

Tourism Recovery Plan in Nepal after 25th April 2015 Earthquake – Updated on 05 June 2015



Normal life has started in Kathmandu...

TRC formed to assess post-earthquake impact on tourism

The Tourism Recovery Committee (TRC) has been formed with the representation from the government and private stakeholder on May 7, 2015 to work for minimizing the impact of earthquake of April 25, 2015 on Nepali tourism industry and to bring the industry toward normalcy.

The Tourism Recovery Committee (TRC), led by Tulsi Prasad Gautam, Director General of Department of Tourism (DoT), will study the impacts of the tragic incident on the tourism industry, identify short-term and long-term works needed to be done, formulate necessary program for recovery, and make necessary suggestions to concerned government agencies for speedy recovery of the tourism industry, according to a press statement issued on May 7.

The committee will also recommend to the **Nepal Tourism Board (NTB)** to do the needful for disseminating positive messages about Nepal in the international market. It also aims to work in coordination with other associations, organizations and agencies for other necessary works.

The following decisions were taken as part of the recovery process.

Government appoints Goodwill Ambassadors for tourism recovery

The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation on Friday 29th May, unveiled a list of goodwill ambassadors, which includes the legendary Japanese Everest climber Junko Tabei, to attract tourists to Nepal.

Apart from the first woman to summit the Everest, the list also boasts of names like Peter Hillary and Jamling Tenzing. Peter and Jamling are the sons of the world's first Everest summiteers Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Sherpa respectively. They had also climbed the Everest.

Reinhold Messner, an Italian mountaineer who for the first time scaled the Everest without oxygen, also features in the list.

Mountaineers Peter Athens (US), Um Hong-gill (South Korea), Iduerne Pasaban (Spain), Jean Michel Asselin (France), Wolfgang Nairz (Austria), Ralf Dujmovits (Germany), Nichole Nikki (Switzerland), Katja Starrtjes (Netherlands), Doc Mc Karr (Britain) have also been nominated as goodwill ambassadors, according to Nepal's state-owned news agency RSS.

Nepali women mountaineers Mingma Sherpa, Lyakpa Rita Sherpa, Susmita Maskey and Shaille Basnet are also among the newly-nominated goodwill ambassadors. The list was made public at an event organized in Kathmandu on Friday to mark the international Mt Everest day.

The newly-nominated goodwill ambassadors are expected to help Nepal promote its tourism in the international market and attract more tourists.

However, tourism entrepreneurs are hopeful that tourists will visit Nepal in the next autumn season as most trekking routes and tourism destinations are intact.

Schools reopen in earthquake-devastated Nepal

Thousands of children return to classes for the first time since April's two earthquakes. Schools and colleges across the nation have opened their doors for the first time since the earthquakes. In schools that have been destroyed, classrooms are held in new prefabricated structures.



In Dolakha district, which was badly hit in the second earthquake, about half of the 450 schools reopened on Sunday, with around half their students attending on average, said the district education chief, Lok Bahadur Lopchan.

HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS SUSAN SARANDON IN NEPAL



As part of the TRC initiative to enlist the support of international celebrities for the tourism recovery plan, Oscar winning Hollywood actress was in Nepal for five days and she urged all to visit Nepal and help rebuild the community along tourism sector of the nation that has been seriously damaged by recent earthquake and continuing aftershocks. She is staying with the famed Kung-fu nuns in a Buddhist monastery and later in an orphanage that was damaged in one of the quakes.

Sarandon said “It is important to emphasize that by the fall season, when monsoon ends, people should make their reservations now if they want to help and they want to come and visit because it is very, very important to keep all these jobs alive,” while inaugurating a campaign to build 201 huts for villagers outside the affected village nearby Kathmandu. She added “I think that would be the next wave — to think of Nepal not as an ongoing disaster, but as a country that has found its way back and has many monuments that haven’t fallen and many beautiful areas that can be still safe to trek,” .

World Heritage Sites to open for Tourists from Mid-June

Visitation of tourists to the World Heritage Sites that were damaged in the massive earthquake will be allowed from June 15, informed Bhesh Narayan Dahal, Director General of the Department of Archaeology on Monday (June 1, 2015). As reported by RSS, Dahal has announced that a long term planning would be introduced to reconstruct the ruined structures constituting the World Heritage Sites of the Kathmandu Valley. Nepal Tourism Board Administrative Chief Ramesh Kumar Adhikari assures the Board would lend a supportive hand to the Archaeological Department to rebuild the structures.

Tourism Journalists’ Forum (TJF) on Monday also organized onsite visits to the World Heritage Sites for journalists and representatives of organizations affiliated to the tourism sector. The entourage led by TJF inspected Swayambhunath Stupa, Boudhanath Stupa, Pashupatinath temple premises, Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changu Narayan temple, all of which are components of the World Heritage Property.

On the occasion, TJF Nepal Chairman Devi Pant cleared that during the inspection it was found the World Heritage Sites were not completely ruined as projected by some of the media that are sending negative messages to the tourists. Industry Minister Mahesh Basnet, during the inspection of the Bhaktapur Durbar Square, promised the government would adopt a long term plan for reconstructing the destroyed monuments.

