



MANASLU 2012

8,163 m / 26,758 ft

April 1 – May 15, 2012

A professionally-led, non-guided, Adventure Consultants Expedition

Expedition Trip Notes

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Adventure Consultants is running a 'professionally-led' (non guided) expedition to the eighth highest mountain in the world, Mt Manaslu, 8,163 m (26,758 ft), during the pre monsoon season 2012.

Situated in western Nepal, Manaslu is one of the coveted 8000m peaks. The expedition ascends via the classic North East face route.

This expedition has been put together for experienced mountaineers with sufficient experience and ability to climb without guidance on a day to day basis on an 8000m peak. The logistics and leadership on the mountain will be provided by Adventure Consultants guide/director, Guy Cotter, supported by a staff of top AC Sherpa climbers.

Manaslu is considered an 'achievable' 8000m peak with minimal objective hazards. The climbing route follows a reasonably straightforward line with little in the way of technical difficulty, apart from the last 150m to the summit on an exposed ridge that we will fix with ropes. We will place four camps on the mountain above base camp.

We utilise Sherpa support to establish camps and carry some of our personal gear to each camp. There will be times when you will need to carry all your own kit, especially when we descend after reaching the summit. There is an option to arrange Sherpa support if you would like your gear carried and you can enquire with us about costs. We will be sufficiently provisioned to move as a group up the mountain, yet if the situation dictates we may break into smaller teams with Sherpa support to make our summit bids. The expedition will be run in a reasonably 'lightweight' style without excessive bells-and-whistles yet we will still have the appropriate level of support, equipment, food, communication, weather forecasts and resources to facilitate a fantastic expedition!

Located in western Nepal, forty miles to the east of Annapurna, (the world's tenth highest mountain) Manaslu is the highest peak in the spectacular Gorkha mountain region.

The mountain's long ridges and valley glaciers offer feasible approaches and we will climb via the standard route, the North East Face, a route first pioneered by the Japanese climber Toshio Imanishi with Sherpa Gyalzen Norbu in 1956.

We approach the mountain via one of the most spectacular trekking routes in Nepal. It is a ten day journey, initially by road to the west from Kathmandu to Arughat, from where we hike up the Budhi Gandaki River to Base Camp. This provides us ideal acclimatisation to then move on to the mountain and get on with the ascent.

The trek is very nice too of course, the region is dotted with austere monasteries, mani walls, chortens and other Buddhist religious landmarks and is recognised as a sanctuary to highly endangered animals including Snow Leopard and Pandas.



Photo on right: The main summit is on the left, the East Pinnacle to the right. Taken from Sama Gaon (from the west) in the early morning.
Photo: Colin Monteath, Hedgehoghouse.com

The Expedition Leader

The expedition leader, Guy Cotter, has led more than 30 expeditions around the globe including four ascents of Mt Everest. In addition he has climbed Cho Oyu, Gasherbrum II and Makalu as well as the Seven Summits and many other peaks around the globe. Guy is an IFMGA qualified mountain and ski guide with 37 years mountaineering experience (he started young!) Still an active climber and adventurer he has an un-abating thirst for the high mountains.



The route and how the expedition will operate

The expedition commences from Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. From there we travel by bus initially towards Pokhara until we turn off at Dhading and continue to the road end. It will be hot, and after lunch we'll trek through low country fields to Arughat. Over the next few days the countryside changes as the broad valley narrows. At times the trail is cut into the steep and densely forested valley sides, before dropping back down onto the terraced farmlands and then again to the riverbed.

The trek into the mountain will be both an opportunity to immerse ourselves into expedition life and to acclimatise our bodies and minds for the upcoming ascent.

After reaching Sama Goan Village at 3,525m, we will take a rest day while our staff go ahead to prepare the Base Camp for the climb. According to local protocols we will employ Sama Goan local porters who will carry the expedition equipment the remaining 1300m up to the Base Camp proper. Once we reach Base Camp, a Sherpa Puja ceremony will be held, after which we can advance onto the mountain.

Over the following three weeks we will establish four camps on the mountain and aim to summit in the first week of May. This is a good time to summit on the 'lower' 8k peaks as temperatures have not become too hot by that time.

The route up to Camp 1 involves climbing over rock slabs and moraine, followed by a crevassed glacier with occasional small ice steps to Camp 1 at 5700m (18,700 feet). Views of the surrounding peaks will add reference to the uphill climb and the team will enjoy seeing more of the upper part of the mountain, as high as Camp 4.

The route to Camp 2, at 6,400m (21,000ft), is considered the technical crux of the climb with some steep sections fixed with ropes and occasionally ladders. The terrain features long 40 degree snow slopes with a few vertical ice steps where front-point cramponing is required.

Above Camp 2 the slopes are still quite steep with fixed ropes on intermittent steep sections but in general the route to Camp 3 (6,900m) is relatively straightforward. Acclimatised climbers can complete this leg in approximately 3-4 hours.

From Camp 3 there is 550m of strenuous climbing to Camp 4 at 7,450m (26,781ft). A well deserved rest and rehydration will greatly increase your enthusiasm for a summit bid later that night when you set out for the climb. From this height we rest and climb to the summit early morning.

Summit day will start well before dawn and the climb should take about 6-7 hrs. The climbing is not technical, but any summit day on an 8000m peak is unforgettable. Our strong guide and Sherpa team will fix ropes, break trail and make every effort to assist the group on what will be a memorable day with the objective to reach the summit of the 8th highest mountain in the world.

The other expedition members

We will be inviting experienced climbers to participate in the team and we need a minimum of six to run at the pricing structure we have established. The intention is to invite accomplished high altitude climbers with the appropriate attributes to make good team members.

The level of climbing skills required

There is no definite measure for assessing the required skill level to climb Manaslu 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 Manaslu.

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 you will have to contribute to the day to day expedition requirements such as melting snow, helping with tents etc.

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. Currently the easiest and best place to obtain a visa is on arrival at Kathmandu Airport. Visa application forms are handed out on flights into Kathmandu or they can be downloaded off the web. You will need to get a 90-day multiple entry visa, which costs US\$100. Once in Kathmandu, our expedition agent will provide the trekking and climbing permits to match. To get your visa at the Kathmandu airport on arrival, you will need to have 1 passport photo and the correct cash handy.

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. Please 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.

We recommend you purchase your tickets once the expedition is confirmed 120 days prior to trip start date.

Itinerary

April 1 – May 15, 2012 (45 days)

April	1	Arrive Kathmandu
	2	Kathmandu

- 3 Drive and trek to Arughat, 570m (1,870ft)
 - 4 Trek to Soti Khola, 730m (2,395ft), 6 hrs
 - 5 Trek to Machha Khola, 930m (3,050ft) 6-7 hrs
 - 6 Trek to Jagat, 1,370m (4,495ft)
 - 7 Trek to Deng, 1,540m (5,050ft)
 - 8 Trek to Ghap, 2165m (7,103ft)
 - 9 Trek to Lho, 3180m (10,433ft)
 - 10 Trek to Sama Goan, 3,525m (11,565ft)
 - 11 Sama Gaon, rest day
 - 12 Trek to base camp, 4,800m (15,750ft)
 - 13 Rest and prepare
 - 14 Rest and prepare, Puja Ceremony
 - 15-28 Establish high camps and acclimatise
 - April 29 – May 7 **Summit climb**
 - 8 Rest and pack up
 - 9 Trek to Sama Goan–Option to Helicopter to Kathmandu (not included)
 - 10 Trek to Ghap, 2,165m (7,105ft)
 - 11 Trek to Philim, 1,570m (5,150ft)
 - 12 Trek to Machha Khola
 - 13 Trek to Arughat
 - 14 Drive to Kathmandu
 - 15 Trip Ends
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The Expedition Fee

The cost of the expedition ex Kathmandu is US\$16,950

This is an inclusive cost and covers the following:

- Nepal government royalty fees
- All expedition organisational requirements
- All climbing and trekking permits
- Land transport in Nepal
- All team equipment, including personal tent at base camp
- All expedition staff: cooks, porters, Sherpa support
- Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner after departing Kathmandu and before arriving back in Kathmandu
- Oxygen – two and a half bottles
- 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
- Hotel accommodation and meals in Kathmandu
- Entry visa for Nepal
- Costs of early exit from the expedition
- Personal clothing and equipment

- Personal travel insurance / trip cancellation insurance / rescue insurance
 - Additional meals, snacks, drinks, laundry, internet, single supplement rooms and other expenses outside the inclusions as listed above
 - Additional services such as additional Sherpa support, Max Ox, private guide. etc
 - Gratuities
 - Airport Taxes, satellite phone calls and email costs
 - Additional costs that are out of the control of Adventure Consultants
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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\$14,950** is payable by 27 December 2011.

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**

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 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 89-60 days of the trip commencement date we reserve the right to retain 50% of the full fee.

- For cancellations within 59 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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Team Membership

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 8 Climbing Sherpas will carry loads and support the summit climb.

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!

Marketing

While the official name of the expedition will remain the “Adventure Consultants’ Manaslu Expedition 2012”, you can for personal marketing purposes use another name if it will assist you in any way. You will also be completely free to enter into personal agreements with sponsors or supporters if you wish.

Equipment List

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

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.

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.

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 recognised as some of the most pre-eminent in the industry.

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.

If you require more information please contact us at:

Adventure Consultants Ltd
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Wanaka 9343
New Zealand

Ph + 64 3 443 8711 Fax + 64 3 443 8733

Email info@adventure.co.nz
Website: www.adventureconsultants.com

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 is a supporter of the dZi Foundation in Nepal for their ‘Revitalise a Village’ programs.

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



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