

## TREKING SYMBOLS



DRINKING WATER



WATER NOT TO DRINK



DANGER



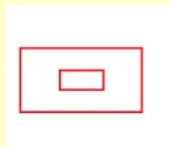
DO NOT GO



DONT GO THAT SIDE



CROSS THE OBSTACLE



WAIT HERE



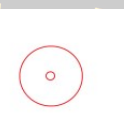
CAMP SITE THIS WAY



LETTER



LETTER 6 STEPS AHEAD



GONE TO CAMP



LEVEL CROSSING



TROOP

FAR



TROOP

NEAR



GOOD-FOOD



BAD FOOD



ARROW



DEAD



GO-THIS WAY (CAIRN)

**Trekking symbols** are crucial for ensuring safe and informed trekking experiences. They help trekkers navigate trails, understand potential hazards, and follow environmental practices. Here's a comprehensive guide to common trekking symbols and their meanings:

## 1. Trail Markers (Blazes)

Trail markers, also known as "blazes," are often painted on rocks, trees, or posts along a hiking trail. They help trekkers stay on the right path.



- **Single Color Markers:** A single stripe, usually white, blue, or yellow, indicates the main trail.
- **Double Blazes (Two stripes):** Indicates a change in direction or a junction ahead. Follow the blaze to stay on the correct trail.
- **Arrow-Shaped Blaze:** Signals the direction the trail turns (left, right, or straight ahead).
- **Circle Blaze:** Indicates that you are on a loop trail.
- **Cairns (Rock Piles)**

Cairns are man-made piles of rocks, often used in areas where traditional blazes (like paint on trees) are not possible, such as in rocky terrains, deserts, or alpine environments.



- **Single Cairn:** Marks the trail in open areas or where there are no trees.
- **Double Cairn:** May signal a change in direction or a decision point on the trail.
- **Cairns with a Stick:** Sometimes a stick is placed in the cairn to make it more visible, especially in areas with heavy snow.

### 3. Environmental Symbols

Symbols that guide trekkers on how to interact with nature responsibly:

- **Leave No Trace:** A sign showing a crossed-out trash can or similar image, encouraging hikers to carry out all their trash and leave the environment as they found it.
- **Campfire Prohibited:** A circle with a fire inside and a line through it. It means no open fires are allowed in that area due to the risk of wildfires.
- **Water Source Symbol:** Indicates that there is a safe water source nearby, often shown as a faucet or a water droplet.
- **Wildlife Crossing:** Depicts animals like deer, bears, or snakes, warning trekkers to stay alert for wildlife.
- **Do Not Disturb:** Often represented by a crossed-out hand or footprint, this symbol encourages trekkers to avoid disturbing wildlife habitats or fragile ecosystems.



### 4. Safety Symbols

Safety symbols are critical for ensuring a trekker's protection from potential hazards on the trail.

- **Danger (Exclamation Mark):** A triangle with an exclamation point indicates an immediate hazard or danger, such as falling rocks or a steep cliff.
- **No Entry:** A circle with a horizontal line through it, indicating that entry is forbidden due to unsafe conditions or environmental protection.
- **Emergency Shelter:** A symbol of a small house or a tent shows the location of an emergency shelter, where trekkers can take refuge during storms or other dangerous situations.
- **First Aid:** A green cross symbol marks areas with first aid stations, either at a base camp or near a hut.
- **Avalanche Zone:** A triangle with snow falling or an exclamation mark, often found in high mountain areas, indicating the risk of avalanches.



## 5. Route Difficulty

Trekking symbols can also provide information on the difficulty level of a trail.

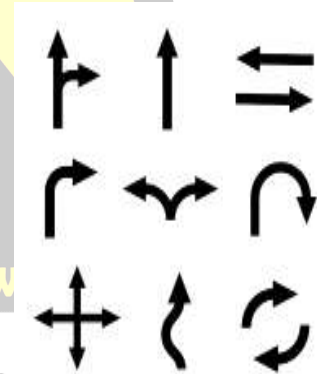


- **Green Circle:** Easy trails, suitable for beginners, with a mostly flat or gentle incline.
- **Blue Square:** Intermediate trails, requiring more effort, and may have some steep or uneven terrain.
- **Black Diamond:** Difficult trails, meant for experienced trekkers with rugged, steep, or technically challenging sections.
- **Double Black Diamond:** Very difficult or expert-level trails, often involving technical climbing, scree slopes, or other dangerous conditions.

## 6. Directional Signs

These symbols help trekkers determine the correct way to proceed along a trail.

- **Arrow with Trail Name/Distance:** Often used at trail junctions, it shows the name of the trail and the distance to the next landmark or destination.
- **Switchback Symbol:** Shows a zigzag pattern, indicating that the trail will have switchbacks due to steep terrain.
- **Fork in the Road:** Indicates that the trail splits, and trekkers need to choose a direction. The sign typically provides information on what lies ahead for each path.



## 7. Camping and Hiking Facilities

Symbols related to facilities along the trekking route.

- **Tent Symbol:** Indicates designated camping areas or campgrounds where trekkers can pitch their tents.
- **Toilet Symbol:** Shows the location of restrooms or latrines along the trail.
- **Lodge/Hut Symbol:** Represents a place where trekkers can find accommodation or food.

