

Annapurna Expedition in Nepal

Quick Facts

Duration:	40
Max Altitude:	8091
Best Season:	Sept - Nov & March - May
Group Size:	25
Accommodation:	Tea House and Tent
Route:	Kathmandu to Kathmandu
Difficulty:	Challenging

Trip Overview

Mount Annapurna I (8,091m / 26,545ft) is the 10th highest mountain in the world and the most dangerous with a 32% fatality rate, the highest of any peak on earth. Located in the heart of the Annapurna Conservation Area in central Nepal, it is surrounded by iconic peaks including Machapuchhare, Annapurna II, III, and IV.

This is not a mountain you simply climb. Annapurna tests your patience, physical limits, mental strength, and respect for nature in ways no other peak can. Its steep north face, massive seracs, avalanche-prone slopes, and violently unpredictable weather make it one of the most technically demanding expeditions in the world.

Beyond the climb itself, you will walk through the villages of the Gurung, Magar, Thakali, and Tibetan-influenced mountain communities some of the most warm and welcoming people on earth. Your expedition begins with a sacred Puja ceremony at base camp, a blessing from the goddess Annapurna performed by our Sherpa team before every single climb.

At Summit 8000, we have been guiding climbers on Annapurna since 1986. Zero fatalities. 80% summit success rate in 2025. When you climb with us, your life is in the hands of Sherpas who have given their entire lives to this mountain.



Why should you do the Annapurna Expeditions?

You shall do the Annapurna mountain expeditions because the journey to the peak is not only about climbing, but its all about the experience you will have on the climb that will enter in your heart. As you walk on the mountains, you will feel that every breathe feels alive, every step feels meaningful, the mountain will not rush you, but if you will teach you patience, strength, and silence.

You will witness the beautiful mountain views, you will be passing through the scenic villages, you will interact with the locals who will be telling you the stories about the place and the mountains, and you will enjoy the local foods and cultures. On the mountains, you will enjoy your victory after every camp you summit, your bond between the climbers, guide, and mountain will be unbreakable, which is a unique experience.

In the extreme cold and thin air, you will discover the value of the team work, leadership, and mental and physical strength. The conquering of the summit is not only about conquering the world's 10th-tallest peak but is all about conquering yourself.

Annapurna Expedition Routes

There are mainly 2 routes to conquer the peak. There are some other routes, but that's not in use and is rarely used by the climbers. The main routes are:

Standard Route (North Face / Northwest Ridge)

The standard routes for the Annapurna I expeditions are the north face, or sometimes called as the northwest ridge route. The climbs begin from the south [Annapurna base camp](#), which is a famous trekking trail as well in Nepal. In the base camp, you will perform the Puja ceremony, and from there you will walk on the different steep glaciers, snow, and ice climbing with fixed ropes on the many sections.

You will trip via the crevasses, seracs, and avalanche risks, especially between Camp I and Camp II. The typical routes involve the Camp I → Camp II → Camp III → Camp IV → Summit.

South Face Route

Another climbing route is from the south face of the Annapurna I peak. It is also one of the most historical and technically demanding climbing routes in the Himalayas.

This route was firstly used by the French expeditions led by Maurice Herzog in 1950, which was the first time ever in world history that someone climbed a peak above 8000 meters.

The south face is 3,000 meters of continuous vertical rock, ice, and mixed terrains, which is almost rising from the base camp to the summit, due to which it is extremely dangerous and requires technical climbing.

You will encounter the steep rock walls, near vertical ice sections, exposed ridgelines, and unstable snow fields.

Because it's a high risk climbing route its generally avoided, we suggest you take the standard north face route, and our itinerary includes on that route.

What is the Annapurna Expedition Success Rate?



Mount Annapurna I has one of the lowest summit success rates among all 8,000m peaks in the world. Understanding the global statistics helps climbers set realistic expectations before attempting this legendary mountain.

Peak	Success Rate	Fatality Rate
Annapurna I	40-45%	32%
K2	25-30%	23%
Everest Expedition	55-60%	1%
Manaslu Expedition	50-55%	7%
Cho Oyu	65-70%	1.5%

Annapurna's low global success rate is driven by its unpredictable weather windows, avalanche-prone slopes, and extreme technical difficulty between Camp III and the summit.

Summit 8000 Annapurna Expedition Real Stats & Track Record

Numbers don't lie. Here is our honest, unfiltered expedition record on Mount Annapurna I built over nearly four decades of guiding climbers to one of the world's most dangerous summits.

Our Annapurna Record at a Glance

Stat	Summit 8000 Record
Experience in High-Altitude Guiding	Since 1986 (39 years)
Total Climbers Guided (All Peaks)	500+ climbers
Total Annapurna Expeditions Run	50+ expeditions
Nationalities Guided on Annapurna	20+ nationalities
2025 Season Success Rate	80% (8 out of 10 summits)
Global Annapurna Average Success Rate	40-45%
Overall Fatality Record	Zero fatalities ever
Reason for Non-Summits	100% weather & natural conditions

Built on Experience, Driven by Sherpa Legacy

Summit 8000 is not a travel agency that organizes mountaineering trips. We are a Sherpa-owned and Sherpa-led company, founded in 1986 by high-altitude mountaineers who have spent their entire lives on these peaks. Our founding partners are Sherpas, men over 60 who climbed Annapurna, [Everest](#), and the great Himalayan giants before most of today's expedition companies even existed. Their knowledge of these mountains is not learned from a textbook or a training course. It is passed down through generations, earned step by step at extreme altitude, in every season, in every condition.



When you climb with us, your safety is in the hands of people who have given their lives to these mountains, not just their careers.

What These Numbers Mean for You?

Zero fatalities in 39 years is our most important number. On a mountain with a 32% global fatality rate, this record reflects something far deeper than good luck; it reflects a culture of discipline, patience, and putting human life above any summit goal.

500+ climbers guided across our partners' combined careers means we have seen virtually every scenario these mountains can present, sudden weather collapses, medical emergencies at altitude, technical failures, and everything in between. That experience lives inside our team.

80% success rate on Annapurna in 2025 is nearly double the global average. The 20% who did not summit were turned back by weather and natural conditions. Every single one came home safely, and that is always the real summit for us.

How We Achieve an Above-Average Success Rate?

Factor	What We Do
Acclimatization	Conservative rotation schedule never rushed
Weather Forecasting	Real-time satellite forecasts + 39 years of local knowledge
Sherpa Team	Founding partners with 60+ years of life experience on these peaks
Base Camp Support	Dedicated base camp manager, full medical kit, satellite phone
Summit Window Planning	We wait for the right window climbers are never pressured
Safety Protocol	O ₂ systems, fixed ropes, and immediate rescue capability

All statistics are based on Summit 8000's internal expedition records and the combined career records of our founding Sherpa partners since 1986. Success rate is defined as climbers reaching the summit of Annapurna I (8,091 m) and returning safely to base camp.

Annapurna Peak Climbing Cost

The cost of climbing Annapurna I varies depending on the expedition company, the services included, group size, and the season of your climb. Generally, Annapurna expedition packages range from \$18,000 to \$35,000 USD across different operators worldwide. Budget operators may offer lower prices but often cut corners on Sherpa quality, oxygen supply, and base camp logistics, areas where compromise can cost you the summit or worse.

At Summit 8000, our Annapurna expedition is priced at \$20,000 USD per person, which covers everything you need from the moment you land in Kathmandu to the moment you fly home. No hidden fees, no surprise charges at base camp. To know exactly what you get in 20,000 USD you can check our cost includes and excludes section.



Cost by Group Size

Joining a group expedition significantly reduces per-person costs as logistics, Sherpa fees, and base camp setup are shared across all members.

Group Size	Estimated Cost Per Person
Solo (1 climber)	\$28,000-\$35,000
Small Group (2-3 climbers)	\$22,000-\$26,000
Standard Group (4-6 climbers)	\$20,000 (Summit 8000 rate)
Large Group (7+ climbers)	Contact us for custom pricing

What are the Permits Required for the Annapurna expedition?

Climbing Annapurna I requires multiple permits issued by different government authorities in Nepal. At Summit 8000, we handle every single permit on your behalf you will never have to visit a government office or stand in a queue. Here is a complete breakdown of every permit required for the Annapurna I expedition.

Permit	Issued By	Cost (Per Person)	Required?
Expedition Royalty Permit	Department of Tourism (DoT)	\$3,000 (Spring/Autumn)	Mandatory
Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP)	Annapurna Conservation Area Project	\$22 (NPR 3,000)	Mandatory
Liaison Officer Assignment	Department of Tourism (DoT)	Included in royalty	Mandatory
Garbage Deposit Fee	Department of Tourism (DoT)	\$300-\$500	Mandatory
Climber's Insurance	Private Insurer (verified by DoT)	Varies	Mandatory
High Altitude Staff Insurance	Nepal Government Requirement	Included in package	Mandatory

Annapurna I Expedition Permits & Requirements

Expedition Royalty Permit

The Expedition Royalty Permit is the primary permit required to climb Annapurna I, issued by the Department of Tourism (DoT), Nepal. For spring (March-May) and autumn (September-November), the cost is approximately \$3,000 per person. Fees increase in the winter and monsoon seasons.

This permit cannot be obtained individually it must be applied through a licensed expedition operator. As a government-registered company since 1986, We handle the application on your behalf, ensuring a smooth and compliant process.



Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP)

The ACAP Permit is required for all activity within the Annapurna Conservation Area, covering the base camp approach and the surrounding region. It costs NPR 3,000 (\$22 USD) for foreign climbers and is issued by the Annapurna Conservation Area Project.

This permit supports conservation of trails, wildlife, and local communities, helping preserve the mountain environment that makes your expedition possible.

Liaison Officer Assignment

Nepal law requires every 8,000m expedition to have a government-appointed Liaison Officer (LO). The LO monitors compliance with climbing regulations, environmental rules, and permit conditions.

The cost of the Liaison Officer is included in the Expedition Royalty Permit. We coordinate the assignment directly with the Department of Tourism, so this process is fully handled before your arrival.

Garbage Deposit Fee

Nepal requires all 8,000m expeditions to pay a garbage deposit of \$300–\$500. This deposit is refunded upon return if the team brings back the required amount of waste from the mountain.

At Summit 8000, our base camp crew and Sherpa team strictly follow waste management protocols, ensuring your deposit is returned while protecting the Himalayan environment.

Climber's Insurance

While not a government-issued permit, personal high-altitude rescue and medical insurance is mandatory and verified by the Department of Tourism before your permit is approved.

Your policy must cover:

- High-altitude rescue above 5,000 m
- Emergency helicopter evacuation
- Medical treatment at altitude
- Repatriation in case of serious injury or death

This insurance is not included in the \$20,000 package and must be purchased individually. We strongly recommend securing it before arriving in Nepal and sharing the details with our team during the pre-expedition briefing.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu

Greetings from Summit 8000. One of our team members will be waiting for you at the airport to welcome you. After the meeting, you will be assisted to your hotel in Thamel, as it is the tourist hub. Upon reaching, relax and enjoy your day. In the evening, you can have a stroll around the marketplace.

Accommodation: Tourist Standard Hotel

Meals: Welcome Dinner

Day 2: Expeditions briefing, Gears and Equipment buying, and obtaining permits

Today, early in the morning, you will have your breakfast with your guide, who will brief you about the expeditions. After that, you and our guide will go to the market to buy your gear and equipment which you will require during the trek and climb. You can rent or buy, depending on your preference. Please buy each and every items our guide suggests you can have a safe climb. After completing the shopping, you can take the items to your hotel and pack for the next day. Also, you will need to obtain the permits on the same day that our guide will be assisting you to obtain.

Accommodation: Tourist Standard Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3: Fly from Kathmandu to Pokhara

Early in the morning, our guide, along with the driver, will come to pick you up at your hotel. You can have your breakfast and load your duffel bags, trekking, and everything in the vehicle. If you have a suitcase, you can shift the items from the suitcase to duffel bags and trekking bags and leave them in the hotel. Upon returning, you can take it again. After that, you will drive to the Tribhuvan International Airport and fly from Kathmandu to Pokhara. The flight time is around 25 minutes above the mountains and valleys. Upon reaching, you will be transferred to the hotel. After that, you can have the sightseeing in Pokhara and explore the Phewa Lake, Pumdikot, David falls, and many more.

Accommodation: Tourist Standard Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4: Fly from Pokhara to Annapurna Base Camp

You will have a Heli flight from Pokhara to Annapurna base camp. The flight time will be of 30 minutes while approaching the Annapurna peaks along with the surrounding peaks like the Machapuchhare and Dhaulagiri. The flight from Pokhara to ABC seems so perfect in terms of scene and beauty. Upon reaching the ABC, you can click photographs and relax at your tent house. You will get the perfect sunset views of Annapurna I from the ABC. You will have a short hike to the nearby ridges so that you can acclimate yourself.

Accommodation: Tea House

Meals: B, L, & D

Day 5 to 29: Rotation Periods



From the day 5th you will have practice of climbing, using ropes, crampons, axes, ice arrest, and many more. Along with that, you will have the climbing and rotations periods, which means you will start your climb from the Annapurna base camp, conquer Camp I, conquer it, and return to ABC, and then again from ABC to Camp I, and then from Camp I to II, and again return to ABC. Along with that, you will have a gradual ascent to the terrains, and you will learn about the mountains.

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: B, L, & D

Day 29 to 37: Summit Climbing Period

Your summit climbing period will start from the 29th day after you successfully climbed the different camps and conquered. Now you will climb from the base camp to Camp I, Camp II, Camp III, Camp IV and from Camp IV you will summit the peak at an altitude of 8,091 meters. After a successful summit, you can congratulate yourself for achieving what other dreams of.

Accommodation: Tent

Meals: B, L, & D

Day 38: Heli Flight from Annapurna I Base Camp to Pokhara

After your successful summit of the Annapurna peak, I will descend to the base camp. Our helicopter will come to pick you up from the camp. You can fly from there to Pokhara and rest at your hotel. Also in the evening, we will invite you to the congratulations dinner where we will share our stories, difficulties, and everything we felt on the climb.

Accommodation: Tourist Standard Hotel

Meals: Dinner

Day 39: Flight from Pokhara to Kathmandu

You will have a flight from Pokhara to Kathmandu, which will be of again 25 minutes. Upon reaching, you can rest for a while. After that, you can return the climbing gear and equipment's which you rented. You can take your suitcase from the hotel and pack your belongings for the next day. You can also visit the different places in Kathmandu valley, such as the Sawayambhunath stupa, Boudhanath stupa, and Kathmandu durbar square. And many more.

Accommodation: Tourist Standard Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Day 40: Departure

According to your time schedule, we will drive you to the airport. We hope you loved our itinerary and experience Nepal mountains. We wish to welcome you again for some other expeditions or treks, such as the [Everest Expeditions](#), Cho Oyu expeditions, or some trekking like the EBC.

Accommodation:



Meals: Breakfast

Gears Lists

Annapurna I Expedition Packing List

Clothing - Layering is Key

- Base Layers: Moisture-wicking thermal tops & bottoms
- Mid Layers: Fleece or down jacket for insulation
- Outer Layer: Waterproof and windproof shell jacket and pants
- Down Jacket: Heavyweight, suitable for high-altitude camps
- Trekking Pants & Shorts: Lightweight for lower altitude trekking
- Gloves & Mittens: Lightweight liner gloves + insulated mittens
- Hats: Warm beanie + sun hat
- Balaclava or Neck Gaiter for extreme cold
- Socks: Thermal and moisture-wicking, 4-6 pairs
- Gaiters: Waterproof for snow and debris protection

Footwear

- Mountaineering Boots: Double or triple-layered, compatible with crampons
- Trekking Shoes: Comfortable for approach treks
- Camp Shoes: Lightweight, insulating sandals or sneakers

Climbing Gear

- Crampons suitable for your boots
- Ice Axe (if not provided by operator)
- Climbing Harness
- Carabiners & Slings
- Helmet
- Trekking Poles
- Headlamp with extra batteries

Camping & Sleeping Gear

- Sleeping Bag: Rated for -20°C / -4°F or lower
- Sleeping Pad / Mattress for insulation



- Dry Bags for keeping clothes and electronics dry

Health & Safety

- Personal First Aid Kit (blisters, painkillers, altitude meds)
- Prescription Medications
- Water Purification: Tablets or filter
- Sunscreen & Lip Balm: High SPF
- Sunglasses / Glacier Goggles
- Hydration System / Bottles

Personal Items

- Passport, copies, permits
- Travel insurance documents
- Notebook, pen
- Camera / GoPro
- Chargers, power bank (solar optional)
- Snacks, energy bars

Optional But Recommended

- Lightweight backpack for day treks
- Thermos or insulated bottle
- Hand warmers
- Book or Kindle for downtime at base camp

Cost Includes

- 1.** Airport pick up and drop off
- 2.** Flight from Kathmandu to Pokhara and return
- 3.** Heli flight from Pokhara to ABC and return
- 4.** Accommodations in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- 5.** Tent accommodations during the expeditions
- 6.** Government permits and fees
- 7.** Government-licensed liaison officer
- 8.** Experienced climbing Sherpa guides
- 9.** Porters and crews for carrying the equipment
- 10.** All the logistics required during the climb and base camp, such as tents, food, kitchen, toilets, cooks, Dining and everything.
- 11.** Meals during the stay in the camp (breakfast, lunch, dinner, soups, energy bars, and all meals required)
- 12.** Group climbing gears such as ropes, fixed lines, and technical gear



13. Satellite phone, along with the safety device

14. Medical kits

15. Staff Insurance and fees

Cost Excludes

1. Airfare from and to Nepal

2. Nepal Visa fee

3. Travel insurance

4. Personal high-altitude rescue above 5000 meters

5. Personal climbing gear (down suit, boots, harness, crampons, ice axe, helmet, etc.)

6. High camp personal equipment and additional oxygen

7. Lunch and dinner in Kathmandu and Pokhara

8. Internet usage, phone calls, laundry, battery charging

9. Tips/gratuities for guides and support staff

Route Map

