

World Records Set - Skydivers landed on the highest drop zone

October 29, 2009: Explore Himalaya Travel & Adventure is pleased to announce the successful completion of the Everest Skydive 2009 program.

On October 28, 2009 a skydiving event was held at Gorak Shep. During the event, **world skydiving champion Wendy Smith from New Zealand, Global Angels ambassador and tandem master Tom Noonan and Wing Commander Jai Kishan from the Indian Air Force**, made a successful landing at the Gorak Shep, Kala Patthar plateau, lying at an altitude of 17,192 feet (5,242m), right beside Mt. Everest. This is believed to be the highest skydiving stunt performed over highest drop zone in the world.

The operation was carried out from Fishtail Air's **AS 350 B3** helicopter flown by Capt. Sabin Basnet and Capt. Deepak Rana. The dives were performed in the morning of 28th Oct, 2009 between 7:30 to 9 AM. The helicopter took off with the skydiving team from Shyangboche airport and flew to a height of 23,000 feet before dropping from 21,000 feet at right air layer.

Prior to this event, seven skydivers from the Explore Himalaya skydiving team had performed solo and tandem jumps at Shyangboche (12,350 feet) on 16th and 17th October, 2009.

On 16th October, Five members skydived from a height of 25,000 feet. **Tom Noonan (USA), Ian Bishop (Australia) and Jai Kishan (India)** made solo jumps at 10:30 AM (local time). In the second group, Wendy Smith (New Zealand) jumped solo, while **Ganesh Pandey (Nepal)** made a tandem jump with tandem master **Tom Noonan (USA)** at 12:30 PM (local time).

On the second day, *ie* 17th October, Wendy Smith (New Zealand), Jai Kishan (India) and Mery Noonan (USA) made solo jumps from a height of 27,500ft at 8:30 AM (local time). While Everest summitter, Pujan Acharya (Nepal) made a tandem jump from a height of 29,300 feet, with tandem master Tom Noonan (USA) at 10:30 AM (local time).

The jumps over Shyangboche were made from Tara Air's Pilatus Porter aircraft, flown by Capt Jack Sparrow (UK) and Praful Baidya (Nepal). Capt Jack Sparrow, an experienced pilot, has performed more than 4,000 lifts (flights for skydiving) for skydivers in Europe and is preparing to launch a skydiving club in Thailand, which will be the first in Asia.

As a continuation of the Everest Skydive 2008, the Everest Skydive 2009 program was organized by Explore Himalaya with the help of Nepal Tourism board to promote **Nepal Tourism Year 2011**. During the event, all the skydivers sported the logo of **Nepal Tourism Year 2011** on their jumpsuits. The visuals of the skydiving event will be distributed worldwide.

Everest Skydive 2009 Test Flights performed over Syangboche Airport with Nepali Aircraft.

Everest Skydive from 29,300ft

Oct 17th, 2009

Nepali Everest summitter, Ms. **Pujan Acharya** made a tandem jump from a height of 29,300ft. at Shyangboche this morning. The jump was made along with tandem master **Tom Noonan** (USA) today (October 17, 2009) at 10:30 AM (local time).

Wendy Smith (New Zealand), **Jai Kishan** (India) and **Mery Noonan** (USA) made solo jumps from a height of 27,500ft. at 8:30 AM (local time).

With this jump, Wing Commander Jai Kishan, who is a Parachute Jump Instructor of Indian Air Force, based at Air Force Station, Agra, became the first Indian skydiver to make the highest jump in the Everest Region.

The jumps were made from Tara Air's Pilatus Porter aircraft, piloted by Captain **Jack Sparrow** (UK) and **Praful Baidya** (Nepal). Today's jumps concluded the Everest Skydive event organized at Shyangboche by Explore Himalaya.

Congratulations to the skydivers!

Explore Himalaya's Skydive Team will be back soon in Shyangboche for another round of this great skydiving adventure, **Everest Skydive – the highest skydiving adventure in the world.**

Everest Skydive – Skydivers Jump from 25,000 feet

Oct 16th, 2009

This morning five members from the Explore Himalaya skydive team made four solos and one tandem jump from a height of 25,000 feet at **Shyangboche** in the **Everest** region.

The first group included **Tom Noonan** (USA), **Ian Bishop** (Australia) and **Jay Kishan** (India), who made solo jumps at 10:30 AM (local time). In the second group, world record holder and chief co-ordinator of the team, **Wendy Smith** (New Zealand) made a solo jump, while **Ganesh Pandey** (Nepal) made a tandem jump with tandem master **Tom Noonan** (USA) at 12:30 PM (local time).

The jumps were made from Tara Air's Pilatus Porter aircraft, piloted by **Jack Sparrow** (UK) and **Praful Baidya** (Nepal). Jack Sparrow, an experienced pilot has performed more than 4,000 lifts for skydivers (flights for skydiving) in Europe and is preparing to launch the first skydiving club in Asia, ThaiSky Adventures.