

# NATTA WEEKLY NEWSLETTER



ISSUE NO: 66

3RD JULY 2015

## Travel Advisory Softens

### New Zealand softens travel advisory

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of New Zealand has lowered risk level for Nepal in its recent travel advisory for Nepal. New Zealand has advised its citizens to be cautious for all of the country except the most affected districts -- Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindupalchok, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldunga and Makwanpur -- for which it has advised to avoid all tourist and non-essential travel.

"The Government of Nepal has designated these districts as earthquake-affected. We advise against all tourists and other non-essential travel to these districts due to earthquake damage, ongoing relief and recovery efforts and the risk of landslides/avalanches," the revised advisory reads.

Liza Choegyal, honorary consul of New Zealand in Nepal, said: "New Zealand has a long association with mountains and tourism in Nepal, and we are proud to be the one of the first countries to lift our travel warning to help tourism recovery following the tragic earthquakes."

### US Department lifts Travel Advisory

The Department of State terminated the authorized departure of non-emergency U.S. government personnel and dependents on July 2, 2015. This replaces the Travel Warning dated May 1, 2015.

While their frequency and severity have diminished, the possibility of earthquakes or aftershocks continues. The overall effect of the initial earthquake and its aftershocks varied greatly across the country. Areas close to the epicenters suffered significant damage, while other areas in the country were nearly unaffected.

In Kathmandu, conditions are returning to normal. Cleanup efforts have cleared most of the rubble from collapsed structures and walls, and demolition efforts continue to address unstable buildings. In the worst-affected areas outside of Kathmandu, damage is more widespread and severe. Recovery efforts in these areas are ongoing, and access to basic resources, such as food, water, fuel and communications, could be limited.

The April 25 earthquake and its aftershocks destabilized steep, mountainous areas, and severe landslides have occurred in some affected areas. With the arrival of monsoon rains, which usually begin in June and last until September, there may be a higher occurrence of landslides than in years past.



Beautiful Nepal

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## Interactive Program with International Operators By SAMARTH-NMDP

**S**AMARTH Nepal Market Development Program (NMDP) organized an interaction program titled the “Turning Point in Tourism” at the Hotel Annapurna on 28th June’15. The event was successful in bringing together international tour operators and Nepal tourism operators to discuss how to turn tourism recovery into a reality.

SAMARTH, opened the meeting welcoming 7 leading tour operators from Europe, the UK, Australia, Germany, Denmark, Japan and Asia.

Almost all of them had a valid concern over the negative travel advisories against Nepal, directly affecting travel, travel insurance, and killing the business. Needless to say, it has posed a great hurdle for the country's tourism recovery efforts.

The presentation by the international tour operators was followed by a discussion and Q&A session which was moderated by the Nepal Association of Tour Operators (NATO) President, Ashok Pokharel.

It was an engaging

session as it helped the local operators to understand the expectations and perceptions of foreign tour operators. The industry cannot thank SAMARTH enough for inviting the tour operators to Nepal from different continents and holding an effective interaction, which is the need of the hour.

Around 25 NATTA Member company participated in the program.

It was evident that the world is sympathetic towards Nepal. However, the recovery of the tourism industry is entirely dependent on pragmatic actions of its leaders, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders. Nepal has no choice but to focus on tourism in order to turn its sorrow into a stepping stone for sustainable development of the nation.



### A good news!

#### *Automatic Pricing in ATF soon*

Further to NATTA's pursuance to ease international flights to Nepal in the post earthquake situation government authorities including Ministry for Commerce & Supplies is preparing to enforce automatic pricing mechanism for aviation turbine fuel (ATF) almost a year after the enforcement of the system for petrol, diesel and kerosene. Though belated, isn't it a good news?



Together We Can Achieve  
नेपाल एसोसिएशन अफ टूर एण्ड ट्राभल एजेन्ट्स  
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NATTA # 194/071-072

1st July 2015

**INVITING ARTICLES FOR NATTA SOUVENIR-2015**

Dear Valuable NATTA Member(s),

This is to kindly inform you that NATTA is going to host its biennial event '20<sup>th</sup> NATTA Convention' and '06<sup>th</sup> NATTA Special Program-Carnival 2015' on Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> September this year in Kathmandu with the theme '*Building Better Tourism with Renewed Strength*'. As is our tradition, we publish a Souvenir on the occasion to mark the event and distribute the same to all the participants including the delegates from various countries and all the invitees from the tourism fraternity.

NATTA members with facile pen are requested to kindly ink out their ideas and feelings on tourism issues focusing on the given theme and email the same to NATTA Secretariat at [ceo@natta.org.np](mailto:ceo@natta.org.np), [natta@mail.com.np](mailto:natta@mail.com.np) or [mediacentre@natta.org.np](mailto:mediacentre@natta.org.np). Articles for the Souvenir must not exceed the word limitation of 2000 and should be in typed form in English with double space.

The deadline for the submission of articles is 03<sup>rd</sup> August, 2015. The articles selected by the Editorial Board will be published in the NATTA Souvenir.

Thanking you and with regards,



Shambhu Raj Pathak  
First Vice President/Convenor  
20<sup>th</sup> NATTA Convention







Hundreds of balloons were released from **Basantapur** on June 27 in memory of those who lost their lives in the April 25 Nepal earthquake.



A view of plantation of rice seedlings seen on June 30. Ropain Festival also known as Asar 15, Farmer gets very busy for preparation and cultivation of rice, they go to field, plant rice, play with the mud and eat beaten rice with yoghurt.



Professor Wolfgang Nairz, Everest Summiteer & Goodwill Ambassador of Nepal, from Vienna, Austria, with his friends, are just back from a trip to Mustang. Happy, back from the trip, there was absolutely no problem, they said. We love Nepal, we are friends of Nepal, said a team member.

**Post-Quake Heritage Ride to Restore & Rebuild.**  
60KM on your bicycle

A Contribution ride to assist, appreciate & observe the World Heritage Sites after the April 25<sup>th</sup> earthquake.

Funds raised will be contributed to KATHMANDU Reconstruction work.

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 (Sat) 18:00  
Play off from: Swayambhu Durbar Square  
Free: Lunch, games, water, first aid  
Live traditional music @ 5:30pm  
Lighting ceremony

Have you got the flag on your back?

Organized by: **THE LUMBINI**  
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Phone: 977-01-74194, 08510-31421, 01-4700866, 01-4381214

### An Event in India for Nepal:

Media coverage of a Charity program organized in Kolkata, India on June 28, 2015 for rebuilding Nepal's heritage.



# 10 things you didn't know about Nepal

Nepal is a beautiful country with stunning landscapes, rich culture, kind and hospitable people and epic trekking trails. But you knew this already. Here are 10 lesser known facts about Nepal that make this country all the more special.

## 1. MOMO MANIA

This Tibetan style dumpling, filled with meat or vegetables, is one of most popular foods in Nepal. Nepali's love them so much there are even annual mo:mo eating competitions to show who can chow down the most mo:mos in one minute. The current Kathmandu record is an impressive 33 pieces.



## 2. HONKING SAVES LIVES

While many foreigners wouldn't dream of honking a car horn unless someone commits a heinous traffic offense, Nepali drivers use the horn as a sonar to avoid accidents on the perilous roads. The constant chorus of honking horns takes some getting used to. But you'll learn to love it, especially when you have your turn in the driver's seat.



Traffic

## 3. DAL-BHAT POWER 24 HOUR



Dhal Bhat

When visiting Nepal, don't forget to bring a hearty appetite. Dal-Bhat, a traditional dish of rice and cooked lentil soup, is the staple food of Nepal and a gigantic portion is enjoyed at least two times a day.

## 4. A LAND OF MANY TONGUES

For a relatively small country, Nepal has a very diverse population with over 80 ethnic groups. While the official language is Nepali, only 44.6% of the population actually speak it. The rest use one of the other 123 languages spoken in Nepal.

## 5. BEING CALLED FAT IS A GOOD THING

If a Nepali ever calls you fat (and you should prepare yourself for this very likely event), take it as a compliment. In Nepal fat is a euphemism for healthy. If you are eating well, you are probably doing well financially too.



Flag

## 6. COLONY FREE

Nepal doesn't have an independence day as (perhaps thanks to the protection of the brave and fierce Gorkha warriors) it was never colonized by former superpowers.

## 7. A COUNTRY OF MANY RECORDS

Besides being known for its breathtaking vistas Nepal also holds some impressive world records. Like, for instance, the tallest mountain in the world (Mt Everest 8.848m), the deepest gorge (Kali Gandaki, 1200m) and the highest lake on earth (Tilicho Lake, 4,919m).



Everest

## 8. A LIVING CULTURAL MUSEUM

Nepal boast the densest concentration of World Heritage sites. Kathmandu Valley alone has 7 UNESCO World Heritage sites within a radius of 15km.



Patan Durbar Square

## 9. HOME OF THE YETI

Nepal is home to some of the rarest species in the animal kingdom. Like the one-horned rhino, the bengal tiger, the snow leopard and, um, let's not forget the mysterious Yeti. [link to previous blog post] Legend says that the mythical creature roams the remote mountain ranges of the Himalayas. While several expeditions have been dispatched to find evidence of the Yeti, there is to this day very little proof of its existence.



Yeti footprints

## 10. PEOPLE CARRIED CARS INSTEAD OF CARRIED PEOPLE

Back in the days before highways came to link Kathmandu with India, the only way to get to the capital was by foot or air. Motor car loving Nepali's therefore resorted to recruiting porters to carry cars from the Indian border, over the mountains and on to Kathmandu. Some cars required up to 96 porters to negotiate the steep trails!

Nepal Association of Tour and Travel Agents

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