

Island Peak Climbing in Nepal

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Island peak (6189m) is the most popular trekking peak to climb in the Everest region. It is located on top of the Chukung glacier between Ama Dablam and Lhotse peaks. It's also known as Imja Tse peak.

The most sought after trekking destination because of its challenging geographical conditions. This mountain was named "Island Peak" in 1952 AD, by a climbing team of Eric Shipton, due to its striking location in the middle of the Chhukung valley like an Island on a sea of ice. Island peak was first ascended in 1953 by a British team as preparation for climbing Everest.

Island Peak climbing trip fulfills the dream of every amateur and serious climber who have been seeking the thrill of adventure and wish to take adventure climbing trips beyond simply trekking in Everest.

Island peak is the most popular trekking peak in Nepal. The summit is interesting and attractive with a highly glaciated west face rising from the Lhotse Glacier. The mountain itself is the extension of the South ridge of Lhotse Shar separated by a small col.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival in Kathmandu and transfer to Hotel.

On arrival in Kathmandu Airport, you would be met and received by our representative & transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 02: Kathmandu Sightseeing

After breakfast, proceed for a city tour of Kathmandu visiting Durbar Square, a complex of palaces, courtyard and temples, built between the 12th and 18th centuries, used to be the seat of the ancient Malla kings of Kathmandu. In the afternoon visit the Swoyambunath Stupa and Patan City. Swoyambhunath Stupa, atop the hillock is one of the holiest Buddhist sites in Nepal enlisted in the World Heritage Site. Patan City is an enchanting melange of palace buildings, artistic courtyard and former palace complex. One remarkable monument here is a 16th century temple dedicated to the Hindu God Lord Krishna, built entirely of stone.

Day 03: Fly to Lukla and trek to Phakding (2,652m/8,700ft) 30 minutes flight and 4 hours walk

Early in the morning you will be escorted to Tribhuvan International Airport (in a private vehicle) to board a flight to Lukla (2,800m). After a 30-35min scenic flight the plane will land at Tenzing Hillary Airport in Lukla. Lukla is known as a gateway destination. A clear day normally offers a great aerial view of the terrain while you are in the sky.

On reaching Lukla Airport, you will be introduced to other crew members. Breakfast will be served at the lodge and luggage will also be prepared for the Porters. Shortly after this without wasting any time, the trek begins following the stone pathway downhill that leads you out of Lukla and towards Phakding.

We walk for four hours before we reach Phakding. This trail from Lukla to Phakding offers

downhill and flat trail experience. Along the trail you can also experience prayer rocks (Mani in local language) and a splendid view of the colorful Lukla village. Upon reaching Phakding, you can freshen up and then our guides will take you for a short walk to the village or even hike up to the nearby Gompas (monasteries) for the purpose of acclimatization. We then get back to the lodge where the dinner is served. After dinner, a briefing regarding the following day's trek will be made by the team leader. The night is spent at a lodge in Phakding.

Day 04: Trek to Namche Bazaar (3440m/11,283ft) 5-6 hours walk

After having breakfast, without wasting much time we set out from our lodge in Phakding and moved towards Monju which is also known as the gateway to the Sagarmatha National Park. In between Phakding and Sagarmatha National Park you will get to experience the thrill offered by many suspension bridges, and the small settlements like Zapute, Toktok, Benkar, Chumoa and Monju. Here, you can also enjoy small tea houses and shops while your leader takes care of the necessary national park formalities at the entrance to the park. On entering the national park the trail drops steeply down to the river, crosses another suspension bridge and continues towards the high Hillary Bridge at the bottom of the hill. After the bridge the trail leads you uphill to the Namche Bazaar offering you the first great view of Mt. Everest, hidden behind Lhotse-Nuptse along with the view of Mt. Kusum Khangru. The night will be spent at a lodge in Namche Bazaar.

Day 05: Acclimatize day at Namche

Namche Bazaar, a gateway to the high Himalayas, is the main trading center and a tourist hub in the Khumbu region. This place is very popular for altitude acclimatization. Though this is a rest day it is highly recommended to keep moving and stay active for proper adaptation. Therefore, we organize a short hike to Thame, which is an old Sherpa village or visiting Khumjung/Khunde/Khongde is also considered a very good option to enhance acclimatization. Moreover, Namche Bazaar offers many ways to spend a day. You will have enough time to visit the National Park Head office, Museum, and other monasteries. You can also have your own quality time at cafes, shops, bakeries or restaurants. The place also features other essential services like post office, hospital, government health post, 24 hour electricity and water supply and high speed internet access. You can also contact your family before heading towards the base of Everest Base Camp. This night is also spent in a lodge in Namche Bazaar.

Day 06: Trek to Tengboche (3,867m/12684ft) 5 hours walk

Shortly after having breakfast at the lodge in Namche Bazaar, we continue to follow the trail along the hastening glacial waters of the Dudh Koshi. The trail offers dramatic views of Mt. Everest, Mt. Nuptse, Mt. Lhotse and Mt. Ama Dablam along with the close up view of Thamserku. Before reaching Sanasa, you can also enjoy the blooming Rhododendron forest. If you are lucky you will also get a chance to spot wildlife musk deer, multi-colored pheasants and a herd of Himalayan Thar. On reaching Sanasa, which is a major trail junction to Gokyo valley and Everest Base Camp, we take a steep ascent that will lead us to the famous Tengboche monastery (the largest Gumpa in the Khumbu region of Nepal) which is draped with a spectacular view of the Himalayan Mountains. We spent our night at a lodge in Tengboche.

Day 07: Trek to Dingboche (4,358m/14,295 ft) 5-6 hours walk

After having breakfast, we again start the usual hike walk. This time, we first hike half an hour downhill to the riverside then through the lush forest, across the river and finally climb up to Pangboche (3,860m/12,664ft). Here you can experience magnificent Chorten and Mani walls. We then ascend to Pheriche and from here a moderate walk will lead you to the Imja Valley. From here, we climb the last and the steepest climb of the day and finally reach Dingboche. The night is spent at the lodge in Dingboche.

Day 08: Acclimatized day

This is the final, yet the mandatory acclimatization day before heading towards Island Peak. Dingboche is a summer settlement that offers a magnificent view of Mt. Ama Dablam, Mt. Lhotse and numerous other peaks, from the ridge on the north behind the village. You can also observe the Imja River that flows directly east of the village. Another interesting thing about this village is the kilometers of stone walls that cover the entire valley of Imja. You will also be surprised to see an internet café and one of the world's highest billiard parlors. Therefore, this place offers some of the best options to spend your day.

Day 09: Trek Chhukung(4,730m/15,518ft)- 3 to 4 hrs

After having breakfast, the day's walk begins towards the east of the Chhukung valley through stone walled fields, Imja Khola valley. This rocky trail is overshadowed by the beautiful views of Mt. Lhotse and Ama Dablam. On reaching Chhukung, we check into the lodge and meet our climbing guide. Our guide will brief you regarding the following climb. You can also discuss your queries related to climbing with our climbing guides. We will also check the necessary gears and equipment to get prepared for the next day's climb. The night will be spent at a lodge in Chhukung.

Day 10: Trek to Island Peak Base camp (5,200m/17,060ft) 3-4 hours

After having breakfast, we will be led by our climbing team towards the south, which then heads toward the main valley in the east. The trail is fairly pleasant along the stream. The trail heads towards huge rock and then becomes glacial as it crosses Imja and Lhotse glacier moraine. After this we finally reach the valley where we set our camp for the day. The base camp presents the magnificent view of the southwestern face of Island peak. The night is spent in a tented camp at the base camp.

Day 11: Island Peak High Camp (5,600m/18,372ft), 2-3 hours

After having breakfast, we start the climb up the hill making our way through the narrow slopes and uncompromising paths. After 2-3 hours walking upwards, the trail will finally take you to the High camp of Island peak where we stop for overnight. The high camp itself offers the spectacular view of lofty pinnacle and glacier surrounding the Island Peak. At high camp, all the required elements and gears will be re-checked, your boots will be fitted with crampons and if required, you may also be provided with the last minute techniques for your following day's successful climb. The night is spent in a tented camp at the high camp.

Day 12: Island Peak summit (6,189m/20,305ft) & return back to Chhukung, 8-10 hours

This day is the day that takes you to your actual destination. Therefore, we start as early as the light permits. The techniques learned earlier will fully come into play today. We walk past short rock steps, seracs, crevasses, snout of summit glacier and icy 40-45 degree slopes to finally get to the summit. On reaching the summit (6189m) you can enjoy the view of breathtaking peaks like Lhotse, Lhotse Middle Peak, Lhotse Shar, Nuptse, Makalu, Baruntse, and Amadablam. We spend some time taking snaps and then descend all the way to high camp, collect the remaining gears and walk all the way to Chhukung. The night is spent at a lodge in Chhukung.

Day 13: Trek to Khumjung (3,780m/12,401ft)

After having breakfast at the lodge, the trail heads towards Pangboche and then Tengboche through Rhododendron and pine. The trail then drops, steeps down to the valley, crosses the suspension bridge and continues towards Khumjung. You can enjoy a hot shower and loosen your muscles. The night is spent at a lodge in Khumjung.

Day 14: Trek to Namche (3,440m/11,283ft), 4-5 hrs

After having breakfast, we start the day towards Namche Bazaar. The trail first drops down through the ridge and then the walk is fairly easy till Namche Bazaar. We spend the night in Namche Bazaar, where you can enjoy a hot shower and loosen up your muscles. You also

have an option to relax in the nearby restaurants, cafés and bakeries. The night is spent at a lodge in Namche Bazaar.

Day 15: Trek to Lukla (2,652m/8,700ft)

After breakfast, we will continue our walk downhill from Namche toward the second bridge across the Dudh Koshi River near the meeting point of Bhote Koshi and Dudh Koshi rivers. Then we walk towards Monjo where on fulfilling the formalities at the check post of the National Park at Monjo, we continue our walk towards Phakding. We stop at Phakding for lunch and soon after the lunch we continue the trail that leads us to Lukla. Along this flat trail you can enjoy prayer stones, rhododendron and pine forest, prayer flags, Sherpa village as well as open plains. This is the last day of the trek. On reaching Lukla you can either spend your time with the rest of the crew members or look for some alone time to summon up the wonderful memories made during the past few days. The night will be spent at a lodge in Lukla.

Day 16: Fly to Kathmandu (1,300m/4,264 ft)

Finally, it's time to bid farewell to the Khumbu region of Nepal. The Sherpas will take your luggage to the airport and other airport formalities will be taken care of by the guides allowing you to enjoy your last breakfast in the Khumbu region. Once the aircraft arrives, you can directly board the plane and fly back to Kathmandu. A private vehicle depending on your group size will be awaiting your arrival in the airport. Your guide will then escort you to the hotel.

Day 17: Warm Departure.

After Breakfast transfer to the airport for your next destination.