



# Fitness Preparation for High Altitude Treks

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A scientific set of preparatory  
guidelines for the best experience

**Are you training  
for a specific goal  
OR just  
performing a  
maintenance  
fitness regime to  
stay healthy?**

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# TRAINING FOR HIGH ALTITUDE

## TOPICS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- Training Goals
- Importance of Aerobic Endurance Training
- The idea of Supercompensation
- Principles of Fitness Training
- Fitness Training Components
- Sample Training Plans
- Q&A

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An appropriate mountaineering training is a blend of aerobic, anaerobic, strength, endurance, flexibility, mobility, meditation, and adequate recovery as per the goal set.



# Training Goals for High Altitude Adventures

## BEGINNER TREKS

altitude:  
2500 m – 3500 m

Duration:  
8–10 days

Preparation:  
8–10 weeks

Examples:  
Dayara Bugyal Trek  
Chandrakhani Trek

## MOD – DIF TREKS

altitude:  
3500 m – 5500 m

Duration:  
12–18 days

Preparation:  
16–20 weeks

Examples:  
ABC, EBC, KGL Treks  
Tapovan, Goechala

## BEGINNER EXPED

altitude:  
5500 m – 6100 m

Duration:  
12–15 days

Preparation:  
20–24 weeks

Examples:  
Kangyatse II, Mera,  
Kilimanjaro, Elbrus

## PROF EXPED

altitude:  
Above 6200 m

Duration:  
beyond 15 days

Preparation:  
24 –52 weeks

Examples:  
Mt. Island, Mt.  
Aconcagua, Everest

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# Benefits of High Aerobic Capacity

## GLYCOGEN

Conserves glycogen stores and encourages fat burning

## RECOVERY

Helps in better recovering from physical exertions

## STRESS

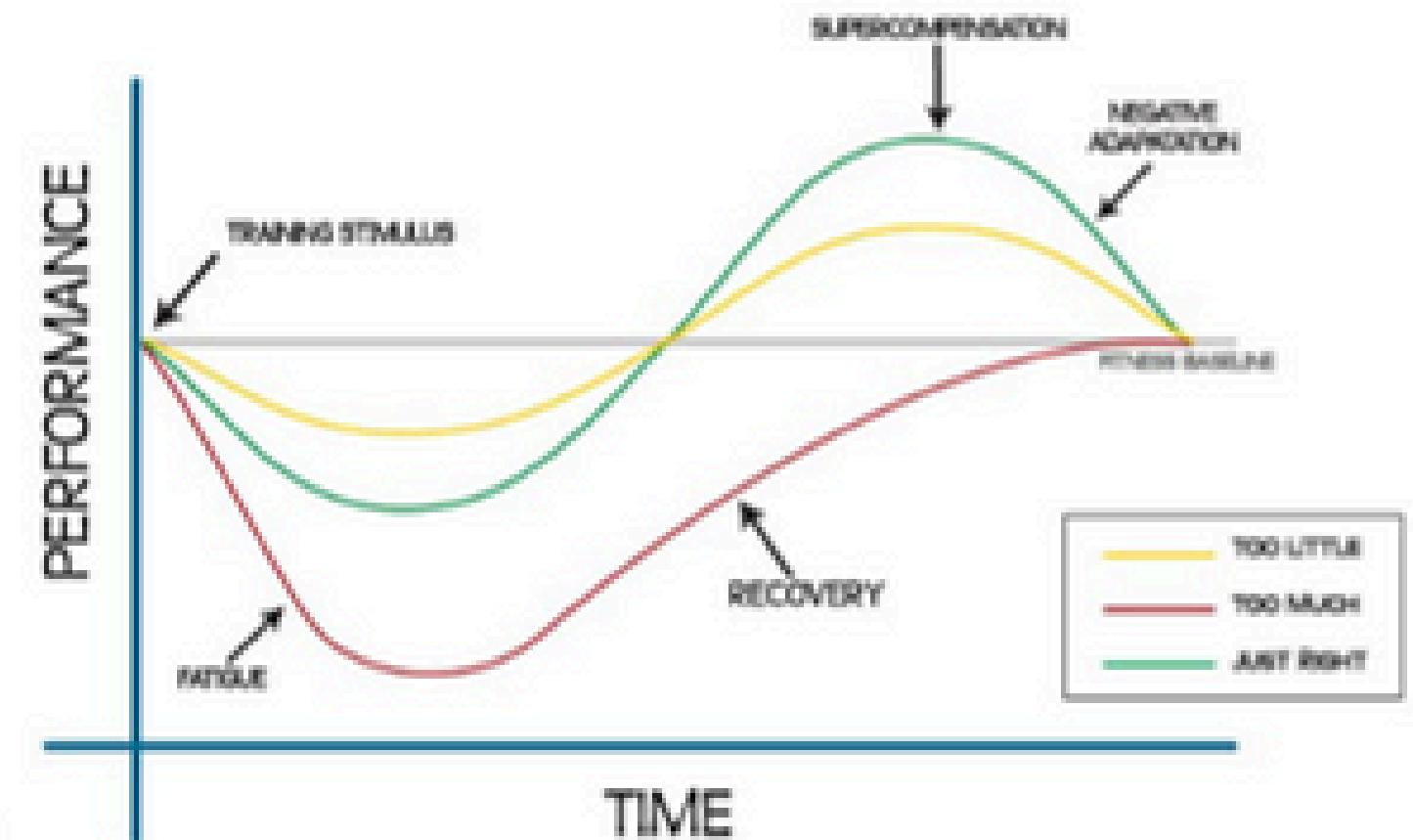
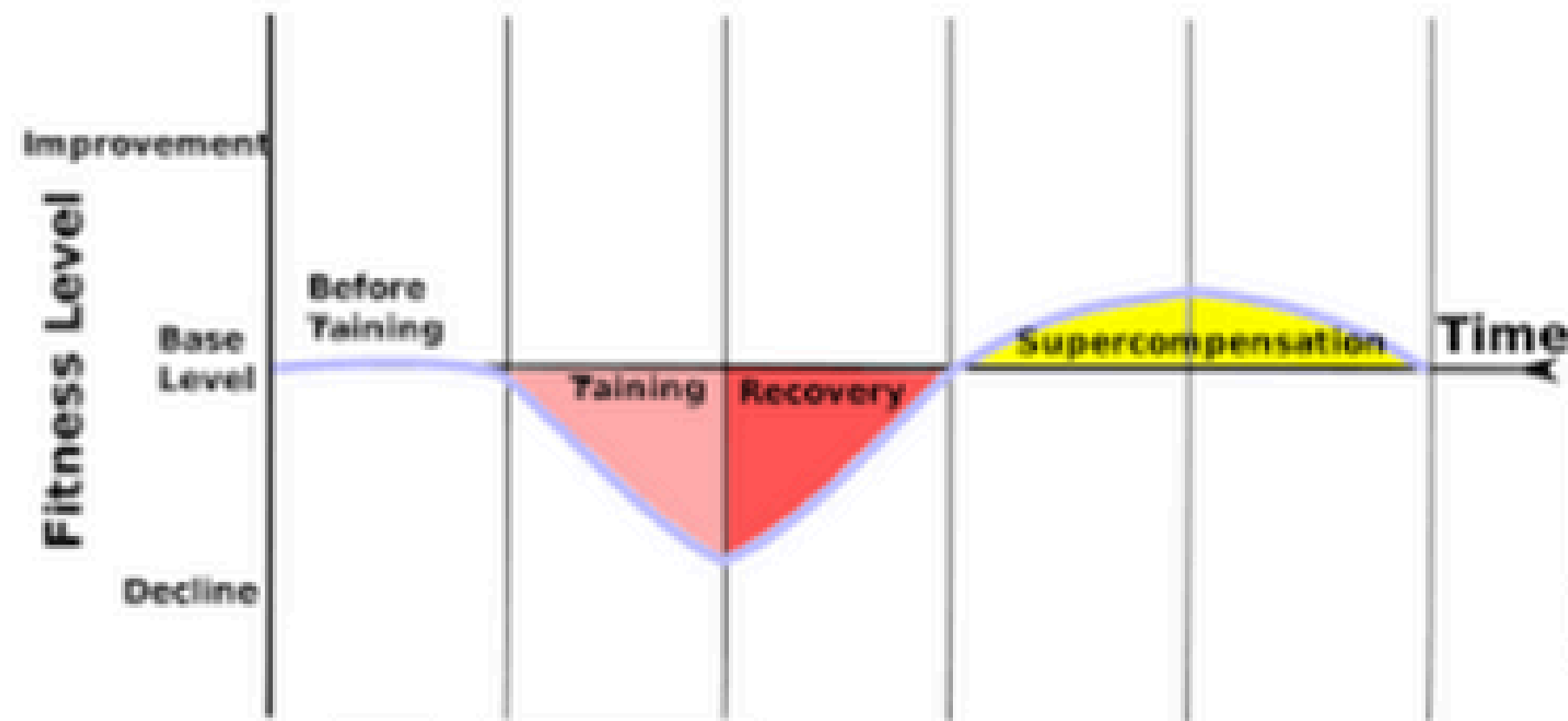
Low oxidative stresses that encourages anti aging

## HIGH ALTITUDE

New research hints that better aerobic high capacity is good for adapting to high altitudes better

- Improving our aerobic capacity to continue efforts for more duration of time at 55–60% of your maximum Heart rate
- Developing Anaerobic Threshold (Lactate Threshold)– the point where our Body starts accumulating Lactic Acids



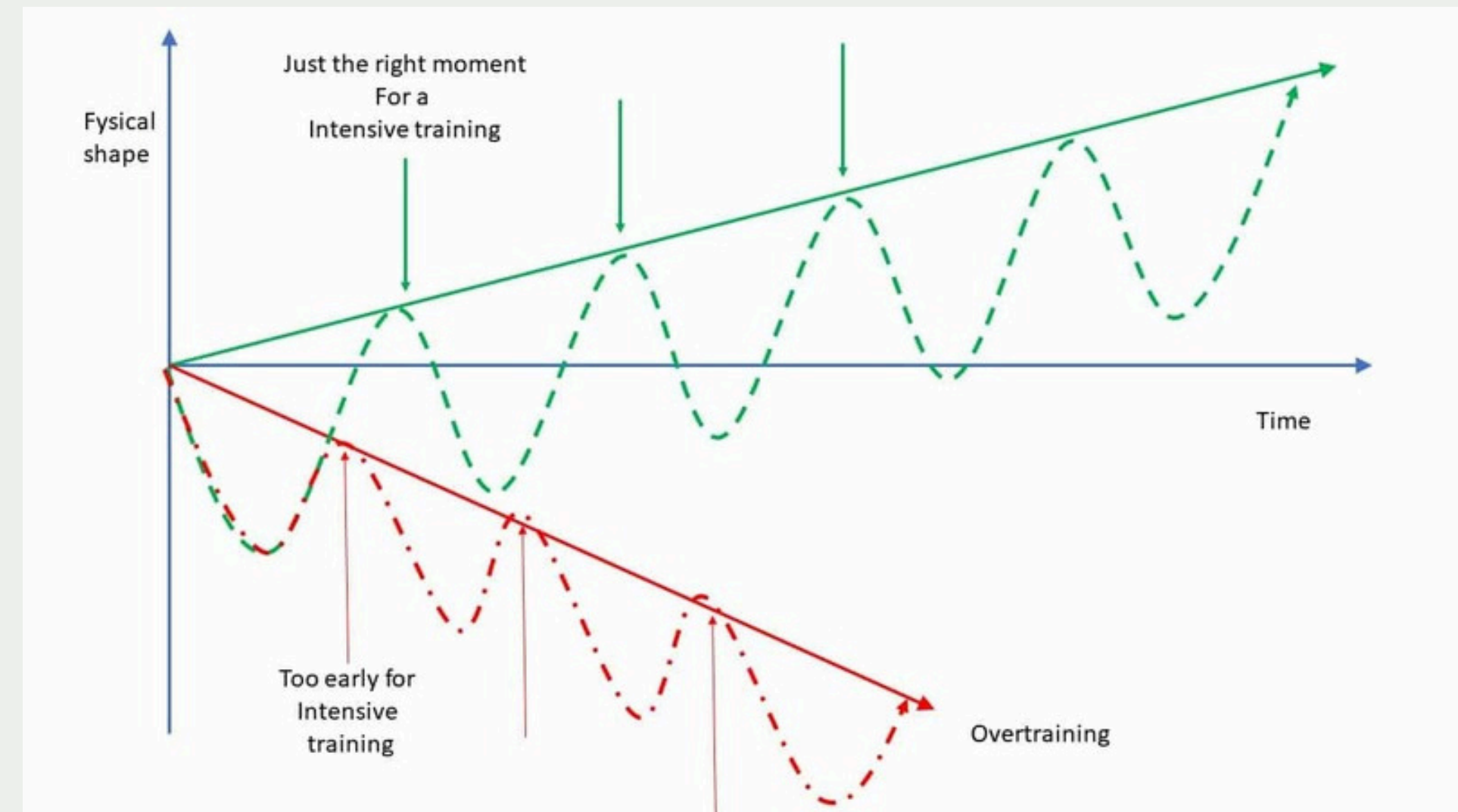
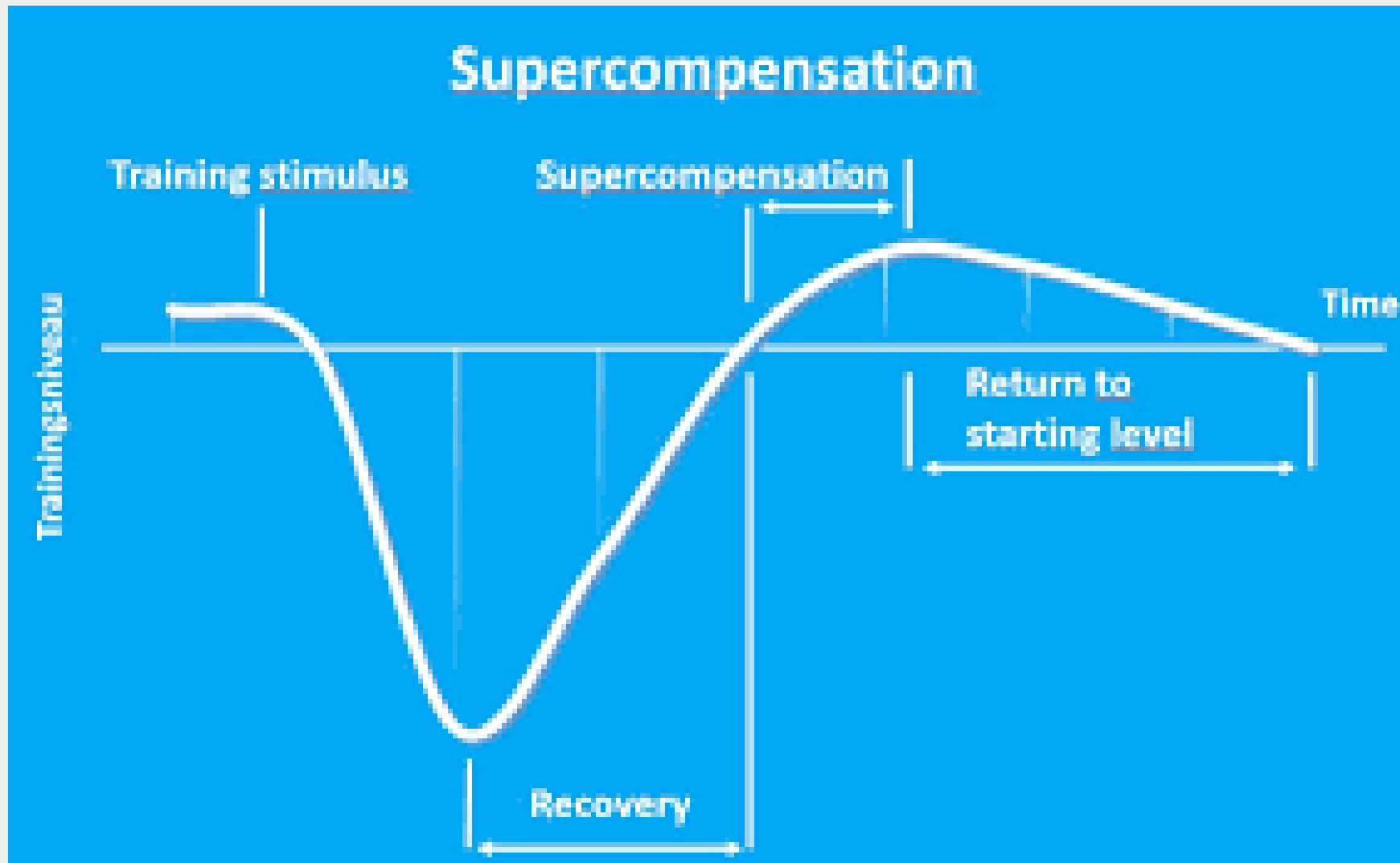


# SUPERCOMPENSATION

Supercompensation is the adaptive response of our bodies to a training programme. In other words, by training hard and getting your work-to-recovery balance right, you will achieve better results. Each individual will have their own optimum level of exercise and recovery to increase their base fitness level over time.

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## Supercompensation



Adaptation occurs only during the rest. If the next training stimulus is applied when the body isn't recovered, there can be overtraining, leading to a negative supercompensation

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# Principles of Fitness Training



## INDIVIDUALITY

Every person is unique and requires unique set of training regime to achieve the desire fitness



## SPECIFICITY

The training must be goal specific. If you are preparing for a Himalaya trek, swimming workout wont provide the results



## PERIODIZATION

There should be periodization in terms of intensity, duration of activities as required by the specificity.



## PROGRESSION

Training effect takes place only when you do it more than you normally do

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# Principles of Fitness Training



## GRADUAL LOADING

Manipulating Frequency, Intensity, Time, Type (FITT) & complexity you can gradually manage the training load



## REVERSIBILITY

Use it or lose it. Over 4 months of detraining can drastically reduce the fitness levels. Endurance is lost rather at a faster rate than the strength



## VARIATION

Variation in training activities is important to keep the athletes motivated



## REST & RECOVERY

Training adaptations occur only during the rest phase and not during the training

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Athletes who are sleep deprived are at risk of losing aerobic endurance and may experience subtle changes in hormone levels, which can lead to higher levels of cortisol (a stress hormone) as well as a decrease in human growth hormone, which is active during tissue repair.

# Specific Training Component: CardioVascular



## TREKKING

Best goal specific training



## BRISK WALKING

Most suitable for improving  
the metabolism, overall  
health and recovery after  
training



## RUNNING / JOGGING

Most ideal for improving  
cardiovascular strengthening  
and improving anaerobic  
endurance

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# Specific Training Component: Skeletal Muscular



## VERTICALS WITH WEIGHTS

Do as much vertical climbing  
with backpacks as possible.



## WEIGHT TRAINING

Should be performed under  
supervision. Helps in  
strengthening and toning of  
the muscles.

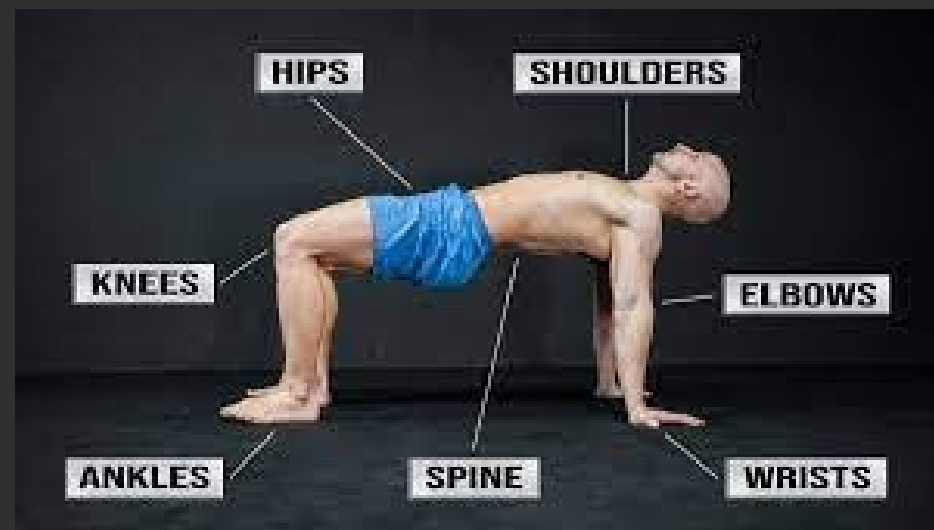


## BODY WEIGHT TRAINING

Can be practised even at home.  
But recommended with guidance  
for the best results

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# Specific Training Component: Flexibility - Mobility



## MOBILITY

mobility is the ability to actively achieve an extended range of motion dynamically. Mobility is essentially stretching the muscle using strength to control the movement through a safe range.



## FLEXIBILITY

improve the ability of a joint to maintain the movement necessary for carrying out daily tasks and physical activity.

# SAMPLE TRAINING 6 WEEKS

WEEK	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
	BUILD AEROBIC CAPACITY AND STRENGTH						
• 1	30 min aerobic 20 min strength	60 min aerobic Trek with backpack. 5-6 kg	OFF	30 min aerobic walk/jog	30 min strength full body	OFF	Trek with backack 2-3 hrs
• 2	40 min aerobic 20 min strength	60 min aerobic Trek with backpack. 5-6 kg		40 min aerobic walk/jog	30 min strength full body		Trek with backack 3-4 hrs
• 3	40 min aerobic 30 min strength	30 min fast uphill Trek with backpack. 8-9 kg		40 min aerobic walk/jog	45 min strength full body		Trek with backack 4-5 hrs
	BUILD ENDURANCE						
• 4	40 min aerobic 30 min strength	35 min uphill Trek with backpack. 10 kg	OFF	40 min aerobic walk/jog	30 min strength full body (Sport Specific)	OFF	Trek with backack 4-5 hrs
• 5	45 min aerobic 45 min strength	35 min uphill Trek with backpack. 12 kg		45 min aerobic walk/jog	40 min strength full body (Sport Specific)		Trek with backack 6-7 hrs
• 6	60 min aerobic	30min moderate speed aerobic 30 min strength		Cross Training cycling/swimming play any sport	OFF		Trek with backack 6-7 hrs



# ATTENTION!

- Too much Exercise can be harmful.
- Proper method of doing Exercise needs to be learned from Experts
- Consult your doctor before starting any Fitness plan
- Exercise is beneficial with proper Rest & Proper Hydration & Nutrition
- Food supplements to be used with recommendation by medical/ nutrition advisor.
- Keep your body hydrated. Increase your water intake before going to high altitude.
- Do not hesitate to share your discomfort

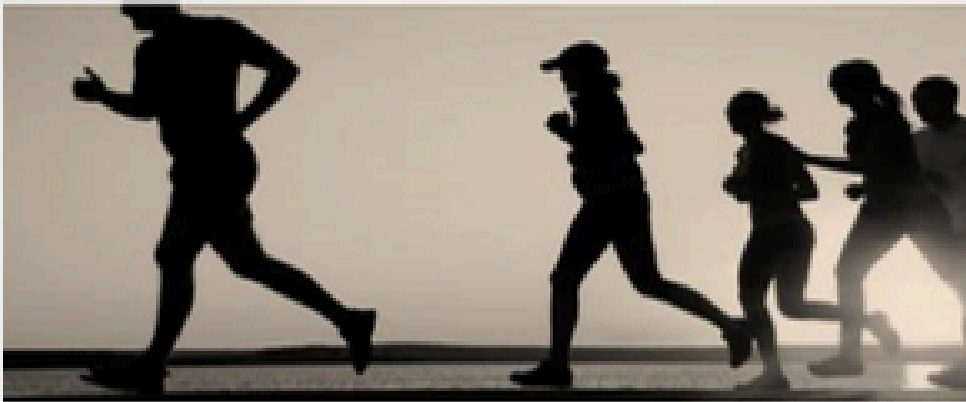


# RESOURCES FOR USE

## SAMPLE 4 MONTH FITNESS TRAINING PLANS

GUARDIAN GIRIPREMI INSTITUTE OF MOUNTAINEERING

4 month Training Programme for Himalaya Treks



Hope you are excited for your upcoming adventure. But before you take on the actual challenge, let me tell you an important thing. There is a difference between doing general exercise and training for specific goal. Here, we are intended to pursue our Himalayan Adventure or any high-altitude expedition, a specific goal. So it needs training, a methodical training. And that is what we have tried to offer you here. We are sure you all have been doing some level of fitness activities to stay active and fit, but final four months are going to be very crucial in deciding your performance at high altitude. Here is a sample training module that you can follow on your own. You can modify add/delete as per your fitness level.

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> weeks: Enhancing basic fitness level**

**Stamina training:** (Mon + Wed = 1x) you can opt for any of the following options. Variations will keep you away from boredom. You can choose any of the following aerobic activities

- Jogging (45 min)
- Trail run (uphill-downhill) 20-25 min
- Cycling (40 min)
- Step climbing (400 steps, approx. 1 ft.)

**Strength training:** (Tue + Thurs) after each set take a break of 45 sec before starting a new set.

- Pushups (2 sets of 10)
- Crunches (3 sets of 10)
- Pull ups (2 sets depending on your capacity)
- Squats (2 sets of 15)
- Plank position (2 sets : 30 sec) (Hold your body in plank position for 30 sec)
- Suryanamaskar (1/2)

**Flexibility:** Daily

- Stretching (to be performed before and after the session)
- Yag asanas (optional)

**Mental preparations:**

- Meditation
- Breathing exercises

Do 1 easy- moderate level trek

## Stretching Exercises



**1. Neck Flexion/Extension Stretch**  
(forward, then back)



**2. Neck Lateral Flexion Stretch**  
(one side, then the other)



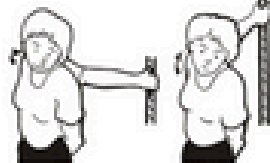
**3. Latissimus Dorsi and Posterior Deltoid Stretch**  
(link hands, push elbows together)



**4. Triceps Stretch**  
(pull elbow across and down)



**5. Shoulder Rotator Stretch**  
(using towel, pull up with the top arm then down with the other)



**6. Pectoral Stretch at 90° and 120°**  
(use a doorway or post)



**7. Bicep Stretch**  
(hands apart)



**8. Supraspinatus Stretch**  
(keep elbow parallel to ground)




**9. Wrist Extensor Stretch**  
(tilt head to opposite side, keep elbow straight)




**10. Thoracic Extension Stretch**  
(reach forward with arms, push chest towards floor, arch back down, backside behind knees)



**11. Lateral Flexion Stretch**  
(one side, then the other, push pelvis across as you bend)



**12. Lumbar Extension and Abdominal Stretch**  
(be gentle if sore)



**13. Lumbar Flexion Stretch**  
(be gentle if sore)




**14. Lumbar Rotation Stretch**  
(rotate legs one side, then the other side, draw in and brace stomach muscles at the same time, breathe)



**15. Hamstring Stretch**  
(straighten leg)  
i. with foot pointed  
ii. with foot pulled back towards the knee



**16. Hamstring Stretch**  
(commence with knee slightly bent, then push knee straight as tension allows, push chest towards foot)




**17. Adductor Stretch**  
(push down with elbows on knees very gently, keep back straight)



**18. Gluteal Stretch**  
(pull knee and lower leg towards opposite shoulder)



**19. Gluteal and Lumbar Rotation Stretch**



**20. Quadriceps Stretch**  
(keep pelvis on floor)



**21. Quadriceps Stretch**



**22. Adductor Stretch**  
(keep foot pointing forward, lunge sideways on bent knee, keep back straight)




**23. Hip Flexor Stretch**  
(keep back straight, tuck bottom under, lunge forward on front leg)



**24. Tensor Fascia Stretch**  
(continue to push bottom forward, whilst pushing hip to the side)



**25. Gastrocnemius Stretch**  
(keep knee straight and heel down, feet facing forward)



**The quest of a  
mountaineer in the  
simplest terms is,  
for the Freedom of  
the Hills..**

– Mountaineering  
The Freedom of the Hills



GIRIPREMI  
ADVENTURE  
FOUNDATION

GET IN TOUCH WITH US

FOR MORE DETAILS:

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# THANK YOU

WISHING  
YOU  
A  
SAFE  
&  
ENJOYABLE  
HIGH ALTITUDE  
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