

From the Tarai to Mustang, across Central Nepal

Calendar 2019



Images of a bygone era by Toni Hagen

Tukucho, a beautiful and peaceful village along the Kali Gandaki river, is home to the Thakali people, an ethnolinguistic group who migrated from the passes of Tibet to settle down along major trading routes. The Kali Gandaki river cuts through Mt Annapurna and Mt Dhaulagiri, forming the world's deepest river gorge.



Lumbini is the birthplace of the Buddha. Lord Buddha's birthplace is marked by a sculpted stone pillar erected by Emperor Ashoka (304-232 BCE). Located in Nepal's southern Tarai plains, the area's historical, religious, and archaeological importance is profound. Thousands of pilgrims from all over the world visit the holy site every year.

January 2019

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Located near Butwal (a large town in Southern Nepal, Rupandehi District) this rustic settlement belongs to the Tharu people, an indigenous group said to be immune from malaria. The Tharus are spread across the Tarai. Their homes are often built of bamboo lattice and known for their beautiful architectural art forms.

February 2019

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			



This traditional fishing method involves pouring tannic acid into the river. Produced from some special kind of tree bark and beating it with a staff, the acid is then allowed to flow into the river. Fishes thus poisoned are harvested easily.

March 2019

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Freshly made earthen pots are being dried on the banks of the Kali Gandaki River as it comes out from the hills and into the plains. With a total catchment area of 46,300 square kilometres, the river is known for its deep gorge that cuts through the Himalaya.

April 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



This beautiful farming settlement is located in the midlands of the Pokhara Valley with the Annapurna range in the backdrop. Pokhara is the starting point for hiking, trekking and climbing in the Annapurna region. The valley is known for its spectacular landscapes and natural lakes, including the famous Phewa Lake.

May 2019

WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



A settlement belonging to the Gurung people, who mostly reside in the southern side of the Annapurna range. Losar is their main festival and many of them are involved in animal husbandry, hunting, and also service in the Indian and British armies.

June 2019

SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



A beautiful specimen of traditional architecture built by Newar artisans in Gorkha. The Newars are the original inhabitants of the Kathmandu Valley and are well known for their contribution to Nepal's resplendent architecture, art, and sculpture.

July 2019

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



A Magar house nestled amidst a narrow steep gorge in the midlands of Nepal. The Magars are of Mongoloid origin and form the largest ethnic group in present-day Nepal. They used to constitute a bulk of the British Gurkha army. Most of them work as farmers, craftsmen and basket-weavers, and dwell in the lower hills of the Mahabharat range.

August 2019

THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



Lush, green rice terraces are common features in Nepal's midlands. Rice harvesting normally takes place in September. This photo was taken somewhere in Palpa district.

September 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30



This small, scenic village in the Kali Gandaki area is located near Lete in Mustang District. Until 1959, the Kali Gandaki Valley was an important route of the flourishing 'salt-trade' between Tibet and Nepal.

October 2019

TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



The northern part of Mustang lies behind the Himalayas at more than 3000 m above sea level. It is a dry and arid area similar to Tibet as there is little rain during monsoon time. Fields are situated near the riverside with water irrigation.

November 2019

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	



Mustang, the hidden treasure of Nepal, is one of the last bastions where ancient Tibetan culture prevails to this day. It was only from 1992 that foreign travellers were allowed to enter the isolated region. Toni Hagen visited there in 1952.

December 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December



Toni Hagen
(1917-2003)

Calendar © Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal

Swiss geologist Toni Hagen first came to Nepal in 1950 as part of a technical assistance team sent by the Swiss government. That was an era when foreigners had to seek government permission to travel outside the Kathmandu Valley. As the geologist in the Swiss team, Hagen was allowed to go around the countryside, an experience that whetted his desire to see more of this 'unknown' land. Thus began a relationship with a country that grew into a close friendship over the course of half a century.

Toni Hagen was later taken over by the United Nations making him the original 'UN expert' in the country. He spent nearly a decade travelling more than 14,000 km on foot. His explorations took him all over Nepal and he saw the country like no one else had before him, and very few have since. Hagen's experience of those early days, his geological findings and his views on the society and economy of Nepal have been documented in *Nepal: The Kingdom in the Himalaya* (4th ed, Himal Books, Kathmandu, 1998). Hagen's colour photographs in the book for the first time exposed the social diversity and varied landscape of Nepal. This was a landmark book which introduced Nepal to the world and to Nepalis themselves.

With time, Hagen became deeply involved in the study and practice of development in Asia and elsewhere. But he always kept a keen interest in what was happening in Nepal. He continued to critique Nepal's path to progress and never faltered in his belief that socioeconomic advancement was not possible without genuine democracy achieved through decentralisation. For his contribution to scholarship on Nepal, in 1984, the Royal Nepal Academy awarded him the Birendra Pragyalkar, the highest recognition give by the Nepali state to foreign scholars.

The Toni Hagen Foundation Nepal was set up in 2000 to continue the work begun by Toni Hagen long ago to promote an understanding of the Himalaya and its geography, among Nepalis themselves and in the outside world. This calendar is part of the same attempt and contains pictures taken from the 1950s by Toni Hagen. The slides from the Toni Hagen collection were made available by his family.



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