



HIMALAYA HELICOPTER EXPEDITION

Saturday, October 21–28, 2023

Kathmandu, Nepal to Kathmandu, Nepal

All photos taken by Jack Wheeler

EST.  1976



WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS

Exclusive *Himalaya Helicopter Expeditions* have been so successful over the past years that it will be offered,

Saturday, Oct 21- Saturday, Oct 28, 2023

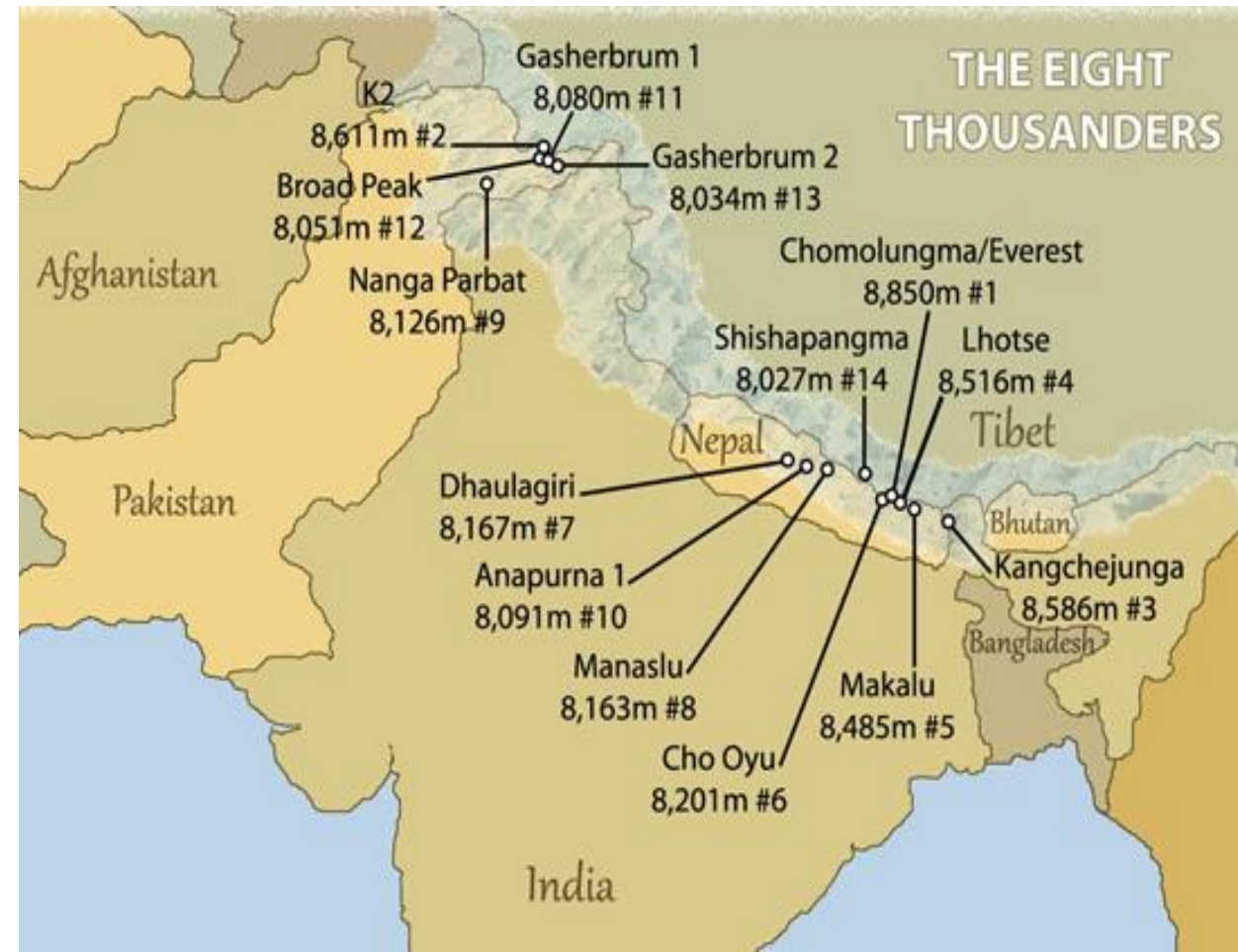
This is one of the greatest adventures available on earth today...in only one week.

There are 14 mountains on the Roof of the World and they are the most magnificent mountains on earth.

Mountaineers call them “*achttausenders*,” as they are over 8,000 meters (26,247 ft) high.

As you can see in the map, the majority of 8,000ers are in the Himalayas of Nepal – 8 in all.

To be in the presence of any one of them is a life-memorable experience.



These mountains are “ultimates” of Himalayan trekking.

And you get to skip the trekking – and soar to the heights!

We go through and fly right up to Everest, Lhotse, Cho Oyu, Makalu, Kanchenjunga, Manaslu, Annapurna, and Dhaulagiri.

Until we invented Himalaya Helicopter, it was a major undertaking of physical effort, time, and money to trek to the base camp of *any* of these 8 mountains.

And, of course, with each mountain, our goal is to get as close and land when we can.

It is an experience and a memory of your lifetime.



HHE Expedition designed by Jack Wheeler
Pictured at K2 in Pakistan

This a completely unique ultimate world class adventure.

Expedition members must be of unfailing good cheer, a boundless gratitude for being alive, a determination to fill their life with extraordinary experiences, and in normal good health.

Day 1, Saturday, October 21, 2023

Arrive in Kathmandu, Nepal. You will be met and transferred to Nepal's famous classic hotel, [The Yak & Yeti](#). Spend your day at leisure. Late afternoon, thorough gear check.

In the evening, we have our Orientation and full briefing by Dr. Wheeler, followed by our Welcome Reception & Dinner.

Note: All expedition members are required to arrive in Kathmandu by this day for we depart the next. Kathmandu is at a moderate altitude of 4,600ft. You may wish to arrive earlier but there is usually no difficulty for anyone in normal health at this altitude.



Day 2

This morning we board our helicopters for the flight to the Everest region. We have three high-altitude turbocharged helicopters such as the Eurocopter AS 350 B3 that test pilot Didier Delsalle of France flew to the top of Mount Everest in 2005.

These are helicopters are flown by pilots highly skilled at rescuing climbers and trekkers in need of medical evacuation from the highest mountains on the planet. Each helicopter holds 4 of us plus a Sherpa guide. Each individual will have their own portable, supplemental oxygen to use at anytime. We are safe and in good hands.



It will take about 45 minutes to reach the airstrip at Lukla, the launching point for treks to Everest and the Khumbu region. After a cup of coffee and refueling, we follow the Dhudh Kosi River straight into the heart of the Himalayas to its source at the foot of the huge *Ngozumpa glacier*. As we approach, we get our first sight of *Cho Oyu* (the Turquoise Goddess in Tibetan), the 6th highest mountain in the world at 8,201 meters/26,906 ft.

The Ngozumpa is the longest (22 miles) glacier in the entire Himalayas. Along its side are a series of glacial melt lakes called the *Gokyo Lakes*, considered sacred by Hindus where pilgrims come to bathe. The views are stupendous.

When we reach the farthest lake, we have an amazing sight.

We are at the *Cho Oyu Base Camp* with the Turquoise Goddess towering above us:

This is **Cho Oyu, 6th highest mountain in the world** at 8,201 meters/26,906 ft.



Everest was named after Sir George Everest (1790-1866), Britain's Royal Surveyor of India. Tibetans call it *Chomolungma*, the Mother Goddess of the Snows, while Sherpas of Nepal call it *Sagarmatha*, Mother of the Universe.

Nearby is a fortuitous promontory called *Scoundrel's View*. Looking across the glacier through a gap in the mountains we see Everest herself in all her glory.



From Scoundrel's View at Cho Oyu, we fly over a 19,000 foot pass called **Cho La to Everest Base Camp (EBC)** at the base of the Khumbu Ice Fall.

Now for an irony. *On the trek to Everest all the way to the Base Camp, you never see Everest – other mountains block the view.*

The mountain you see behind the helicopter in the first photo above is the West Shoulder of Everest – Everest itself is hidden.

But our helicopters, upon leaving EBC, rise up to give us *a view of Everest no one ever sees* – unless you're in a helicopter:



The West Shoulder is on the left, behind is the entire Everest Southwest Face. In the center is Lhotse (“South Peak” in Tibetan). In the middle is the climbers’ route of the Western Cwm above the Khumbu Ice Fall.



Thus Everest Base Camp (EBC) is also the base camp for Lhotse. **Lhotse, 4th highest mountain in the world** at 8,516 meters/27,940 ft. *No trekker ever sees the Western Cwm, Everest and Lhotse* – you only get this view from a helicopter. This is the view of Lhotse you'll get close up. (“Cwm” is pronounced “coom” as in loom.)

Returning to Lukla, we land at the famous Tibetan Buddhist *Tengboche Monastery*.

We'll have time for a visit and a cup of yak butter tea with the Nyingmapa (Red Hat) lamas.

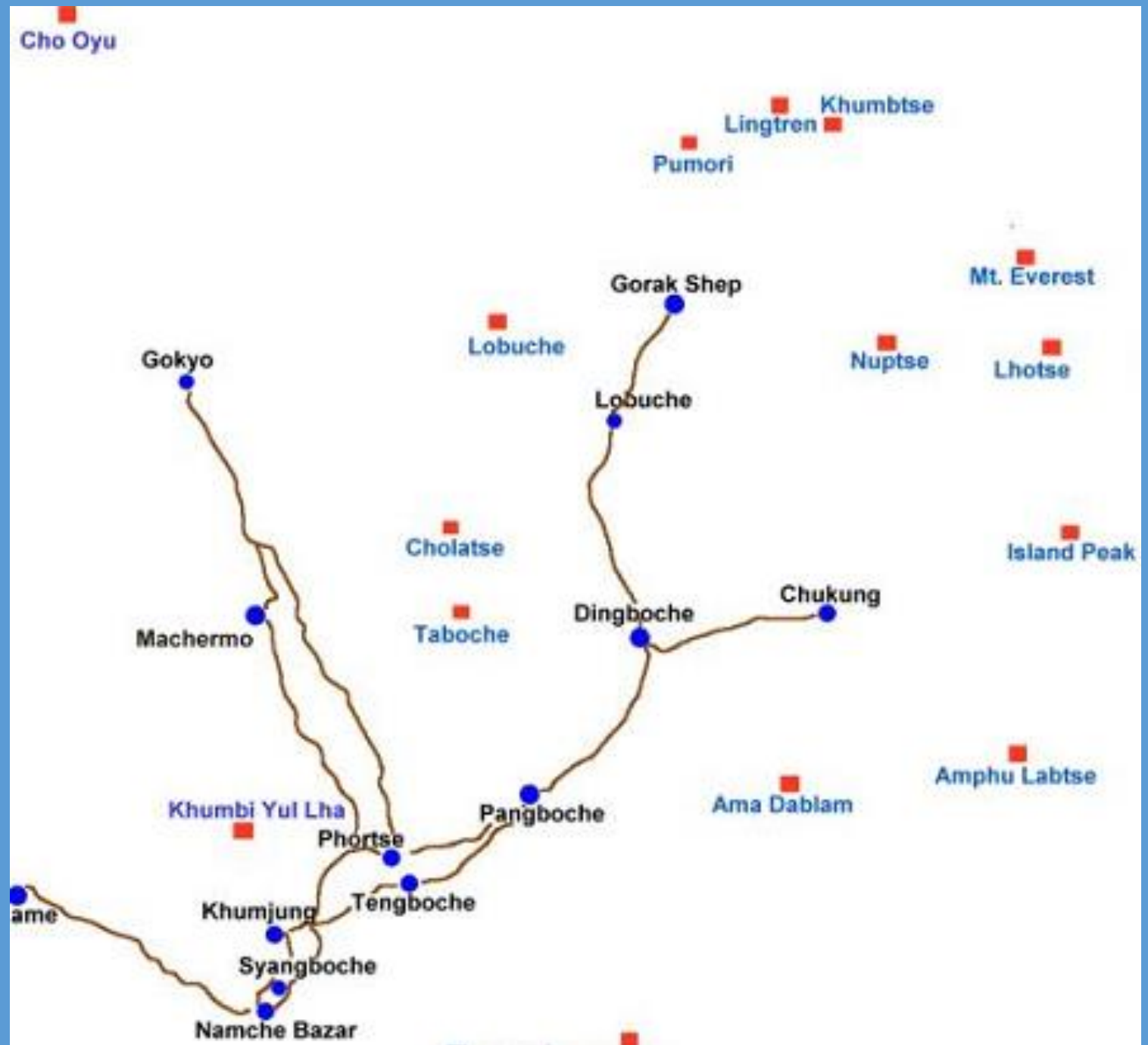
That's Ama Dablam on the right, the Lhotse-Nupse Wall on the left. You can see the tip of the Mount Everest summit peeking above and beyond the Wall.



Back in Lukla, we spend the night at the [Everest Summit Lodge](#), (left), where we will overnight. Back in Lukla, we spend the night at the [Everest Summit Lodge](#) (9,300 ft), where we will overnight.

Here's the **Khumbu trekking map**.

It would have take well over a month to trek all of this – and we've just done it in nine hours!





Day 3 The approach to **the world's 5th highest mountain, Makalu** (“The Great Black” from Sanskrit as the abode of the Black God, Shiva) is lengthy and circuitous. But it's worth it -- we fly via what's called the Valley of Eternity. We proceed up the valley getting narrower and higher until we reach the tongue of the Barun Glacier directly below the gigantic South Face of Makalu. The peak of Makalu is the 5th highest mountain in the world at 8,485 meters/27,838 ft, Makalu Base Camp at just under 16,000 ft.

On the other side of the ridge line is Tibet. You'll be celebrating just like we did with this group of adventurers:



We memorialize this with photos and fly over the Valley of Eternity. We head east to the 3rd highest mountain in the world.

What you're looking at would cause any world-class mountaineer's jaw to drop. In the center is Kanchenjunga, the 3rd highest mountain on earth at 8,586 meters/28,169 feet.

You are seeing the entire ridge line of the Kanchenjunga Massif at over 27,000 feet, with *four* 8,000-meter summits in a row and 170 glaciers.



What's even more astounding is that no one has seen what you're seeing before from this perspective – *from a helicopter 23,000 feet high*. (Most helicopters don't fly remotely close to that height – except that our new specialized high-altitude Euro-copters can.)

Kanchenjunga, although the 3rd highest mountain in the world, is the most remote, least known, and least climbed yet arguably the most spectacular of the Himalayan 8000ers. Now it is a part of our lives.

We return Kathmandu to celebrate and get a good night's sleep at our hotel, the Yak & Yeti.

Day 4

We lift off into the morning light and fly north to *Manaslu* (Mountain of the Spirit in Sanskrit).

Manaslu is the 8th highest mountain on earth at 8,163 meters/27,819 ft

We first get a view from our helicopter flying at 19,000 feet –



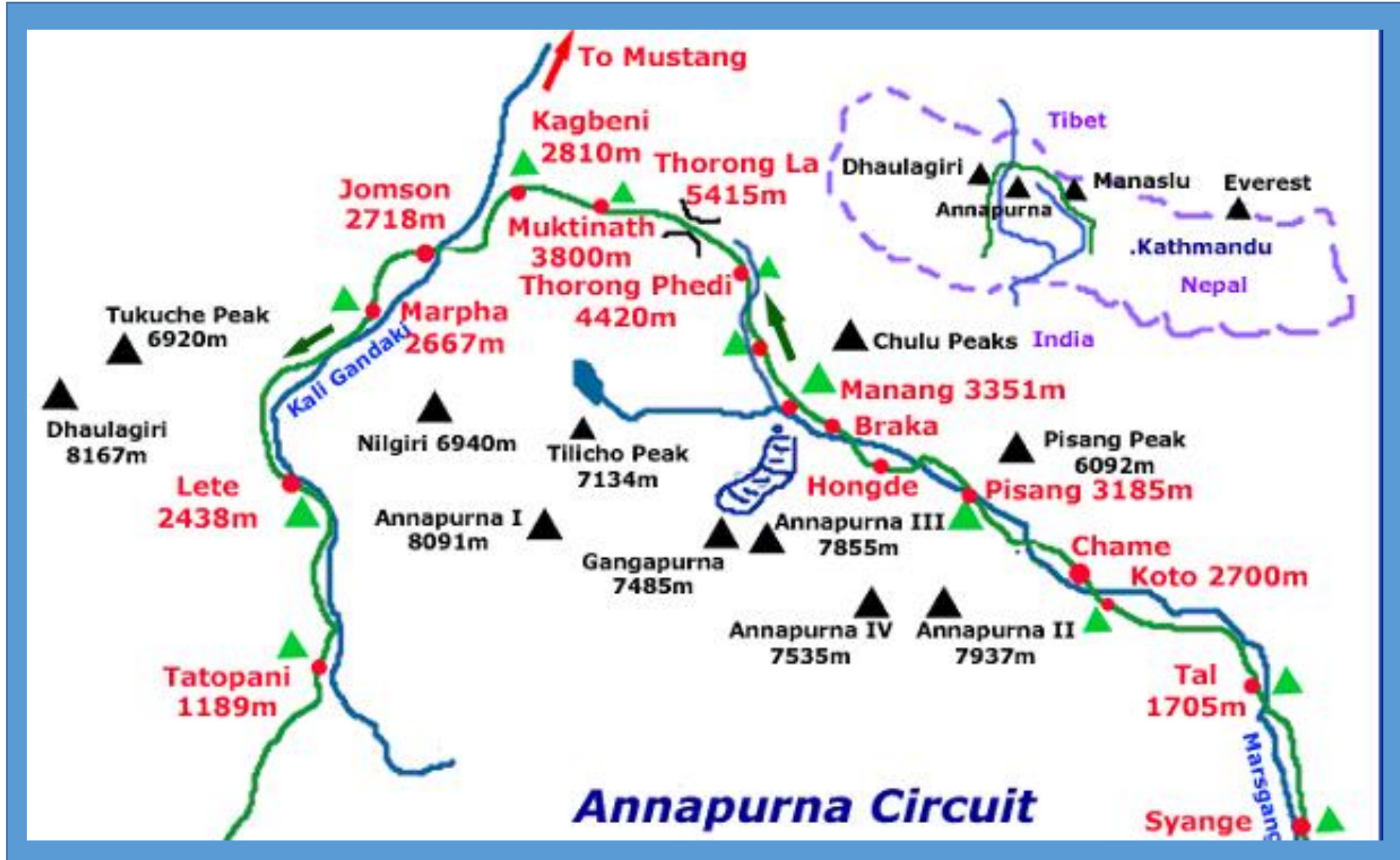
Then of the summit peak coming in
to the base camp –

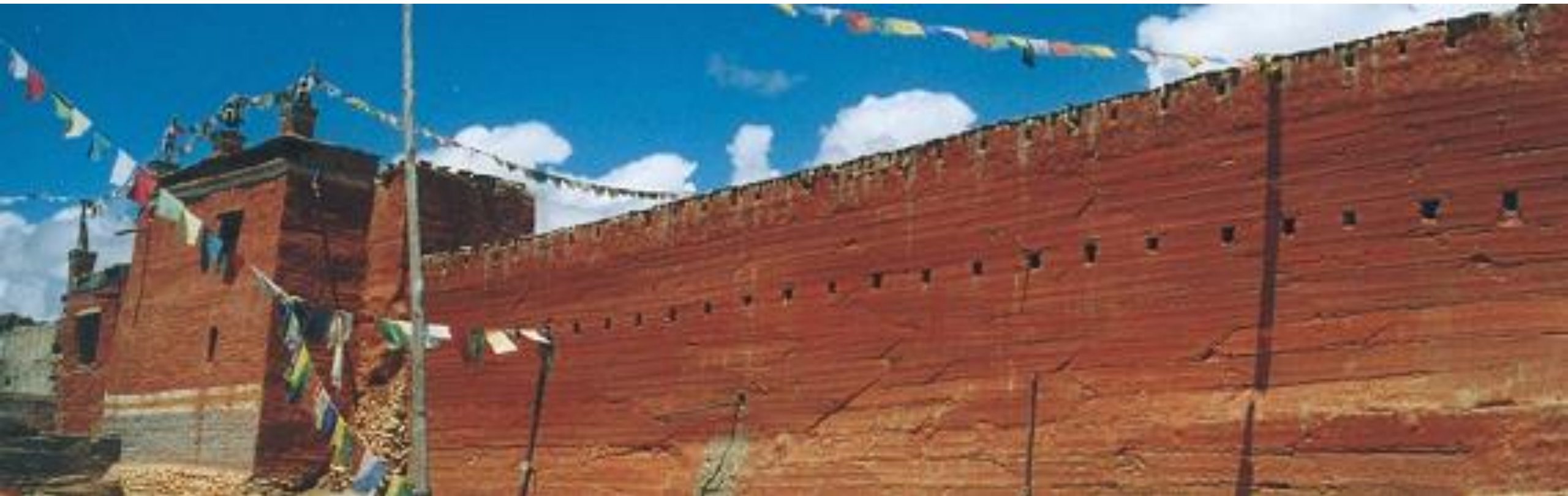
After a visit at the Tibetan village
of Sama, where some of the locals
will come up from their village
to see us.

Then we fly down a spectacular
gorge to overfly the famous
Annapurna Circuit trekking route.



After a visit at the Tibetan village of Sama, we fly down a spectacular gorge to overfly the famous *Annapurna Circuit* trekking route.





Next to the border of Tibet lies the *Hidden Kingdom of Lo*. The people of Lo are Tibetans who retain the last vestiges of traditional Tibetan life on earth, unchanged for centuries. Founded in 1380 by the first King of Lo, Amne Pal, Lo Manthang is a [UN World Heritage Site](#) as the best preserved medieval walled city in the world. Many of its still-standing structures date from the late 1300s-early 1400s, including the King's Palace and Jhampa and Thupchen Gompas.

Closed to all foreigners until recently, it takes trekkers two weeks to get there and back, walking on yak trails at 12,000 feet or higher. We have been given an exclusive permit to fly our helicopters to the capital of Lo, *the Walled City of Lo Manthang*.

Day 4 (continued)

This afternoon, explore the Kingdom of Lo by jeep. We visit the stunning *Nyphu Cave Gompa* built into the side of a soaring cliff...

From there, we visit the remotest village in the Kingdom of Lo, Chosar, with the *Jhong Sky Caves*. It's a network of over 40 rooms where ancient Tibetans lived thousands of years ago. We can easily climb up within to explore them



We explore the ancient city and visit all its ancient temples such as Thupchen Gompa. (*right*)

At the end of the day, we'll relax at the newly built, [Royal Mustang Resort](#).





Today we are off to *Dhaulagiri* (Dazzling White Girl in Sanskrit). Dhaulagiri North and East Face, 7th highest mountain in the world at 8,167 meters/26,788 ft. We get our first view as we depart Mustang.

We turn right here to traverse the French Pass to land at the *Dhaulagiri Base Camp* below the West Face. Again, as always, we want to take time not just for photos but to meet and talk with climbers and their guides, the extraordinary people capable of summiting the great peaks of the world.





We have seen Dhaulagiri's East, North and West Faces. Now we fly close past the South Face for one of the most magnificent sights in the Himalayas. Dhaulagiri South Face, 7th highest mountain in the world at 8,167 meters/26,788 ft

We have one more 8,000er to go:
Annapurna.

The legendary trek in all the Himalayas is to the Annapurna Sanctuary, a 13,000 foot-high basin surrounded by a gigantic cirque of Himalayan peaks.

No foreigners were allowed entry by the native Gurung yak herders until the mid-1950s, as they believe it is the home of their Naga serpent gods.

And suddenly, there we are, in the heart of the Sanctuary with Annapurna I looming in front of us...

We're going to spend a while and won't want to leave. The choppers will fly us around the cirque with enough photo ops to use up several memory cards.



We now make our way to *Pokhara*.

Day 6 In Nepal's second largest city and capital of the Gurkhas, *Pokhara*, we are greeted by a gorgeous lake with those stunning mountains. We've accomplished our mission! Time to relax have fun.



Pokhara the adventure sports capital of Nepal. You can take a jeep tour, go paragliding, hike, horseback riding, mountain biking, and more.



Day 7 This morning, we fly back to Kathmandu and the Yak & Yeti. Today, on our private tour we visit the city's colorful sites and temples. You can explore shops for special gifts to bring home to family and friends.



Tonight, we celebrate our amazing adventure with a sumptuous Farewell Dinner. Then we'll retire to the bar with our fellow adventurers to plan our next adventure. Tomorrow is Departure Day. It's adieu until we meet again!



Jack Wheeler has traveled to every country in the world. He started out as the youngest Eagle Scout in history at age 12, he climbed the Matterhorn at age 14, swam the Hellespont (LIFE Magazine 12/12/60) and lived with Amazon headhunters at 16, hunted a man-eating tiger in Vietnam at 17, and started an export business in Vietnam at 19. He wrote *The Adventurer's Guide* (New York: Mackay, 1975), described by Merv Griffin as “the definitive book for anyone wishing to lead a more adventurous and exciting life.” He has three “first contacts” with tribes never before contacted by the outside world: a clan of Aushiri in the Amazon, the Wali-ali-fo in New Guinea, and a band of Bushmen in the Kalahari. He retraced Hannibal’s route over the Alps with elephants; led numerous expeditions in Central Asia, China, Tibet, Africa, the Amazon and elsewhere, including 21 expeditions to the North Pole; and has been listed in *The Guinness Book of World Records* for the first free fall sky-dive in history at the North Pole.

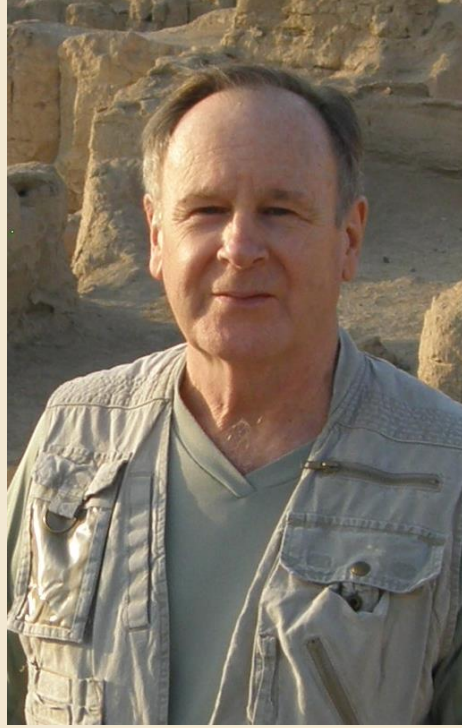
Jack founded **Wheeler Expeditions in 1976**, which has conducted exclusive and bespoke expeditions to unusual destinations across the globe for over 40 years. On a personal note, in the early 80’s he married **Ms. Rebel Holiday** in St Tropez, France, who is a partner in the business. Wheeler Expeditions was a classic family business, working with their two grown sons: **Brandon Holiday Wheeler** and **Jackson Holiday Wheeler**.

Brandon Holiday Wheeler, has traveled to over 90 countries on 6 continents for the past 32 years and has been leading international expeditions for over a decade. He has summited 13 mountains, along with his many adventures skydiving, scuba diving, and flying. He has lived, studied, worked, and volunteered in multiple countries and participated in their diverse cultures, finding value in learning about their distinct worldviews.

Edward Windsor, Lord Downpatrick, (“Eddy Downpatrick”) Eddy is an explorer and adventurer who takes great pleasure in designing and guiding exclusive expeditions. Eddy’s experience, intellect, and great passion for exploring our wondrous planet and sharing it led to the formation of **Wheeler-Windsor Expeditions (“WWX”)**. In addition to extensive travel, Eddy is a mountaineer, avid hiker, skier, cold-water swimmer, linguist, and is adept on a horse. This opens up an even wider range of travel experiences for our WWX Client-Members, with the “invitation-only,” exclusive-access events that stem from Eddy’s uniquely broad network.



Brandon Wheeler



Jack Wheeler



**Edward Windsor
“Eddy Downpatrick”**

EST.  1976



**WHEELER-WINDSOR
EXPEDITIONS**

Our Expedition Leadership Team - WWX

This adventure takes you to the highest peaks. You'll know why world-class mountaineers have been so captivated by these mountains and see vistas that few ever have the privilege to see. Join us to experience it!

HIMALAYA HELICOPTER EXPEDITION DETAILS

Dates: Saturday to Saturday: Oct 21 – Saturday, Oct 28, 2023

Per Person: US \$26,000

Register: [Himalaya Helicopter Oct 21-28, 2023](https://www.wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)

Contact: explore@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com

Deposit and Payment: Deposit due upon registration, payment option, balance due 90 days prior to departure. Refund of deposit and balance in full on the condition of a fully-paid acceptable replacement for you. **Important Note:** When applying for participation, you must affirm that you are in sufficient good health to be at altitudes of around 12,000 feet overnight.

Cost includes: All helicopter flights, all domestic flights, all ground transportation, transfers, government fees/permits, and activities as specified in the itinerary with local English-speaking medically-trained guides. You will be issued a personal portable oxygen cylinder (Just in case you want it at altitude.) All meals included (breakfast/lunch/dinner) with group from dinner Saturday to breakfast Saturday (see dates above). All accommodation Saturday night through checkout the following Saturday. No single supplement surcharge. (Private room included.)

Cost does not include: International airfare to/from Nepal or visa fees (US\$25 in airport on arrival). Any meals, services, and activities not with group or in itinerary; personal expenditures, such as laundry, communications, gratuities, etc. We strongly recommend you protect your trip with “Cancel for Any Reason” travel insurance. Contact us if questions.

Important caveat: Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. Due to the vagaries of travel in this region and of adventure travel in general, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. Participants are expected to accept this, and to maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.



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Travel Details – (continued)

The country is open to visitors with normal good health.

International flights: If you do not have a travel agent, contact us and we can make a referral. You must arrive on or before stated arrival date.

Visas: Our visas are arranged in advance by our partner in Nepal. You need 6 months passport validity + 2 blank pages.

Medical Requirements: Normal good health and ability to be at altitude with oxygen.
Note: As of May 28, 2023, ALL Covid restrictions were lifted.

Important caveat: *Every effort will be made to adhere to the itinerary above. Due to the vagaries of travel in this region and of adventure travel in general, the itinerary may be altered in any way necessary. If any governmental prohibits entry, expedition will be rescheduled and multiple date options provided. Participants are expected to accept this, and to maintain a cheerful attitude on an adventure such as this.*

Contact us on your participation in this extraordinary adventure.
holiday@wheelerexpeditions.com.

Only 8 Adventurers Can Join Us – Be One of Them!

Himalaya Helicopter Expedition

Life is short – the time for a Great Adventure is now.

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Contact: explore@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com