

Nepal

Continent: Asia

Languages Spoken: Nepali, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, Tamang, Newari, Bajjika, Magar, Doteli, Awadhi

Population: 30,030,000

Currency: Nepalese Rupee (NPR)

Area: 147,516

Main Landmarks:

- {'name': 'Mount Everest', 'writeup': "The world's highest peak at 8,848 meters, located in the Himalayas on the Nepal-China border."}
- {'name': 'Pashupatinath Temple', 'writeup': 'A sacred Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, situated on the banks of the Bagmati River in Kathmandu.'}
- {'name': 'Boudhanath Stupa', 'writeup': 'One of the largest spherical stupas in Nepal, a significant pilgrimage site for Buddhists.'}
- {'name': 'Chitwan National Park', 'writeup': 'A UNESCO World Heritage site known for its wildlife, including Bengal tigers and one-horned rhinoceroses.'}
- {'name': 'Lumbini', 'writeup': 'The birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha), an important pilgrimage site for Buddhists worldwide.'}

Head of State / Government:

President Ram Chandra Paudel

Main Cultural Events:

- {'name': 'Dashain', 'writeup': 'The longest and most significant Hindu festival in Nepal, celebrating the victory of good over evil.'}
- {'name': 'Tihar', 'writeup': 'Also known as the Festival of Lights, it honors various animals and deities over five days.'}
- {'name': 'Holi', 'writeup': 'The vibrant festival of colors marking the arrival of spring and the victory of good over evil.'}
- {'name': 'Teej', 'writeup': 'A fasting festival celebrated by women for marital happiness and the well-being of their spouses.'}
- {'name': 'Indra Jatra', 'writeup': 'A festival in Kathmandu honoring the god Indra with masked dances and chariot processions.'}

Food & Cuisine:

Nepalese cuisine is diverse, featuring staples like dal bhat (lentil soup with rice), momo (dumplings), and gundruk (fermented leafy greens). It reflects a blend of Tibetan, Indian, and indigenous flavors.

Brief History:

Nepal was unified in the 18th century by King Prithvi Narayan Shah. It remained a monarchy until 2008 when it became a federal democratic republic. The country has a rich history influenced by Hinduism and Buddhism and has maintained its sovereignty despite regional pressures.

Important People:

- Prithvi Narayan Shah - Founder of modern Nepal
- Bhimsen Thapa - First Prime Minister of Nepal
- Tenzing Norgay - Sherpa mountaineer, first to summit Everest with Edmund Hillary
- Pushpa Kamal Dahal (Prachanda) - Former Prime Minister and Maoist leader
- Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) - Born in Lumbini, founder of Buddhism

Current Conflicts:

Nepal is generally peaceful but faces occasional political instability and challenges related to border issues with China and India. There are no active armed conflicts.

Youtube Links:

- Discover Nepal: Land of the Himalayas
- Mount Everest: The Roof of the World
- Nepal's Festivals: Dashain and Tihar Explained
- Exploring Kathmandu: Culture and Heritage
- Nepalese Cuisine: Traditional Foods You Must Try