**Economics**

In economic terms, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world, but tourism has enabled the Everest region to become one of the wealthiest areas in Nepal. Having traditionally worked as traders, farmers and religious folk, leading climbs and treks has recently become the foundation of Sherpa economy. In the 1970s most trekkers toured the regions as members of large, catered camping groups with Sherpa staff and porters. Today Sherpa’s are among the most accomplished mountaineers so they often serve as guides to visitors with their continued roles in carrying loads, fixing ropes, setting camps and generally tending to climbing teams. This has earned the Sherpa people a place of unequaled respect. They have also helped to create an industry that has brought the world to some of Nepal’s most isolated regions. In a Sherpa’s home, Everest has become not only a spiritual center but a financial one as well.

