



## **Guidelines and Application Form for Foreign Teams booking peak in Indian Himalaya**

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**Dear Expedition Organizer,**

On behalf of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) we look forward to receiving your application for booking a peak in the Indian Himalaya. Please follow the process outlined below and forward the documents to IMF. Permit will be issued within 7 days (for peaks in the open area) after receipt and scrutiny of documents. Processing time for peaks in the restricted areas take between two to six months, therefore it is advisable to book the peak well in advance. As an expedition organizer we would expect you to be fully aware and compliant with various conditions prior to issue of the permit.

This document includes the following:

### **1. Application Form**

Part A: Particulars of Leader

Part B: Particulars of Team Members

Part C: Undertaking by Expedition Leader

### **2. Important Guidelines**

Annexure A: Environment Guidelines

Annexure B: Safety Guidelines

### **3. Post Expedition Responsibilities**

Annexure C: Post Expedition Reporting

Annexure D: Incident Reporting

Annexure E: Rules and Regulations for Foreign Expedition

Annexure F: General Instructions for Foreign Expeditions

Best regards,

**Director  
Indian Mountaineering Foundation**

## Application: Booking of Peak

	Expedition Details	Remarks
1.	Peak and Altitude (Co-ordinates) Alternate Peak and Altitude (Co-ordinates) (In case the peak is not available for booking)	
2.	Organizer's Country of Residence/Citizenship/Origin	
3.	Route chart	Attach (Geographical Map)
4.	Itinerary with Dates (Beginning from Country of Origin)	Attach
5.	Leaders Particulars	Write in Part A
6.	Team Members Particulars	Write in Part B
7.	Insurance Cover obtained.	Yes/No
8.	The name and place of the nearest Indian Embassy/High Commission or Mission which authorizes issue of visas (Indicate clearly the address and contact details). Ensure that you apply to them and obtain ' <b>X</b> ' <b>Mountaineering Visa for peaks in restricted</b> area and a regular <b>Tourist Visa</b> for <b>peaks in open areas</b> .	
8.	Handling Agency Hired (Name, address and email Id)	
9.	Doctor/Paramedic in theTeam	Yes/No
10.	Mountaineering equipment, clothing, food stuff and other stores being brought to India	Attach List

(Signature of the Leader)

Name

**Note:** IMF does not deal with the issue of permits for trekking in India by foreigners.

## Part -A: Particulars of Leader

**Passport  
size  
photograph**

1.	Name	
2.	Father's Name	
3.	Nationality	
4.	Address	
6.	Telephone No/email ID	
7.	Date of Birth	
8.	Occupation/Profession	
9.	Passport Number	
10.	Place and date of issue of Passport	
11.	Name and Address of the next of kin (for notifying in the event of injury/death)	
12.	Mountaineering and Trekking Experience (Attach details)	

Date:

(Signature)

Place:

Name

## Part-B: Particulars of Members

**Passport  
size  
photograph**

1.	Name	
2.	Father's Name	
3.	Nationality	
5.	Address	
6.	Telephone No. and email add	
7.	Date of Birth	
8.	Occupation/Profession	
9.	Passport Number	
10.	Place and date of issue of Passport	
11.	Name and Address of the next of kin (for notifying in the event of injury/death)	
12.	Mountaineering and Trekking Experience(Attach details)	

Date:

(Signature)

Place:

Name

## **PART C:UNDERTAKING BY EXPEDITION LEADER**

### **I undertake that:**

1. All non-consumable goods except used/not retrieved from the mountain will be taken back to the country from where they were brought within three month from the date of entry. In the event of failure to do so, duty as applicable would be levied on such goods.
2. Members of the expedition have read and understood the **Environment &Safety Guidelines, reporting procedures, rules & regulations and general instructions** for the conduct of the expedition.
3. We have engaged Porters and HAPs through District Administration; Govt. recognized Tour Operators or Porters Association.
4. Support staff (such as cooks, kitchen boys, HAPs) will be insured for a minimum INR 7 Lakhs.
5. On arrival in India, we shall report to our Embassy/High Commission at Delhi. A brief about the expedition, proposed itinerary and other details as required by them shall be submitted.

(Signature of the Leader)

Name

## Annexure A: Environment Guidelines

The Indian Mountaineering Foundation has established guidelines with a view to ensure that the Indian Himalaya is maintained well. It is imperative that expeditions do not find mountaineering gear and garbage at base camp and on the mountain, left by earlier expeditions. The IMF has laid down general and specific instructions for garbage and equipment management by an expedition.

### General Instructions for Garbage Management:

- All members as well as the support staff must be thoroughly briefed and trained adequately for them to be able to differentiate between Biodegradable and Non-biodegradable waste and its mode of disposal.
- At altitudes in excess of the snow line, natural decomposition processes are slowed, thus the waste pollutes the mountain for many years. It should be a conscious effort to leave the camp-sites and trails cleaner than they were found.

### Specific instructions related to Disposal of Waste on the Mountain:

Bio-degradable waste is a type of waste that can be broken down into its base compounds by micro-organisms, air, moisture or soil in a reasonable amount of time. It includes green waste, food, paper, bio-degradable plastics, human waste etc. Bio-degradable waste is to be suitably disposed only below the snow line.

- At Base Camp a **deep Toilet hole** must be dug in soil and all **human excretion** produced must be dumped in it during the teams stay.
- Bio-degradable kitchen waste has to be **deposited in a deep hole** at base camp which is to be covered at the end of the expedition.

## Annexure A- Continued

**Non-biodegradable waste** is a type of waste that cannot be broken down into its base compounds by micro-organisms, air, moisture or soil. Unlike biodegradable waste, non-biodegradable waste remains stable indefinitely. Because non-biodegradable waste cannot be broken down, recycling is the only option. Non-biodegradable waste includes rubber, Styrofoam, plastic, glass, metals etc.

### **Non-biodegradable waste is to be:**

- Collected in sacks and carried down from the camps to the road head.
- Disposed at or below the road head.
- Must be disposed by submission to vendors and other local garbage collectors in the area or as directed by local authorities.

### **Specific instructions related to Mountaineering Equipment:**

- All ropes and technical climbing equipment must be retrieved and carried back except in the cases where safety is likely to be compromised. Non compliance of this instruction must be supported by reasons in the expedition report.
- All tents, bivouac material and other permanent camp stores should not be left behind on the mountain.

### **Instructions for Compliance of Environment Guidelines:**

- **Photo Evidence** – pertaining to garbage disposal and equipment retrieval must be included in the expedition report.
- Teams observing non compliance of IMF guidelines by earlier expeditions are requested to present photographic evidence to IMF.
- **IMF representatives** are being deployed to conduct random checks on expeditions on the mountains and collect evidence of any violations of IMF guidelines.



## Annexure B: Safety Guidelines

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Advisory Details</b>
<b>Planning</b>	Choice of the climbing objective must be a function of expertise, experience, technical competence and fitness of the team as a whole.
<b>Insurance</b>	All members will be covered by accident insurance with a clause in the policy, that in case of any ground/air rescue, the cost of evacuation as demanded by evacuation agency/Indian Air Force will be paid by Insurance Company directly to them under intimation to IMF.
<b>Gear Check</b>	Use quality gears particularly the high dependence items such as: ropes, runners, slings, carabiners, harness and helmets. It is recommended that inter-camp communication equipment be carried and used by the team.
<b>Medical Experience</b>	The team leader should obtain a medical fitness certificate for undertaking the expedition from each member. The team should preferably include a doctor or paramedic.
<b>Medical Courses</b>	Expedition Leader and Members are advised to participate in emergency responder courses and First Aid programs.
<b>Weather</b>	Do a pre-climb mountain weather check but remember to do a day-to-day corroboration with visual inspection as the Himalaya are notorious for sudden development of unexpected severe micro weather systems. Also keep a local guide and leave the expedition plan with a responsible person at the road-head.

## **Annexure C: Expedition Reporting Guidelines**

**Leader is required to forward Expedition report to IMF within two months of first summit attempt. The guidelines for filling the report are available on the IMF website.**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Route with Itinerary (Beyond and up to base Camp)</b>	<b>Attach</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Summit Attempts (Brief description enclosing photographic proofs)</b>	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Have you left the mountain clean and brought back all the garbage as per laid down guidelines?</b>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Note on local culture and flora and fauna</b>	

## **Annexure D: Incident Reporting**

1. All expeditions are expected to report in detail on incidents taking place during the expedition, involving members or support staff. The following are the types of incidents which should be reported:

- a) Climbing Accidents
- b) Cases of Severe Altitude Sickness
- c) Animals Attacks
- d) Severe Weather Disturbances
- e) Avalanches and Landslides

2. Expedition Leaders are requested to share a detailed note with pictures about the incident and send this to Director, IMF. The IMF has established a process to consolidate information on all reported incidents with a view to establish an advisory which will be shared on its website.

## **Annexure E: Rules & Regulations for Foreign Expeditions**

### **Application procedure**

A foreign expedition team desirous of climbing a peak or peaks in India, shall apply to the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) on the prescribed application form along with prescribed amount with regards to handling charges and Liaison Officer fees minimum 90 days prior to the planned expedition.

As soon as a proposal is received from the expedition team, the IMF books the peak(s) provisionally, subject to the availability on "first-come first-serve basis" and informs the party accordingly. The IMF allots a Registration Number to the expedition which must be quoted in all future correspondence. The expedition team must indicate an alternative peak in their request while sending the proposal. Permission from the Govt of India to climb is essential and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation will take steps to obtain this permission on receipt of application form with full particulars and documents. On receipt of intimation of provisional booking from the IMF, the team should send the full amount through bank transfers at the earliest.

IMF accepts applications for provisional booking of peaks up to three years in advance. These applications may be made on line or through Tour Operators listed with IMF along with 25% advance of the prescribed handling charges. In case of cancellation, 25% of the handling charges will be retained by the IMF. In case the expedition is postponed up to one year, 10% of these charges would be retained by the IMF. One per cent additional charges per month would be levied for each month beyond one year. Besides, if the peak is booked two years in advance from the date of actual climb, 25% additional advance would be levied after one year. Delay in receipt of application, incomplete applications, changes in planned peak/schedule/route as also addition/substitution of members would cause a further delay of four weeks in obtaining permission from the Govt of India.

Peaks bookings are valid for 30 to 45 days from Base Camp to Base Camp. The permit will be granted to maximum up to 30 climbing members. Mountains attracting more climbers than above will be given climbing permit with a gap of 10 days. The team members should be educated and be prepared to attempt the mountain alongside other expeditions.

The IMF reserves the right to cancel the allotment of peak/peaks at any time without assigning any reason. In such cases, the handling charges shall be refunded in full. The IMF also reserves the right to allot a particular peak to more than one expedition in the same season.

In case an expedition desires to attempt additional peak/peaks in the open area for which permission has not been obtained, requests for such attempts can be made in writing to the Liaison Officer of the expedition who may allow such an attempt, provided that the peak/peaks is/are not being attempted by other expeditions. The handling charges payable for such peak/peaks shall be 50% of the normal charges. This amount will have to be paid to the IMF before the expedition team returns to their country.

**Route:** Expedition will follow the route approved by the IMF and no deviation is permissible except in an emergency and that too with prior written approval of the Liaison Officer (LO).

**Abandoning the Expedition:** Once the leader decides to abandon the expedition, the entire team will return to Delhi along with the LO and inform Director-IMF immediately.

**Arms/Ammunition/Explosives are not to be carried:** Expedition parties will not carry arms/ammunition/explosives during the expedition.

## **Liaison Officer (LO)**

Every foreign expedition will be required to be accompanied by an Indian LO appointed by the IMF. The LO will be treated as a member of the expedition and provided with the following equipment/clothing from IMF stores on payment of **US\$ 500 by the team:-**

- |   |   |          |
|---|---|----------|
| 1. Climbing boots along with covers                         | - | 01 Pair  |
| 2. Crampons   | - | 01 Pair  |
| 3. Ice-axe  | - | 01 no.   |
| 4. Windproof suit   | - | 01 no.   |
| 5. Down jacket  | - | 01 no.   |
| 6. Sleeping bag   | - | 01 no.   |
| 7. Carry mat  | - | 01 no.   |
| 8. Rucksack   | - | 01 no.   |
| 9. Socks  | - | 02 Pairs |
| 10. Climbing harness  | - | 01 no.   |
| 11. Head Gear   | - | 01 no.   |
| 12. Gloves  | - | 01 Pairs |
| 13. Goggles   | - | 01 no.   |
| 14. Two men tent  | - | 01 no.   |
| 15. Safety helmet   | - | 01 no.   |
| 16. Woolens - Vests, leggings, pullover, trousers and shirt |   |          |
| 17. Other essential items.                                  |   |          |

The LO shall extend maximum possible assistance to the expedition team in custom clearance, making purchases, hiring of porters, mules/yaks, booking of accommodation on the way to the mountains, hiring of transport from Delhi to the road head and back, maintaining liaison with the local civil, military and para-military authorities. In case of death of any member/porter, LO will obtain death certificate from DC before leaving the mountain. **He shall, however, not handle any cash nor undertake any financial transactions on behalf of the leader/expedition.** The LO may go to higher camps and even to the summit according to his or her experience and competence.

**All facilities with regards to boarding, lodging and transportation during road journey and on mountain will be provided to LO as being provided to team members.** The pay and allowances of every LO is paid by their employers in India for the duration of the expedition and

cost of reaching New Delhi and going back to his or her place of residence is not the liability of the expedition team.

On termination of the expedition, the LO will submit a report online or on the form to be obtained from the IMF.

## Handling Charges

Handling charges for expeditions will be as under:-

Below 6500m	US\$ 500 for a team of two members and US\$ 225 for each additional member for upto a maximum of twelve members.
6501 to 7000m	US\$ 700 for a team of two members and US\$ 325 for each additional memberfor upto a maximum of twelve members.
7001 and above	US\$ 1000 for a team of two members and US\$ 450 for each additional memberfor upto a maximum of twelve members.
For trekking peaks (Stok Kangri,Ladakh,J&K, Ladakhi,Freindship,H.P.)	US\$ 100 for a team of two members and US\$ 50 for each additional memberfor up to a maximum of fifteen members.

**Note:** *For East Karakoram only joint expeditions with Indian counterparts are permitted as per Government of India directives.*

**Note:** Expeditions seeking to climb peaks located in the states of Uttarakhand and Sikkim may refer:

1. [Special Guidelines issued by the Uttarakhand Govt](#)
2. [Special Guidelines issued by the Sikkim Govt](#)

## Payment Procedure

For remittance of payments, IMF bank details are as under:-

1. Account No. 52410029005
2. Name of Bank and Address: Standard Chartered Bank, MalchaMarg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi ( India )
3. Swift No. SCBLINBBDEL
4. Beneficiary: Indian Mountaineering Foundation
5. IFSC CODE : [SCBL0036031](#) (5<sup>TH</sup> CHARACTER IS ZERO)
6. MICR CODE : [110036013](#)

## Joint Expeditions

In accordance with the objectives of the IMF, joint mountaineering expeditions are encouraged to promote goodwill and better understanding amongst the countries.

Any group of foreigners, their clubs/associations or their sponsors/organizers can apply to the IMF for a joint expedition to peaks in the Indian Himalaya. However, if they wish to join any specific Indian club/association for that particular expedition, they may ask that club to apply separately to the IMF to form part of that expedition.

The overall leader of the expedition will be the Indian team leader while the foreign team leader will be the deputy leader.

Charges for joint expeditions will be the same as for the other expeditions. Handling charges will be paid by the foreign component whereas the Indian component is exempted from such payment.

A joint expedition shall also be accompanied by a LO appointed by the IMF.

## Expeditions to Eastern Karakoram

For expeditions to the Karakoram region, the Govt of India has divided the region into three areas. Ten joint expeditions or purely Indian expeditions may be permitted each year, after acceptance of the application and clearance by the Govt of India. Details are as follows:

(a)	Area Six expeditions a year	`A'	-SaserKangri - I -SaserKangri - II -SaserKangri - III
(b)	Area Three expeditions a year - Unnamed peak (6010 M)	`B'	-MamostongKangri, Rimo Group of peaks Unnamed Peak (6010 M)
(c)	Area One expedition a year	`C'	-Apsaras I, II, III -TeramKangri I,II,III -SinghiKangri, SiaKangri -Ghaint I and II -Indira Col

A maximum of six foreigners and six Indians on each expedition to the East Karakoram region will be permitted. Minimum strength of such an expedition will be two each.

The LO for joint expeditions to the Eastern Karakoram will be an Indian Army Officer.

## Search & Rescue

In case of accident or death of an expedition member, the leader shall notify the LO who shall report this to the nearest police station and get in touch with the District Commissioner/Magistrate or the nearest Civil/Army/Police authorities for assistance.

If any assistance is needed from the military or para - military forces, the LO shall arrange the same.

If a helicopter is needed to search /rescue/evacuate an injured/ ill person, arrangements can be made for evacuation to the nearest hospital. Charges for helicopter rescue sorties, including the abortive ones due to bad weather, are to be paid at the prescribed govt rates for each helicopter sortie, depending upon the flight time, etc. The charges are to be borne by the expedition team.

## Penalty and Caution

Any member of an expedition/tour operators (if expedition organized through an agency), if found climbing or attempting to climb a peak without permit from IMF or violating the environment protection rules, shall be liable to be debarred from undertaking any mountaineering expedition in India for a period ranging from 02 to 05 years or a fine ranging from two to four times the amount of handling charges for the permit or both. In addition, they may be dealt with under the relevant laws.



## **Annexure G: General Instructions for Foreign Expeditions**

### **Extracts from Indian Government Orders**

Extract from Foreigners' Order 1948 issued vide Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs notification No. 11013/4/78-FI of 9.1.1979 provides that:

#### **PARA 11(a) OF FOREIGNERS ORDER 1948**

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Foreigners (Exemption) Order, 1957 dated 9.1.1957 no foreigner or group of foreigners shall climb or attempt to climb any mountain peak in India without obtaining the prior permission in writing of the Central Government on an application made in that behalf through the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and without complying with such conditions, including specification of route to be followed, accompaniment by a Liaison Officer, use of photographic and wireless communication equipment as may be laid down in this behalf.

#### **SECTION 14 OF THE FOREIGNERS ACT 1964**

If any person contravenes the provisions of this Act or of any order made there under, or any direction given in pursuance of this act or such order, he shall be punished with punishment for a term which may extend to five years and shall be liable to fine, and if such person has entered into a bond in pursuance of clause (f) of sub-Section (2) of section 3, his bond shall be forfeited, and any person bound thereby shall pay the penalty thereof, or show cause to the satisfaction of the convicting court why such penalty should not be paid.

### **Collection of Information before planning the Expedition**

All expedition teams are advised to plan their expeditions in such a manner that the schedule or route is not changed and leader/members are not added or substituted at a later date. It may be noted that any change in the schedule or route and addition/substitution would entail a further delay of up to one month in issuing permits. However, deletion of names from planned list does not pose any problem, hence the need for keeping adequate number of reserves is emphasized. Other points for consideration are:

1. Carefully go through the Brochure issued by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF).
2. Collect all relevant data and useful information about India in general and peak to be climbed in particular.
3. In case of difficulty, approach IMF for information and copy of report of successful expedition.

## **Assistance from State Government Authorities**

On arrival at the last district or sub-division of Garhwal, Kumaon, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, the leader and the Liaison Officer must report to the District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner or the sub-divisional officer and Superintendent of Police and the Army's formation headquarters. Expeditions are advised to engage porters through Handling Agency or LO, not directly.