

Trekking to the Everest Base Camp in 1973

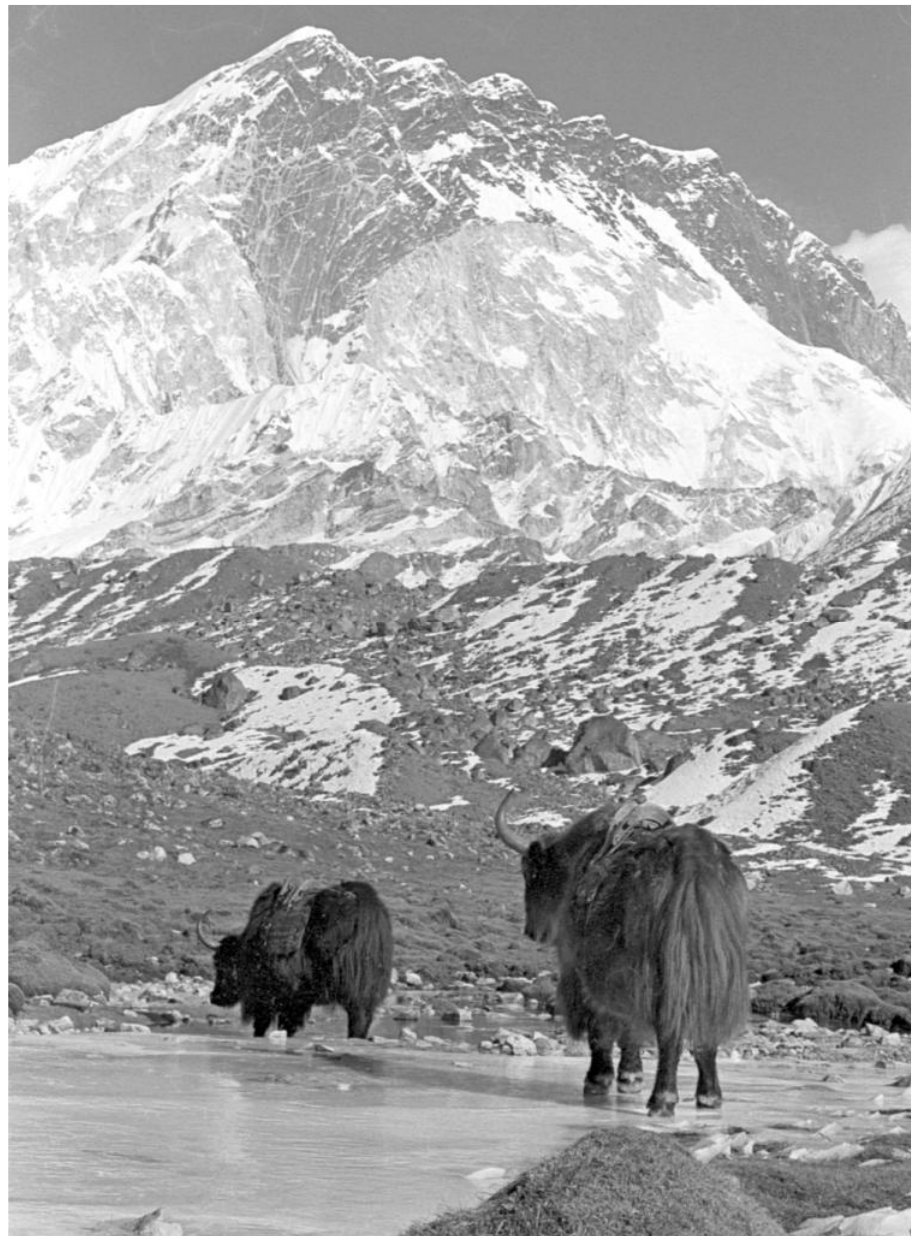
David Oldfield FRPS

In 1973 I booked to go on a trek with the Australian company Ausventure to the area which had been used for the base camps of expeditions to Mount Everest since the first successful ascent by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in May 1953. I grew up in the West Riding of Yorkshire and clearly remember the newspaper headlines on Coronation Day 1953 which announced that Mt Everest had been climbed. We were later taken, as schoolkids, to showings of the film *The Conquest of Everest*, released in December 1953.

I had been on a trek around Mt Annapurna in Nepal in 1970, as described in the January 2024 *Newsletter*, so I suppose it was inevitable that I would return three years later to Everest Base Camp on a trek also led by Bruce Davis and his wife Rosalie.

We had 14 people on our trek and I don't recall meeting many other groups during it. In 2016-2017 it appears that there were 45,112 annual visitors, most of whom would have been trekkers to Sagarmatha/Everest National Park. Wikipedia advises that the earthquake of 25 April 2015 killed at least 19 people in the base camp area. It was announced in June 2022 that the campsite would be moved 200-400 m lower since the Khumbu Glacier, on which the campsite is located, is rapidly melting and thus making it unsafe for trekkers.

Here are a few of my monochrome photographs, taken in a Pentax camera on Ilford FP4, developed in Ilford ID11.



Yaks on ice by David Oldfield FRPS



Heavily laden porter

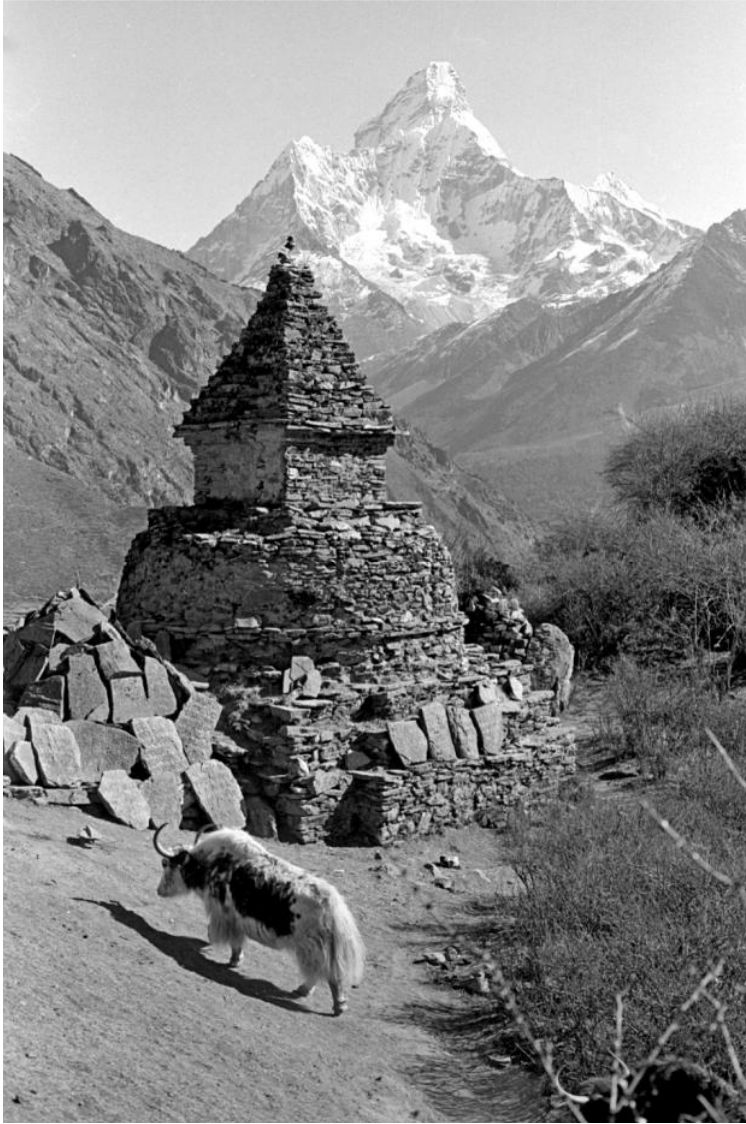


Yak after overnight snowfall

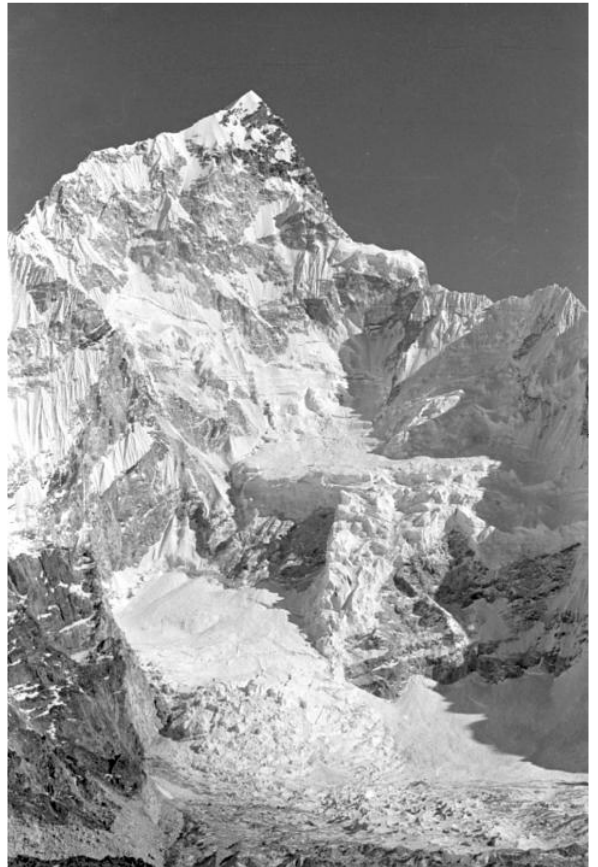


Watchful young villager

Images by David Oldfield FRPS



Yak and chorten in front of Ama Dablam

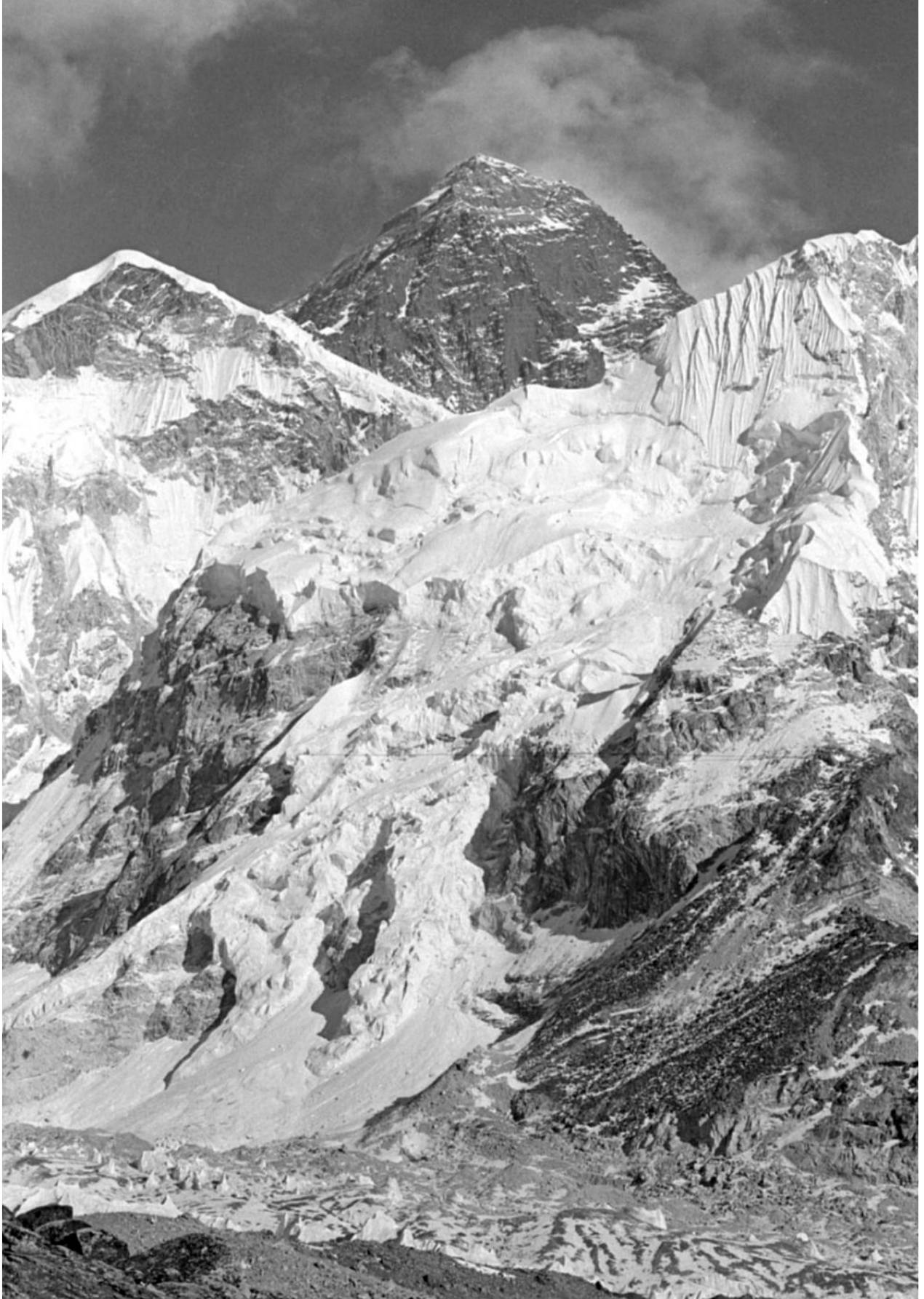


Lhotse



Typical Nepali house
in terraced fields

Images by
David Oldfield FRPS



Mount Everest from Kala Patthar by David Oldfield FRPS