

Nepal Tourism Board

E-Newsletter

April 29, 2005

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Mt. Kanchunjunga and Mt. Makalu

Golden Jubilee celebration of Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchunjunga is being celebrated this year on May 15 & 25 respectively. A Press Conference program was organized on April 29, 2005 in Nepal Tourism Board to disseminate the information of the same. Chief Guest of the program Mr. George Band, the first person to climb Mt. Kanchunjunga 50 years ago shared his experience at the press meet. He answered the questions raised by the journalists. Speaking on the program Acting Secretary of Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA), Mr. Sushil JB Rana highlighted the need of branding image of Nepal as mountainous country. Mr. Ang Tshering Sherpa, President Nepal Mountaineering Association, Mr. Shankar Prasad Pandey, Joint Secretary of MoCTCA and Mr. Tek Bahadur Dangi, CEO NTB were present on the program.

Third SAF Scout Friendship Camp concluded

The five-day third SAF Scout Friendship Camp concluded on April 27 at Budhanilkantha located 8 kms north of Kathmandu, the base of Shivapuri hills of 2400 m altitude. Inaugurated by organised by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Paras Bir Bikram Shah Dev, the objective of the scout camp is to enhance mutual fraternity among youths of South Asia Region. Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Himani Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah was also present on the inaugural function.

Earlier, HRH the Crown Prince affixed a special cancellation mark on the commemorative stamp published to mark the function and decorated the Asia Pacific Regional Director of the World Scouts Organisation Abdullah Rasheed and Chief Commissioner of Bangladesh Scout Fajul Rahman with the 'Golden Rhino', the supreme medal of Nepal scouts.

HRH the Crown Prince also gave away letters of appreciation and citation to various organisations contributing to the success of the scout camp and the teams participating from the South Asian countries and from various districts of Nepal.

On the occasion, Their Royal Highnesses observed the various materials put on display by the participating countries and the activities related to the camp.

Some 500 young boys and girls and youth scouts from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal took part in the camp. For the first time, Afghan Scouts joined a regional event after 23 years.

Minister for Education and Sports Radha Krishna Mainali distributed the awards and certificates to participants in the concluding ceremony.

Prior to this, the first and second camp was held in Thimpu, Bhutan and Male, Maldives respectively. In course of the camp, separate groups of scouts from Nepal and abroad travelled to villages in and around Budhanilkantha and Kakani. Nuwakot, made an on-the-site study of the local specialty, available means and resources, state of education and health and other problems and discussed the possible role of scouts in the development of the community.

Cultural exchange, life skills, workshop and seminars on various issues were the part of the camp.

Nepal is safe for tourists, says noted mountaineer

George Band, the first person to scale Mt Kanchanjunga feels that Nepal is a safe destination for tourists. Nepalese, according to him, are very 'welcoming' and he is looking forward to celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the first ascent of 8586-metre high Mt.

Kanchanjunga. "I feel very lucky to be physically fit at this age," said the seventy-six-year-old mountaineer. He is going on a three-week trekking to Kanchanjunga Base Camp on Saturday and will be back just in time for the celebration that is scheduled to begin from May 23-25.

Band, a British citizen, scaled the world's third highest peak along with Joe Brown, Norman Hardy and Tony Streater, on May 25, 1955. Band was the youngest team member of the 1953 Everest expedition team led by John Hunt but he did not conquer the summit.

New trekking trail from Pokhara to Khudi explored

In its effort to identify the new tourism product in the trekking areas, Nepal Tourism Board in collaboration with Trekking Agents Association of Nepal recently conducted a feasibility study from Pokhara to Khudi by taking trekking agents and journalists from Kathmandu and Pokhara.

The trekking which started from Thumsikot- three hours drive from Pokhara- meandered through Wardi Khola and Rudi Khola crossing the villages of Kaski and Lamjung district. The 41-members trekking team made night stay at Phakrikot- 1535m and Nagidhar of Kaski and Pasagaon-1655m and Ghalegaon- 2016m of Lamjung, and it finally ended at Khudi. These Gurung villages of Kaski and Lamjung are culturally rich, not affected by modern civilization. Since these villages have kept their tradition and culture alive, in an interaction organized on April 25, 2005 after the trip, members of team suggested to promote it as a cultural destination. Throughout the trekking trails, all villages have basic facility for home-stay accommodation and food which they are upgrading every year as to give more facility to tourists. Although trekking can be completed in three night and four days, 5 nights and 6 days is the ideal time to complete it. The members of the team said that there is a huge potentiality for extension trip from Pasagaon, Nagidhar, Bhujung and Ghalegoan, which will eventually help to increase the length of stay of the tourists. Apart from culture, beautiful mountain ranges of Annapurna, Fishtail, Dhauligiri, Lamjung Himal can be seen from these areas. To synergies effort, the Nepal Tourism Board's Tourism Product and Resource Development Department is closely working with Lamjung District Development Committee, Annapurna Conservation Area Project, Trekking Agents Association of Nepal to provide all kind of logistic support to villages to develop it as a model trekking trail.

Nepal Tourism Board has been involved in promoting Ghalegaon and Ghanapokhara by organizing festivals, holding training, putting signage and upgrading museum since last three years. The CD Rom on Ghalegaon was released in JATA Travel Mart in Japan in 2003 by Nepal Tourism Board as a new tourism product. Trekking Agents Association of Nepal has expressed its commitment to lend its support to market it internationally so that the benefit of tourism can be reached to the villages isolated from mainstream trekking trails.

PATA Merit Award to Mr. Mohan Prasad Khanal

Mr. Mohan Prasad Khanal, Managing Director of Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC) was conferred with 'PATA Merit Award' during the event. He was honoured for his contribution towards Nepal's destination marketing efforts, extending the airline's support for international travel events, including PATA Adventure and Eco-tourism conferences. Mr. Khanal has been active with PATA and its committees since 1975 and is representing carrier contact for PATA and the Nepal Chapter since 2003.

Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) held its 54th annual conference in Macau from April 17-21. Nandini Laha Thapa, Director of Nepal Tourism Board, Prabin B Panday, Chairman of PATA, R R Pandey, Life Member, PATA and Basant Raj Mishra, Board of Director, PATA attended the PATA Annual Conference. The Nepali delegates also attended the PATA Board of Directors meeting in Macau.

Before the conference, Nepal Tourism Board and PATA Nepal Chapter jointly organised a press meet to inform delegates from the travel and tourism industry and media persons from Asia and Pacific region about recent initiatives taken to revive tourism industry in Nepal. The interactive media briefing covered several issues on Nepali travel and tourism, which was followed by a presentation on Nepal a multimedia show.

Kathmandu-Lhasa bus service from May 1

The bus service between Kathmandu-Lhasa has started from Lhasa on April 29 and will arrive Kathmandu on May 1, 2005 Sunday. Similarly, the bus from Kathmandu to Lhasa will be inaugurated in Kathmandu on May 1, 2005 amidst a grand function.

Sixty-five persons have so far applied for the ticket to go to Lhasa but some of them do not have passports. Altogether 40 passengers, including nine government officials, are scheduled to leave for Lhasa.

The Minister for Labour and Transport Management is scheduled to inaugurate the bus, which will leave Sajha office at Pulchowk on May 1 in the presence of Chinese ambassador to Nepal. A brief function will be organised at the Miteri Sanghu (friendship bridge bordering Nepal and China), where director general of the DoTM, Hari Prasad Nepal, is scheduled to welcome the bus with Chinese government officials on board.

Nepal Tourism Board is organizing the Familiarization Tour for Media persons in the same route.

French Ambassador on Khumbu Trek

French Ambassador to Nepal, His Excellency Mr. Michel Jolivet completed his ten days trek to Khumbu region visiting Gokyo Lake, Namche Area, Khumjung, Dole Phakding and Lukla. His Excellency remarked Khumbu trek as the most memorable time of his life and the area as the pleasant place for foreign tourists. His Excellency Mr. Jolivet further added Khumbu region as the 'Must See Place' for International fellowship. "The place is heaven on Earth," recalled His Excellency after observing the natural beauty of the region closely. As a lover of Sherpa culture His Excellency Jolivet affirmed Khumbu region to be better and secure destination to all tourists.

First NATTA Travel Mart from May 12

First NATTA Travel Mart 2005 is being organized in Kathmandu from May 12-14, 2005 under the aegis of Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents in conjunction with His Majesty's Government, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Civil Aviation, Royal Nepal Airlines and all other closely related fraternal organizations to showcase and promote the unique tourism products of the country and to provide an opportunity to potential buyers from the countries abroad to see for themselves what Nepal is like and why it should be a destination for nature/adventure loving and pleasure seeking tourists. Nepal Association of Tour & Travel Agents (NATTA) will also hold NATTA 15th Biennial Convention with a theme of streamlining efforts of inter-regional tourism promotion.. Besides, the mart will also promote and raise tourism awareness in the country.

The Mart will be held on Birendra International Convention Hall. Participation from countries like India, Thailand, Singapore, Bangladesh, China, Japan, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Pakistan and Myanmar has been confirmed.

Rotaractors reached Camp No 2

The three adventurous Rotaractors in 'Rotary Centennial Everest Expedition -2005' have reached 'Camp No. 2' on April 27. They are planning to go to Camp No. 3 and 4. Hereafter they will proceed for the Summit exercise. The Rotarians who went to Base Camp met the climbers Mone Mulepati, Kami Sherpa and Prem Dorjee Sherpa and enquired about them. The medical team led by Dr. Madan Piya has also returned. After Lukla Health Camp, they conducted camps in Phakding on 19th and Khumjung on 22nd where 404 and 401 health examinations with free distribution of the medicines were made.

Upcoming Events

First NATTA Travel Mart

Date: May 12-14, 2005

Venue: Birendra International Convention Hall

Tel: 4418661, 4419409

www.nata.org.np

Fifth Himalayan Beetle Rally

Raising funds for Single Women Group

Date: May 7, 2005

Tel: 4427623

Golden Jubilee Celebration of Mt. Makalu and Mt. Kanchunjunga

Date: Mt. Makalu- May 15, 2005

Mt. Kanchunjunga- May 25, 2005

Tenzing-Hillary Everest Marathon

Date: May 29, 2005

Venue: From Everest Base Camp to Namche Bazaar

Tel: 5545900

Email: info@himexnepal.com

www. Everestmarathon.com

Magic Pencil

Artworks by Britain's best children illustrators

Date: Till May 6, 2005

Venue: British Council, Lainchor

Tel: 4410798

Earth Day

Solid Waste Management Exhibition

Date: April 29-30, 2005

Time: 10 am onwards

Venue: Jawalakhel Chowk

Tel: 4242381

Press Photo Exhibition

Date: Till May 2, 2005

Venue: Nepal Art Council, Baber Mahal

Face of Buddha

Portraits of Burmese clerics

Date: Till May 10, 2005

Venue: Via Via Café & Restaurant

Tel: 4700184

Thalara Framed, Glimpses of Western Nepal

An exhibition of Photographs by Devendra S Rana

Date: Till April 30, 2005

Time: 1100-1800 hrs

Venue: Siddhartha Art Gallery, Baber Mahal Revisited

Tel: 4218048/ 4438979

A Peaceful Nepal

Photo Exhibition cum Sale

Date: Till April 30, 2005

Venue: Godavari Alumni Association

Tel: 4414785

An Evening with Manose

Bamboo Flute Recital

Date: April 29, 2005 Time: 1900 hrs

Venue: Patan Museum

Contact: 4256411

Classic Piano Recital

World tour concert by world famous

British pianist Mr. Anthony Peebles

Date: May 3, 2005

Time: 1830 hrs

Venue: Hyatt Regency, Bouddha

Aloha Nepal

Works by Wicki Van De Veer

Date: Till May 25, 2005

Venue: Lazimpat Gallery Café

Tel: Till May 25, 2005

Pilgrim's Book Festival

Date: Till May 8, 2005
Venue: Pilgrims, Kupondole
Tel: 5521159

Media Center

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