



## **Annapurna Sanctuary – Trek to Machapuchare and Annapurna Base Camp**

### ***Weather/Climate in Nepal:***

Weather can normally be expected to be very stable.

Kathmandu should be pleasant, nearing 20C degrees during the day and cooling off at night.

In November, some snow and freezing temperatures at the base camps are possible. Most days should be clear, as the monsoon rains should be well finished.

We strongly recommend not hiking in shorts as the Nepalese crew will find it offensive, but we will not prevent guests from doing so. In the lowlands, the temperature should be fairly warm, nearing 20C degrees during the day. Higher up, a light fleece and wind layer will be needed during the day. At alpine elevations, we might start the day with a woolen hat and gloves and down jacket, but will shed them quickly as it gets warmer.

### ***Transport of luggage during the Annapurna Sanctuary Trek:***

Please arrive in Kathmandu with a duffle bag that can be carried by our porters without too many problems. They should be soft, and not duffles with wheels, as they need to be pulled together with ropes so they can be carried easily. Some clean, spare clothes, extra film etc. can be stored in Kathmandu in our office or in the hotel. You will need a little rucksack, approx.. 35l, to carry your belongings you need for the day.

### **About porters in Nepal:**

Why have someone else carry your bags for you? A good question many of our guests ask us. Due to a lack of infrastructure in Nepal, locals depend on porters to carry everything, including the kitchen sink to their villages high in mountains. This is not exploitation but a source of much-needed hard currency for people who live on subsistence farming. When hiring porters, we provide them with all necessary clothing and footwear. We carry comprehensive life insurance for them in the event of an accident. Our porters are an integral part of any Himalayan experience and they are treated with the respect they deserve.

**Mandatory equipment:**

- Wind and waterproof jacket and pants
- Fleece layers (*one warm fleece pullover or jacket, one lighter fleece layer, a fleece vest is a very good idea, too*)
- Proper fitting, solid trekking boots (*Take the inner sole/foot bed out of your shoe and stand on it. You should have a space of 0,5cm – 1cm from the top of your toes to the top of the sole. If there is less space, your boots are too small, if there is more space, your boots are too big. Also make sure that your heel is not too loose in order to avoid blisters*). *If you are unsure of what brand and model of shoe, please contact Alpine Interface. Most boots today need no break in periods and are extremely comfortable. Buying boots mail order is a recipe for disaster. Boots should have Vibram soles, should be above the ankles and should be waterproof.*
- Jogging shoes/sandals for the lodges and Kathmandu.
- Technical clothing that is light and dries quickly (*2/3 T-shirts, 1 or 2 t-shirts with long sleeves*)
- Socks / underwear
- Warm hat, gloves (*fleece gloves are enough*)
- Sleeping bag. Comfort rating of -15C
- Sun protection (*sun hat/cap, glasses, cream*)
- 35 litre rucksack (*with rain cover, if possible. Some have one built in on the bottom of the pack, for example 'Deuter' rucksacks. If not, try to get one for your rucksack in a sport shop. Also a good thing, a plastic liner for the inside of the bag, to protect the gear that is inside. Zip lock bag for wallet, tickets, passport, money etc. works as well. If you unsure as to the brand and model, please contact Alpine Interface. Mail order is not recommended as one cannot get an idea of what the pack will feel like when loaded.*)
- Camelbak or water bottle (*if you use a Camelbak, make sure you carry spare parts*)

**Optional equipment:**

- Telescopic poles (*will help in case you have to cross snow fields and takes weight off the knees*)
- Hut sleeping bag liner
- Gaiters
- Map/compass
- GPS if you like to use it
- Small head torch (*for nights in the huts*)
- Swiss army knife or similar
- Small umbrella