

Nepal



Where is Nepal?

- **Location:** Landlocked country in South Asia, located between China to the north and India to the south, east, and west.
- **Capital:** Kathmandu (pronounced "Kath-maan-doo")
- **Fun Fact:** Only country with triangular flag
- **Size and Population:** Covers an area of 147,516 square kilometers, with a population of ~30 million.



What is the weather like?

Nepal had a varied climate due to its diverse geography:

- **Lowland Terai:** Tropical climate with hot summers and mild winters
- **Hills:** Temperate climate with warm summers and cold winters
- **Mountainous Regions:** Alpine climate with cold temperatures year-round and heavy snowfall in winter.

The weather is also influenced by the monsoon season, bringing heavy rainfall.



Main Occupations

- **Agriculture:** Around 65 - 70% of the population is engaged in farming, with crops like rice, maize, wheat, and tea being staples.
- **Services:** Growing sectors include tourism, hospitality, and retail, with tourism being a significant contributor.
- **Industry:** Though still developing, textiles, handicrafts, and carpets are Nepal's big exports
- **Remittance:** With increasing brain drain, this has become a large part of Nepal's economy



Culture, Language and Ethnicity

- **Ethnicity:** Nepal has over 120 ethnic groups, including Chhetri, Brahmin, Magar, Tharu, Tamang, Newar, Rai, Gurung, and Sherpa. Each ethnic group have their own unique customs, languages and traditions.
- **Languages:** Over 120 languages spoken; Nepali is the official language, with Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tamang, Newar, and Tharu widely spoken.



Culture and Religion

- **Religious Diversity:** Hinduism (81%) is the dominant religion, followed by Buddhism (9%), Islam (4%), and others.
- **Festivals:** Major celebrations include Dashain, Tihar, Holi (Hindu), Losar (Tibetan Buddhist), and Eid (Muslim).
- **Cultural Heritage:** Rich traditions in art, music, dance, and architecture, with UNESCO sites like Pashupatinath, Swayambhunath, and Lumbini.
- **Way of Life:** Strong emphasis on family, community, and respect for elders, with a mix of modern and traditional practices.



Major Festivals

Dashain is Nepal's longest and most important festival, celebrated for 15 days in September or October. It honors Goddess Durga's victory over evil. Families reunite, receive Tika and Jamara from elders, and celebrate with feasts, kite flying, and traditional swings (ping).



Tihar, the festival of lights, lasts five days in October or November. Each day honors different beings, including crows, dogs, cows, and oxen. On Laxmi Puja, homes are decorated with lamps and rangoli to welcome Goddess Laxmi. The festival ends with Bhai Tika, where sisters bless their brothers.

Holi, the festival of colors, is celebrated in March to welcome spring. People throw colored powders and water, dance, and enjoy music. It symbolizes the victory of good over evil and is most vibrant in Kathmandu, the Terai, and tourist areas like Thamel and Pokhara.



Education in Nepal

- **Literacy Rate:** 62.7% for males, 34.9% for females.
- **Teacher Shortages:** Rural schools lack qualified teachers, affecting education quality. Many teachers are undertrained and work in overcrowded classrooms.
- **Access to Education:** Basic education enrollment in 15 disadvantaged districts rose from 85.1% (2016) to 92.2% (2022).
- **Girls' Education:** Cultural norms, poverty, and early marriage limit girls' schooling. While enrollment is improving, dropout rates remain high, especially in secondary education.





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