

# MOVING MOUNTAINS FOR EDUCATION IN PERU AND NEPAL

## EVER FELT AS A TOURIST IN A DEVELOPING COUNTRY THAT YOU WISHED YOU COULD DO SOMETHING MORE USEFUL THAN SIMPLY OBSERVE?

Have you spent time somewhere where you wanted to offer some tangible help? Ever worried whether your tourist dollar was doing anything to improve the lives of the people whose faces you've brought home in your photographs? If you have, then travelling to remote mountain communities with The Moving Mountains Project might be just the kind of of-the-beaten-path travel experience you're looking for.

Founded in response to just such feelings, The Moving Mountains Project guides small groups of walkers in little visited parts of the Annapurna Range in Nepal and the breathtaking Cordillera Huayhuash in Peru. The Project offers walkers unforgettable mountain adventures and meaningful cultural exchange – as well as the knowledge that what they spend is going directly towards aiding the people who call these mountains home. The Moving Mountains Project donates after-expenses profits to education development projects in the areas the walks visit – making a real and positive difference in

mountain people's lives.

"It's not about giving hand-outs, but rather creating partnerships with mountain people," says founder, travel writer Gabi Mocatta. "We support projects that are already "moving": initiatives that come from mountain dwellers themselves. Mountain people know well where the best direction for their own development lies – and they agree that it's in better education for their children. So that's where The Moving Mountain Project concentrates its help."

From its walks in Nepal, the Project has been able to support the construction of school buildings in one of the villages it visits. It also supports a scholarship scheme for the brightest school finishers so that they're able to go on to further study. In Peru the Project supports underprivileged village schools with educational tools as simple as books, printer/copiers

– and hopes eventually to start a scholarship scheme here too.

The project was only started in 2008 but has already led small groups of walkers on inspiring – even life-changing – expeditions, and has been able to start to offer some life changing support to young mountain people too.

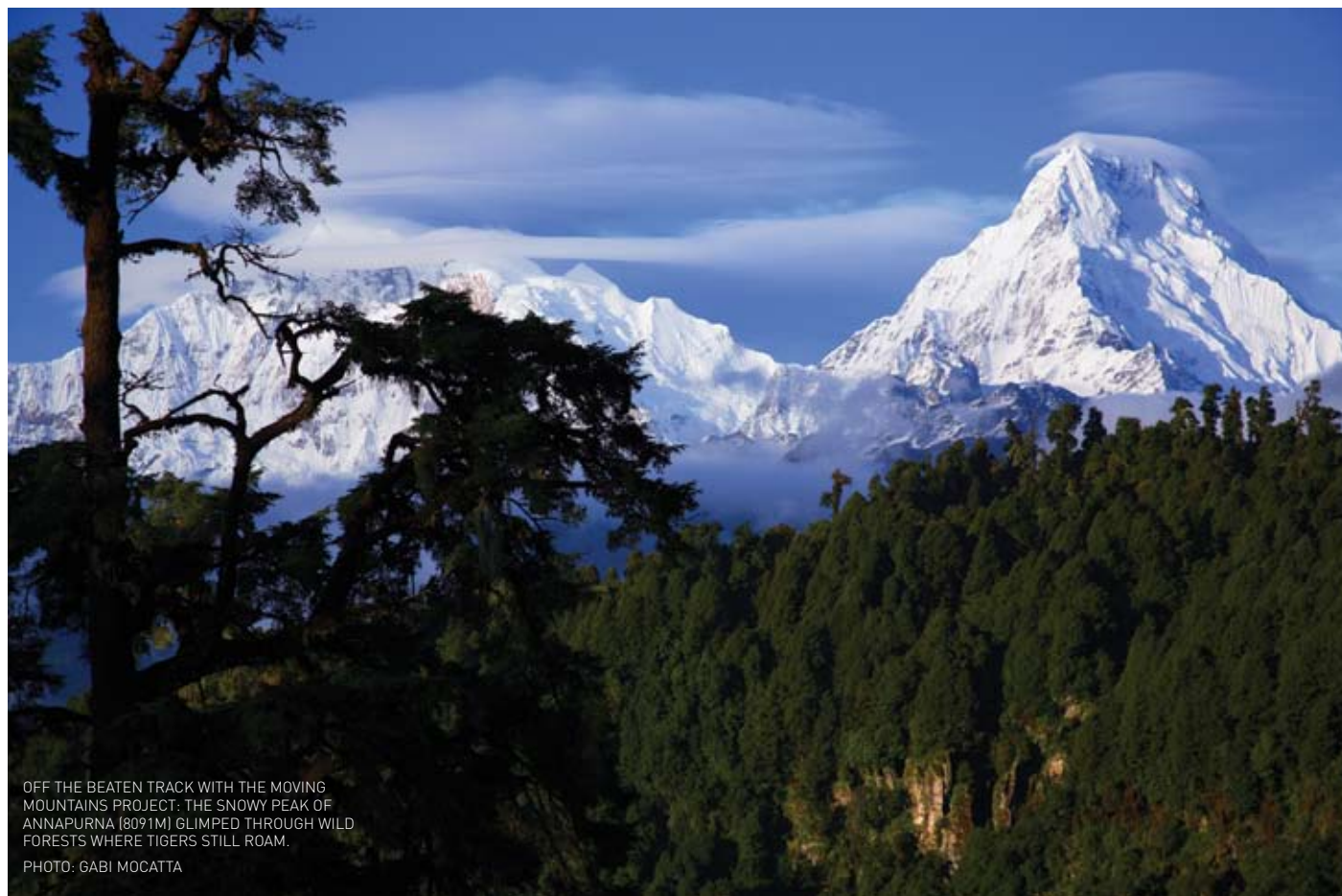


"The great thing about walking with The Moving Mountains Project is that it's win-win for everyone involved: you get to hike some awe-inspiring mountainscapes and make the kind of real, human connections that tourists rarely do. And you can do that in the knowledge that just by being there, you are

investing in positive change" says Mocatta.

The Moving Mountains Project's 2009 walks include 21 June-10 July in Peru, and 12-28 October and 2-18 November in Nepal.

See the website for further information:  
[www.movingmountainsproject.com](http://www.movingmountainsproject.com)



OFF THE BEATEN TRACK WITH THE MOVING MOUNTAINS PROJECT: THE SNOWY PEAK OF ANNAPURNA (8091M) GLIMPED THROUGH WILD FORESTS WHERE TIGERS STILL ROAM.

PHOTO: GABI MOCATTA