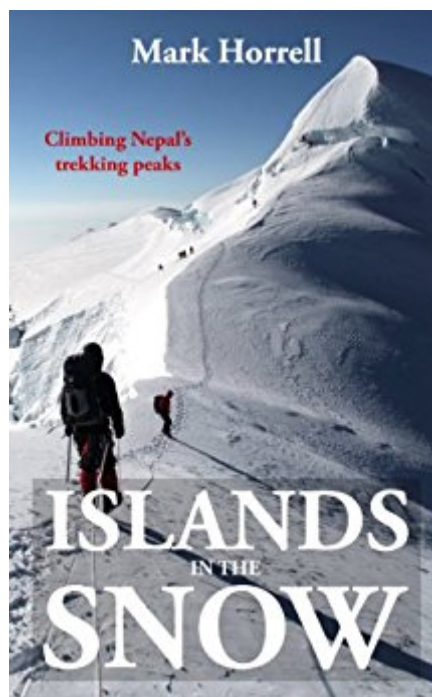




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Islands In The Snow: Climbing Nepal's Trekking Peaks (Footsteps On The Mountain Travel Diaries Book 8)



Synopsis

In the summer of 2009, Mark Horrell had arranged to go on an expedition to Gasherbrum, an 8000m mountain in Pakistan, with one of his mountaineering friends, Mark Dickson. As neither of them had climbed an 8000m peak before, some serious training was required, and they agreed the best way to prepare for the expedition was by going on another slightly easier one. They decided to do a circular route in the Khumbu region of Nepal which involved climbing two trekking peaks - Mera Peak and Island Peak - and crossing the difficult Amphu Labtse pass. One of them had climbed Mera in 2004, and the other had climbed Island in 2005, but neither of them had done both or crossed the Amphu Labtse, a pass known for its outstanding beauty. After the climbs, the two friends parted ways and the author went off to explore the Gokyo region of Nepal near Everest. The climb had an additional purpose: the author felt he had unfinished business on Mera. Like everyone else who ever climbs the mountain, he had climbed the central summit Mera Central, although most maps of the region mark the northern summit Mera North as slightly higher. Had he climbed the true summit of Mera Peak? The only way to find out was by going back there. *Islands in the Snow* is the author's travel journal from his expedition, and will be a valuable reference to trekkers and climbers who are thinking of climbing Nepal's popular trekking peaks, or anyone interested in mountain travel. The book includes many photographs from the trek and climbs.

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Customer Reviews

Having done the Gokyo - Cho La last year I really enjoyed Marks comments on his trek and climbs. Planning to return in 2013 to do the Three Passes of Khumbu, so his comments on Renjo La were very helpful. However as an "old" trekker, now 64, I found his condescending comments on the elderly Japanese trekkers distasteful along with his thoughts near Namche Bazar about them tottering along on their walking poles and wondering why they did not do it when they were younger. Perhaps they were too busy making an income to bring up your generation. Mark, I think you should be commending them for attempting their trips instead of relegating them to homes for the aged. But apart from this, it was a great read and highly recommended for anyone thinking of going to the area.

Just read this one yesterday, and, as was the case with all of the pieces of his that I've read so far, Mark Horrell painted a rather vivid picture of what trekking through that remote part of the world still is, warts and all. I really enjoy reading his descriptions of the people he encounters, as well as the places, because he tends to not try to gloss over the less-than-pretty aspects of these kinds of trips. Somehow he manages to make all the misery that seems to be inextricably entwined with these treks funny (in an "Angela's Ashes" sort of way) and makes you feel as though you're slogging through the muck right along next to him.

I have come to quite enjoy each of Mark Horrell's travel diaries, not only because of their details of what it's like to participate in a commercial trek or climb, but because of the self-effacing and witty style in which they're written. While I don't always get the British sense of humour, it's evident that some of the trek participants don't either! Entertaining!

Have other M Horrell's books. All are entertaining, earthy language is not off-putting to me...the book has detailed descriptions that helps me understand climbing better. Great photos.

The first "book" I read by Mark Horrell confused me a little, more or less dumping the reader into

one of Mark's journeys into the high mountains without any real background but after reading two or more of these accounts you will get his style and just plain enjoy his descriptions of some distant destination, often lesser known than most mountaineering adventure spots. I would love to have been able to live the life he has!

Mark Horrell's travel logs and online photos make you feel like you were on the trip. Both the joy and pain of an extended trip to the high country are expressed well in the unpretentious narrative. His writings are must-reads if considering laying out the cash and time for similar adventures. Way to go Horrell, keep it up!

I enjoyed this book. I recommend it for anyone contemplating a trekking trip to Nepal's trekking peaks. The author really makes each day interesting and tells it like it is. After reading it I started working on my fitness to go to Island Peak. This book is well written and at times humorous. The author is to be commended for making this a "good read".

Typical from this author. I'm nice relief from summer hate. It's worth more than a dollar but what the heck enjoy the easy price.

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