

PROFILE OF WANGCHHU SHERPA

(Your Host in Nepal and Tibet)



Wangchhu Sherpa is one of the best professional senior guides and tour operators in the Himalayas. He was born in 1954 (The monkey year of Tibetan/Sherpa calendar) in a Sherpa family of Taping village, which lies in the Southern foothills of the Mt. Everest region. This small village is isolated from modern development. The nearest market from Taping, being as far as one full day trekking and to the road at the Jiri village is at walking distance of three days in earlier period, which can be reached in one day drive from Kathmandu now. Being off from the main trekking trail, this area is not even mentioned in many of the trekking maps of the area. Somehow, one of the recent trekking maps called "Pike Peak", mentioned this tiny remote village. Now Mr. Sherpa has settled in the heart of tourist hub, Thamel, which is in the Himalayan capital city Kathmandu, Nepal.

In 1950, the historical and political movement had thrown the dictatorship of the Rana regime and the foundations of a democratic age was laid in Nepal. Education, socio-political awareness was unknown to the society of that time. So, the Sherpa community along the neighboring communities was underdeveloped. Somehow, the first school of the area was built in a distance of half an hour from Wangchhu's house, but he had no opportunity to join the school, because of the lack of awareness and financial support. So, he never had a chance to receive a formal education. In the age of 25 years, he started his journey to Kathmandu to search for better opportunity for himself and his family. Like many other Sherpas, he found a job in the trekking industry, working as member of the basic support staffs (kitchen boy, Sherpa staff for supporting the guiding team).

In his early days in the semi-modern town of Kathmandu, Wangchhu found himself struggling for living and adjusting. His dedication to his duty, friendly and honest nature to the clients and co-workers along with restless effort made him able to become a trekking guide in 1982. After becoming a guide, Wangchhu had an opportunity to serve for many different clients from many different countries of their various journeys of a lifetime. He has worked for Culture Trekking Pvt. Ltd. as guide for more than ten years.

He was the first Nepalese guide to lead a trekking group in to the Mustang region, when the government announced the opening of this forbidden Himalayas region for foreign trekkers in 1992. He was also among the pioneer guides, who accompanied tourists in Tibet, especially to the Mt. Kailash region, when the government of the autonomous region of Tibet, China and Nepal had decided to launch trekking tours from Nepal to Tibet since 1985. Since then he has been in Tibet 2-3 times every year and till now he has done all Kailash kora tour 119 times.

He has visited all of the tourist destinations in the Nepal Himalayas. All of his struggle and dedication for the job has earned good reputation from everybody, far and wide. His friends, who had come to see the mountains, culture and people of his land, have so many stories to share with others. Many of these stories are compiled in their books, personal journals, movies and documentaries.

Since 1997, he has started organizing tour and treks formally through his own company Across The Himalayas Treks (P) Ltd. He lives in Kathmandu with his family, accompanied by his two sons (Ang Tshering Sherpa, born in 1983 and Ang Phurba Sherpa, born in 1985) and daughter Sonu Sherpa, born November 2003). Daughter Sonu has been studying and Ang Tshering & Ang Phurba has started helping his father in the tour and trekking business. In the off season, when there is no tourism business, some times he keeps visiting his village back in the mountains from time to time and contributes to the social work in favor of his community.

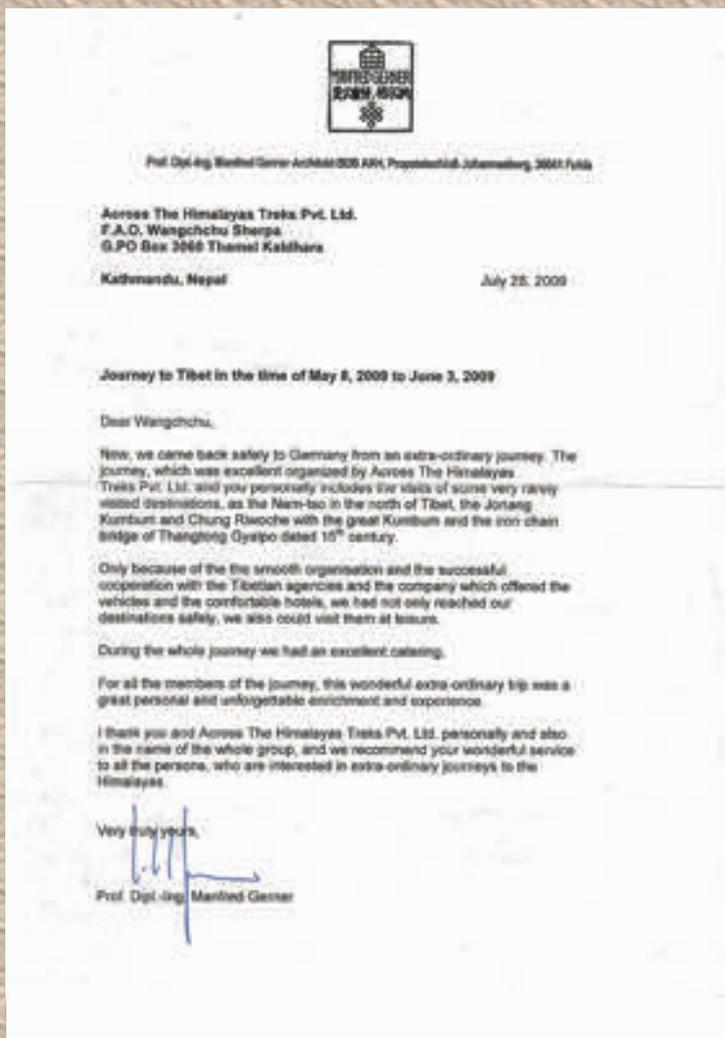
Wangchhu employs good team for each of the tours he arranges. It has helped him to grow in the business of trekking, the fastest growing business in Nepal.

Some of the enthusiastic visitors, who had an opportunity of experiencing the warm welcoming and service by Wangchhu, his family and his company in the past are:

01. Miguel Rodriguez and Nieves Hernando from Barcelona, Spain - 1979)
02. Dr. med. J. Steiner from Switzerland, Project Director of Karl Staufferstr - Trekking in Nepal in 1981
03. Ronald Cheung, Managing Director of Hong Kong Student Travel Bureau Ltd., Manang, Thorong La, Muktinath Jomsom Trekking in 1982
04. Mr. Ashish Kumar Sengupta Sir, Group Executive Director of Air express Group and Madhu Sengupta Madam, Managing Director of Culture Trekking Pvt. Ltd. (Nepal 1985)
05. Judith Viemi (Group Leader - Woodswomen, WC, USA - 1985)
06. Captain Vassilios Koutsaftis from USA - Manang, Thorong La, Muktinath and Jomsom Trekking in 1985
- 07 Mr. Cresi Romano from Italy, President of Club Alpino Italiano - Everest Base Camp Trek in 1987
08. Prof. Dipl - Ing Manfred Garner from Fulda Germany president of DBHG (deutsche Bhutan Himalaya gesellschaft e. v.) organize by (INDU CULTURE TOURS ZURICH SWITZERLAND) first time Lhasa Kailash Tour in 04-10-1987 also Bhutan Tour.
09. H. J. Moon from Korea, Project Manager of KDC HYUNDI J/V - Round Annapurna Trek in 1987,
10. Prof. Monica Garner professional (INDU CULTURE TOURS) Lhasa Kailash Tour in 11-09-1988 and 1999 also Bhutan Tour.
11. Dr. Helmut Strararrach (Germany), writer of "Spring in the Kingdom of Mustang", 1992, were the first western tourists to get the permission from the government of Nepal. (The writer also has mentioned Wangchhu Sherpa in his book, which you can find in German.)
12. Paul Kriz – Mona Buchholz (W. Germany) Lhasa, Kailash, Urumchi Kashgar tour group in 07-09-1997 also Bhutan tour.
13. Hajo Bergmann, Producer of the documentary, set by the German government to note the first tourist excursion of Mustang, 1992, along with Dr. H. Strararrach.
14. Dr. Helmut Stari (Mustang Trekking 1992 - Germany).
15. Robinson Maurice DAI and Bev DIDI Canada (Author of royal roads celebration 1995).
16. Derrick. C. Dobson from London, UK - Kanchenjunga Trek in 1999
17. Franz Binder (Germany), writer of "Kailash". A book that has compiled the legend of the tour to the holy Mt. Kailash and Tibet. Author and Photographer Munich, Germany Author of "Tibet Land und Kultur" (2000) and "Bhutan" (2001). (While writing this book, the authors have remembered also Wangchhu Sherpa for his kind cooperation. You can buy this book in German)
18. Winfried Rode (Germany), associate writer of "Tibet Land & Culture" with Franz Binder in 2002. (Wangchhu Sherpa also has received many thanks from the writer for his kind assistance to prepare the book. This book is available in German)
19. Victoria and Bev Didi from Canada - in 1999 (Kanchenjunga) and 2002 (Makalu)
20. Dr. Uwe Meya from Riehen, Switzerland - Mount Kailash Tour and Everest Base Camp Trek
21. Dr. Wolfgang Woellmer and Gabriela Wallner from Germany – West-Tibet and Sagadawa ceremony at Mt. Kailash in 2002 and 2013. (Reference book: "The Inner and Outer Paths of Mt. Kailash" Pilgrimage to the abode of Chakrasamvara spiritual guide to an iconographic landscape by Wolfgang Wollmer. In this book you will also find Mr. Wangchhu Sherpa and Across The Himalayas Treks (P.) Ltd, as his Kailash trip organizer company. This book is available in Bajra book shop, pilgrim book shop as well as some other book shops in Kathmandu, Nepal and also some book shops in Germany)
22. Sam Satya Sab. (Australia), 3 Times Mt. Kailash and Tibet group leader.
23. Larene Woodward, (Canada), Mt. Everest, Langtang, Nepal
24. Mr. Jhon E. Lebrun (4617 ARTHUR Dr. DELTA BC. V4K 2X2 CANADA) Trekking group leader – Everest Base Camp, Makalu, Langtang, Annapurna base camp in 1997 and Mustang in 2010.
25. Prof. Dr. Jochen Bockmuhl and Claudia (Germany) Tibet, Kailash and Arun Valley. 2006
26. Chandra Dupagunta and group (Australia) Tibet, Kailash 2006
27. Dr. Chandran and group (Australia) Tibet, Kailash 2006
28. Dr. K Nadana Chandran from Australia, Neurosurgeon - KN & MN Chandran Pty. Ltd., Mount Kailash Tour in 2006

29. Dr. S. Himayakanthan and family from UK - Tibet Kailash Tour in 2007
30. Volker, Claudia Didi and Gerhard (Germany), 2008.
31. Dr. Sundaram Rachakende Sap and Laxmi Madam (Kailash Group Leader 2009 - Australia)
32. Jagdish Lal Lodhia Sab (2009 - Australia)
33. S. Patanjali Sab (2009 - Australia)
34. Hari Darshaxi (2009 - Australia)
35. Venkat Bommakanli Sab, Ramari Bommakanli Madam and Pusapa Panth Madam (2010 - Australia)
36. Hon. Curtis S. Chin - Former US Ambassador, Asian Dev. Bank - Mount Kailash Tour (2010 - America)
37. John W. Fisher from Juliaitta, ID, USA (Lewis and Clark Presentations) - Mount Kailash Tour
38. Captain Meriwether Lewis (Discovery Expedition of St. Charles -USA)
39. David Borlaug (President - Lewis & Clark Fort Mandan Foundation -USA)
40. Betty Kluesner (Discovery Expedition of St. Charles, MO DESC -USA)
41. Bernd Gohlke (Germany)
42. Matthias Vogt (Germany)
43. Sharda Devarajan and Akkiriddi (Australia) (Muktinath 2009) (Kailash Mansarovar and Janakpur 2010).
44. Dr. Rachakonda Kanaka & Sundaram & group Australia (Mt. Kailash Mansarovar & Tour) 19 members from Sep. 2018.

Here are some of the reference letters from some of Wangchhu's trekking clients, visitors and friends, as token of thanks for his services. There are many to list here, who have visited Nepal and Tibet with Wangchhu and had this experience of their lifetime.





THE INDO-BRITISH CULTURAL EXCHANGE, D.A.

in February 1997
JAMES SHARMA 2008 TRUST, 11A, 2 SHRI SHADANGI BABA FOUNDATION OF N.A., U.S.A.
CL. FOUR CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
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THE NEW YEAR PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRAFUL PATEL

On the threshold of 1998, I am writing this message and annual Season's Greetings Card, because during 1997 we were able to achieve success with two historic events.

To all my friends and relatives from all continents, I wish to share the three experiences I had in leading and organizing a spiritual pilgrimage to Mount Kailash, Tibet, to create a powerful prayer for world peace and stronger bonds between countries. The event Manas-Kailash Base Kailash 1997 was the inspiration of His Holiness 14th Dalai Lama, who recited the Hindu holy scriptures of Ramayana on the foothills of Mount Kailash and the words of Lord Manjushree in the Autonomous Region of Tibet. This event, which was conducted with the approval of the Government of the People's Republic of China has opened up an opportunity for future pilgrims to this sacred land. We obtained co-operation of the Government Authorities at the highest level, which was needed to organize this event, as it has strengthened relations between India, China, Nepal and Great Britain.

For all of us, in particular His Holiness Dalai Lama, this is a dream come true. This Spiritual Yagna, "A Prayer for World Peace", celebrated a number of events: the 50th Anniversary of India's Independence, the signing in the name of Hong Kong to his motherland, as well as Visit China Year, celebrating 50th Birth Anniversary of His Holiness, the victory of the modern Kanyasulk, Raksha Bandhan, the auspicious festival on the day of the Full moon, Jyesthmasi celebration of birth of Lord Krishna and the commemoration of the 15th Jubilee Anniversary of the arrival of Uganda Asians in August 1972 in the United Kingdom. We believe this historic pilgrimage has been the seeds for a new chapter in Indo-Indian-Nepalese relations.

The photographs on this Greeting Card are captured by my camera and I wish to salute the untiring support and help all the 198 pilgrims gave to me during this 30 day historic trip from 26th July to 26th August. In particular my reverence to His Holiness Dalai Lama for his spiritual inspiration which enabled us to successfully complete this pilgrimage through the most hazardous and difficult terrain could ever encounter in his life.

Following this event, we have organized two successful events in London under the supervision of British Asian Uganda Trust to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the arrival of British-Asian from Uganda in the United Kingdom. The events were to thank the British people and all the voluntary organizations for their magnificent humanitarian efforts in responding to the refugee crisis in 1972 when I had the privilege to serve as a Member of the Uganda Resettlement Board. We also thanked the President of Uganda and the Uganda Nation for the historic decision to resettle the wrong-doings and injustice of 18 Asian and Indian Asians back to Uganda to contribute to the re-building of his country and the economy. The first event was celebrated at the Swaminarayan Temple in the presence of my Spiritual Guru, His Holiness Shri Prasadji Swami Maharaj and the President of Uganda; and the second event was a thanksgiving service at the Westminster Abbey led by His Edward Her Majesty, the former British Prime Minister. During 1998 we are planning to set up a Memorial at Standard Airport where the first Ugandan Refugees landed and a Testimonial Dinner.

My only regret during 1997 was my inability to secure a safe Parliamentary Seat in the 14th British General Election. I am delighted that my party had a landslide victory under the dynamic leadership of Tony Blair, who also visited the Swaminarayan Temple and received blessings from my Spiritual Master. I continue to be involved in politics, social, educational and cultural work, in an effort to promote harmony and goodwill.

In the New Year I have but one prayer: PEACE. I hope we all can join hands to ensure the coming year of harmony.

With all my Best Wishes for a Happy New Year
To Mr. Wangchhu Sherpa
Praful Patel
Sunday, 26th December, 1997



FAR CORNERS SHERPA & TREKKING

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SUITE 1000
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109
USA
415-393-4300

Date - 2nd Day 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that Mr. Wangchhu Sherpa had acted as the Trekking Guide in October 1994 for 21 days Trekking Trip to Everest Base Camp with Gokyo peak and 14 days Trekking trip to Annapurna-Thru La pass-Nelimbata and Jomsom Route in March 1995 in which I had Personally Participated.

During The Trek, Mr. Sherpa had performed the perfect Satisfaction of the Group. In his Service Tenure we found him very hard working, Sincere and honest. He has my highest Recommendation without any Hesitation or Second thought, to any one who is considering Trekking in Nepal no matter how short or hard an Adventure that person might consider.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my Sincere Thanks to Mr. Wangchhu Sherpa.

I wish Mr. Sherpa all the Success in his Future.

Vasileios Koutaslis



CLUB ALPINO ITALIANO
SEZIONE DI GRENBOGOLIO (SI) ITALIA

21st July 1997

To Whom It May Concern

This is to certify that Mr. Wangchhu Sherpa had organized my group as a Trekking Sander from 1982 to 1997. He had organized the first Trek in October 1982 for 18 days of Everest Base Camp Trek. Since then he organized other Treks as following : 21 days Everest Base Camp Trek with Gokyo Valley in 1983, Annapurna Century Trek in December 1984, Muktinath Trek for 15 days in October 1985 for 18 days of Everest Base Camp Trek, December 1986, 13 days Ghorepani Trek in January 1987, 15 days Everest Base Camp Trek in May 1988, 15 days Everest Base Camp Trek in July 1988, Kanchanjunga Trek in October 1995 and Annapurna Circuit Trek in March 1996.

During my latest group organized Trek in Nepal, Mr. Sherpa had performed the perfect Satisfaction of the Group. In his service tenure I found him very hard working, sincere and honest. He has my highest recommendation without any Hesitation or Second Thought to any one who is considering Trekking in Nepal no matter how short or hard an Adventure That person might consider.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Sherpa.

I always wish him for success in his life.

Cresci Romano G.A.
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Kathmandu
Nepal

20.12.2007

To whom it may concern

In September 2007 Mr. Wangchhu organized for us, i.e. a group of two persons from Germany, a three weeks trek to the Arun valley, the Jaljale Himal, and the Bhotia region in the east of Nepal.

We started at Tumlingtar and followed the way eastward via Chaipur, passing through beautiful traditional Raji villages. At Nundhaki we turned north to the Mike Danda ridge and along the Mewa Khola river, passing through primary rhododendron forests up to the village of Topke Gola. After having crossed the Thangla Bhangyang pass of 4800 m altitude we descended to the valley paralleling the Tibetan border, an area inhabited by the Tibetan Bhotia people. We followed the valley from Thudam to Chepuwa, crossed over to the Arun valley and finally climbed up to Num from where we descended the Makalu trail back to Tumlingtar.

Mr. Wangchhu provided us with an excellent team, including guide, sherpas, kitchen team, and porters who managed the difficult trails which had not been gone by tourists for many years. We were able to perform the programme as scheduled and experienced an impressive natural and unspoiled mountain and forest scenery. Thus, if you wish to see the original Nepal with clean traditional villages, friendly people and a great scenery visit the unknown east of the country, www.acrossthehimalayas.com is a highly recommendable address for the preparation of your trek.

Prof. Dr. Jochen Bockemuhl

Wangchhu Sherpa
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