



Kanchanjunga Base camp trek (North)

Trip Facts

Difficulty Strenuous	Max Altitude 5,143m/16,873ft	Accommodation Basic Mountain Tea houses & Local Lodges	Meals
Activity Off the Beaten trail	Best Season Autumn (Oct–Nov) & Spring (Mar–May)	Start / End Point	Duration 15-17 Days

Trip Overview

The **Kanchenjunga North Base Camp Trek** is a premier wilderness expedition leading directly to **Pangpema (5,140m / 16,863ft)**, the northern base of **Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586m)**—the third-highest mountain on Earth [RAP]. Tucked away in Nepal's remote eastern corner bordering Tibet, this **strenuous restricted area trek** requires a **minimum of two travelers** plus a licensed guide, making it an elite choice for adventurers seeking raw alpine landscapes entirely free from commercial crowds [RAP].

Spanning **14 to 17 days** through the highly biodiverse **Kanchenjunga Conservation Area**, the trail follows the Ghunsa River through lush bamboo jungles and cloud forests before entering high-alpine glacial valleys [RAP]. Trekkers pass through traditional, Tibetan-style stone villages like Ghunsa and Khambachen before reaching the sweeping glacial arena of Pangpema [RAP]. This ultimate high point rewards hikers with a close-up panoramic view of Kanchenjunga's colossal northern ice wall [RAP].

Supported by rustic community teahouses, this linear route offers deep cultural immersion and massive Himalayan scale [RAP]. **Himal Trek Nepal** manages all logistics, including your restricted permits, overland 4x4 transport, and internal flights seamlessly [RAP].

Trip Itinerary

Day 01 - Arrival in Kathmandu & Later Trek Briefing

Difficulty	Max altitude 1,400m/4,593ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 02 - Kathmandu Preparation (1,350m)

Difficulty	Max altitude 1,350m/4,429ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 03 - Flight to Bhadrapur & Drive to Ilam

Difficulty	Max altitude 1,627m/5,338ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 04 - Drive from Ilam to Taplejung & Sukathum

Difficulty	Max altitude 1,585m/5,200ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 05 - Sukathum to Amjilosa

Difficulty	Max altitude 2,510m/8,235ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 06 - Amjilosa to Gyabla

Difficulty	Max altitude 2,730m/8,957ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 07 - Gyabla to Ghunsa

Difficulty	Max altitude 3,595m/11,795ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 08 - Acclimatization in Ghunsa

Difficulty	Max altitude 3,595m/11,795ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 09 - Ghunsa to Kambachen

Difficulty	Max altitude 4,050m/13,287ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 10 - Kambachen to Lhonak

Difficulty	Max altitude 4,780m/15,682ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 11 - Lhonak to Pangpema (North Base Camp, 5,143m) & back to Lhonak

Difficulty	Max altitude 5,143m/16,873ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 12 - Lhonak back down to Ghunsa

Difficulty	Max altitude 3,595m/11,795ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 13 - Ghunsa to Amjilosa

Difficulty	Max altitude 2,510m/8,235ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 14 - Amjilosa to Sukathum & Drive to Taplejung (2,420m)

Difficulty	Max altitude 2,420m/7,940ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 15 - Drive from Taplejung to Bhadrapur/Birtamod

Difficulty	Max altitude 2,470m/8,104ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 16 - Fly from Bhadrapur back to Kathmandu

Difficulty	Max altitude 2,470m/8,104ft	Accommodation	Meals
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Day 17 - Final Departure from Nepal

Cost Includes & Excludes

Includes:

- 3 nights accommodations during Kathmandu stay in twin sharing basis.
- 2 nights accommodations during Bhadrapur stay in twin sharing basis.
- Internal domestic Air-Transfer (From & Kathmandu/Bhadrapur) and all the ground transfers during trek.
- Required Permits & Fees: 1. Kanchanjunga Conservation Area Project Permit. 2. Kanchanjunga Restricted Area Permit.
- Accommodation Along the Trail: 1. Standard twin-sharing rooms in local tea houses or mountain lodges for 11 nights.
- Trekking Support Staff: 1. Salary, insurance, food, accommodation, and equipment for a licensed English-speaking guide. 2. Salary, insurance, food, and accommodation for porters (typically 1 porter shared between 2 trekkers, carrying up to 20–25kg total).
- Meals on the Trek: 1. Full board meals: 3 meals a day (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) chosen from the tea house menu. 2. Post-dinner hot beverages (tea or coffee) or a cup of hot water.
- Safety Gear: 1. First-aid kit carried by the guide, including an oximeter to monitor oxygen levels daily.

Excludes:

- International Travel Costs: 1. International airfare to and from Kathmandu. 2. Nepal Tourist Visa fee (payable in cash USD upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport).
- Single Supplementary fee
- Travel and Emergency Insurance: 1. Mandatory: Travel insurance that explicitly covers emergency helicopter evacuation up to 6,000 meters (most basic plans cap out at 3,000m).



- Meals before & after trek in Kathmandu & extra stay in Kathmandu hotels other than mentioned above: 1. Hotel up-gradation might cost extra depending on your request.
- Trail Luxuries & Services (Tea house Add-on): 1. Hot Showers: Gas or solar-heated showers cost between \$3 to \$7 USD per shower (prices increase with altitude). 2. Device Charging: Power banks, phones, and camera battery charging cost \$2 to \$5 USD per full charge. 3. Wi-Fi / Connectivity: Wi-Fi prepaid cards cost roughly \$5 to \$10 USD for a set amount of data only on few places during trek. 4. Drinking Water: Bottled water costs \$1 to \$4 USD per bottle (it is highly recommended to bring water purification tablets/filters instead).
- Personal Trekking Gear: 1. Down jackets, sleeping bags, hiking boots, trekking poles, and backpacks (though sleeping bags and jackets can be rented cheaply in Kathmandu for around \$1 to \$2 a day).
- Beverages & Snacks: 1. Alcoholic drinks (beer, spirits), specialty coffees, soft drinks, and bakery items or trail cafes.
- Tips & Gratitude: 1. Tipping guides and porters is custom and highly expected. The industry standard is roughly 10% to 15% of your total trek cost, pooled together by the group and handed out on the final evening.

FAQs

Strict Restricted Area Rules

Solo trekking is completely illegal here; the government requires a minimum of two trekkers per group accompanied by a licensed guide.

Mandatory Guide Policy

Himal Trek Nepal provides government-licensed, elite local guides essential for navigating the unmarked, rugged trails of the wild east.

All Permits Handled

We manage all bureaucracy, acquiring your Kanchenjunga Restricted Area Permit (RAP) and the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Project (KCAP) permit.

Permit Cost Structure

The RAP costs roughly USD \$20 per person per week for the first four weeks, which we bundle entirely into your booking package.

Best Trekking Seasons

October to November provides the absolute best high-altitude clarity, while March to May brings warmer conditions and blooming mountain flora.

Trailhead Access Logistics

We manage your internal transport, including flights from Kathmandu to Bhadrapur or Suketar followed by a rugged 4x4 overland jeep drive to the trailhead.

Pioneer Teahouses

Sleep in very rustic, authentic community teahouses; due to the extreme remoteness, facilities are far more basic than Annapurna or Everest.

Connectivity & Wi-Fi

Expect to be completely offline for weeks; cellular networks are non-existent past the lower villages, though our guides carry satellite backup.

Power & Charging

Power relies heavily on local solar grids; charging is highly limited or costly at upper camps, making heavy-duty, cold-resistant power banks mandatory.

**Safe Drinking Water**

We treat water safety as a priority, providing fully boiled or chemically purified water daily to prevent health issues in isolated valleys.

Robust Porter Support

Traverse steep terrain comfortably with a small daypack while our fairly compensated, hardy local porters transport your main gear bags.

Two Base Camps

Conquer an incredible itinerary that touches both Kanchenjunga South Base Camp (Ramche, 4,730m) and North Base Camp (Pangpema, 5,140m).