

Royal Mountain Travel—Nepal

Impact Report 2023

A YEAR TOWARDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

As we reflect on the past year, we at Royal Mountain Travel are proud to have navigated the challenges and embraced the opportunities that came our way. Despite the uncertainties, we strengthened our commitment to responsible travel and sustainability. Our team worked tirelessly to adapt, innovate, and ensure the safety and well-being of our travelers. We are grateful for the support of our community, partners, and clients, and we look forward to another year of meaningful journeys, contributing to the preservation of cultures and the environment. Thank you for being part of our journey in 2023; here's to more adventures and positive impact in the years to come

Message From Our Team

Reflecting on the past year, we are grateful for the collective progress and shared values that defined our journey. Amid challenges, our commitment to excellence and collaboration shone through. In the upcoming year, we are dedicated to upholding these values as we continue our path of growth and positive impact. Thank you to our partners and supporters who have been instrumental in our success.

Shiva Dhakal
Managing Director

As we step into 2024, I'm delighted to share the strides we've made in the past year toward sustainability and community focus. Our commitment to eco-friendly practices and community development has not only shaped our organization but has also created a positive impact on the world around us. Here's to continued growth, unity, and making a difference in the year ahead!

Bikal Khanal
Chief Purpose Officer

In 2023, positive developments in business operations, including tailored local experiences and festival initiatives, marked a reassuring return to normalcy post-pandemic. However, urgent global attention is needed for the alarming environmental changes such as the melting of ancient blue ice and shrinking glacial lakes, highlighting the pressing need for heightened awareness and responsibility in addressing climate change.

Rabi Sthapit
Sales Head/ HR

Our Core Values

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMEWNT

Investing in the local community of Nepal is one of our core values. We primarily focus on sustainable tourism, hoping to set standards in our country and within the travel industry to benefit the most important and often underserved stakeholders – the locals.



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Our core principles are rooted in sustainability – we ensure that the benefits of sustainable tourism reach the lives of our staff and the local communities we work with. We focus on preserving the environment and regenerating our natural and cultural heritage.



GIVING BACK

Our communities are what make us. When they benefit, we benefit; when we benefit, they should also benefit. This is our commitment to challenge poverty and establish equality.



Sustainable Goals We Addressed

GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELL BEINGS

Designing wellness trips for better physical and mental health.



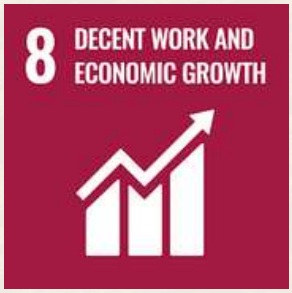
GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

Increasing the proportion of women in the workforce and continue to develop and promote women run enterprises



GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Developing community tourism enterprise and homestays to create tourism related jobs and empower locals to be tourism entrepreneurs.



GOAL 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Investing in alternative energy sources, reducing fossil fuel based travel vehicles for sustainable mobility and investing in reforestation programmes



GOAL17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Forging meaningful Partnerships with like- minded organizations for Sustainable Development Goals



Our Achievements of 2023



In 2023 we were able to send 1716 travelers to various community homestays across Nepal.

Community empowerment is always one of our core values, this year we supported Community Homestay Network to develop Dhankuta as a community tourism destination in eastern region of Nepal



In 2023 we came in partnership with Mountain Partnership Project by Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations (FAO) to develop and implement sustainable practices in Mountains of Nepal

Comittment To the Planet



- We added 2 new electric vehicles in our fleet with women drivers leading the way for green and equitable travel operations



Opting towards a greener travel option, our electric vehicle fleet successfully helped us save around 14156 liters of fossil fuel consumption resulting in approx. 38475 kg less carbon emission from our operations.

Comittment To the Product



- We have actively started to offer wellness related experiences to our clientbase to promote wellbeing oriented trips for better health and lifestyle.These trips offers travelers the opportunity to participate in experiences associated with yoga , meditation and other wellness activities.



- In an initiative to diversify tourism products we have added 10 local experiences, 10 festival events and 4 day trips in our product offerings

Comittment To the People



- Our proportion of women staff in our workplace increased from 26% to 32% in 2023 as we are working to create an equal proportion of the workforce.



We hosted digital marketing training to our team of Royal Mountain Group in collaboration with Community Homestay Network





EMPOWERING ARTISANS, PRESERVING HERITAGE: A NEPALESE ODYSSEY

In Nepal's picturesque backdrop, a discerning challenge arises as traditional artisanal practices witness a decline, particularly among the younger demographic. The diminishing interest of the youth in these time-honored crafts poses a tangible threat to the preservation of Nepal's cultural heritage. In response, Royal Mountain Travel has undertaken a comprehensive initiative. Their objective is to revitalize traditional crafts, enhance economic sustainability for local artisans, and fortify intergenerational bonds. This endeavor signifies a judicious approach to navigate the intricate interplay between cultural preservation, economic development, and the continuity of generational traditions in Nepal.

Two significant challenges drove the initiation of this project. Firstly, the decline in the youth's interest in traditional crafts posed a direct threat to their survival. Secondly, the risk of losing these unique heritage practices created an urgent need to ensure the transmission of skills and preserve Nepal's cultural identity. Motivated by a desire to address these challenges, Royal Mountain Travel sought to create opportunities for local artisans, breathing new life into traditional crafts.



The primary goal was to design immersive local experiences that not only captivated the interest of travelers but also provided a sustainable source of income for local artisans. The project aimed to rekindle the passion for traditional crafts among the younger generation, ensuring the continuation of these invaluable heritage practices.

Departing from conventional sales-centric models, Royal Mountain Travel collaborated closely with local artisans to organize a series of artistic workshops in the Kathmandu Valley. These workshops were carefully crafted to showcase a diverse array of crafts, including Mask Painting, Bead Making, Ceramics, Silver Jewelry Making (Silver Filigree), Repousse Art, Stone Carving, Wood Carving in Bhaktapur, Paubha Painting, Mithila Painting, and Momo Making in Kirtipur. The impact was significant. The workshops not only gave local artisans more money but also got young people interested in traditional crafts again. Travelers who took part in these experiences became big supporters of Nepalese art, helping to bring back these traditional crafts. Both the artisans and the participants felt proud to be part of preserving Nepal's cultural heritage.

The impact of the initiative has been profound. The workshops not only provided additional income for local artisans but also sparked a renewed interest in traditional craftsmanship among the younger generation. Travelers, drawn to the authenticity of these experiences, became enthusiastic advocates for Nepalese artistry, contributing significantly to the resurgence of these crafts. The positive feedback received from both artisans and participants reinforced the sense of pride in preserving and promoting Nepal's cultural legacy.

Aligned with the principles of sustainable tourism, Royal Mountain Travel envisions expanding its portfolio of artistic workshops to ensure the long-term sustainability and continual impact of this transformative project.

EMPOWERING CHANGE: A PIONEERING CASE STUDY IN SUSTAINABLE TOURISM TRANSPORT AND GENDER INCLUSION



In 2019, our company identified critical issues within the travel industry: environmental sustainability and gender imbalance in the transport sector. Traditional transportation methods were contributing significantly to carbon footprints, and women were notably underrepresented as drivers. Recognizing the urgency of these challenges, we launched a transformative initiative aimed at reshaping travel transport through the integration of electric vehicles (e-vehicles) and the exclusive employment of women drivers.

The core problem stemmed from the environmental impact of conventional travel transportation and the limited representation of women in the sector. This dual challenge became the catalyst for our innovative approach, which sought to not only reduce our carbon footprint but also challenge gender norms within the transportation landscape.

Beginning in 2019, we introduced two e-vehicles into our fleet, earmarked for airport transfers and intra city travel. The success of this initial phase led to the incorporation of two additional e-vehicles in 2023, solidifying our commitment to sustainable mobility. A distinctive aspect of our strategy was the deliberate decision to exclusively enlist women drivers for these e-vehicles, addressing the gender disparity prevalent in the industry.



Our initiative boasts a dual-focus on sustainability and gender inclusion. The introduction of an eco-friendly fleet powered by sustainable energy not only aligns with our commitment to environmental consciousness but also resonates with the growing demand for responsible travel options. Simultaneously, the recruitment and exclusive employment of women drivers represent a deliberate effort to empower women in non-traditional roles, fostering diversity and inclusivity.

The outcomes have been substantial and impactful. A notable reduction in the carbon footprint associated with our transport services underscores our commitment to sustainable practices. Concurrently, the employment of women drivers has challenged stereotypes and contributed to a more inclusive workforce. Positive customer feedback indicates a growing preference for sustainable and socially responsible travel options.

While the initiative has encountered challenges, such as overcoming societal perceptions and ensuring seamless integration, these hurdles have been addressed with strategic training and infrastructure development. Looking ahead, our commitment remains steadfast. We plan to expand our fleet further, embracing advancements in eco-friendly transportation.