

## **CELEBRATE THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S 'SCHOOL IN THE CLOUDS'**

Most people in Nepal know Sir Edmund Hillary not because of his epic ascent of the world's highest summit but because he built the first school in the Khumbu, also known as the Everest region. 2011 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Khumjung School and to celebrate this remarkable occasion, World Expeditions is organising a special 13-day fundraising trek escorted by Rebecca Stephens, the first British woman to have climbed Everest.

Affectionately called 'Hillary School', in a mark of respect towards the man who built it back in 1961, Khumjung School is sitting at 3,790m above sea level, in the heart of Nepal's Sagarmatha National Park. Still today the only high school within the Khumbu region, it was the first school that Sir Edmund Hillary built in Nepal and boasts views of the mountain that first made him famous – Mount Everest.

The Khumjung School Trek will coincide with local, Sherpa celebrations taking place on 29<sup>th</sup> May, which is celebrated annually as 'Everest Day', marking the first ascent of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay. The Trek will also offer special access to many of the Himalayan Trust's projects within the region, including Phurte nursery, Monjo School and Khunde Hospital, as well as a blessing from the Rimpoche at the famous Buddhist monastery of Thyangboche.

The trek is graded introductory, giving people who have not had much prior trekking experience but are reasonably fit the opportunity to experience unparalleled views of some of the world's highest peaks, including Mount Everest.

**Himalayan Trust Khumjung School Trek with Rebecca Stephens EXCLUSIVE WITH WORLD EXPEDITIONS** 22 May to 3 June 2011. £1,650 per person including all accommodation, internal transport, meals, fees and a £250 donation to the Himalayan Trust. Joining in Kathmandu. Places are limited.

For more information and bookings call 0800 0744 135 or visit [www.worldexpeditions.co.uk](http://www.worldexpeditions.co.uk). World Expeditions' all-inclusive policy ensures there are no local payments. Prices quoted above do not include international flights, however these can be arranged on request.

- Ends -

**Notes for editors:**

- Since its inception in 1975, World Expeditions has earned itself an outstanding reputation as a world leader in small group trekking and adventure holidays.
- Two factors distinguish World Expeditions from its competitors: the **all-inclusive value** of its trips, with most meals, internal transport, accommodation, equipment and site entrance fees covered; and its **expert leaders**, often world-renowned figures whose experience and passion for destinations and local communities ensure superbly-designed, fulfilling travel itineraries every time.
- World Expeditions trips are for those travellers who want to discover destinations from the inside - taking the 'paths less travelled' to interact with and learn about local cultures, rather than simply ticking off tourism spots. More than 500 stand-alone itineraries are offered, from small group active adventures and expeditions to cycling and walking tours to cultural journeys.
- World Expeditions is independently owned and a truly global company, with offices in London, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Auckland, Ottawa and Montreal.

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