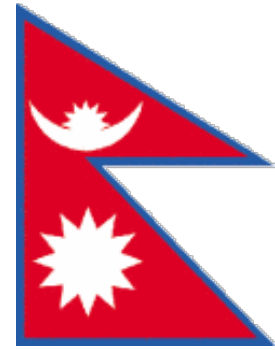


**WEST LANCASHIRE COUNTY SCOUTS  
HIMALAYAN HIGHLIGHTS**

# NEPAL

**DECEMBER 2012**

**For Explorer Scouts and Scout Network  
(Between the ages of 15 & 20)**



In 2009 six Scouters set off on an adventure to the beautiful Himalayas in Nepal climbing Gokyo Ri (5,357m), crossing the Cho La (5,420m) and ascending Kala Pattar (5,623m), which overlooks Everest base Camp. They were accompanied by Prakash who runs the business "Mountain Zone Trekking" out of Kathmandu. Prakash is also one of the Trustees of an orphanage up in the hills above Kathmandu and in 2010 twelve Explorer Scouts and Network members started an ongoing community project at the orphanage. In 2012 we hope to go back to the orphanage and continue the good work that the team in 2010 achieved.

**THE ADVENTURE** The TEAM will plan and organise the whole adventure and other than the community project, will decide exactly when to go, for how long, and what you wish to do, including a minimum of 5 days on the community project. The Team will also have reports and recommendations from the 2010 team to work with. On the adventure side you could go trekking into the Annapurna Sanctuary from Pokhara, or heading up past Namche Bazaar to Gokyo Ri within sight of Everest, or into the Langtang Valley..... or even doing a shorter trek to Gorepani and Poon Hill within sight of the Annapurnas and Machhapuchre with a few days on Safari in the Chitwan National Park (where there be Tigers!). Endless opportunities! The treks will be guided by Prakash, and fully supported by porters, so you only have to carry water and minimal gear.



**Final day picnic with the orphans Dec 2010**

**WHEN & FOR HOW LONG** December 2012 – Roughly 9<sup>th</sup> Dec – 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan, Approx 22 days away



**2010 Team on the summit of Gokyo Ri 5,357m**

**THE TEAM** We envisage a team of 12 participants from the Explorer Scout and Scout Network sections, aged at least 15 and no older than 20 at the time of departure. You must have a desire to make a difference in the developing world and an interest in experiencing an environment and culture of Nepal that is so different to our own.

**THE CULTURE** Kathmandu IS the most enigmatic city in the whole world and at the top of Dick's top ten world cities. It is a fascinating place..... it arouses all your senses.....the sights, the sounds, the smells. Full of stupas and temples, the home of the Living Goddess, the funeral ghats, etc. A way of life that is totally outside the experience of the average European.

At least a day looking around the city with a guide will provide the final memorable experience of the expedition. Trekking with your local Porters, Prakash, and his Sirdar, "Michael", will give you a wonderful insight into their way of life.

**COSTS** The overall cost depends upon exactly how long you will be away, and what you actually do. In 2010, the Team was just in budget at £1,750 per participant, and they have raised a lot together by joint fundraising. So as a ball-park figure, expect the cost to be "Under £2,000" to allow a bit for inflation. As with all similar County ventures, you plan it, and whatever it costs, that's what you pay!!!! There will, of course, be help and advice for your fundraising, which must include something to donate to the Project.

**TIMELINE:** Application forms must be in by

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2011**



Elephant Safari

with interviews taking place shortly after, and a first formal meeting of the Team over the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> January.

At the first meeting, we will agree a payments schedule and the TIMELINE for the eleven months leading up to departure, including dates for meetings and training weekends to which EVERYBODY will be expected to attend.



**LEADERS** Andy Mathers has been recruited to lead this expedition for 2012. He will be assisted by Rachael Webster, also from Blackpool, who is on her second visit to Nepal. Dick Griffiths, ACC (Expeditions), has very close contacts in-Country and will act as Responsible Commissioner for the venture.

**BRITISH STANDARD 8848** This venture is operated by West Lancs County Scout Council and as such conforms to BS 8848, (*Specification for the provision of visits, fieldwork, expeditions, and adventurous activities, outside the United Kingdom*), as independently assessed by the Young Explorers' Trust in 2009.

**INTERESTED?** We can promise you a truly amazing life changing experience! All you need to do is fill out the application form, attach a passport sized photograph, and post it to me at the address below. We will acknowledge receipt of all applications and invite you to interview, where we can discuss the venture further. If you have any other questions that you would like answered by the leaders, don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Andy Mathers, District Explorer Scout Leader (Blackpool),**  
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