



# International Mountain Museum

Pokhara, Nepal





## Introduction

Nepal Mountaineering Association (NMA) established International Mountain Museum (IMM), the only mountain museum of its kind in the world in the lake city, Pokhara. It was officially inaugurated on 5 Feb, 2004. The first disabled friendly museum of Nepal has been established with the specific purpose of recording, documenting, and chronicling the various developments and changes that have taken place primarily in three areas namely people residing in the mountains of the world, the historic and scientific information about the origin of the global mountain system and the various activities which have established world records in the field of mountaineering and related activities. In fact, it is one unique place where Man, Mountain, and Mountaineering Activities meet under one roof.

In tune with the set of objectives, the museum exhibits include mountains, their people and culture, the world mountain system, their geological formation, mountain flora and fauna, and those related to mountain exhibits such as mountaineering, skiing, etc. In addition, the museum also displays mountaineering history and the development of mountaineering techniques and equipment over the years.

The aim is also to develop International Mountain Museum (IMM) as the International Mountain studies Centre (IMSC) by enhancing its archives that will prove helpful for the researchers in the above areas of study.



## Location

Pokhara, where IMM is situated, is an idyllic city of 200km. to the west of Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, and at an altitude of 827m.above the main sea level. Pokhara is the ideal destination for the museum as it boasts of the serenity of the lakes and the awe-inspiring Himalayas in the background creating an ambiance of tranquility and magical spell.

Pokhara was chosen as the site for the IMM because of the scenic location and lies in the laps of the mighty Annapurna range and the first ascended above eight- thousand m. peak Annapurna I (8091m ) by Maurice Herzog and Louis Lachenalon 3 June 1950. Moreover, almost every visitor to Nepal has Pokhara on their itinerary.

Pokhara is also a starting point for mountaineering, trekking, and rafting destinations. A visit to Nepal without a sojourn to Pokhara is considered incomplete. And, while in Pokhara, a must-visit is the IMM which has spread over a total floor area of 4.242 square-meters on 12.5 acres of land.



## MUSEUM LAYOUT

The International Mountain Museum has four exhibit halls open to visitors.

### I. HALL OF MOUNTAIN PEOPLE (BASEMENT FLOOR)

It has two sections and the museum starts from here.

#### Mountain People of Nepal

To familiarize the visitors with the customs, traditions, and culture of the mountain people of Nepal, the dresses, ornaments, musical instruments, household utensils and cultural activities of the Sherpas, Gurungs, Tamangs, Thakalis, Chhntyals, Pun Magars, Yakkhas, Rais, Limbus, and Sunuwars have been displaced in this section.

#### Mountain People of the World

This section introduces the visitors to mountain people of other countries e.g Taiwan, Slovenia, and Japan, and compares images of the alpine mountain people of Europe from more than fifty years back and present-day Nepal.







### The Mandala

In the center of the Hall of Mountain People, a Sand Mandala created by artist Lama Ngawang Kechha Sherpa has been exhibited. It is made of colored sand and is certain to attract visitors to the museum.

## 2. HALL OF WORLD MOUNTAINS (BASEMENT FLOOR)

This Hall introduces the name and height of national and international mountains, their historical background, highest summits, geological information, the origin of the Himalayas flora and fauna of the Himalayan region, research on mountains, and changes in the features of the earth over the time.

There are four sections in this Hall.

### Mountain Section

This presents an introduction of all the fourteen peaks over 8000m and their images on display.



### Geological Section

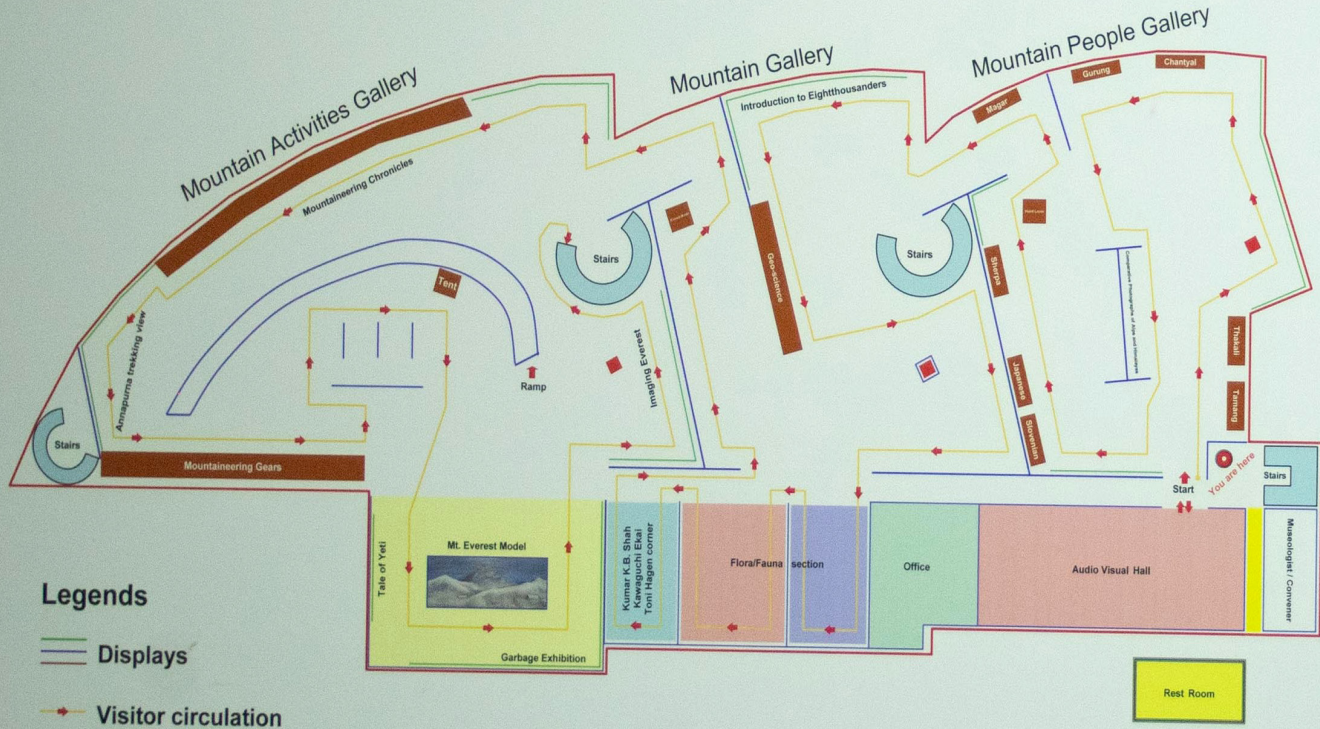
This section exhibits the geological formation of the mountains.

### Flora and Fauna Section

This section displays the natural vegetation, animals, and birds of the mountain regions of Nepal.

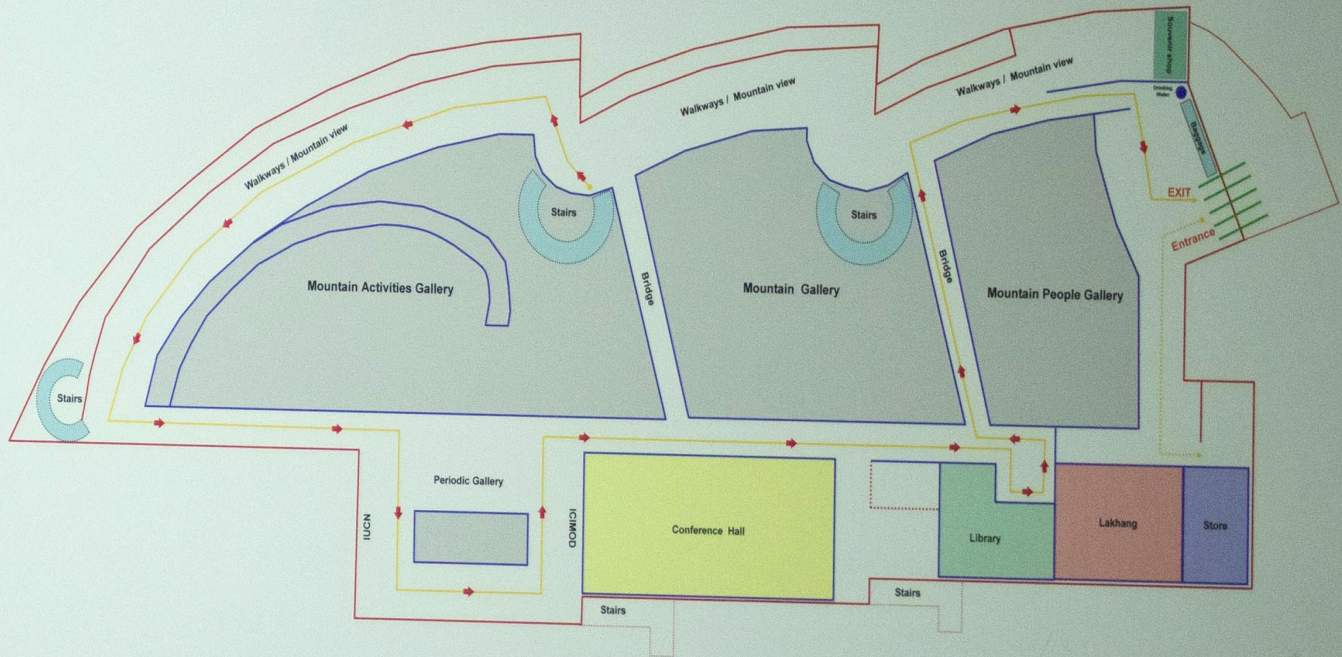


## Exhibition layout plan < Basement floor >





## Exhibition layout plan < Ground floor >





### Corner of Dedications

In memory of their invaluable contributions, this section displays the clothes, equipment, photographs, etc. of renowned personalities Reverend KawaGuchi, the first Japanese to visit Nepal in 1899, Dr. Toni Hagen, the well-known Swiss explorer and geologist, Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah, who interpreted the vision of International Mountain Museum, Dr. Harka Gurung, the renowned geographer, development partner, and conservationist of Nepal and Dawa Norbu Sherpa, a prominent contributor to the construction of the IMM in such as Reverend KawaGuchi-Ekai Corner, Dr. Toni Hagen Corner, Kumar Khadga Bikram Shah Corner, Dr. Harka Gurung Corner, and Dawa Norbu Sherpa Corner respectively.



### 3. HALL OF MOUNTAIN ACTIVITIES (BASEMENT FLOOR)

#### Mountaineering Section

This section displays the equipment, clothes, and photographs of the successful French Expedition team member Mr. Maurice Herzog who had scaled an 8000m peak (Mt. Annapurna I) for the first time on 3 June 1950. Moreover, exhibits of Ms. Junko Tabei, the first woman Everest summiteer, Mr. Toshiulmanishi, the first Mt. Manaslu summiteer, Lionel Terrey, the first Makalu summiteer and team leader Jean Franco and other mountaineers' are also on display.

The dress, equipment, and photographs of famous South Korean mountaineer Par Young Seok, the first Asian to summit all the fourteen 8000m peaks in the world, and the photographs of the South Korean record holder mountaineers have been displayed.





This section also displays the photographs of the first successful ascents of all the 14 peaks over 8000m in chronological order according to the year i.e Mt. Annapurna I (1950), Mt. Everest (1953), Nanga Parbat (1953), Mt. K2 (1954), Cho Oyu (1954), Makalu (1955), Kanchenjunga (1955), Lhotse (1956), Gasherbrum (1956), Broad Peak (1957), GasgerBrum I (1958) and Shisha Pangma (1964). The introduction of the summiteers is displayed on the panel boards.

The stamps with images of Mt. Everest issued by Nepal and other countries of the world are also on display in this section.

### **Mountaineering Equipment Section**

The necessary equipment and their uses while climbing mountains are exhibited in the showcases.

### **Mountain Ecology/Environment Section**

This section presents environmental information about the mountain region. This section also exhibits the garbage collected from Mt. Everest and Mt. Lhotse between 2000 and 2003 by the famous mountaineer and environmentalist Mr. Ken Neguchi.

### **Imaging Everest Section**

This section displays the photographs of the British expeditions to Mt. Everest from 1921 until the successful expedition of 1953 presented to the IMM by the British Council and the Royal Geography Society.



### **Climate Change Section**

In this section, information is provided to the public with regard to the effects of climate change through the means of photos and equipment.

This section is further divided into three parts:

- i) Air Section
- ii) Water Section
- iii) Ice Section

### **Touch- Screen**

There is a touch-screen that is the center of attraction for visitors. The visitors can touch the screen which displays satellite images of settlements, glacial lakes, mountains, and surroundings of the Himalayan region. The visitors can observe the images of Mt. Makalu, Mt. Everest, Upper Khumbu, and Lower Khumbu on the touch-screen.

#### 4.HALL OF TEMPORARY DISPLAY

In this hall photos are displayed only for short period of time.

##### **Lakhang**

A replica of Lakhang, a prayer room, has also been built. The Lakhang helps those interested in internalizing the true sensitivity of the Buddhist prayer room. It is always open to offering prayers and reflects the culture of the people living in the Himalayan region.



##### **Mt. Manaslu Model**

The 31-feet high model of Mt. Manaslu outside the museum is another attraction for the visitors to IMM.



##### **Yak Model**

At the entrance of the museum, a model of Yak attracts visitors.



##### **Bouldering**

IMM has a bouldering wall of 5 meter tall and interested climber can enjoy up to 20 different routes. NMA is the first institution to promote sport climbing activities in Pokhara through Maurice Herzog Climbing Wall, which was later displaced by this bouldering wall, hence, it is probably the first bouldering wall of Pokhara.



##### **Library**

The IMM library to the right of the Lakhang Room has a large collection of books on mountains, flora and fauna, mountain people, and mountaineering for the benefit of scholars, researchers, and students.







### Living Museum

The thatched huts, on the southeastern side outside the museum, offer a glimpse of the typical Nepali mountain people's village. It is a live museum where one can see people at work. In this village, local or foreign visitors would find an equally interesting and homely village atmosphere with all the originality and tradition. It has all the indigenous crafts, culture, works, and activities both social and ceremonial. The restaurant there serves various kinds of dishes including Nepali delicacies.

### Other Facilities

- Conference hall with a capacity of 150 people.
- Audio-Visual Hall
- The whole range of the mountains of this region- viewing platform with wide glass windows.
- Disabled- friendly



### Facilities outside the Museum Building

- Resting places, beautiful natural landscapes with floral, water, and rock garden, and beautiful thatched huts with garden chairs for resting.
- General VIP Parking
- Outdoor washrooms at suitable places
- Sheds for the visitors
- Mt. Manaslu Model
- Souvenir Shop
- Artificial climbing wall

### Entry Fees

Student- Rs. 50  
 Nepali National- Rs. 100  
 SAARC National- Rs. 250  
 Other Foreign National- Rs. 500  
 Resident VISA- Rs. 250  
 Garden- Rs. 30  
 Music Video Shooting- Rs. 5000  
 Movie Shooting- Rs. 8000  
 Professional Photography- Rs. 1000



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