



## Hi Himalayas Treks and Tours

### Wanda Vivequin Bio



41-year old Wanda Vivequin is an Edmonton-based freelance writer and who also owns a small trekking and travel company called Hi Himalayas Treks and Tours.

Born in Holland and raised in Kenya, Lebanon, New Zealand and Canada Wanda told her father when she was 12 that she wanted to be New Zealand's high commissioner to Nepal, inspired by the late Sir Edmund Hillary. Throughout her youth and time at university where she earned a degree in political science and a post graduate diploma in journalism, the walls of her room were always plastered with pictures of the Himalaya, although it was not until 2000 that she first visited Nepal.

Since then Wanda has returned to the country every year (more recently twice a year) guiding trekking trips to the most remote regions of the country as well as running intimate cultural tours that involve a far more gentle pace and schedule but still offer incredible experiences. Her trust of the people and knowledge of the country and its language means these trips have been without incident. She spent her 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in Kathmandu under full curfew where she convinced soldiers on the street to sing her Happy Birthday. She also co-authored the 2003 edition of the Lonely Planet Guidebook to Nepal.

Wanda's philosophy of giving back to the community has led her to organize, lead and contribute to a number of projects in Nepal. Her most recent project called Caps against Cataracts has been a huge success and adds to a list that includes representing Canada on the International Porter Protection Group, building a school library at Sundaridanda, fundraising for a cataract surgery camp in Western Nepal and supporting the career development of Nepal's only male Tapestry artist.

Wanda is also a strong supporter of fair trade in Nepal running cultural tours that focus on providing travelers with an intimate look at a country whose people and landscapes leave an indelible mark on the hearts and minds of all those who visit. Her trips include visiting artists and artisans and gentle walks within view of the Himalaya. She volunteers at Ten Thousand Villages and works part time at Mountain Equipment Coop.

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