Risk Assessment for Moonlight Nepal Trekking and Adventure

Organizing International School Trips to Nepal

Moonlight Nepal Trekking and Adventure is committed to the safety and well-being of all participants on international school trips to Nepal. This risk assessment identifies potential risks and outlines measures to mitigate them, ensuring a safe, enjoyable, and enriching experience for students and staff.

1. Health and Safety Risks

Potential Risks:

- Illness or injury caused by altitude sickness, food or water contamination, or trekking accidents.
- Medical emergencies requiring immediate evacuation.

Emergency Protocols:

1. **Evacuation Procedures:**
   - Pre-identify and mark safe evacuation routes for emergencies such as natural disasters or fires.
   - Assign meeting points to ensure all participants are accounted for after evacuation.
   - Designate team leaders to guide groups during evacuation.
2. **Access to Medical Facilities:**
   - Partner with local hospitals or clinics to provide rapid medical assistance.
   - Maintain an updated list of nearby medical facilities, contact details, and transportation options.
   - Ensure that a medical officer accompanies the group during treks.
   - Carry a well-equipped first aid kit and have at least one team member trained in first aid and CPR.
3. **Emergency Communication Plan:**
   - Provide emergency contact numbers to all participants and team members.
   - Equip the team with alternative communication devices, such as local SIM cards or satellite phones, to ensure reliable connectivity in areas with limited mobile network coverage. However, the local mobile network typically works well in all the locations where we take students trekking in the mountains.
   - Designate a point of contact responsible for liaising with medical services and authorities.
4. **Emergency Drills:**
   - Conduct practice drills to familiarize participants with evacuation procedures.

Mitigation Measures:

- Conduct pre-trip health screenings and ensure participants have appropriate vaccinations.
- Provide comprehensive briefings on altitude sickness prevention and symptoms.
- Ensure access to clean drinking water and hygienically prepared food.
- Require participants to have travel insurance that includes coverage for medical emergencies and evacuation.

2. Travel and Transportation Risks

Potential Risks:

- Accidents or delays during transportation (flights, buses, etc.).

- Loss or theft of personal belongings or travel documents.

Mitigation Measures:

- Utilize reputable and experienced transportation providers with well-maintained vehicles.
- Provide secure storage for travel documents and valuables.
- Develop contingency plans for potential travel delays or cancellations.

3. Environmental and Weather Risks

Potential Risks:

- Adverse weather conditions impacting trekking routes.
- Natural disasters such as landslides or earthquakes.

Mitigation Measures:

- Monitor weather forecasts and adjust plans proactively.
- Avoid trekking during high-risk periods, such as the monsoon season.
- Identify safe shelters and evacuation routes in advance.
- Train participants and staff in emergency response procedures.

4. Cultural and Social Risks

Potential Risks:

- Misunderstandings or unintentional disrespect toward local customs and traditions.
- Conflicts arising from cultural differences.

Mitigation Measures:

- Provide cultural sensitivity training and briefings for all participants.
- Respect local customs, traditions, and laws at all times.
- Establish clear behavior guidelines for students and staff.
- Set up effective communication channels for addressing any conflicts.

5. Data Protection Risks

Potential Risks:

- Unauthorized access to sensitive personal data of participants.
- Data breaches compromising personal information.

Mitigation Measures:

- Use secure data storage systems and encryption protocols.
- Restrict access to personal data to authorized personnel only.
- Train staff on data protection practices and conduct regular audits to ensure compliance.

6. Safety and Security Risks

Potential Risks:

- Theft, assault, or other security incidents.
- Participants becoming separated from the group.

Mitigation Measures:

- Conduct security briefings and implement a buddy system for participants.
- Use identifiable clothing or accessories for easy recognition.
- Define clear meeting points and check-in protocols.
- Maintain a detailed itinerary and ensure staff have participant contact information.

7. Communication and Coordination Risks

Potential Risks:

- Miscommunication causing confusion or errors in planning.
- Inadequate coordination among staff or participants.

Mitigation Measures:

- Establish clear communication channels, using devices such as radios or mobile phones.
- Hold regular briefings and check-ins to ensure all stakeholders are aligned.
- Assign specific roles and responsibilities to team members for effective coordination.

Commitment to Safety

Moonlight Nepal Trekking and Adventure is dedicated to proactively identifying and mitigating risks associated with international school trips to Nepal. By implementing these measures, we aim to provide a secure, enjoyable, and transformative experience for all participants.

The Provider
Name: _____
Position: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____

The School
Name: _____
Position: _____
Signature: _____
Date: _____