The Annapurna Road: Development and Tourism on the Annapurna Circuit

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Abstract
The Annapurna Circuit has oft been called one of the best treks in the world. Its popularity has brought countless trekkers to the region, resulting in a strong local dependence on tourism. In recent years, plans to develop rural regions of Nepal have resulted in extensive road networks being built along the route of the circuit. These roads have helped some locals and hurt others. This study investigates the implementation of the roads in Annapurna Conservation Area and the effects on both trekkers and locals. Further, it examines the New Alternative Trekking Trails that have been implemented along sections of the Annapurna Circuit and those that are continuing to be built in other areas. In order to learn about these issues, I traveled along the Annapurna Circuit, conversing with locals, trekkers, and conservation officials. These forms of communication ranged from casual conversations to formal interviews, but essentially every interaction was relevant and informative. This paper attempts to understand how the relationship between roads and trails has facilitated rural improvement while striving to satisfy tourists as well.

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Road construction around the Annapurna Circuit began in 2005 as part of a national plan to develop Nepal and now endangers this famous trek's reputation. In this article we provide a brief overview on the Annapurna Circuit, the status of road construction in the region and information on the New Annapurna Trekking Trails. Annapurna Circuit – One of the Best Treks in the World. The 150-mile Annapurna Circuit is one of the world's classic treks and one of the most popular hiking routes in Nepal. It reaches a maximum altitude of 17,769 feet with an average of 9,190 feet. It offers greater variety While the main Annapurna Circuit route remains the same there are variations depending on side trails, weather conditions, time of year, natural events and physical changes to the trek paths. Detailed trekking maps can be obtained in Nepal at very low costs.