

# NEPAL *YOUR NEXT DESTINATION*

*A first-hand information brochure about Nepal and the services provided by the Consulate General of Nepal in New York.*



## **CONSULATE GENERAL OF NEPAL**

**NEW YORK, USA**

**Phone: 917 675 6783**

**Fax: 917 675 6779**

**Email: [cgnnewyork@mofa.gov.np](mailto:cgnnewyork@mofa.gov.np)**

**[www.nyc.nepalconsulate.gov.np](http://www.nyc.nepalconsulate.gov.np)**

## About Nepal

Nepal is located in South Asia and shares borders with India and China. The country encompasses an area of 147,181 square kilometers and a population of approximately 30 million. Kathmandu is the nation's capital and the country's largest metropolitan city. Nepal is famous for her exotic natural beauty, and she is a special gem for tourists of all kinds. The eight of the ten highest mountains in the world, including the Mount Everest, are in Nepal. The diversity of geography, culture, and climate are her treasures and the main attraction for the outside world.

Constitutionally a secular state, the majority of the population in Nepal is Hindus followed by Buddhist. It is the birth place of Lord Buddha, the apostle of peace and compassion. The most important aspect of Nepali culture is the religious harmony among the different religions practiced in the country.

Politically, Nepal is a federal democratic republic. Democratic norms and values, including peoples' competitive multi-party democratic governance system, civil liberty, fundamental rights, human rights, adult franchise, periodic elections, complete press freedom and an independent, impartial and competent judiciary, and the concept of rule of law, are the fundamentals of Nepali political system.

## Culture and society

The Culture of Nepal is rich and unique. The cultural heritage of Nepal has evolved over the centuries. This multi-dimensional heritage encompasses the diversities of Nepal's ethnic, tribal, and social groups, and it manifests in music and dance; art and craft; folklore and folktales; languages and literature; philosophy and religion; festivals and celebration; foods and drinks.

### ***Languages and literature***

As per the 2011 census, 123 languages are spoken in Nepal. Nepal's linguistic heritage has evolved from three major language groups: Indo-Aryan, Tibeto-Burman, and indigenous. The major languages of Nepal (percent spoken as mother tongue) are Nepali 44.6 percent, Maithili 11.7 percent, Bhojpuri 6 percent, Tharu 5.8 percent, Tamang 5.1 percent, Nepal Bhasa 3.2 percent, Magar 3 percent, and Bajjika 3 percent. Nepali, written in Devanagari script, is the official national language and serves as *lingua franca* among Nepalese ethno-linguistic groups.

### ***Religions and philosophy***

According to the 2011 census, there are ten types of religion reported in Nepal. Hinduism is followed by 81.3 percent of the population while Buddhism by 9.0 percent, Islam by 4.4 percent, Kirant by 3.1 percent, Christianity by 1.4 percent, and the rest by other religions such as Prakriti, Bon, Jainism, Bahai, and Sikhism.



Lord Buddha was born in Lumbini, Nepal, and Pashupatinath temple, Kathmandu, is an old and famous Shiva temple of Hindus. One of the most important aspects of Nepali culture is maintaining religious harmony and acceptance between Hindus, Buddhists, and people of other religions. People of many different religions peacefully co-exist in this country and practice and worship without fear or conflict. This makes Nepal a safe place to travel, particularly for religious purposes.

#### ***Festivals and celebrations***

Nepal is the country of festivals with some part of the country or the other celebrating some festivals during every day of the year. Festivals may be, to herald the different seasons, to mark the beginning or end of the agricultural cycle, to mark the national events or linked with the remembrance of the departed soul, or just family celebrations. Dashain, celebrated in commemoration of the victory over demons, is observed by majority of the population of Nepal. Tihar or Deepawali, Chhath, Lhosar are other major festivals of Nepal. In the Mount Everest region, Sherpas celebrate *Mani Rimdu*, for the good of the world.

#### ***Dance and music***

The dance traditions of Nepal are very ancient, originated in the abode of Lord Shiva. With altitudes and ethnicity, the dances of Nepal slightly change in style as well as in the costumes. Accompanying music and musical instruments change in tune with the themes, which revolve around topics like harvesting of crops, marriage rites, war stories, a lonely girl's yearning for her

love, and several other themes and stories from everyday life in the villages.

#### ***Food and Drink***

Nepali food is often simple but tasty. The food varies by region, because the availability of food changes with climate and altitude. The famous food is Dal (Lentils), Bhat (Rice), Tarkari (Vegetables) and Khasiko Masu (Goat meat). MoMo (dumplings), and Dhindo (Millet) are equally popular food items.

#### ***Architecture and archeology***

The country is full of fascinating architectural replicas and ancient architecture. Several of the sites are also classified and protected under UNSECO heritage sites. It is useful to consult this inventory to find sites to visit when traveling in Nepal.

## **Tourism in Nepal**

Nepal is a naturally beautiful country; the country where the Mount Everest is located. Possessing eight of the ten highest mountains in the world, Nepal is a hotspot destination for mountaineers, rock climbers, and people seeking adventures. Diversity in terms of geography, climate, cultures are the sources of attraction for tourism in Nepal.

#### ***Wilderness Tourism***

The major tourist activities include wilderness and adventure activities such as mountain biking, bungee jumping, rock climbing and mountain climbing, trekking,

hiking, bird watching, flights, paragliding and hot air ballooning over the mountains of Himalaya, exploring the waterways by raft, kayak, or canoe, and jungle safaris especially in the Terai region.

Nepal also possess a rich biodiversity. About 876 species of birds are found in Nepal, which is about 8 percent of the total bird species found worldwide. It has gradually gaining charm for medical tourism too, as medical costs in Nepal are way cheaper compared to developed countries.

### **Religious Tourism**

Himalayas are known as the sacred places since ancient time. The Pashupatinath Temple, the world's largest temple of Lord Shiva located in Kathmandu, attracts many pilgrims and tourists. Other Hindu pilgrimage sites include the Janaki temple in Janakpur, Manakamana temple in Gorkha, and Muktinath temple in Mustang.

The World Heritage site Lumbini, which is the birthplace of Gautama Buddha, is an important pilgrimage site. Another prominent Buddhist site is Swayambhunath, located in Kathmandu.

The Nepal Tourism Board (NTB), <https://www.welcomenepal.com> provides extensive information and assistance for tourism promotion in Nepal.

## **Trade**

Nepal has been adopting a liberal trade policy. The New Trade Policy, 2015 aims at export promotion and

containing the growing trade deficit, among others. The export oriented industries get different concessions as well as tax exemption and refunds on inputs. Because of its location between the world's two most populous countries and growing markets, India and China, Nepal presents unique opportunity to the potential traders to tap this almost untapped business expansion opportunity.

The Office of the Company Registrar, Nepal, serves as the one window organization to register different businesses and companies in Nepal. The private sector federation of businesses and industries, such as the Federation of Nepalese Chambers, Commerce, and Industries (FNCCI), the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), the Nepal Chamber of Commerce, and the Nepal – USA Chamber of Commerce and Industry, also provide useful contact and networking with Nepal's private sector for doing businesses in Nepal. The country mainly exports clothing, carpets, handicrafts, leather, jute products, vegetables and cereals. Nepal imports oil, machinery & equipment, and electronics.

Trade and Export Promotion Center (TEPC) <http://www.tepc.gov.np>, and its Nepal Trade Information Portal, <http://www.nepaltradeportal.gov.np> would assist you to further navigate on this area.

### **Nepal USA TIFA**

The Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) between the Government of Nepal and the United States of America entered into force in 2011. The



agreement aims at expanding trade, investment and technical cooperation, and strengthening economic relations between the two countries. The Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 established a new country-specific preference program to grant duty-free treatment to Nepal for products covered by 77 Harmonized Tariff Schedule lines (including handicrafts, shawls, travel goods, bags etc). A detailed list of the products getting the duty free treatment in the US can be obtained by visiting this link: <http://www.nepaltradeportal.gov.np/index.php?r=site/display&id=173>.

## Investment in Nepal

Nepal has been pursuing a liberal foreign investment policy and been striving to create an investment-friendly environment to attract FDIs into the country. The areas of investment include industrial manufacturing, services, tourism, medical and health tourism, construction, agriculture, minerals and hydropower. Outsourcing of the IT and web related work is also a potential area of investment in Nepal. The IFC and MIGA of the World Bank provides networking and investment guarantees in Nepal. Nepal encourages foreign investment both as joint venture operations with Nepalese investors or as 100 per cent foreign-owned enterprises. The foreign direct investments (FDI) are safeguarded by the law and returns on investment are well protected as well.

The Investment Board of Nepal (IBN), [www.ibn.gov.np](http://www.ibn.gov.np), and the Department of Industries [www.doind.gov.np](http://www.doind.gov.np) are the good contact points for any prospective investors.

## Consular Services

The Consulate General Office in New York provides consular services to foreign as well as Nepali nationals. For the foreigners willing to visit Nepal, we provide you all types of Visa services. The requirements are as below:

### **Tourist Visa**

#### **Requirements**

- Duly filled in Visa Application Form, available in the Consulate General Office website.
- Valid Passport (at least for six months).
- One recent photograph (2X2).
- A money order payable to the Consulate General of Nepal. (Two or more applicants can send single money order multiple of visa fee. Personal checks, cash, credit cards are not acceptable).
- A prepaid return envelope with tracking number and sufficient postage to return passports. (if you are sending documents by couriers/post).

#### **Visa Fees:**

- US \$ 25.00 for 15 days (multiple entries)
- US \$ 40.00 for 30 days (multiple entries)
- US \$ 100.00 for 90 days (multiple entries)

Visa application can be submitted in person from 10 am to 12:30 pm in the Consulate on weekdays except public holidays.

Visa on arrival are available on major entry points of Nepal.

### ***Diplomatic Visa***

A diplomatic note from the Department of State is required along with other related documents including a dully filled in Visa application form, valid passport (at least for 6 months), one recent photograph (2 X 2), and a prepaid return envelope with tracking number and sufficient postage to return passports. (if you are sending documents by couriers/post).

### ***Visa on Travel Document***

If you are holding re-entry permit travel document, you have to follow the requirements mentioned in Diplomatic Visa above. If you are not holding re-entry permit travel document, you have to submit a sponsor letter in addition to the requirements in Diplomatic Visa above.

### ***Official Visa***

**Official Visa requirements:** A diplomatic note from the Department of State is required along with other related documents including dully filled in Visa application form, valid passport (at least for 6 months), one recent photograph (2 X 2), and a prepaid return envelope with tracking number and sufficient postage to return passport/s. (if you are sending documents by couriers/post).

**Note:** Applicants are required to send prepaid return envelope with tracking number to return back passports. Consulate is not responsible for any undelivered passport/s because of the insufficient postage, a weak envelope to bear up the load and other incidents occurred during handling by couriers/post.

### ***Passport***

We issue passports for Nepali citizens and offer a live enrollment service. In order to apply through live enrollment system applicant must come to the Consulate office in person.

### **Requirements for Live Enrollment**

- **Application Form**
- **Current Passport**
- **Original Citizenship Certificate**
- **Photograph:** One recent color photographs, size 35 mm x 45 mm or 2 x 2
- **Money Order:** Money Order of US \$150 for each applicant (with at least one year's validity) payable to the Consulate General of Nepal, New York, with the name and address of the applicant written on it. For the passport replacement: US \$ 300.00
- **Prepaid Return Envelope:** Submit prepaid return envelope of 9" x 12" size with tracking number and address to send the MRP back to you once it is ready. However, prepaid return envelope is not required for self-pickup. Processing time about a month.

**Note:** Cash and credit card are not acceptable. You can download the application form from the website.



**Power of Attorney**

We certify Power of Attorney to Nepali nationals who are residing within the jurisdiction of the Consulate New York. For the certification of the Power of Attorney, the applicant must come in person with an appointment at the Consulate and should affix fingerprints and signature before Consul General/Consul. It is mandatory to come in person for the certification of Power of Attorney. Notarized Power of Attorney will not be entertained.

**The required documents:**

- An already prepared document of Power of Attorney (must be written in the Nepali paper)
- An application form with two photographs each of an applicant and a person on whom the authority is being conferred
- Copy of Citizenship Certificate of both the applicants and the person to whom the authority is being conferred
- A copy of applicant's passport (page 1, 2 and 3)
- Applicant should submit a copy of Land Ownership Certificate (Jagga Dhani Purja or Lal Purja) and Marriage Certificate or Divorce paper issued by the Court in case of divorce
- A Money Order of \$ 25.00 payable to the Consulate General of Nepal. Personal Check and cash will not be accepted

**NRN ID****Non-Resident Nepali Identity Card**

The Non-Resident Nepalese (NRNs) residing in the United States of America and in the countries accredited by this Consulate can apply to the Consulate General of Nepal, New York to obtain the NRN ID cards. They can also apply to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kathmandu for their NRN ID.

The NRNs willing to obtain NRN ID cards have to register their names by providing their detail information as prescribed in the NRN registration application form. The NRN registration application form can also be used for NRN ID card application. The application forms for Non Resident Nepalese and Nepalese Citizens Residing Abroad are available online to download. For further detail, please visit our website.

More information can be found in non-resident-nepali-act-2064 & NRN-Regulations-2066.

**Travel Documents**

Nepali citizens, who are unable to submit the required documents, are advised to apply for Travel Document. The Travel Document is valid for three months and one way travel to Nepal only. You can apply for New Passport in Nepal.



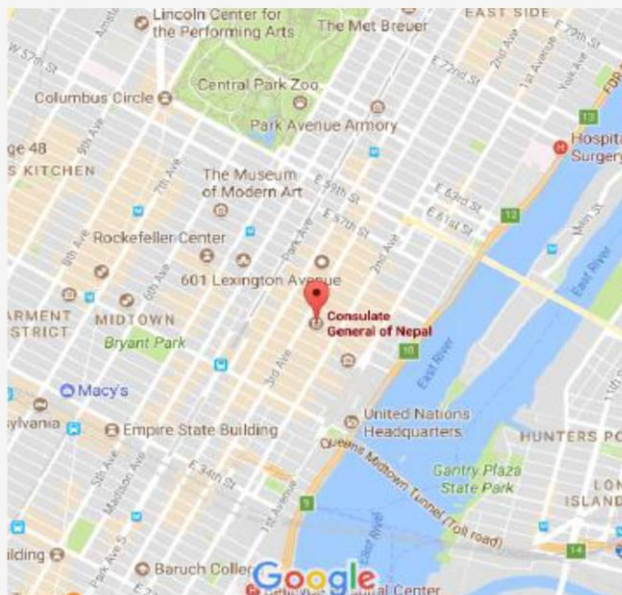
The present brochure is an honest effort of the Consulate General of Nepal in New York to provide all interested people a first-hand information about Nepal, Nepali culture and society as well as tourism, trade and investment opportunities in Nepal. It strives to make you familiar with Nepal and many of the attractions that Nepal presents to potential visitors, traders, investors as well as other interested individuals. You will also find information on the consular services, such as Visa, Passport, and Power of Attorney, among others, that we provide you in New York.

I am confident that you will make Nepal your next destination for travel, businesses or investment, whichever best suits you. I sincerely hope that the brochure will be useful in that regard.

Please visit our website or call us for further information. Your inputs and feedback will be valuable for us to better serve you.

Madhu Kumar Marasini  
Consul General

*Location Map*



**Consular Jurisdiction:** New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Maine only.

For more information, please visit [www.nyc.nepalconsulate.gov.np](http://www.nyc.nepalconsulate.gov.np).

**Address: 216 East 49th Street  
New York, 10017 NY.**

For other States: please contact our Embassy in Washington DC [www.nepalembassyusa.org](http://www.nepalembassyusa.org).