

# PIONEER EXPEDITIONS

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Do something extraordinary

## Chulu West Peak • Nepal • 25 Days • £2275

### Highlights

- Trek through the mighty Annapurna Ranges
- Climb one of the highest Trekkable Peaks
- Learn some climbing skills in our Climbing Clinic
- Visit the famed Muktinath
- Meet some of the friendliest and generous people on the planet

Chulu Peak is considered by many as one of the best Trekking Peaks in Nepal. Its location in the Annapurnas, its height and its moderate difficulty put Chulu up there as one of the best treks possible in Nepal. There are superb views over Tibet and Mustang Country. There are also large quantities of fossils above 5100m, remnants of an era when Nepal was at the bottom of the sea.

There exists considerable confusion with regard to the name and location of the Chulu peaks and what summit actually constitutes Chulu West and Chulu East, since it is soon becomes apparent to anyone that has climbed in the range that several other summits close by, which are actually part of the Chulu massif, are not indicated on present maps of the area. For the sake of clarification, four summits can be included in the Chulu group, two of which are possible on the permit for Chulu West and two on the Chulu East permit. What is apparent is that the available trekking map is highly misleading. The highest of these peaks, marked Chulu West (6419m/21,054ft) on the trekking maps, has a recorded altitude from at least two expeditions of nearer 6400m (20,997ft); this might more accurately be called Chulu Central. The NMA gives this an official altitude of 6,429m (21,060ft).

Many climbers are confused as to the exact location of these two peaks as the range has 4 or more summits in the immediate vicinity which are unmarked in maps of this area. As a result many climbing parties have mistakenly climbed one of these peaks thinking it to be Chulu East or West. A climb of one or both of these peaks combined with Nepal's most famous Around the Annapurna trek make up for one of the most spectacular Himalayan trekking and climbing outings. Allow about 25 to 30 days to complete this climb and trek.

### Routes

**Chulu West:** The obvious approach to this peak diverges from the main trail to the Thorung La pass, past the village of Manang and Base Camp is established in a small valley to the North. From base camp the route follows a subsidiary North-West ridge that leads up to the main peak.

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**Chulu East:** The North-East Ridge is considered the normal route to climb this peak from a Base Camp on the moranis at 5334m (17500ft). Most climbers make it to the top and back from Base Camp in one long day although some have, in the past, established a higher camp somewhere below the peak. Another subsidiary peak called Chulu Far East (6059m) 19880ft) may also be attempted from this approach.

## Itinerary : Kathmandu - Kathmandu

- Day 01:** Arrive in Kathmandu and transfer to Hotel.
- Day 02:** Free day in Kathmandu with half day city tour.
- Day 03:** Drive Besishar (823 m)
- Day 04:** Trek to Bahundanda (1310 m)
- Day 05:** Trek to Change (2657 m)
- Day 06:** Trek to Thonje (1920 m)
- Day 07:** Trek to Chame (2651 m)
- Day 08:** Trek to Pisang (3333 m)
- Day 09:** Trek to Manang (3351 m)
- Day 10:** Manang, acclimatization day
- Day 11:** Ledder
- Day 12:** Chulu West base camp
- Day 13:** Climbing Clinic
- Day 14:** High Camp Climbing Clinic
- Day 15:** Summit day (6584 m)
- Day 16:** Extra day to summit
- Day 17:** Back to base camp
- Day 18:** Thorung Phedi
- Day 19:** Muktinath
- Day 20:** Rest Day
- Day 21:** Trek to Jomson
- Day 22:** Fly Jomson to Pokhara
- Day 23:** Rest day Pokhara
- Day 24:** Fly back to Kathmandu
- Day 25:** Departure for next destination

## **DATES**

Please email us for details of departures. We are also able to organize private expeditions for those that want familiar people to join them or if scheduled departures or itineraries don't suit. The price listed is based on a minimum of 2 people. Depending on the number of people in your group, private expeditions can be cheaper than scheduled departures so ask us if you would like to organize something special for yourself.

## **EXPEDITION GRADE – Alpine**

Extremely demanding treks sometimes in very remote areas on rough terrain and perhaps including ( in Nepal) one or more of the so called 'trekking peaks' - maximum altitude, Mt. Mera at 6,461m/21,192ft. Participants should have at least a basic knowledge of use of crampons and ice axes, though first time climbers may be accepted on some of the so called 'easy' routes on these peaks. Medical certificates are required prior to acceptance on any climbing treks.

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## EXPEDITION INCLUSIONS

- Arrival & Departure transfers on both domestic and international flights
- 4 Star Hotel Accommodation in Kathmandu on a twin share bed- and- breakfast basis for the nights as listed in itinerary.
- Full board meals on tented camping expedition or Teahouse trek.
- Accommodation on tented camp or Teahouses as listed in itinerary.
- Welcome dinner with ethno-cultural program as listed in the itinerary.
- Half day guided city tour as listed in itinerary.
- All Domestic flights and airport tax as listed in the itinerary as applicable.
- Private transportation to and from the starting and ending points of the trek.
- Peak Climbing Permit Royalty and other government tax.
- Climbing Clinic Course at base camp
- Personal and Group Climbing gear including climbing rope, ice axe, zoomer, harness, figure of eight, carabineer etc
- All camping equipment - 2-person member tent, dinning tent, kitchen tent, staff & porter tent, toilet tent with commode, dining table with backrest chair
- Free use of quality trekking gear - sleeping bag, fleece inner liner, insulated mat, down jacket, duffel bag etc during the trip.
- Portable Altitude Chamber (PAC) / Gamow Bag (A life saving device in case of Acute Mountain Sickness) along with the comprehensive First Aid Kit.
- Professional local trekking group leader well trained in Wilderness First Aid
- Well-experienced Climbing guide with all his allowance and expenses.
- Trekking Cook, guides and other support staff.
- Porters to carry all personal gear and group equipment.
- Insurance of all staff including porters.
- Warm clothing and other required trekking gear for porters like Cortex jacket & trousers, trekking shoes / boots, sleeping bag / blanket, woolen hat, woolen gloves, woolen socks, sun glasses etc.
- Peak climbing certificate to the successful climbers.
- Comprehensive pre-departure information and trip dossiers.
- Trekking permit, national park / conservation entry fees.

## EXPEDITION EXCLUSIONS

- Personal insurance
- Personal Climbing Gear (Climbing boots and crampons needed)
- Bottled drink (these are personally purchased)
- Meals in Kathmandu
- Visa for Nepal

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Supporting Local Communities

We support a primary school in the Gorkha District and we also distribute free first aid and medicines 2 times a year in the village where the school is located. We also adhere to guidelines that protect the porter's interests such as insuring them from injury.

### Pre-Departure Information

Once your expedition is confirmed we will send you detailed Pre Departure Information which includes a list of recommended clothing and personal equipment, along with many other relevant information to help you prepare for your trip. Prior to the trip departure from Kathmandu, you will attend a detailed trip briefing and orientation meeting to make sure that you are well prepared for your river trip and trek. These trips are led by No Roads.

### Flights

Have you made your air reservation yet? Please note that space on flights in and out of Nepal is very tight, especially during the tourist seasons. Therefore, we would like to suggest that you work on your for your air seats. We can help you with dates for treks, raft trips and other services that you need so that you can make your decision.

All domestic flights in Nepal are operated using small planes seating 15 to 20 people. There are only a few flights to each destination every day. During the busy trekking/tourist season these flights get full very fast. To improve your chances of getting on these flights it is best to confirm your trips as early as possible. The sooner we get trip confirmation, the better your chances.

### Nepal Tourist Visa

Nepal Visa is readily available on arrival at the International Airport in Kathmandu (or any other land entry points to Nepal). Single Entry Visa: US\$30 per visa (valid for 60 days)

Multiple Entry Visa: US\$80 per visa (valid for 150 days). Please bring exact change if possible.

2 passport photos will be required. (Nepal Visas are also available in all Nepalese Embassies and Consulates located in several countries and cities around the world.)

### Information and Support

If you have any comments, questions or want more information, please let us know. We are here to support you with all information to help you prepare for your travels to the Himalayas.

### What are the trekking peaks?

The "Trekking Peaks" of Nepal gives hobby-climbers an opportunity to tackle a high Himalayan peak without having to organize a major expedition. Although these peaks are lower than their more famous cousins - the 8000 meter peaks - many of the climbs are no less demanding and adventurous in nature. These Trekking Peak climbing trips offer a chance to climb a Himalayan summit and, a taste of being in the 'white wilderness,' without burning a big home in your pocket! The Trekking Peak climbing trips we offer are run in the popular trekking areas with relatively easy access to the mountains. Most of these trips can be completed within a short period of time. For instance Naya Khang in the Langtang valley can be completed in less than twenty days with plenty of time allocated for acclimatization. If you have an urge to trek in some of the most beautiful places in Nepal, interact and make friends with the local people without having to sleep in a cold and lonely tent, Lodge Trekking is just the thing for you. Make sure you are with No Roads Expeditions and we will make sure that you have a memorable time without having to spend a small fortune.

Whereas on the Pisang & Chulu trip, you can 'bag' two summits in under one month with an itinerary that also takes you on the famous Annapurna Circuit trek. In the Everest region the popular peaks are Mera Peak in the remote Hinku Valley, Island Peak, Khongm-tse, and Lobuche peaks near the Everest Base Camp area. Though most of these climbs require little or no previous mountaineering experience, it is

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essential that participants are in excellent physical condition and have some outdoor background.

Knowledge of use of ice-axe, crampons and ropes will come in handy.

Before the actual climb begins we will teach you the basics of handling ropes and other climbing devices including safety considerations. All our climbing treks are guided by trained guides who are registered with the Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA). Each of our climbing guides are local lads who are intimately familiar with the mountains and routes they guide on. Join one of our Trekking Peak climbing treks to experience the pains and joys of climbing in the high Himalayas - a privilege that once was reserved only for the fabled 'expedition climbers.