



## **CHO OYU 2012 Expedition Notes**

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**During the autumn season of 2012 Adventure Consultants will operate its thirteenth expedition to Cho Oyu via the normal route from Tibet.**



Of the world's fourteen 8,000 metre peaks, Cho Oyu has the highest success rate. This is due to a combination of factors including its easy access. Utilising land transport to the mountain cuts down on the logistical strain that hampers many teams in the Himalaya.

The normal route is not a technically difficult climb and access to the first mountain camp can be gained in trekking boots. However, it is important to recognise that Cho Oyu at 8,201 metres is still the sixth highest peak on the planet and, as such, is a demanding undertaking in even the most ideal conditions.

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### **The Expedition Leader**

The expedition leader will be scheduled approximately six months out from the trip start. All of our trip leaders to the 8000m peaks have extensive experience at high altitude and a proven record of safety, success and compatibility.

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### **The route and how the expedition will operate**

The expedition commences from Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. From there we travel by plane to Lhasa where we are met by the staff from the Tibetan Mountaineering Association. There is time to sightsee in Lhasa, and we begin to acclimatise since Lhasa is at a height of 3540m. We then transfer to Chinese vehicles for the journey overland to the mountain. We stop for a few nights along the way to assist acclimatisation as the vehicles ultimately take us to 4,800 metres. From the road's end a two-day trek, with yaks carrying the luggage, leads us to the base camp at 5,650 metres. This is a spectacular spot set across from the famous Nangpa La pass.

The route to Camp One follows the moraine up the main glacier and turns off to the east up a tributary glacier after a two-hour hike. After a steep climb up the scree and snow we are led to the camp at 6,400 metres. We also use a Camp 1.5 at 6700m.

From Camp One, the route follows a moderate snow and ice ridge before leading through a small ice serac and out onto a broad plateau. Camp Two is situated at 7,000 metres in a 'football field' looking up at the summit region.

From Camp Two, a 30 degree snow climb leads directly up to Camp Three at 7,400 metres.

The summit climb from Camp Three will take around 12 hours return for most members and involves climbing through a short rock band just above the top camp before heading into an open couloir, which in turn leads to the summit plateau.

A small team of Sherpas will accompany the expedition to provide the real 'carrying power' and ensure the high camps are well stocked for the summit climb.

The climbing plan involves several trips up the mountain as far as Camp Two for acclimatisation, punctuated by some rest days at the base camp.

The summit climb will take place at the end of September / early October during the best weather window. Two bottles of oxygen will be available for each member for the summit climb. All members will be accompanied by guides and Sherpas during the summit day.

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### **The other expedition members**

We get a wide range of experience levels and nationalities on our trips and the expeditions are geared to accommodate this. People without a lot of high altitude experience often experience trepidation about their performance before a trip and the only way to find out how you will perform is by going to altitude. Increasingly we find that accomplished high altitude climbers are using our services so they can concentrate on their sponsorships rather than private expedition organising.

We recommend to aspiring high altitude climbers that the best approach is to climb gradually higher peaks throughout your career so you can adjust to the requirements of altitude. However, anyone who is a strong and active mountaineer will most probably experience few problems at altitude under our supervision.

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### **The level of climbing skills required**

There is no definite measure for assessing the required skill level to climb Cho Oyu so we prefer 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 three seasons and made ascents of peaks up to 18-20,000 feet (5,500 - 6,000 metres). It is quite common

for members to have previously climbed Mt McKinley in Alaska, Aconcagua in South America, or various Mexican volcanoes as training for Cho Oyu.

He/she will be familiar with crevasse travel techniques and have a good overall standard of fitness.

Age itself is no barrier. To date we have succeeded on Himalayan trips with members aged from 22 to 65 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 still you will have to physically put one foot in front of the other to climb to the top and back.

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## Visas

Expedition members will be required to obtain visas for both Nepal and China. A Nepalese multiple entry visa is easily procured at Kathmandu Airport upon arrival. Chinese Embassies will not issue individual visas for Tibet without the proper paperwork from a Tibet based travel agency, in our case the Tibetan Mountaineering Association. For this reason it is easier to obtain your Chinese visa from the Chinese Embassy once you have arrived in Kathmandu. There is a one-day service available for this at a cost of US\$114 and this will take place on August 30. The total cost for American citizens is higher at US\$198. Our agent in Kathmandu will assist members with this task.

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## Flight Information

Regular flights operate into Kathmandu via Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore, Doha and Delhi. Please note that delays can occur, therefore it is important to allow some flexibility with airline travel arrangements at the end of the expedition and ensure that the ticket you purchase can have changes made to it in case of delays. Tickets purchased over the internet and using air miles are often non-transferable so please be aware of this.

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## Itinerary

### August 28 - October 10, 2012

Aug	28	Arrive Kathmandu
	29	Sightseeing in Kathmandu, obtain Chinese Visas
	30	Fly to Lhasa
	31	Sightsee in Lhasa
Sep	1	Drive to Xigatse
	2	Drive to Tingri
	3	Rest day in Tingri
	4	Drive to road end Base Camp

	5	Rest/acclimatisation at road end (4,800m)
	5	Trek to valley camp (5,300m)
	7	Trek to base camp (5,650m)
	8	Rest at base camp/organise equipment
Sep	9 - 26	Establish high camps and acclimatise
Sep 27 - Oct 4		<b>Summit climb</b>
Oct	5	Return to base camp
	6	Pack equipment
	7	Trek back to road end and drive to Tingri
	8	Drive to Nepalese border
	9	Drive to Kathmandu
	10	Depart from Kathmandu

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### The Expedition Fee

**The cost of the expedition ex Kathmandu is US\$21,950.**

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Chinese government royalty fees (significant increases for 2012)
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All climbing and trekking permits
- Land transport in Tibet and Nepal
- Flight to Lhasa from Kathmandu
- All team equipment & two and a half bottles of oxygen
- All expedition staff, including western guides at 1:4 ratio and Sherpa support
- All food after departing Kathmandu and before arriving back in Kathmandu
- All supplies necessary to make a safe and strong bid for the summit
- Medical kit
- Regular written and photo internet dispatches for families and friends to follow your progress

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

- Air travel to and from Nepal and airport taxes
  - Entry visa for Nepal and China
  - Hotel accommodation and meals in Kathmandu
  - Purchases of bottled water while on the approach trek, gifts, alcohol (we supply boiled water for drinking)
  - Any costs associated with early departure from the expedition
  - Personal clothing and equipment
  - Personal travel / trip cancellation / rescue insurance
  - Gratuities
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### Deposit

**A non-refundable deposit of US\$2,000** is payable to secure a place on the expedition.

## Balance

The balance of **US\$19,950** is payable by 28 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**  
Swift Address: **BKNZNZ22**

We can accept your deposit payment by credit card – **Visa, Mastercard, Amex.**  
We can also accept your balance payment via credit card plus a charge of 3%.

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## Cancellation & Refund Policy

An expedition member may cancel his/her participation on the following basis:

- A Prior to 28 June 2012 a refund of 50% of 28 May 2012 payment.
- B After 28 June 2012 there will be no refunds.

*Team members should take out private insurance if they wish to be covered against cancellation due to medical or personal reasons. This is called Trip Cancellation insurance and can be obtained from your normal travel agent.*

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## Team Membership

The team will have a **maximum size of 12 members and 3 guides.** A team of between 3 and 6 climbing Sherpas will carry loads and support the summit climb and we will have a cook at Base Camp.

## **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.

Our Base Camp equipment and ample, nutritious meals are always the envy of other groups on the mountain!

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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 members will need to provide 6 passport photographs for various climbing and trekking 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 high altitude expedition climbing. Our reputation is attributed to meticulous planning and experienced logistics coordination. We have a philosophy of investing in every expedition to offer our climbers the best possible chance of success.

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 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 ask us for an **Expedition Application** form and forward along with your climbing résumé and the deposit.

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If you require more information please contact us at:

**Adventure Consultants Ltd**  
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