



## Baruntse 2012

23,390 ft / 7129m

### Trip Notes

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During the post-monsoon season Adventure Consultants will be operating an expedition to the South-east Ridge of Baruntse in Nepal. Baruntse is recognised as one of the easier 7000m peaks to climb in the Himalaya.

Baruntse lies at the epicentre of three glacial valleys; the Imja, the Hunku and the Barun. The peak itself commands a central position amongst some of the highest peaks of the Himalaya. The rewards of summit day include spectacular views of Lhotse, Everest, and Makalu.

The expedition also encompasses a climb of Mera Peak (6476m/21,246ft) as acclimatisation on the long approach trek to Base Camp and a crossing of the Ambulapcha Pass on the return.

The trip initiates in Kathmandu where we make last minute preparations and enjoy the cultural diversity of this ancient city before embarking on a flight into the town of Lukla in the Khumbu valley, the entranceway to the Mt Everest region.

This trip is an opportunity to experience non-technical climbing at moderate to high altitude, and whilst not being an 8000 metre peak, the climb incorporates a lot of the components of 8000m peak climbing and can be regarded as a good training peak for higher objectives. In addition to the climbing, the expedition visits a remote part of Nepal with stunning Himalayan views and exciting local culture.



Whether you've climbed mountains before, or you have aspirations to experience Himalayan expedition life, this introductory trip will enable you to truly savour the realities of expeditioning and high altitude climbing in the structured and success-oriented environment that Adventure Consultants is renowned for.

## The Expedition Leader

The expedition leader will be scheduled approximately six months out from the trip start. All of our trip leaders have extensive experience at high altitude and a proven record of safety, success and compatibility.

The number of guides is determined by the team size but the normal ratio of guides to members is 1:5. You will find our Guides companionable and strong expedition members with considerable power and willingness to see you achieve your goals.

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## Sherpas

Our Sherpa team has dozens of Everest summits between them. Our group of climbing Sherpas are enthusiastic, motivated and regarded as the strongest and most cohesive group of Sherpas in Nepal. 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.

Our cooking staff are very well known for the quality of the cuisine they produce and as a consequence are coveted by other team leaders due to the reputation they have established. We have been developing the personnel within our Sherpa team for over 15 years and they are an integral part of the Adventure Consultants Team.

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## The Trek to Mera Peak, then onto Baruntse Base Camp

You will be met from your flight into Kathmandu by our staff then we all congregate at our hotel for a comprehensive briefing for the trip. This also provides an opportunity to check personal equipment. There are plentiful stores with trekking equipment available for purchase so anything forgotten is soon replaced.

On the day following your arrival and after our preparations are finalised, we make the best of our opportunity to explore in the Kathmandu valley where we visit Monasteries and sacred sites – this is one of the world's most fascinating cities. A quick walk up the steps to the Monkey Temple always gets the blood flowing!

Our flight to Lukla comes very early next morning to make the best of the stable morning weather patterns and before long we are enjoying the scenic wonders of the Khumbu valley and relaxing on our first day at altitude.

In Lukla the expedition will stay at a traditional Nepalese Tea House. After leaving Lukla we will be staying each night in camps and our kitchen crew will cook for us each day. Local porters will carry bags and camping gear and our affable and experienced climbing Sherpas will assist with setting up camps and on the climb itself.



Initially we head down the valley, away from the popular and often busy Khumbu Valley and Everest region to Kharte and Panggom. Here we can enjoy spending time in isolated, rarely visited villages before following the high ridge route from Panggom La to Thuli Kharka.

Over the next few days we trek up the Ingkhu Khola valley towards Tangnag. The valley is wide and open trekking country.

Tangnag is a great place for a rest day and an opportunity to take in the surroundings. Later we head off for an acclimatisation hike up towards the base camp of one of Nepal's most challenging trekking peaks, Kusum Kanguru.

We depart Tangnag to climb up the valley and through lateral moraine and grassy culverts to Mera base camp at Dig Kharka, 4800m. As we ascend, some of our climbing route will come into view, looking much easier than the south face we've been walking around.

We utilise some time at base camp for further preparations. The route we take is reasonably straightforward and there is sometimes one small portion of fixed rope near the summit.

We move up to a snow covered camp on the Mera La saddle at approx 5400m. Making the final approach to the summit reveals an amazing panorama of the highest mountains on earth: Makalu (8481m) and Everest (8850m), including our first views of Baruntse.

We aim to make the summit early to mid-morning, return to the Mera La, then continue descending into the Hunku Khola (Valley). The following two days we will continue to Baruntse Base Camp. Baruntse BC is at 5300m and is situated in a broad open valley on glacial moraine.

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### **The Climb on Baruntse**

The ascent from the Barun glacier is a remote adventure, culminating in a relatively direct snow arête climb to the summit of this majestic 7000er.

The route is not technically demanding and is essentially a straightforward snow and ice climb with some corniced sections. A prominent ice cliff at around 7000m adds a challenging aspect to the climb.

This climb offers a remote expeditioning experience, and provides a challenging and rewarding introduction to Himalayan high altitude climbing.



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### **Itinerary**

**Dates: September 18 to October 24, 2012.**

- Day 1 Arrive Kathmandu
- 2 Sightseeing in Kathmandu
- 3 Fly to Lukla, organise porters
- 4 Trek to Dzomshawa (Kharte)
- 5 Trek to Panggom, 2600m
- 6 Follow the ridge above Panggom to a camp at 3700m
- 7 Continue to Thuli Kharka (4300m)
- 8 Thuli Kharka to Mosom Kharka (Kote), 3800m
- 9 Mosom Kharka (Kote) to Tagnag, 4356
- 10 Rest Day/Acclimatisation hike towards Kusum Kanguru
- 11 To Mera Base Camp / Kore, 4800m
- 12 Acclimatising Hike
- 13 Rest Day / Prep Day
- 14 Move to Mera La.
- 15 Climb to High Camp, 5800m
- 16 Summit bid on Mera, descend into Hunku Khola (Valley)
- 17 Trek towards Baruntse Base Camp
- 18 Trek to Baruntse Base Camp (5300m)
- 19 Rest Day at Base Camp
- 20 Rest Day at Base Camp
- 21 Carry Loads to ABC, return to BC
- 22 Rest Day
- 23 Climb to temporary ABC (5800m)
- 24 Climb to West Col, Sleep at Camp 1 (6135m)
- 25 Climb to Camp 2 (about 6400m)
- 26 Summit Attempt (7220m) return to Camp 1
- 27 Spare Summit Day
- 28 Spare Summit Day
- 29 Return to BC
- 30 Pack up
- 31 Hike to base of Ambulapcha Pass
- 32 Cross Ambulapcha La and descend to Chukung.
- 33 Trek to Pangboche
- 34 Trek to Namche
- 35 Trek to Lukla
- 36 Fly Lukla to Kathmandu
- 37 Depart Kathmandu, trip ends

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### The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition ex Kathmandu, Nepal is **US\$11,900 per person**.

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Nepalese Government peak royalty fees
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All climbing and trekking permits
- Airport Transfers in Kathmandu
- Air transport and accommodation in lodges or tents ex Kathmandu
- All group equipment for trek (tents etc.) and emergency medical supplies

- Transport of 20kg of personal equipment
- All meals after departing Kathmandu and before arriving back in Kathmandu
- All expedition staff, including Sherpa support
- All supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit
- Access to AC's satellite communication facilities
- Regular expedition dispatches to our website for families and friends back home to follow the expedition's progress

The expedition fee does not include the following:

- Air travel to and from Nepal
- Hotel accommodation and meals in Kathmandu
- Purchases of bottled water while on the trek, gifts, alcohol (we supply boiled water for drinking)
- Other charges at lodges/tea houses such as showers, internet access or battery re-charging
- Entry visas for Nepal (suggest getting 90 day tourist visa for Nepal on arrival into Kathmandu)
- Personal clothing and equipment
- Personal travel / medical / trip cancellation / rescue insurance
- Excess baggage charges for the flights to / from Lukla
- Any rescue costs or costs of early departure from the expedition
- Gratuity for guides and Sherpas

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### Deposit

**A non-refundable deposit of US\$1000** is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

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### Balance

The balance of **US\$10,900** is payable for by **30 May, 2012**.

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### Payments

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

**Bank of New Zealand  
Offshore Branch  
Wellington  
New Zealand**

for the account of **Adventure Consultants Limited**

**Account # 1000-594771-0000**

Or, we can accept a US Dollar bank check made out to Adventure Consultants Limited.

We can accept your US\$1000 deposit via credit card; Visa, Mastercard, Amex. We can also accept your balance of payment via credit card plus a 3% transaction fee.

Note: All bank transfer charges are for the remitters account.

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### **Cancellation & Refund Policy**

Once you have paid your deposit your trip is confirmed, subject to payment of the balance of fees owing 90 days prior to your trip commencement date. An expedition team member may then cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- Cancellations outside of 90 days will result in the loss of the trip deposit.
  - For cancellations made within 90 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full 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.
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### **Group Size**

The team will have a **maximum size of 12 members and 2 guides**. The base camp will be staffed by a Sherpa Sirdar/cook. A team of between 3 and 6 climbing Sherpas will carry loads and support the summit climb.

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### **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. Once in Kathmandu, the expedition's agent will extend the visa for the duration of your stay in Nepal and provide a trekking permit to match. If you choose to get your visa at the Kathmandu airport, you will need to have a passport photo handy and correct change in USD. A 90 day visa currently costs US\$100.

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### **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. We will be eating in the dining tent and cooked for by our expedition cook and support crew. Our camp equipment and ample, nutritious meals are always the envy of other groups along the way!

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## **Equipment List**

Expedition members will be sent a list detailing all necessary clothing and equipment to be individually provided.

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## **Medical Examination**

Expedition members will be provided with a medical questionnaire and asked to visit their family physician and receive a full medical examination. This information will be sighted only by our medical adviser and treated with full confidentiality. Advice on immunisations will be provided at this time.

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## **Documentation and Photographs**

Expedition trek members will need to provide 6 passport-photographs for trekking and climbing permits and a copy of their passport bio-data page.

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## **The advantages of climbing with us**

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

We employ strong and specialised expedition leaders and Sherpa 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 emergency 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.

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## How to join this expedition

If you would like to join the expedition please request an **Application Form** and forward along with your climbing résumé and the deposit for the trip.

If you require more information please contact us at;

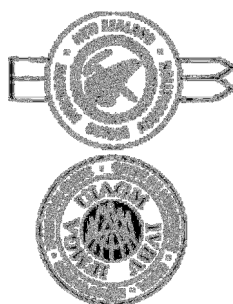
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Adventure Consultants – is affiliated to the New Zealand Mountain Guides Association (NZMGA), New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) and is a corporate member of the American Alpine Club (AAC).

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

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