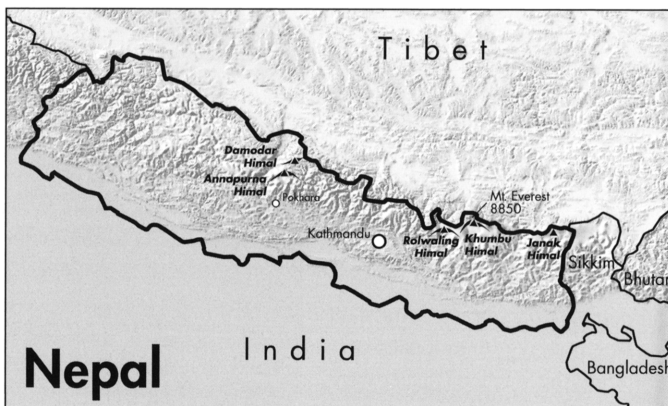


Nepal

Recent changes in regulations. New regulations coming into force during 2002 were generally very beneficial to the mountaineering community and particularly to those climbers wishing to try lightweight ascents of new routes and virgin peaks. The most significant changes are as follows:



- (a) A Liaison Officer is generally no longer required for peaks below 6,500m.
- (b) No climber under 16 is permitted
- (c) Permits are no longer granted only for a particular season, they can now be obtained for any time of the year.
- (d) The outdated letter of approval from the national mountaineering federation of the country of origin of each expedition, or from the embassy of the country, has been waived.
- (e) New payment rates have recently been fixed at: sirdar Rs400, high altitude porter Rs300, base camp staff Rs300.

New peaks for the autumn of 2002. To coincide with the start of the post-monsoon season 2002 the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation announced that the following 13 mountains were being added to the existing list of peaks permitted for foreign expeditions. The new peaks are a strange mixture, comprising not only high, serious, technical, and remote peaks, but also lower altitude mountains that eminently fit the category of “trekking peaks.” A number of these have already been climbed—some, like Mera South (an easier, subsidiary snow dome of the popular Khumbu trekking peak) on many occasions—while the formidable Nemjung has already been attempted by more than a half-dozen foreign teams over the last 15 years. The new peaks, progressing roughly from east to west, are listed below. Notes as to their location are given in parenthesis.