

## WHAT MAKES EVEREST TREKS DIFFERENT?

When you choose to join an Everest Trek, the difference starts when you arrive in Kathmandu. You will be personally greeted at the airport and escorted to the courtesy van to go to our favoured accommodation at the Park Village Hotel. All Kathmandu tours are included in our price, as are all meals for the whole trip, and bottled filtered water on the trail (cost is about US\$5 per bottle), as many as needed.

Your flight to Lukla will, weather permitting, always be amongst the first of the daily flights to leave Kathmandu, avoiding the delays as the day wears on as hundreds of trekkers try to gain priority for their flight timing. Our relationships and longevity of operation come to the fore. Your flight arrangements will be taken care of by our Sherpa Guide, or by John Gully, and you will never be left to fend for yourself.

We always carry with us a comprehensive medical kit including portable hyperbaric chamber for altitude sickness, a defibrillator and stretcher. We have the experience to deal with any and all health matters, including altitude sickness, and take no risks for our trekkers. We are frequently astounded at the poor medical advice dispensed to trekkers by other operators, and have often intervened to prevent a minor matter becoming more serious; language and experience should not be traded for trek price when it comes to the challenges of high altitude.

Other operators refer to “small basic tea houses” for their accommodation on the trail. Don’t be fooled, this translates to bottom end budget accommodation with poor hygiene and small cold common rooms with shared bathrooms. All our lodges are the absolute best available in the villages we visit.

Our food on the trail is top notch, other trek operators keep cost down by providing rice, potatoes and vegetables for all dinners, and noodles daily for lunch.

Along with John Gully leading the trek you will have a Sherpa Sirdar (or Head Sherpa), Chhepal Dorjee Sherpa, who is one of the most experienced guides in Nepal. You will visit with his mother in Khunde and be taken into private homes for tea or meals. Ours is a very personal trip.

John Gully is the only non-Sherpa to be admitted to the Summiters Club, for Sherpa who have climbed Mt Everest. This was because of his community work. In 2013 John was awarded a QSM for services to Nepal/New Zealand relations. We have the most experienced Everest Trekking Guide in the world in John Gully and we ensure that all our staff are genuine Sherpa from the Khumbu Valley.

We are a boutique company who have operated in the Everest region since 1988. We did the first ever clean-up of rubbish in the Khumbu, and established a group in 1991 to look after pollution control. We have been involved with reforestation, school and family support, and in May 2016 we rebuilt the Community Centre in Khunde. Because of our community work over the years, and how we have cared for our staff, doors are open to our trekkers that are not even visible to other operators.

With Everest Treks you most definitely get what you pay for; a premium trekking and cultural experience, superbly organised, excellent accommodation and food, and no hidden costs to surprise you. For most people a trek to the Everest region is a once in a lifetime experience, and we are constantly disappointed to hear of trekkers on budget tours who end up with a budget experience. That will never be the case if you choose to travel with Everest Treks; we hope you do.