

**Report**

**On**

**Everest Skydive  
2008 (3<sup>rd</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> October)**



*Event Organized by*

**High & Wild, UK**

**Explore Himalaya Travel & Adventure,  
Nepal**

### **Report On Everest Skydive – 2008 (3<sup>rd</sup>- 11<sup>th</sup> October)**

Everest Sky Dive 2008 was organized at Syangboche (12350ft) of Solokhumbu District by High & Wild, UK and Explore Himalaya Travel & Adventure. The event, a “first of its kind,” focused the attention of millions of people from around the globe to the hilly Everest region of Nepal.

Sky Diving is an extreme sport where people jump out from an aeroplane mid-flight and dive in the air. Though they have the parachute, they don't open it immediately. They fly in mid-air for some time which is known as "Free Fall" Sometimes, many skydivers join hands and dive together which is known as “Formation”. During the recently concluded Everest Skydive 2008, a freefall of 59 seconds and a formation by 3 skydivers was made.

There are 7,00,000 skydivers around the world and the recently held Everest Skydive 2008 was keenly observed and followed by the skydiving community as well as the whole world. Syangboche, at 12,350 ft., is the highest drop zone in the world. The Everest Skydivers jumped from a height, higher than Mt.Everest, that is from 29,500ft. For this Everest Sky Dive 2008 has earned the title of the “Highest Skydive of the World”.

Flying from above the highest point on earth, amidst magnificent views of the Himalayan peaks, made the Everest Skydivers declare that this was the most thrilling and exciting experience of their lives. With the success of the Everest Skydive 2008, the Everest Sky Dive has become a ‘dream event’ for Sky Divers around the world. This has become the ultimate experience in skydiving and adventure experts believe that in future, Everest Sky Dive will attract more people to Nepal than expeditions to Everest.

Skydiving is a 'pricey' activity. Along with guts and a spirit for adventure, one needs to shell out a large sum of money to participate in this sport. The Everest Skydive 2008 can be considered a high end tourism product. The event saw the participation of many high end tourists, some of them millionaires, who would never have come to Nepal, if it was not for this unique event. Participants included celebrity Sky Divers, CEOs of multinational firms, film producers, international charity ambassadors, millionaires, television anchors, etc. Everest Sky Dive can thus attract a lot of ‘High End’ Tourists to Nepal in future.

Syangboche lies 12 miles South West of the Everest Base Camp and 17.5 miles from the summit of Everest. Mt.Everest, the world's tallest peak served as the background of this event. This fact attracted millions of people from around the globe to focus their attention on this event. More than 500 international as well as national media covered the Everest Skydive event. Representatives from media houses at the drop zone included Kantipur, Avenues Television, Channel 5, UK, etc.

### **Highlights and International Records - Everest Skydive 2008**

Everest Skydive 2008 has made it to the record books. The event can be dubbed as the most exciting Himalayan adventure. The skydiving event held the world enthralled, as divers hurtled from above the world's highest peak Mt.Everest , free falling for a few minutes before opening their parachute and landing on the highest drop zone in the world, Shyangboche. It was a challenging task for the organizers to organize this event. But they have succeeded and having succeeded, they have left a glowing trail of new world records.

The major highlights and list of the world records made during the event are as follows:

1. Skydiving event from the highest altitude ever – 29,500ft, above Mt.Everest
2. Highest drop zone in the world – Shyangboche 12,350ft

3. The first skydiving event held in the Himalayas- Everest Skydive 2008
4. The first skydiving event where 50 solos and 19 tandem jumps were made by 41 skydivers from a height of 29,500ft, 22,500ft, 22,000ft, 19,000ft, 18,500ft and 18,000ft.
5. The only skydiver with the highest number of solo jumps made from above 22,000ft - Wendy Smith of New Zealand, with 9 solo jumps (8 jumps from 29,500ft and 1 from 22,000ft)
6. First person to summit Mt. Everest as well as skydive in front of Everest- Maya Gurung(Nepal)
7. First solo diver of the event- Wendy Smith (New Zealand)
8. First Tandem Jump – Lucie Fenton (Britain) & Tom Noonan (USA)
9. First Iraqi to make a solo jump from 29,500ft.- Fareed Lafta
10. First Swedish to make a solo jump from a height of 29,500ft- Herman S. Duscher
11. First Danish to make a tandem jump from 29,500ft- Per Wimmer
12. First South African to make a solo jump from 29,500ft.- Adolphe Botha
13. First Belgian to make a solo jump from an altitude of 29,500ft.- Christophe De Pauw
14. First Asian and Pakistani to make a tandem jump from a height of 29,500ft.- Namira Salim
15. First Nepali to make a tandem jump from 22,000ft.- Nima Tamang
16. First Nepali woman to make a tandem jump from 22,500ft.- Maya Gurung
17. First Arab to make a solo jump from 29,500ft.- Naseer Alneyadi
18. First Canadian to jump from a height of 29,500ft.- Neil Jones
19. First father & son duo to make tandem jumps from a height of 29,500ft. at the same event - Scott Diesel & Lou Diesel from USA
20. First British woman skydiver to make a solo jump from a height of 29,500ft.- Holly Budge
21. First American solo jumper of the event- Omar Alhegelan
22. First Australian to make the highest (29,500ft) tandem jump – Steve Hennessey
23. First person with gender reassignment (from male to female) to make the highest tandem jump (29,500ft) – Kate Craig-Wood (Britain)
24. Two World Champions, Omar F.K. Alhegelan from USA and Ms. Wendy Smith from New Zealand took part as members of the Crew team.
25. Jumps were made between the heights of 18000 to 29500ft.
26. Ms. Holly Budge(UK), Neil Jones (UK) and Wendy Smith( New Zealand) were the first three solo jumpers to jump from the height of 29500 ft.
27. Per Thanning Wimmer from Denmark (millionaire) was the first to make a Tandem Jump as passenger from the height of 29500ft along with Ralph Mitchell, a British Tandem Master.
28. Molly Anne Bedingfield, founder of the charity mission ‘Global Angeles’, and mother of famous pop singers Natasha and Daniel Bedingfield, made a tandem jump from 29,500ft to raise US \$ 1 million for the charity which helps orphanages and street children from all over the world including Nepal. She has already raised US \$ 3,00,000 till date.
29. Altogether, 22 flights were operated by the Pilatus Porter Aircraft, owned by the company, Swissboogie. The aircraft was specially flown in from Switzerland.
30. 22 Trekking members joined the trip as observers.
31. All the jumps were planned and regulated by the team of Dave Wood from UK.
32. Special Oxygen system was specially developed for this event by famous British Aeronautical scientist, Andy Elson who is credited for making the first flight over Everest on a Hot Air Balloon in 1990.

33. All clothing including jump suits for the event was made in Nepal, by a young Nepalese entrepreneur, Rajen Dulal who has workshop in Thamel.
34. British Television company, 'Channel 5' has made a film on the event and broadcast regularly the day to day events. The event was also covered by BBC, TV3 New Zealand, Australian Television, Al Jazeera, CNN, etc.
35. Everest Sky Dive-2008 has become the most widely covered and publicized tourism event by international media, after the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the First Ascent of Mt. Everest in 2003.
36. Everest Skydive has hit the international tourism market as a brand- new and most remarkable product from the Nepalese Tourism Industry.
37. International adventure experts believe that Everest Skydive will bring more people to Nepal in future than expeditions to Everest.
38. Everest Skydive 2008 - A milestone in the history of Everest , after its first ascent by Tenzing and Hillary in 1953
39. More then 100 Nepalese were involved in making this event happen. Fish Tail Air helicopters were on standby for rescue operations during the event.

### **Everest Skydive 2008 Closing Ceremony- 14<sup>th</sup> October,2008**

The closing ceremony of the Everest Skydive 2008 took place at Nepal Tourism Board on 14<sup>th</sup> of October, 2008. The function was hosted by NTB and saw the attendance of the crew and members of Everest Skydive, dignitaries and officials from the Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, tourism entrepreneurs, media persons and the staff of Explore Himalaya and Fishtail Air. The chief guest was Mr.Prachanda Man Shrestha, CEO, Nepal Tourism Board.

Mr. Suman Pandey, President of Explore Himalaya, delivered the welcome speech. In his welcome address, he mentioned the major highlights of Everest Sky Dive 2008.

Nigel Gifford, Managing Director of High & Wild UK and founder of Everest Sky Dive also spoke on the occasion. He expressed his gratitude to the Government of Nepal and all concerned for making the event happen.

Wendy Smith, who holds the record for making the highest number of jumps from an altitude of 29500ft., in her brief speech said that the Everest Skydive was the most exciting skydive she has ever done.

Prachanda Man Shrestha, CEO of NTB, in his speech lauded the efforts of Mr. Suman Pandey and Explore Himalaya Travel & Adventure for their initiative in introducing a new product and their role in promoting adventure tourism in Nepal.

Mementoes were presented to the team and members of the Everest Skydive by Mr. Prachanda Man Shrestha.

Mr. Subhash Niraula, the director of NTB delivered the vote of thanks.

The guests also got to watch the incredible aerial video footage taken by Wendy Smith, Director of Aerial photography, of the Everest Skydive, at the end of the program. The 20 minute long video had amazing and mesmerizing visuals and drew an overwhelming and hearty applause from the crowd.

During the show, Wendy Smith informed that Molly Bedingfield, founder of the international charity, "Global Angles," and a tandem jumper during the skydiving event, has decided to donate a sum of US \$ 2,00,000/- to the 'Children's Home Orphanage ' located in Khokana, Lalitpur.

Everest Skydive 2008 ended with cheers, applause and jubilation for everybody involved in making this project successful.



















# Syangboche Airport



