



2018 labuche kang 3 east expedition

Overview

Thanks for your interest in the 2018 unclimbed Labuche Kang III East expedition. We will approach the Labuche Kang massif via Lhasa. Flying into Lhasa will give us the opportunity to see its sights while also acclimatizing for moving higher. We will move from Lhasa by private LandCruiser to Shigatse, acclimatize for two nights, and then drive on to Tingri, the final town before base camp. After acclimatizing here, we will load the yaks and move to Labuche Kang base camp, and then on to a higher Advanced Base Camp. I am planning for three camps (including ABC) on the mountain, which will allow for altitude acclimatization, and also for surmounting the East ridge.

Objective: Labuche Kang 3 East

Coordinates: 86°23'03"E 28°18'01"N (highly recommend cutting and pasting this coordinate into the Google Earth application in the top left search column to see where this peak is located, their imagery of the area is impressive and useful. Do allow a few minutes for imagery to load)

Elevation: 7250 meters



Overview:

Day 1 – Arrive Kathmandu – Sunday 29 April 2018

2 – China visa day

3 – Fly Kathmandu to Lhasa – 3650m

4 - 5 Lhasa – 3650m

6 – Drive Shigatse 3800m

7 – Drive Old Tingri 4348m

8 – Drive New Tingri 4348m

9 – Acclimatize New Tingri 4348m

10 – Drive Labuche Kang Base Camp – 5000m

11 – Acclimatization hike above Labuche Kang BC

We will climb as high as possible on these days. There are hills in this region up to 5800 meters, allowing us sound acclimatization up to the elevation of Camp One.

12 – Acclimatization climb above Labuche Kang BC

13 – Acclimatization climb above Labuche Kang BC



14 – Shift Labuche Kang ABC – 5600m
15 – 26 Climbing Days
27 - Trek Base Camp, drive Tingri
28 – Drive Kyirong
29 – Drive Kathmandu, celebration dinner
30 – Depart Kathmandu – Monday 28 May 2018

Price

US\$12,180
trip deposit US\$2000

Dates

29 April - 28 May 2018 (30 days)

Included Extras

Single Room Kathmandu
Lhasa Flights
Personal Climbing Sherpa
Sherpa Summit Bonus
Kitchen Staff Gratuities

Our service includes

3 nights hotel in Kathmandu (<https://dalailaboutiquehotel.com/>)
Lhasa flight
All other accommodation while present on scheduled trip itinerary
Ground transportation by Toyota Landcruiser
'Himalaya Alpine Guides' Expedition style mountaineering trip:
Delicious meals, french press coffee and herbal teas, all portorage on approach/retreat, local guides and staff, Mountain



Hardware expedition tents, equipped dining tent, experienced western guide (Luke), 1:1 Sherpa: climber ratio.

High altitude freeze-dried meals

Solar charging for electronics

personal 5 watt walkie talkie (that actually works)

Sherpa climbing bonuses

up-to-date weather forecasting, internet and satellite phone access

Our service excludes

Trip/medical/rescue insurance

International flights

China Visa (We will assist you with this on visa day in Kathmandu)

Meals while not on expedition (Kathmandu)

Personal climbing equipment

Puja cost (allow US\$50)

Items of a personal nature (laundry, bar bills, personal gratuities, etc.)



Climbing strategy: On a technical first ascent of a 7000 meter peak, we're essentially looking at one rotation on the mountain before planning and going with a summit push. With an unclimbed peak, there will be challenges beyond what you may have encountered on more commonly climbed peaks in other locales. Locating advanced base camp itself will be our first task, and it's important to bring along some patience as we work through building and discerning the best route for the current conditions and also getting a look at other route options if need be.

Climbing Plan*:

- 13 - Trek Labuche Kang ABC 5337m
- 14 - Trek Camp One 5703m
- 15 - Camp Two 6200m



- 16 - Climb high, sleep Camp Two 6200m
- 15 - descend ABC 5337m
- 16 - eat well, sleep well, get ready ABC 5337m
- 17 - eat well, sleep well, get ready ABC 5337m
- 18 - climb camp One 5703m
- 19 - climb camp Two 6200m
- 20 - climb summit via North ridge 7250m
- 21 - descend ABC
- 22-26 - contingency days (for weather, extra acclimatization, imponderables)

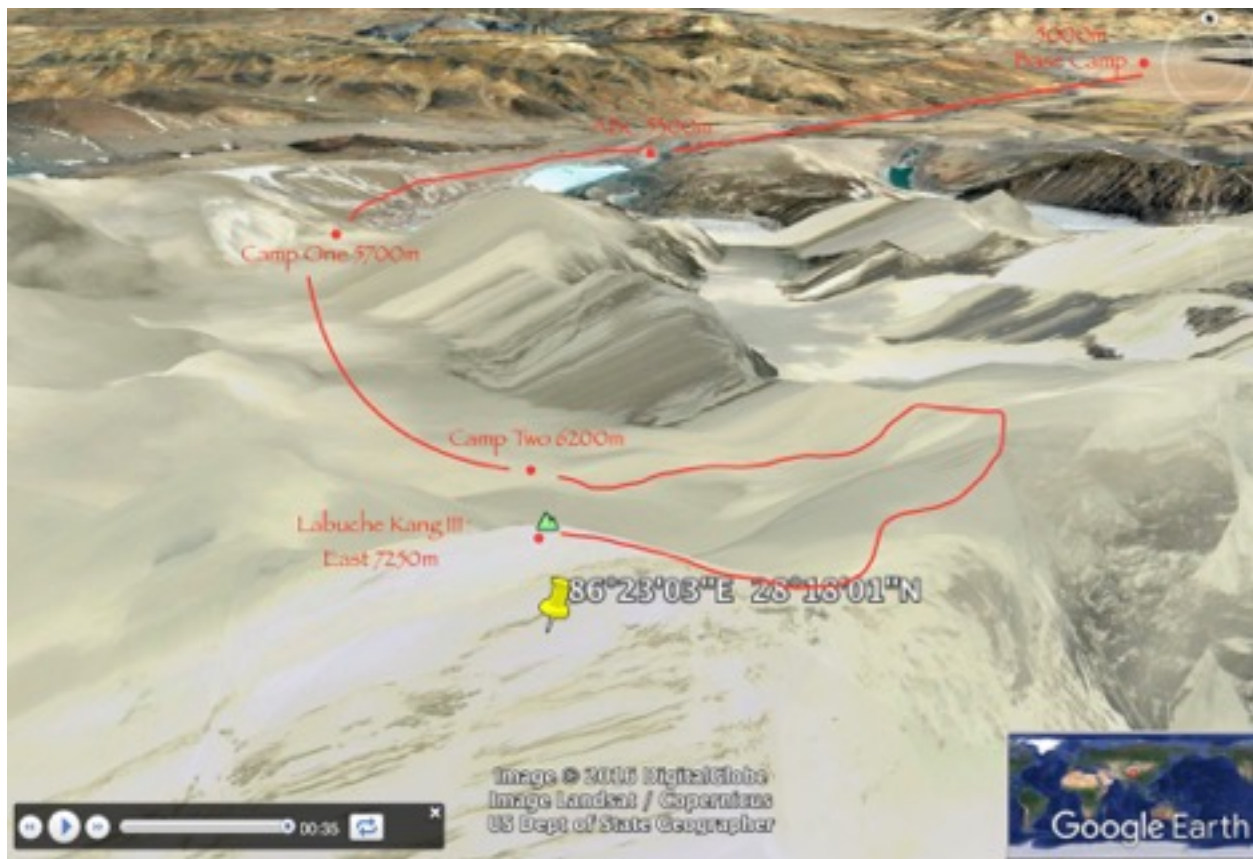
***Climbing plans are a basic framework.** The climbing portion of the trip will evolve with weather, route conditions, route finding, rope fixing and the acclimatization rates and health of climbers. One Nepalese high altitude porter (Sherpa) will be present and climbing with every one expedition members (1:1 Sherpa:Climber ratio). They will assist with getting group gear to the camps on mountain (tents, stoves, snow bars (pickets), high food, stove fuel, etc.). They will also be fixing ropes ahead of the climbing team, so will likely not be climbing with us until summit day as they work ahead of us establishing camps and fixing ropes where deemed necessary by myself. Your responsibility on the mountain will be with your own personal belongings plus perhaps a bottle of fuel or a couple of food packets. The real climbing on our potential route will not begin until the latter portion of our climbing day climbing from Camp Two to the Summit. Our plan will evolve with the expedition. If we can out together a summit on our first time up the mountain, we will. As we all know, in the Himalayas, when the weather is good, we go.

Detail of camps. From Camp Two to the summit is where we will need to fix ropes and where the real climbing will be. We will travel roped together from Camp One to Camp Two in two rope



teams. We will travel roped together from Camp Two towards the North/Northeast ridge that is demarcated above, and unrope once we begin jumaring on the fixed ropes. The West ridge is also a possibility and we will choose the path of least resistance that considers current snow conditions and objective hazards before a final path forward from Camp Two to the Summit is decided. It's worth noting that Google Earth imagery makes very real exposure and steep ice appear like a mild plod. Climbing Labuche Kang 3 East will not be a walk up. I expect exposed 60-70 blue ice and a very long day in technical terrain on summit day. It's important you do visit Google Earth and have a closer look using the coordinates at the top of this page. You will need to come with a high level of fitness to be successful on this climb. It will help you immensely to get out in the coming months and go rock climbing, go for peak hikes, and make this climb more enjoyable for yourself by preparing mentally and physically well in advance. Do contact me regarding training.

Let's go climb the first ascent of the highest (legal) unclimbed peak on Earth. Route photo below. We will summit this mountain with the sound preparation outlined above. The team failed last year because they ran out of time. Our logistics will be dialed and not delayed by visa issues as theirs was.



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