

Putha Hiunchuli

REGION	Dhaulagiri · Dolpo edge
DURATION	35 days
MAX ALTITUDE	7,246 m
GRADE	Expedition · PD+
SEASON	Mar-May · Sep-Dec
FROM	from \$16,000

Overview

The western anchor of the Dhaulagiri Himal

Also called Dhaulagiri VII, Putha Hiunchuli rises at the wild western end of the Dhaulagiri range on the edge of Dolpo - a quiet, scenic 7,000 m objective.

Rising to 7,246 m at the westernmost end of the Dhaulagiri range, Putha Hiunchuli - also known as Dhaulagiri VII - is the last of the range's great 7,000 m peaks. Despite this distinction, it remains one of the most understated summits in Nepal, drawing climbers and trekkers who value remoteness as much as altitude.

Set on the far western edge of the Dhaulagiri massif, above the Kali Gandaki and Bheri river valleys, the mountain carries a quiet sense of isolation. It was this same wildness that drew explorer Jimmy Roberts to the peak in 1954; together with Ang Nyima Sherpa, he made the first ascent via the North Ridge, and it has since remained a magnet for mountaineers seeking an authentic Himalayan expedition away from the crowds.

The route offers several possible lines to the summit, each technically demanding without being extreme, making Putha Hiunchuli a serious but achievable objective for well-prepared climbers. The journey begins with flights from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj and on to Dolpo (Jhupal), followed by a trek through Dunai, Tarakot, Musikhola and Kakot to Base Camp. From there, the route continues to Camp 1 - with the option to ski between Camp 1 and Camp 2 - before a pre-dawn summit push, typically starting around 4 a.m. on summit day. On a clear ascent, climbers pass a false summit before reaching the true top of Dhaulagiri VII.

More than a summit bid, this expedition is a journey through some of Nepal's most remote villages and landscapes - a chance to test yourself against altitude and terrain while tracing a route walked by very few before you.

Highlights

- Explore the off-the-beaten-path trails of the Dhaulagiri region
- Enjoy breathtaking panoramic views of Dhaulagiri II, III, IV, V and VI, alongside many other peaks
- Pass through diverse villages and experience the cultures and traditions that bind their communities
- Visit historic and religious sites, including Tibetan monasteries and mani walls
- Immerse yourself in the rich ecology of the remote Dolpa region

- Explore German Base Camp and Putha Hiunchuli Base Camp
- Stand on the snow-capped summit of Mt. Putha Hiunchuli
- Experience one of the few 7,000 m peaks suitable for skiing or snowboarding

Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival in Kathmandu and Transfer to Hotel

Gear check, permits and final prep bOn arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport, a warm welcome awaits you before transfer to your hotel to rest after the journey. An evening welcome gathering offers a chance to meet fellow climbers and crew, followed by a briefing covering the expedition plan and essential safety measures. The evening closes with an authentic Nepalese meal accompanied by a traditional cultural program before flying out.

Day 2 - Kathmandu Sightseeing and Climbing Preparations

After breakfast, a guided tour introduces you to Kathmandu's cultural and religious heritage. At Pashupatinath Temple you may offer prayers to Lord Shiva, followed by a visit to Boudhanath Stupa, one of the largest Buddhist monuments in the world, with its prayer flags, prayer wheels and mani walls. The tour continues to Swayambhunath (the Monkey Temple), where Hinduism and Buddhism visibly intertwine, and concludes at the historic Durbar Square. The afternoon is reserved for finalising preparations ahead of the 35-day expedition.

Day 3 - Fly from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj Kathmandu 1,345 m | Nepalgunj 150 m | Flight 30-45 minutes

A short scenic flight carries you from the crowded skyline of Kathmandu over the flat Terai plains, patched with paddy and mustard fields, down to Nepalgunj. After settling into the hotel, there is time to visit the sacred Bageshwori Temple and browse the town's lively open-air market.

Day 4 - Fly from Nepalgunj to Jhupal and Trek to Dunai Jhupal 2,475 m | Dunai 2,140 m | Trek 3 hours

An early flight delivers you to Jhupal in the Dolpa district, where the trek begins on a broad trail through terraced fields. Descending past scattered settlements, the route crosses the Thuli Bheri River on a suspension bridge and continues through forest before reaching Dunai, the administrative centre of the Dolpa region, where you overnight at a teahouse.

Day 5 - Trek from Dunai to Tarakot Dunai 2,140 m | Tarakot 2,850 m | Trek 5-6 hours

A gentle uphill walk along the Bheri and Barbung rivers leads through a valley of dense pine forest to Tarakot, an ancient fortress settlement dating from the 14th to 17th centuries, set at the confluence of the Thuli Bheri River.

Day 6 - Trek from Tarakot to Musikhola Tarakot 2,850 m | Musikhola 2,875 m | Trek 5-6 hours

The trail narrows as it winds through cedar forest and gorges along the Tarap Chu River, passing the historic Sandul Gompa at the junction of the Barbung Khola and Tarap Chu River. After a rest at Khanigaun, a long climb rewards you with sweeping mountain views before the trail descends to the banks of the Barbung Khola and continues on to Musikhola.

Day 7 - Trek from Musikhola to Kakot Musikhola 2,875 m | Kakot 3,250 m | Trek 5-6 hours

The reconstructed trail follows a gorge to a wooden bridge, offering early glimpses of the Dhaulagiri Range, Kangmara Peak and Putha Hiunchuli. A stone-paved staircase, engineered by local villagers, eases the final descent into Kakot.

Day 8 - Trek from Kakot to German Base Camp Kakot 3,250 m | German Base Camp 4,440 m | Trek 5-6 h

Crossing the Mushi Khola River, the trail climbs through birch forest and pastureland to Pangzi, the last village on the route. Beyond Pangzi, two high mountain passes guard the approach to German Base Camp, the first at 4,160 m, before the trail finally reaches the campsite for an overnight stay.

Day 9 - Trek to Putha Hiunchuli Base Camp

Widely regarded as one of the most demanding days of the expedition, this stage climbs steep, sandy and rocky terrain above 4,500 m, calling for a slow, steady pace to reduce the risk of altitude sickness. The reward is Base Camp itself, with striking views of Putha Hiunchuli, Churen Himal and the wider Dhaulagiri Range.

Day 10 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 11 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 12 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 13 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 14 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 15 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 16 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 17 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 18 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 19 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 20 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 21 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 22 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

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Day 23 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 24 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 25 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 26 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 27 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

This extended window is devoted to acclimatisation, technical training and equipment familiarisation before the summit attempt. Once conditions are favourable, the ascent begins along one of Putha Hiunchuli's two main faces, with fixed ropes and camps established en route to the summit. From the top, the panorama sweeps across the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna range and the Mustang Himal. Skiing from the summit is possible for those seeking an added challenge. After the summit push, the descent retraces the route back to Base Camp.

Day 28 - Climbing Putha Hiunchuli and Returning to Base Camp Base Camp 4,915 m | Summit 7,246 m

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Day 29 - Trek from Putha Hiunchuli Base Camp to German Base Camp Hiunchuli Base Camp 4,915 m | C

A steep, tiring descent along the outbound route is offset by fine views of the Dhaulagiri Range's

glaciers and valleys, before arriving back at German Base Camp for the night.

Day 30 - Trek from German Base Camp to Kakot

The two high passes are crossed once more on the return journey. As Kakot comes into view, the surrounding scenery offers ample compensation for the effort, and the remainder of the day can be spent exploring the village and meeting local residents.

Day 31 - Trek from Kakot to Dunai

A long day's walk descends past Musikhola and Lesicap before continuing through forest to Tarakot, then along farmland and scattered hamlets beside the Thuli Bheri River to reach Dunai.

Day 32 - Trek from Dunai to Jhupal

The final trekking day follows the Thuli Bheri River through farmland and terraced fields, crossing a suspension bridge before reaching Jhupal, marking the end of the walking portion of the expedition.

Day 33 - Fly from Jhupal to Kathmandu via Nepalgunj

An early flight from Jhupal (Dolpa Airport) connects through Nepalgunj back to Kathmandu, passing over the green terraced fields and forests of the inner Terai en route, before transfer to your hotel.

Day 34 - Leisure Day in Kathmandu

A free day to unwind after more than a month on the trail. Options include wandering the Newar neighbourhoods of Indrachowk or Asan to sample local cuisine or exploring the nightlife of Thamel.

Day 35 - Transfer to the International Airport for Departure

With the Putha Hiunchuli expedition complete, transfer to Tribhuvan International Airport for your onward flight home.

What's included

- Airport arrival and departure transfers as per the itinerary
- 4-star hotel accommodation in Kathmandu (bed & breakfast)
- A day of Kathmandu sightseeing with an experienced city guide, all entrance fees and private vehicle
- All essential ground transportation by private vehicle as mentioned in the itinerary
- A handbook with route details and guiding maps of the region
- Baggage allowance of up to 60 kg per person on flights and on the trekking route (carried by yaks, porters and mules)
- Climbing permit for Mt. Putha Hiunchuli
- All essential trekking permits and national park fees
- Royalty costs and permits for the regular Putha Hiunchuli route issued by the Department of Tourism
- TIMS permit for the Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal's largest conservation area
- Kathmandu - Nepalgunj - Jhupal round-trip flights
- Teahouse and camping accommodation during trekking and climbing
- All meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) during trekking and climbing
- One climbing Sherpa per client
- An experienced, licensed high-altitude guide (expedition leader)
- Required porters and kitchen staff for camping
- Essential camping equipment: dining tent, toilet tent, store tent, table and chairs
- Liaison officer
- Staff salaries, food, clothing and insurance

- Essential climbing gear
- 3 bottles of oxygen per client and 1 bottle for the climbing guide
- Comfortable base camps with heaters for cold mornings and evenings
- Solar panels for charging and lighting at base camp
- Backup fuel-powered generator for lighting and charging
- Satellite phone (usage charged per minute)
- Welcome and farewell dinner in Kathmandu
- All applicable taxes, VAT and necessary paperwork
- Assistance with visa extensions, flight confirmation and departure formalities

Not included

- Personal climbing gear
- Personal travel insurance
- Tourist visa and international flight costs
- Alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses
- Extra services or additional staff not covered by the package
- Summit bonus of US\$700 per Sherpa guide after a successful summit
- Staff tips
- Unforeseen costs arising from natural disasters or political disruption

Available departures

- 15 Mar 2026
- 02 Apr 2026
- 21 Apr 2026
- 12 May 2026
- 18 Sep 2026
- 06 Oct 2026