

Nepal



With its ancient culture and the Himalayas as a backdrop, the landlocked Kingdom of Nepal has for many years been the destination of choice for foreign travellers in search of adventure.

NEPAL FACTS

Population: 25 million (UN, 2003)

Capital: Kathmandu

Major language: Nepali

Major religions: Hinduism (official), Buddhism

Life expectancy: 60 years (men), 60 years (women) (UN)

Monetary unit: 1 Nepalese rupee = 100 paisa

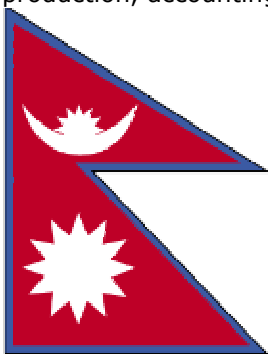
Main exports: Carpets, clothing, leather goods, jute goods, grain

Average annual income: US \$250 (World Bank, 2001)

Internet domain: .np

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Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy, providing a livelihood for over 80% of the population and accounting for 40% of GDP. Industrial activity mainly involves the processing of agricultural produce including jute, sugarcane, tobacco, and grain. Textile and carpet production, accounting for about 80% of foreign exchange earnings in recent years



Flag Description: red with a blue border around the unique shape of two overlapping right triangles; the smaller, upper triangle bears a white stylized moon and the larger, lower triangle bears a white 12-pointed sun. For a timeline of key events go to

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/south_asia/country_profiles/1166516.stm