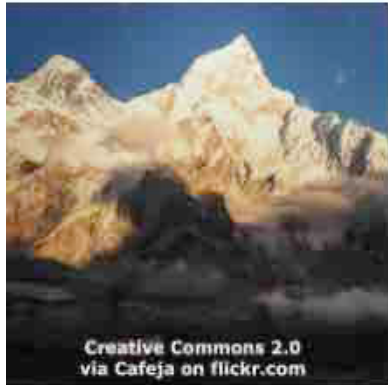


Nepal makes 97 mountains free to climb

14th August 2025



Nepal is making 97 of its mountains free to climb for the next two years. The government wants to encourage tourists to go trekking in two provinces in the far west of Nepal. They are among the country's poorest and least-developed areas. A tourism

official said the peaks that will have no climbing fees are between 5,970 metres and 7,132 metres high. The director of Nepal's Tourism Department told The Kathmandu Post about the new plan. He said: "Despite their breathtaking beauty, the number of tourists and mountaineers here is very low as access is so difficult." He hoped the plan would "create jobs, generate income, and strengthen the local economy".

Nepal's government also announced a change in the fee it charges to climb Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain. From the 1st of September, the cost of climbing Everest will rise from \$11,000 to \$15,000. This is the first increase in nearly ten years. Other popular peaks will also have higher fees. An additional rule to climb Everest was introduced earlier this year. Trekkers now need to prove they have scaled a peak in Nepal that is over 7,000 metres high. The government hopes this will encourage more people to attempt some of the 97 free mountains. The tourism director said the more remote mountains are "ideal training grounds" to reach the top of Everest.

Sources: kathmandupost.com / bbc.com / independent.co.uk

Writing

We should all trek up mountains. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Nepal / mountains / tourists / trekking / tourism / fee / beauty / mountaineers / jobs / government / Everest / September / climbing / rule / peak / remote / training / top

True / False

- 1) People can now climb 97 mountains in Nepal for free for 10 years. T / F
- 2) All of the peaks that are now free are over 7,000 metres high. T / F
- 3) A tourism official warned about being out of breath. T / F
- 4) Nepal's government hopes the free mountains will help local economies. T / F
- 5) The fee to climb Mount Everest will rise by \$4,000. T / F
- 6) The last time there was a rise in the fee to climb Everest was in 2001. T / F
- 7) You can only climb Everest if you have climbed a high peak in Nepal. T / F
- 8) An official said the 97 mountains are great to train to climb Everest. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. encourage | a. extra |
| 2. provinces | b. amazing |
| 3. peaks | c. increase |
| 4. breathtaking | d. regions |
| 5. income | e. faraway |
| 6. fee | f. revenue |
| 7. rise | g. persuade |
| 8. additional | h. show |
| 9. prove | i. price |
| 10. remote | j. mountaintops |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of trekking?
- b) What are the good things about paying to climb mountains?
- c) Would you like to climb Mount Everest?
- d) What are the best mountains in your country?
- e) Should everyone take up trekking as a hobby?
- f) Would you like to go trekking in Nepal?
- g) How can countries deal with overtourism?
- h) What advice do you have for Nepal's government?

Phrase Match

1. two provinces in the far
 2. the country's poorest and least-
 3. breathtaking
 4. generate
 5. strengthen the
 6. a change in the fee
 7. This is the first increase
 8. Trekkers now need to prove they
 9. encourage more people
 10. reach
- a. to attempt some
 - b. it charges
 - c. income
 - d. in nearly ten years
 - e. beauty
 - f. west of Nepal
 - g. the top of Everest
 - h. local economy
 - i. have scaled a peak
 - j. developed areas

Discussion – Student B

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of Mount Everest?
- c) What do you think of the \$15,000 fee to climb Everest?
- d) What are the bad things about trekking?
- e) Why do people like to climb mountains?
- f) Which of the world's mountains would you like to climb?
- g) What are the good things about trekking?
- h) What questions would you like to ask people who climb Everest?

Spelling

1. The government wants to euergonac tourists
2. A irstmuo official
3. Despite their breathtaking ayueth
4. ecasc is so difficult
5. generate imnoec
6. ntsghenret the local economy
7. This is the first aeescnri
8. An aatdolidni rule
9. orepv they have scaled a peak
10. more people to temtatp some
11. the more omrtee mountains
12. eachr the top of Everest

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. f
6. i	7. c	8. a	9. h	10. e

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions.
(Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	For how long will it be free to climb the 97 Nepalese mountains?
2.	Where in Nepal are the 97 mountains?
3.	What is the height of the smallest of the 97 mountains?
4.	What did a tourism official say was breathtaking?
5.	What does an official hope making the mountains free will strengthen?
6.	By how much will the fee to climb Mount Everest rise?
7.	When was the last time the fee to climb Mount Everest rise?
8.	When was an additional rule to climb Mount Everest introduced?
9.	How high must trekkers have climbed to be able to climb Everest?
10.	What are the 97 mountains "ideal training grounds" for?

Speaking – Places to Trek

Rank these with your partner. Put the best places to go trekking at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Mount Everest
- Amazon Jungle
- Sahara Desert
- Antarctica
- The Grand Canyon
- The local shopping mall
- Machu Picchu
- The Masai Mara

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 F	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.