Kalinchowk Trek: the Snowy Hilltop Temple of Dolakha

Before you go · last checked on 30 October 2026

At a glance

Days	3 days, Kathmandu to Kathmandu
Highest point	3,842 m (Kalinchowk Bhagwati)
Grade	Moderate
Starts	Kathmandu
Ends	Kathmandu
Best season	Autumn, Winter and Spring
Sleeping	Simple lodges and guesthouses in Kuri

Is this walk for you?

It suits you if:

- You want to walk in snow without a long trek.
- You like temples and pilgrims.
- You have only three days.
- You want to see Nepali families on holiday.

Think twice if:

- You want a quiet place: Kuri is busy on winter weekends and holidays.
- You do not like long road days.
- You want comfortable rooms: the lodges are simple and cold.

The honest downsides

- Crowded on Saturdays, holidays and at festivals in winter.
- Two long road days; the last part can be icy in winter.
- The lodges at Kuri are simple and very cold at night.
- Litter around Kuri, sadly.

When to walk it

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Best	Best	Good	Good	Good	Wet	Wet	Wet	Wet	Best	Best	Best

Snow is most likely from late December to February, but not every week. Go on a weekday if you can.

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Conditions change. Latest version: https://rujans.com/trekking/adventure-treks/kalinchowk-trek/

Permits and papers

Kalinchowk lies in the Gaurishankar Conservation Area. Sources differ on whether visitors to the temple pay a permit; I check before we go and pay any fee at the official price.

- [ ] Passport, valid for at least six months, and a copy
- [ ] Your Nepal visa
- [ ] Passport photos for the permits
- [ ] Travel insurance that covers trekking at this altitude and helicopter rescue

For your budget

My guide fee for this walk is about $ 35 a day, the same for 1 to 5 people.

A porter, if you hire one: about the same as a guide's day rate. Permits, transport, rooms and meals are paid separately, at cost.

What	Paid to	About	Note
Guide (me)	Rujan Neupane	My day rate × 3 days	One rate for 1 to 5 people
Car or jeep Kathmandu–Kuri and back	The driver	Agreed before the trek	Paid at cost
Cable car, if you take it	The cable car company	Its ticket price	Paid at cost
Microspikes in winter	A shop in Kathmandu	Rent or buy	Paid at cost
Lodges, homestays and meals	Families on the trail	What they charge	You pay them directly; I never add anything

What to pack

MODERATE GRADE PACKING LIST

For multi-day mountain treks reaching up to about 5,500 m with gradual elevation gain.

General

- [ ] Daypack: 30L–35L capacity
- [ ] Duffel bag: 60L–70L waterproof duffel bag
- [ ] Sleeping bag: 3-Season bag rated to 0°C / -5°C
- [ ] Trekking poles: Adjustable aluminum/carbon poles
- [ ] Headlamp: 200+ lumen headlamp with extra batteries
- [ ] Hydration: 2x 1L water bottles or hydration bladder
- [ ] Water treatment: Purification tablets or portable filter

Head & Face

- [ ] Sun hat & Warm beanie: Both sun cap and fleece beanie
- [ ] Sunglasses: UV400 protective sunglasses
- [ ] Buff / Scarf: Neck gaiter for wind and dust protection
- [ ] Sunscreen & Lip balm: SPF 50+ sunscreen and SPF lip balm

Upper Body

- [ ] Base layers: 2–3x Long-sleeve thermal/merino tops
- [ ] Mid-layer: Fleece jacket or lightweight synthetic down
- [ ] Down jacket: Medium-weight down jacket

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- [ ] Outer shell: Waterproof/windproof hard shell jacket

Hand & Lower Body

- [ ] Gloves: Lightweight windproof fleece gloves
- [ ] Base layer bottoms: 1x Thermal tights
- [ ] Trekking pants: 2x Quick-dry softshell trekking pants
- [ ] Shell pants: Lightweight waterproof overpants

Footwear

- [ ] Footwear: Mid-cut waterproof trekking boots (broken-in)
- [ ] Camp shoes: Light sandals or trail sneakers
- [ ] Socks: 4x Merino wool trekking socks

Backpack, Electronics & Care

- [ ] Gear org: Rain cover and waterproof dry bags
- [ ] Docs & Cash: Permits, insurance, & local cash
- [ ] Electronics: Phone, camera, & 10,000–20,000 mAh power bank
- [ ] Toiletries: Travel kit, quick-dry towel, & sanitizing wipes
- [ ] Medical: First-aid kit, blister plasters, & altitude consult meds

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