, where in most cases the symptoms are quickly relieved. This itinerary has been designed to minimise the chances of you experiencing altitude sickness. Our staff are highly experienced in these matters and will be able to give you good advice to help minimise any temporary discomfort that you might experience. Please note it is common for most people to experience mild headaches at higher elevations. Always keep your guide informed on how you are feeling.

At high altitude, and especially in dry conditions, it is essential you protect your airway. This means walking with a bandana covering your mouth and nose, often in hot weather, or when you are breathing heavily. Getting used to covering your airway while walking takes some time, so you should practice prior to departure.

Diamox (Acetazolamide) is a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor. In simple terms Diamox causes the kidneys to excrete more bicarbonate which causes the blood to become more acidic. Acidifying the blood stimulates ventilation, which increases the amount of oxygen in the blood which reduces the chances of getting AMS. We recommend all participants especially those who have had AMS in the past to take Diamox prophylactically (as a preventative) on this expedition, starting on the first day of trekking. Current guidelines suggest 125 mg twice per day (in tablet form not capsules). You should try taking Diamox for two days at some stage prior to departing Ireland to ensure you don't suffer any of the more serious side effects. Numbness and tingling fingers and toes are common but in some cases users can suffer from nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea. If you experience any of the latter three side-effects we would advise against using Diamox. Always consult and follow the advice of your own doctor about Diamox or any other medication.

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### **Your Medical History:**

When you book an expedition with Earth's Edge an account is generated for you on our website. You will receive login details for your account via email at the time of booking. You need to log on to your account and complete your medical declaration. Once you login, click on required information to access your medical declaration. It is for your own safety that we require you to disclose as much detail about your medical history as possible. The information you supply is treated with the strictest confidence. We will do our best to accommodate everyone on this expedition, but we do reserve the right to refuse participation if we feel your safety or that of the group may be compromised. All participants on Earth's Edge expeditions are required to have a consent form completed by their own doctor. We recommend you do this at the same time you see your doctor for travel vaccines (if required). The Doctor's Consent Form can be downloaded from your Earth's Edge account.

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### **Your Dietary Requirements:**

We will try our best to cater for those with dietary restrictions. If you have any dietary restrictions, please declare them when completing your medical declaration on your Earth's Edge account. You will receive login details for your account via email at the time of booking. You need to log on to your account and complete your medical declaration. Once you login, click on required information to access your medical declaration. We will organise for you to have a suitable meal on your flight where meals are supplied by the airline. It is not possible for us to source specialist gluten or dairy free products locally. We will endeavour to provide suitable alternative carbohydrates, for example potatoes or rice rather than bread. If you want to have specialist food like gluten free bread and pasta or lactose free milk you will need to bring them with you on the expedition.

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### **Vaccinations & Prophylaxis:**



We are not qualified to answer all your questions about travel health directly. We recommend consulting your GP or The Travel Health Clinic ([www.travelhealth.ie](http://www.travelhealth.ie)) for the most up-to-date medical advice. You will find Vaccination and Prophylaxis Advice for this destination on your Earth's Edge account.

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#### **Tourist Visa:**

At the time of writing, EU passport holders were able to obtain a tourist visa upon arrival in Nepal. The visa fee is approximately US \$50 payable in cash upon arrival. You must have at least two free pages in your passport and ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after you return to Ireland.

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#### **Travel Insurance:**

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient personal travel insurance for this expedition. Your policy must provide cover for; a) medical injury or sickness, b) trekking up to 7,000 metres, c) helicopter evacuation in an emergency situation, and d) repatriation to one's country of residence. You must declare any pre-existing medical conditions to your insurers and ensure you receive written confirmation that any pre-existing medical conditions are fully insured. We advise you to obtain travel insurance as soon as you book, that will cover you for unforeseeable circumstances such as illness or injury that might result in you not being able to take part in your expedition. We recommend Trailfinders for your travel insurance requirements as their policies cover a, b, c & d as above and include cancellation cover. To obtain travel insurance with Trailfinders go [to www.trailfinders.ie/insurance](http://www.trailfinders.ie/insurance) or call their travel insurance phone line +353 1 702 9102

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#### **Safety Standards:**

At Earth's Edge your safety is our priority. Your expedition leader is very experienced in the mountains and in international travel. All our expedition medics are qualified doctors with a keen interest in adventure travel and in expedition medicine. Each of our expeditions is supported by our Earth's Edge team of guides, cooks, drivers and muleteers/porters. We select our Earth's Edge team based on their qualifications, experience and references. Our expedition leaders and Earth's Edge team in each of our destinations are familiar with the locations of local medical services and hospitals. Our doctor will have an extensive medical kit with them but please carry a basic first aid kit yourself too (as detailed in the equipment list). Always listen to your expedition leader and follow their instructions.

We advise all participants to do their own research on local laws and customs before travelling to Nepal. Up to date travel advice can be found on the DFA website: <https://www.dfa.ie/travel/travel-advice/a-z-list-of-countries/nepal/>.

Poor personal hygiene resulting in gastroenteritis (Delhi Belly) is the most common cause of illness on expeditions. The good news is that it is easily avoided if you remember to always wash your hands and apply hand sanitizer after going to the toilet and before touching food. Always use water fit for drinking to brush your teeth. While using showers or washing your face, try not to ingest any water. We recommend people eat as healthily as possible and take a multivitamin supplement and probiotics for one month prior to departure and during the expedition. This will help you adjust to changes in your diet and keep you healthy throughout the expedition.

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#### **About Nepal:**

Area:	147,181 sq km
Population:	29,000,000 approx.
Official Languages:	Nepali
Religion:	Hinduism (80%), Buddhism (11%), Islam (4%), Kirat (4%), Christianity (0.5%) & Others: (0.5%).
Local Time:	GMT +5.45
Local Currency:	Nepali Rupee
Currency for Exchange:	EURO, GBP & USD
Where to Exchange:	Most major towns – your Expedition Leader can advise you on arrival. Worn or ripped Rupee notes may prove difficult to use, so beware of this when accepting notes.
ATMs:	Available in larger towns and cities
Credit Cards:	Accepted in larger outlets.

Up-to-date information concerning global exchange rates can be obtained at [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com).

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#### **Discounts**

If you have travelled with us before please visit our [return customer](#) page for details on what discount you are entitled to.

If you have a friend who wants to travel with us please visit our [refer a friend](#) page for details on our referral programme.

If you are booking as part of a group please visit our [group discounts](#) page for details on what discount you are entitled to.

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### **Why Choose Earth's Edge:**

We are the only company in the world who have an expedition leader and doctor on all expeditions while keeping group sizes sustainably small.

- A highly experienced expedition leader leads each of our expeditions. This ensures we consistently deliver professionally run expeditions. They will be there to offer you expert advice throughout your trip.
- An expedition doctor accompanies each expedition to provide industry leading medical support. Should you fall ill or have an injury they will be there to provide immediate medical care.

To read more about our safety standards please visit our [safety page](#).

- We keep group sizes small to minimise our environmental impact and foster a strong group dynamic. Our maximum group size on most expeditions is 16 and our average group size is 13. On more challenging peaks our maximum group size is 12 and our average is 8.

Responsible travel is at the core of what we do at Earth's Edge and has been since our inception in 2007. As a certified B Corp we are committed to using business as a force for good to support our communities both locally and worldwide as well as create more environmental awareness. Visit our [B Corp page](#) to learn more.

We organise a number of environmental programmes and community projects here in Ireland and internationally. Our projects include;

- A scholarship to train porters to become guides on Kilimanjaro.
- Each year we plant 8 trees in Nepal for each person who travels with us in partnership with [Eden Reforestation Projects](#).

To read more about our sustainability practises please visit our [responsible travel page](#).

- We are a 100% Irish owned small business. Our MD, James McManus, is involved in the daily running of the business and also leads three to five expeditions per year.
- We are a fully licensed and bonded company. As we are based in Ireland, we are licensed with the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) in Dublin, our licence number is 0711.
- Detailed risk assessment and management systems, including evacuation plans, are put in place prior to each expedition. Our Earth's Edge HQ team provide 24/7 phone support to each expedition.
- We run training weekends two months prior to each expedition, which includes a full expedition brief, two training hikes and expert advice from an Earth's Edge expedition leader.
- We have clear and transparent pricing. What's included and excluded from your package is made clear prior to booking.
- All of our office team travel on one expedition per year which means they can answer your questions based on first-hand experience.
- When you sign up to an Earth's Edge expedition you are entitled to a discount from our equipment partners at [Great Outdoors](#) to ensure you get the best gear for your expedition.

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### **Expedition FAQ:**

Have you a question that wasn't answered on this information pack? If so, please visit our [FAQ page](#) for a full list of frequently asked questions. If you can't find your answer there please [contact us](#).

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