

Tourism centres

Lelep, Ghunsa, Khambachen- Lonark, Northern base, Yamphudin, Cheram, Ramjor, southern base camp Yangma, Olangchungola, are major settlements. Pathivara temple, Dikichyoling Gumpa and Faktanglung are major cultural and historical sites. Nangma, Cherchen, Pabuk, Dhiptala. Sinjema, Haspokhari, Nagpokhari, Timbungpokhari, and Tinpokhari are the major high altitudinal lakes.

How to get the KCA

The most common ways to reach the KCA headquarter (from Kathmandu are:

- Flight from Kathmandu to Suketar and 6 hours by local taxi to tapethok and 4 hrs walk.
- Flight from Kathmandu to Bhadrapur and 9 hours by taxi to phungling.
- Kathmandu-Birtamod-Phungling 24 hours by bus and 3 days (3 camps) walk from Phungling to Lelep.

General code of conduct

Follow the minimum impact code while trekking so that you and your host (local nature and people) benefit for indefinite years to come. Because what you benefit from a particular tourism destination at present and future largely depends on how you impact the local environment and culture.

Conserve forest

- Avoid hot showers that use firewood to heat water.
- Encourage to use alternative energy i.e. solar energy and kerosene
- Carry adequate fuel and warm clothes.

Control pollution

- Use designated toilets, campsites and rubbish bins in route.
- Avoid bottled mineral water, use iodine tablets or other water purifies instead.
- Do not bring non biodegradable items such as plastic bags and bottles.



Conserve culture

- Respect local culture
- Respect privacy: ask permission to take photograph of cultural sites and people.

Conservation Area Regulations to follow or things to remember

- An entry fee of Rs. 2,000 (Foreigners), Rs. 500 (SAARC Nationals), Rs. 100 (Nepali) visitor should be paid at designated ticket counter.
- Valid entry permits are available from the National Parks ticket counter at the Nepal Tourism Board, Bhrikuti Mandap, Kathmandu or KCA entrance gate.
- The entry permit is non-refundable, non-transferable and is for a single entry only.
- Entering the park without a permit is illegal. Park personnel may ask for the permit, so visitors are requested to keep the permit with them.
- Get special permit for documentary/filming from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC).
- Documentary/filming fee of US\$ 1,500 (Foreigners), Rs. 50,000 (SAARC Nationals) and Rs. 10,000 (Nepali) should be paid at DNPWC. Additional 25% should be paid while using drone for documentary/filming.
- Drone (UAV) fee is same as documentary/filming fee while using it for other purposes.
- Don't remove or damage plants and animals. All flora and fauna are fully protected and must not be disturbed.
- Rubbish must be placed out, buried or disposed off in designated areas.
- Do respect the cultural and religious sites.
- Visitors should be self-sufficient in fuel supply (kerosene/LP gas).
- Comping inside CA should be made only at the desinated areas.
- Carry out non biodegradable items such as batteries, plastic bags and bottles.
- Never trek alone, hire a local guide if you can't find a companion.

Wish you a very happy and memorable experience

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KANCHENJUNGA CONSERVATION AREA

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Background

Kanchenjunga Conservation Area (KCA) was established in 1997 AD, is situated in North eastern part of Nepal covering the parts of Taplejung district. Initially the area of KCA was 1650 km² and extended 2035 km² in 1998. KCA lies between 87°39'7" and 88°12'6" east longitude and 27°28'51" and 27°57'5" north latitude in high Himalaya. It spreads from 1200m (Thiwa khola) to 8586m (Mt. Kanchenjunga) from sea level. The prime attraction is the Mt. Kanchenjunga, the 3rd highest peak of the world lies in the conservation area. Other four peaks above 8000 m and 11 peaks more than 7000 m are located in this area. It is a home to many endangered species of flora and fauna. Major ethnic groups are Sherpa, Limbu, Bhote and Rai.

KCA is only community managed protected areas of Nepal. Management responsibility is handed over to the Kanchenjunga Conservation Area Management Council (KCAMC) on 2006. The management council was reformed on 3 June, 2014 and registered on Department of National parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC). KCAMC is fully responsible for the conservation and management of KCA.



Major Flora and Fauna

KCA is rich in its floral and faunal diversity. *Rhododendron* species are found from 1500 m altitude while forests of Lark and *Larix griffithiana* are found in the bank of Ghunsa and Tamor River. 2500 species of flowering plants, 810 species of non flowering plants, 23 species of *Rhododendron*, 48 species of orchids and 14 species of wild berries are found in the conservation area.

KCA is home to 22 species of mammals including endangered snow leopard (*Panthera uncia*), Himalayan Black Bear (*Ursus thibetanus*), Musk Deer (*Moschus chrysogaster*), Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*), Tibetan Wolf (*Canis lupus*), Wild Dog (*Cuon alpinus*) Blue Sheep (*Pseudopsis nayaur*) and Rhesus Monkey (*Macaca mulatta*)

Chinese Pangolin (*Manis pentadactyla*). KCA provides the habitat for 252 species of birds including Himalayan Monal, Blood Pheasant. In addition, 82 species of insects, 5 species of fishes and 6 species of amphibians have been recorded in the area.



Fact Sheet

Kanchenjunga Conservation Area	
Conservation Area declared	1997 AD
Area	2035 Km ²
Location	87°39'7" and 88°12'6" east longitude and 27°28'51" and 27°57'5" north latitude in high Himalaya (Province No. 1, Taplejung district)
Climate	Subtropical monsoon and humid summer at the lower elevation to cold and wet winter in the alpine region. Numbers of frost days are generally high.
Elevation	1200m to 8586m (msl)
Major rivers	Tamor, Ghunsa, Kabei and yangma
Major glaciers	Tiptala, Yalung, Ramjer
Major Lakes	Nangama, Tcherchen, Sinjema, Pabuk
Major peaks	Kanchenjunga (8586m), Kumbhakarna(7710m)
Major temple/Stupa	Pathivara, Faktanglung, Dikicholing
Main mammals	Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Red Panda
Main birds	Himalayan Monal, Blood Pheasant
Major tree species	Pine, Hemlock, Fir, Juniper, Birch
Rural Municipality	2 (Faktanglung and Shreejunga)
User committee	7
Population	5000
Major Ethnic groups	Limbu, Sherpa, Bhote and Rai
Economy	Tourism, agriculture, animal husbandry, business, mountaineering

Major Attraction

- The world's third highest peak Mt. Kanchenjunga (8586m above mean sea level)
- Snow Leopard, Musk Deer, Red Panda, Tibetan Wolf and Himalayan Monal
- Limbu, Sherpa and Walung culture and Monasteries
- Pathivara temple.
- Faktanglung
- Dikicholing stupa



Accommodation and other facilities

Camp sites are located in Chiruwa, Japantar, Aamjilasa, Gyabla, Ghunsa, Yamphudin, Ramjer, Cheram, Selele, Gairipati, Jongim and olangchunggola. Small hotels and Teashops are available in Lelep, Ghunsa, Yamphudin, Khambachen, Japantar, Aamjilasa, Dhanyam, Gyabla, Ramjer, Cheram, Lonark area.

Mobile service is operating in Yamphudin area. NTSAT service is available in Ghunsa and Olangchunggola. Helipads are constructed in Lelep, Gyabla, Ghunsa, Khambachen area.

Trekking Routes

Following are the major trekking routes of KCA

- Chiruwa- Lelep- Japantar- Aamjilasa- Gyabla- Fale- Ghunsa- Khambachen- Lonark upto Northern base camp of Kanchenjunga (7 camps) .
- Yamphudin-Aamji river- Torongden- Aanda base- Cheram- Ramjer- Oaktang upto southern base camp of Kanchenjunga(7 camps)
- Ghunsa- Selele-Cheram(2 camps)
- Cheruwa-Lelep-Lungthung-Ilamdada-Gairipati-Jongim-Olangchunggola(2 camps)
- Olanchunggola-Dhasa-Jaritar-Yangma(3 camps)
- Olanchunggola-Mahuwa-Dhiptala(3 camps)
- Olanchunggola-Dhasa-Yangma-Nanggola pass- Khambachen-Ghunsa(4 camps)

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