Nepal a birth place of Gautam Buddha and world highest peak Mount Everest holds its unique identity in the world. It’s a country which is famous for its natural resources as ranked second richest country in water resources and it has a marvelous natural beauty which can be best place for recreation and holidays from around the world. Nepal being a Hindu country but having a tremendous cast and religion bounded by the sense of brotherhood and integrity. People around the world are very pleased with the beautiful places, multi cultural diversity and many more which Nepal is famous for around the world. Nepal has always been a special place for various people in various ways. For some it is the country of brave Gurkhas, for some it is the birth place of Lord Buddha, the light of Asia, for some it is the place to touch the highest peaks in the world, for some it is the place to experiment with various spiritual practices, for some it is the country of temples, art and culture. In whatever way people love Nepal, it is one of the most exciting destinations for all who love traveling. One of the most appropriate statements to describe Nepal may be: “Nepal is struggling only in terms of economy.” It is probably the richest country in terms of its natural beauty, biodiversity, cultures and traditions, art and architectures. Above all, the honest and ever welcoming people are well known in the world. A long time Kathmandu resident and the author of „Renaissance man”, Desmond Doig has rightly remarked about the cultures of Nepal- “Rich enough to consume several lifetimes.” A single life is just not enough to taste the beauty and to understand the cultures of Nepal. Nepal remains one of the few countries having such a vast and complex cultures.

Many of the people from around the world come here just to see the highest peaks in the world and eventually, get equally interested in various things other than mountains of which they may never have thought of. Nepal is in a way a living museum. Nepal may be the best place to see the lifestyle and the society as depicted in the literature works of Shakespeare.

**Nepal At A Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location : Between China in North and India in East, West and South.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Latitude/ Longitude : 26° 22” and 30° 27” North. / 80° 4” and 88° 12” East.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area : 147,181 Sq. Km. (800 Km in length and 200 Km in width approx.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital : Kathmandu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population : 2.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People &amp; Language : About 60 ethnic groups, Most of them having their own and distinct cultures, traditions and languages. At least 49 mother tongues identified. Nepali is the national language. English is widely spoken and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
understood in the tourism sector.

Currency : Nepalese Rupee (US $ 1= Rs.99 approx)

Religion : 80.62% Hindus, 10.74% Buddhists, 4.20% Muslims and rest Kirants, Jains and Christians living harmoniously.


Though Nepal can be visited throughout the year the best time is from mid-September to June.

Nepal Standard Time: 5 hours and 45 minutes ahead of GMT.

Some Interesting Facts

- There are 6500 known species of trees, shrubs and wild-flowers in Nepal.
- Out of the total 14 peaks in the world with the altitude exceeding 8,000 meters, 8 of them including Mount Everest (8,850 meters) the highest peak in the world also lie here in Nepal.
- Only Hindu kingdom in the world. People worship 33 hundred millions of Gods within Hindu religion without disrespecting any each other. The number of Gods is about 13 times the current population of the country!
- Birth place of Gautam Buddha, Lumbini lies here in Nepal.
- It is home to 2% of all flowering plants in the world, 8% (848 species) of the total birds in the world, 4% of mammals on earth, 11 of 15 butterfly families found in the world (500 species), 600 indigenous plant families and 319 exotic species of orchids. These all can be visited in a beautiful places well known as National Parks i.e Royal Chitwan National Park, Sagarmatha National Park.
- It holds the pride of being one of the handful countries in the world which has always maintained independent sovereignty, free from being the colony of any other nation.
- Nepalese hospitality is best known in the world for the smiling faces, warm greetings and honesty.
- Not only the highest peak but the deepest gorge in the world, Dana with the depth of 1400 meters also lies here in Nepal.
- The excitement of diving on the highest bungee jump in the world can also be enjoyed here.
- Kathmandu valley has got seven world heritages within the distance of only 20 kilometers.
- Tilijo tal in Manang district is the lake situated at the highest elevation
in the world.

- Place with lots of beautiful lacks as Pshe puksundo lake (Highest leveled lack), Rara lack, phewa lakh (pokhara) and many more

**Geography**

Nepal is in Southern Asia, between China and India. It covers total area of 143,351 sq km and its boundary is 2,926 km long in total, bordered by China 1,236 km and India 1,690 km. It is a landlocked country.

The weather and climate varies from hot summers to severe winters. Nepal has varieties of lands as it has weather and people. The land starts from 70m from sea level from Kanchan Kalan in Terai and passes though hilly region to the world's highest point Mount Everest at 8,850 m. Nepal is known for its natural beauty and it has its own cultures. It has more than 70 ethnic groups and more than 60 different languages are spoken in different parts of Nepal. Nepali is the national language of Nepal. People practice several religion. Till now Hinduism and Buddhism have the largest population. Kathmandu is the capital, and Nepal has 30 millions people.

*Note- These information are collected from tremendous sources. All the information also can be collected from Tourism Board of Nepal (ministry of Tourism of Nepal) and also can be contacted for all information about Visa and many more about Nepal.*

Prepared by- Associate Editor Pragyan Bhattarai from Nepal