

Everest wrap-up: New kids on the block and pre-election day in KTM
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www.mounteverest.net

A few teams have now reached base camp but most are still on the approaching trek. Meanwhile, further teams are arriving Kathmandu.

Here go the newcomers on Everest south side.

Miura

Already last year Japanese Yuichiro Miura said he hoped to climb with the Chinese Olympic team but if not, he'd climb on his own and carry his own torch. Now media reports that Miura officially applied for a Nepal climbing permit on Sunday and so the south side it is. Miura, 75, will be one of at least three 70+ seniors attempting the peak this year.

Lina

Andalusia female climber Lina has arrived Kathmandu and reports that she is busy organizing gear in the city with Pemba Rita Sherpa. She got her permit, and signed the paper promising no anti-China activities. Her satellite phone will be stored with authorities and if she wants to make a call she must leave one hour notice. Makalu will have plenty of climbers, Lina reports, and pre-election days are calm in the city.

Gnaro

July last year, Silvio "Gnaro" Mondinelli summited Broad Peak - his final 8000er. Up to 2005, only twelve men had stood on the summit of them all. Gnaro broke the haunted 13, in addition he became only the sixth mountaineer in the world to have done it without supplementary oxygen. The quest took 14 hard years, and Gnaro said, "I think it's going to take a long time before I find a good enough reason to leave my family for Himalaya again." But then added: "However, a wolf might lose his hair, but not his call." Bald as ever, Gnaro is already back in Himalaya.

On April 7, Marco Confortola, Gnaro and Michele left Italy for the Share Everest expedition. Agostina da Polenza heads this scientific project whose objective is to study the climate and pollution on the top of the world. Originally, Marco and Gnaro hoped to traverse Everest south to north but the Olympic restrictions might force a change of plan. After Everest, this summer Marco will continue to K2.

Stephan Keck, Rodrigo Raineri, Eduardo Keppke and Latvia

Austrian Stephan Keck will ski-run Everest, without porters and without supplementary oxygen, "by fair means." Thus his expedition is named "Everest Back to the Roots."

Other newcomers are Brazilian Rodrigo Raineri (the late Vitor Negrete's mate) and Eduardo Keppke (no 02). Also expedition Latvia led by Atis Plakans, Liga Plakane, and Kaspars Klupkalns.

Check out details on the new expeditions in the links section below, and visit also the others en route to BC.

Links to teams currently dispatching from Everest:
Canadian Mallory
Lee Farmer
Irish Everest/Graham and Ian
Klimb for kids/Tim Warren

James Balfour
No guts know glory/Rob Hill
Peak Freaks
Adventure Peaks
IMG
Alpine Ascents
Adventure Consultants
Summit Climb
Alaskan Granite
Danish Everest
Cordoba Everest
Nepalese 77 year old
Eco Everest/Dawa Sherpa
Coldfeat Fiennes/Cool
Mountain Madness
Jagged Globe
Lincoln Hall rescuers Andrew Brash, Myles Osborne and Dan Mazur
Miura senior (Japanese)
Alan Arnette
David Tait
Rodrigo Raineri (Vitor Negrete's mate) and Eduardo Keppke (no 02)
Latvia: Atis Plakans (leader), Liga Plakane, and Kaspars Klapkalns
Gnarro's Share Everest
www.marcoconfortola.it
Andalusian Lina
www.stephan-keck.at
Keck at www.alpinist.at