

NEPAL

**Country Dialing Code (Tel/Fax): ++977**

Nepal Tourism Board: Bhrikuti Mandap Kathmandu Tel: 1-256909 Fax 1-256910 E-mail info@ntb.wlink.com.np <http://www.welcomenepal.com>

Capital: Kathmandu **Time:** GMT + 5

Background: In 1951, the Nepalese monarch ended the century-old system of rule by hereditary premiers and instituted a cabinet system of government. Reforms in 1990 established a multiparty democracy within the framework of a constitutional monarchy.

Location: Southern Asia, between China and India

Map References: Asia

Area: total: 140,800 sq km land: 136,800 sq km water: 4,000 sq km

Climate: varies from cool summers and severe winters in north to subtropical summers and mild winters in south

Terrain: Terai or flat river plain of the Ganges in south, central hill region, rugged Himalayas in north

Natural Resources: quartz, water, timber, hydropower, scenic beauty, small deposits of lignite, copper, cobalt, iron ore

Population: 24,702,119 (July 2000 est.)

Nationality: noun: Nepalese (singular and plural) adjective: Nepalese

Ethnic Groups: Newars, Indians, Tibetans, Gurungs, Magars, Tamangs, Bhotias, Rais, Limbus, Sherpas

Religions: Hindu 90%, Buddhist 5%, Muslim 3%, other 2% (1981) note: only official Hindu state in the world

Languages: Nepali (official), over 20 other languages divided into numerous dialects

Economy: Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world with nearly half of its population living below the poverty line. Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for over 80% of the population and accounting for 41% of GDP. Industrial activity mainly involves the processing of agricultural produce including jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain. Production of textiles and carpets has expanded recently and accounted for about 80% of foreign exchange earnings in the past three years. Agricultural production is growing by about 5% on average as compared with annual population growth of 2.3%. Since May 1991, the government has been moving forward with economic reforms, particularly those that encourage trade and foreign investment, e.g., by reducing business licenses and registration requirements in order to simplify investment procedures. The government has also been cutting expenditures by reducing subsidies, privatizing state industries, and laying off civil servants. More recently, however, political instability - five different governments over the past few years - has hampered Kathmandu's ability to forge consensus to implement key economic reforms. Nepal has considerable scope for accelerating economic growth by exploiting its potential in hydropower and tourism, areas of recent foreign investment interest. Prospects for foreign trade or investment in other sectors will remain poor, however, because of the small size of the economy, its technological backwardness, its remoteness, its landlocked geographic location, and its susceptibility to natural disaster. The international community's role of funding more

than 60% of Nepal's development budget and more than 28% of total budgetary expenditures will likely continue as a major ingredient of growth.

Industries: tourism, carpet, textile; small rice, jute, sugar, and oilseed mills; cigarette; cement and brick production

Currency: 1 Nepalese rupee (NR) = 100 paisa

Railways: total: 101 km; note - all in Kosi close to Indian border narrow gauge: 101 km 0.762-m gauge

Highways: total: 13,223 km paved: 4,073 km unpaved: 9,150 km (April 1999)

Ports and Harbors: none

Airports: 45 (1999 est.) Airports - with paved runways: total: 5 over 3,047 m: 1 1,524 to 2,437 m: 3 914 to 1,523 m: 1 (1999 est.) Airports - with unpaved runways: total: 40 1,524 to 2,437 m: 2 914 to 1,523 m: 9 under 914 m: 29 (1999 est.)

Visa: required by all except nationals of India

Duty Free: goods permitted: 200 cigarettes or 50 cigars, 1.15 litres of spirits or 12 cans of beer, a reasonable amount of perfume

Health: a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required from travelers coming from infected areas. Cholera risk is present and it is essential to seek expert advice before traveling. All water should be regarded as potentially contaminated

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KATHMANDU

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GRAND HOTEL P.O.Box :12872, Tahachal, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: 977 - 01 - 4282482/83/84/85, Fax :977 - 01 - 4282488, Email: grandhotel@wlink.com.np, www.grandhotelnepal.com

HOTEL MOONLIGHT, www.hotelmoonlight.com - info@hotelmoonlight.com Paknajole, Thamel, GPO 6667, Kathmandu, Nepal, Phone: 4383566 / 4380636 / 4383528, Fax: 4380452, www.hotelmoonlight.com

HOTEL VAISHALI, P.O. Box: 206, Thamel, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel: 00977-1-4413968, 4423934, 4423935, 4700847, 4700849, Fax: 977-1-414510, E-mail: vaishali@vishnu.ccs.com.np, www.vaishalihotel.com

HOTEL YAK & YETI, GPO Box no. 1016, Durbar Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal, Tel : +977-1-4248999, 4240520, Fax: +977-1-4227781/ 4227782, Email: reservation@yakandyeti.com, www.yakandyeti.com

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RADISSON HOTEL KATHMANDU, Lazimpat, PO Box 2269, Kathmandu, Nepal, Reservations: 1 800 333 3333 USA, Telephone: (977-1) 441 1818 Fax: (977-1) 441 1720, Email: radisson@radkat.com.np, www.radisson.com

THE HOTEL MALLA, GPO Box 787, Lekhnath Marg, Kathmandu, Tel : 977 1 4418385, Fax: 4418382, Email: info@hotelmalla.com, www.hotelmalla.com

AIRLINES & HELIPORTS

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