

Rolwaling - Khumbu Trek

Trip code	
Package name	Rolwaling - Khumbu Trek
Duration	19
Max. elevation	5755 m
Level	DIFFICULT
Transportation	Kathmandu - Barabise by private car and Lukla - Kathmandu by Domestic flight.
Accomodation	Hotel and Lodge with Tented twin sharing bed basis during the Trek.
Starts at	Kathmandu
Ends at	Kathmandu
Trip route	Kathmandu - Barabise - Thulo Thisang - Bigu Gonpa - Tselapahu - Gongar - Simi Gaun - Gyalchhe - Bedding - Na - Tso Rolpa - Glacier Camp - Tashi lapcha - Thang po - Thame - Namche - Lukla - kathmandu .
Cost	USD 3,025 per person

Highlights

- Exploring the beautiful turquoise Tsho Rolpa Lake (4580m).
- Breathtaking views of Everest (8848m), Cho Oyu (8201m), Gauri Shankar (7145m), Melungtse (7181m), and other snow capped mountains.
- Incredible view of the sunrise from various points during the trek
- An opportunity to explore the unique Tibetan culture, tradition, and way of life
- Spotting rare and endangered wildlife of the region.
- Tasting the local cuisine along with the teahouses.
- Observing the pristine glaciers, high mountain pass, and serene waterfalls.
- Incredible hospitality and the warm welcome of the local people.
- Cultural exploration of the various Nunneries, Gompas and other ancient monasteries.

Overview

Rolwaling-Khumbu Trek provides an experience to the remoteness of this region, romantic mountain views, diverse flora and fauna and rich local cultures. The Rolwaling Himal is a quiet mountainous region rarely visited by tourists or trekkers, making it possible for one to savor the wild Himalaya along this route.

Rolwaling trek is the most remote and fascinating trekking region of Nepal. It is a mysterious trek, the land full of the tales of the yeti, the elusive snow man in the world and it is the place where some mountaineers arranged expedition to hunt yetis in the past. Here one can easily spend few days exploring Yak pastures. This trek requires a good walking experience and a good physical form. It is possible to add routes to Manlung La and Omai Tsho as well for a prolonged experience in this wonderful region. It is possible to also add one of trekking peaks in the region to your trip, with the appropriate permits, for those who want a bird's eye view of the region. There is a Great nunnery Gompa called Bigu Gompa. There are more than 300 nuns. Whereas Khumbu is part of the Solukhumbu district located in northeast of Nepal. Khumbu trek highlights the Sherpa culture, habitants and villages of Khumbu region. Highest mountain range and Buddhist religion, monuments, monasteries and the mani stones are the attraction of this trekking. The Trekking routes through the mountains are arduous, there are ample places to rest and enjoy a meal along the way.

En route as we start following the Rolwaling River, the area will be rich in floral and faunal aspect because of fewer intruders. Sherpa's of Rolwaling enjoys unspoiled culture and practice of rituals comparing to their Khumbu counterpart. As the stay of tourist is controlled in Rolwaling, local youngsters leave home in trekking season to make living by guiding, leading and assisting expeditions and pottering in neighboring valley.

The trek starts in Barabise and then passes Kathali and descends Thashi Lapcha. The trail descends Bhote Koshi River and turns into the Rolwaling valley, one of the most remote, mysterious, and fascinating places in the trek Above Na Gaun, the trail meanders up to a high lake named Thso Rolpa (4500m) and up to the lateral moraines of the Rolwaling glacier below the Rolwaling icefall (5181m). After two days of rugged glacier walking one reaches high Tashi Lapcha Pass (5755m). On the other side of the Tashi Lapcha, the trail drops down into Thame village (3800m) on the Khumbu valley. From here trekking down to Lukla, we can fly to Kathmandu.

Trip Itinerary

Day 1 : Drive to Barabise (114 km) – 3 hours drive.

After breakfast, we drive 5 hours to reach to the Barabise, the starting point of our trek. It lies on Araniko Highway – the 114 km-long highway which connects the capital city Kathmandu to the Chinese border in the north. After a few hours of rolling green hills and checkpoints we arrive at Barabise

Overnight we will stay on camp.

Day 2 : Trek to Kathali (1680m.).

The large trail climbs steeply out of the village into open paddy fields. The paths are quite busy, and the trail is studded with villages and houses. Paddy fields and terracing cover the hills as far as the eye can see. Overnight at camp.

Day 3 : Trek to Thulo Thingsang (2380m.).

After breakfast, we start our trek. The trail is steep but well-maintained and we spend most of the day climbing rough-hewn staircases. The path winds around many valleys and buffs, and features rope-bridges slung over dramatic waterfalls. The scale of the surrounding scenery is immense – great rolling hills, green and cultivated from top to bottom, but higher than much of the Alps. The valleys dive steeply to fast flowing rivers, and landslides are common. We continue up the trail towards the Thulo Thingsang, finally reaching it. We will stay overnight at camp.

Day 4 : Trek to Bigu Gompa (2500m.).

This day the trail heads steeply upwards towards the Gompa (monastery) above, passing many decorated Chhotaara (stone resting places) and Mani (prayer) walls. As we head towards the Tisang La pass (3320m) which will take us into the Amatal valley. The pass is in a pleasantly cool area of pine forest, and we have an excellent view of the next part of our trek. On the horizon we can also see our first real himal (snowy mountain). We will stop for a lunch at the river bank. Then the path dives down rapidly into thick steamy jungle. Eventually we reach the village of Rhutang via a covered bridge, and carry on down the river.

After 300m climbing, we reach a temple near Bigu Gompa. It is a lavishly painted and decorated Buddhist temple lit with flickering oil lamps. People wander in to admire the alter-wall of the temple and pray. Overnight at camp.

Day 5 : Trek to Tselaphu .

In the morning, we visit the temple. And start our trek down to the valley. We wander down the Sangawa river, following the occasional arrows that the sherpas leave behind them. There are large pine plantations here, grown to offset deforestation. The path crosses some impressive suspension bridges as it weaves its way up the valley reaching Tselaphu. Overnight at camp.

Day 6 : Trek to Gongar.

We are heading for the Bhote Khosi river valley today, just below its junction with the Rolwaling valley, which is far below us. It is deadly cold, and is full of boulders and pebbles of every type of rock pounded smooth and round by its immense force. This is followed by a gruelling descent through large sprawling villages with lush fields to the river. We cross over and climb steeply up the other bank towards the trading town of Simigoan. Overnight at camp.

Day 7 : Trek to Simi Gaon.

Today also we head steeply upwards once more, following a well made but green and greasy path along the steep valley side. There are many staircases and chhotaara, and the trail is relatively busy with traders headed to and from Simigaon. The trail follows the river bank. As the valley narrows, we cross the suspension bridge over the river. We are soon rewarded with superb views of Gaurishankar which rises up from the Rolwaling valley right into Tibet. A steep climb takes us to the Sherpa village of Simigaon, spread on the terrace of the mountainside. Overnight at Simi Gaon.

Day 8 : Trek to Gyalchhe (3000m.).

We have a lot of climbing to do today to reach Shakpa, where we will finally be in the Rolwaling for proper. We climb some 600m on more stone steps. We pass by a few more Sherpa settlements. On a clear morning the views of Gaurishankar above the Rolwaling Valley is fascinating. From the ridge top at Simigaun, we continue towards the Rolwaling Valley. The trail climbs a rocky, wooded ridge with beautiful pine forests. The trail trundles along the banks of the Rolwaling Chhu river in low-lying woodland. Overnight at Gyalchhe.

Day 9 : Trek to Beding (3693m.)

The trail is easy and beautiful as it weaves up the valley, often crossing the roaring Rolwaling Chhu on dramatic cable bridges. The valley sides run steeply from the river straight up to the peaks at the sides up to 4000m above. We walk through picturesque autumnal woodland. Our trail ascends uphill through different varieties of plants and Rhododendron trees. Continue left bank of the Rolwaling Khola. Continuing along the deep river valley, we arrive at a branch river from Gaurishankar. Enjoy the wonderful views of the Gaurishankar. The trail rises further until we come across an easy and relatively flat terrain. Finally, we arrive at the Sherpa village of Beding. It is a jumbled cluster of brightly-painted houses running right from the river bank up the valley sides.

Day 10 : Trek to Na (4183m.)

It's only a short walk from Beding to Na, the highest settlement in the Rolwaling. Soon after we leave Beding, the trees disappear and the vegetation consists of scrubby Juniper bushes, a small low-lying and very fragrant rhododendron and other evergreen shrubs. We pass across the summer village of Beding, several yaks grazing and people busy in their fields of buckwheat and barley.

Na can be spotted over a mile off, due to the large numbers of walls surrounding its tiny fields. It is a seasonal town – in summer, it is occupied and the animals are driven up to graze on the rich grass and to stop them eating the crops below. The crestline formed by the 6000ers such as Chekigo, Bamango, and Konyklemo rise on the immediate left of the village. We arrive at a monastery believed to be a meditative place of the Buddhist Guru Padma Sambhava. Walking along the valley floor, we finally reach the summer village of Na surrounded by potato fields. Overnight at Na.

Day 11 : Rest day in Na.

Today, we take a rest at Na for acclimatization. Na commands dramatic views of Tsoboje and Kang Nachugo, both near-7000m mountains looking incredibly steep so close up. Tsoboje in particular looks unclimbed from this angle, and is covered with near-vertical fluted ice right to the summit. The thin air (we

are at 4183m), fragrant vegetation and wispy cloud give Na a surreal edge. Clouds zoom past from down the valley, and by about 2pm it becomes cold and overcast.

Day 12 : Trek to Tsho Rolpa (4500m.).

At first our trek starts through the leveled plane and gradually ascend to witness the Himalayan Lake filled with the chilling water of the glaciers. The views of Menlung and Tibetan Side Mountains add glory to the unfolding vista. The ground is sandy, but strewn with gigantic square boulders ejected from the adjacent peaks, earning the area the name 'the lorry park'. The path follows a surprisingly green and picturesque little valley between the lake and the east valley side proper. We trek along the right bank of the river and then cross the river to climb up the rocky lateral moraine of the Glacier. Higher up, we reach the moraine barrier that holds back the Tsho Rolpa lake. We then walk to Tso Rolpa for the night.

Day 13 : Trek to Glacier (5400m.).

Early morning trek to head toward Trakarding glacier. Walk past the glaciers throughout the day and explore the beauty of the surrounding. The trail heads back west and drops dangerously steeply to a sandy karka. The trail plunges over the ludicrously steep edge of the glacier's trench and winds down nasty loose material under precarious cliffs. The trail will still be ascending through some rock climbing and a gradual walk on the glacier moraine, occasionally passing rocks overhangs. Overnight at camp.

Day 14 : Trek to Thashi Lapcha (5755m.).

The walk follows high slopes above the glacier to avoid the lower section, but further up we have to trek along the centre on the hard rocky glacier. Steady walk leads us to the lowest point of the icefall and then climbing to the easiest point to gain the Drolambau glacier. Here we will be surrounded by superb high mountain scenery. Continuing further downhill, we camp at Tashi Lapcha Pedi. Continue trekking to Tashi Lapcha Pass (5755m). From the pass, the view of senior Khumbu peaks is magnificent. Some hundred meter downhill trek under overhanging rock, we camp at a superb location, with magnificent sunset views. Overnight at Thashi Lapcha.

Day 15 : Trek to Thangpo (4320m.).

We climb again to the neck of Tashi Lapcha and from there we start the ascent of Pachermo. The snow slopes lead us to the final ridge, sometimes requiring fixed ropes. From the Pachermo summit, enjoy the fantastic views of the Khumbu peaks including Everest, Makalu among others. Descend to Col then to Thangpo. The Pachermo ascent takes about 5 to 6 hrs and then another 3 to 4 hrs descend takes us to Thangpo. Overnight at Thangpo.

Day 16 : Trek to Thame (3800m.).

Today you will be experiencing a bit easy walking, the walk from here will be enjoyable most of the way to Thame. The trail clings to the steep rocky side, passing right under the rock chute. A gradual descend brings us to Thame Village, the first hint of civilization since Beding. There is a very old and interesting Monastery at the upper end of the village. Now you have a glimpse of first really good views of the great peaks of the Khumbu including Mt Everest, Nuptse, Lhotse, Ama Dablam, Thamserku and Kusum Kangaru.

Day 17 : Trek to Namche (3440m.).

It's a short day from Thame to Namche. At Thame, the old trade route over the Nangpa-la into Tibet branches North, following the Bhote Koshi, which incidentally is the 2-3 river so named on this trek. The trail descends gently at first and then steeply to a bridge over the river Dudh Koshi at Phunki Tenga. Passing by several villages and numerous teashops, the trail ascends steeply to Sanasa where local Sherpa people sell the Tibetan goods. The way from Sanasa to Namche has small ups and downs with view of forests, scenery and mountains.

Day 18 : Trek to Lukla.

The trail descends steeply downward so we need to walk slowly and under control as our shaky legs continuously battle the rocky terrain. After arrival in Lukla, Overnight.

Day 19 : Fly to Kathmandu.

We fly back to Kathmandu. The early morning flight drops us at Kathmandu.

Inclusions

What is included?

Domestic airports pick up and drop in Kathmandu as per program by private car

Camping+lodge (whereas possible) trek with all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner prepared by our cook) and accommodation in tent/lodges.

Services of an experienced English speaking trekking guide, cook, kitchen helpers and porters.

Food, salary (allowance), insurance, equipment and transportation for cook, assistance, porters etc.

First aid kit bag box including oximeter to check pulse rate and oxygen level everyday to save from higher risk of altitude.

All equipment for camping (tent, mattress, kitchen tent, kitchen utensils, toilet tent etc)

Sleeping bag and down jacket if necessary.

All applicable government taxes and service charges.

Gaurisankar conservation, Khumbu Rural Municipality, Sagarmatha national Park fee and TIMS.

kathmandu to Barabise drive by private Car and LUKla to Kathmandu by Domestic flight .

What isn't included?

Any meals, accommodation and sightseeing in Kathmandu (if required please let us know and as per your budget requirement we would be very happy to arrange the same)

Bottled drinks (mineral water, any cold drinks, and alcoholic drinks).

Personal travel insurance against sickness, injury, accidents, damage or loss of goods.

Liability for extra expenses caused by illness, accidents or situation beyond our control.

Expenses of personal nature such as laundry, telephone, bar bill, tips for driver, guide and porter, etc.

Medical and emergency evacuation charges.

Respective expenses if one returns earlier from the trip due to sickness or emergency purpose.

Personal equipment for Sunglasses, Sun hat, normal trekking boot, plastic trekking boot etc.

Any other services or optional activities not mentioned above in the included list.

Any kind of tips for guide and Porters with other staff.

Complimentary