



Jeff Salz, Ph.D is an anthropologist, author and adventurer who speaks on Global Culture Change, Leadership and Corporate Social Responsibility. Learn more about Jeff's adventures and Discovery Network specials at www.wayofadventure.com or contact him directly at: jsalz@wayofadventure.com

Here is what he says about the GHNP

The Great Himalayan National Park, undoubtedly the most pristine mountain landscape in the Western Himalayas... and perhaps the planet. From the Andes to Nepal and Tibet, to the mountains of Eastern Europe and Western China - the pressures of a growing human population have left the landscape – even so-called “national parks” - overgrazed, denuded of timber, devoid of wildlife and covered with signs of animals and their shepherds. Ironically, here in India, home to over a billion people, it is still possible to find vast virgin forests and endless fields of wildflowers and ranges of un-named, unclimbed summits. Blue sheep, Himalayan Thar, even bear and snow leopard abound.

The much anticipated first eco tour by US based adventure speaker, anthropologist, author and TV Personality, Dr. Jeff Salz and his team of adventurers got completed in Himachal's [Great Himalayan National Park](#). They hiked first time to “Chakri Peak”!

First Ascent: Chakri Peak 17,000 feet (approximately)
Great Himalayan National Park Himachal Pradesh, India
September 11th, 2006

Congratulations to the Way of Adventure Team!

Sarah Hine, Vince Poscente, Jonathan Wygant, Aditya (Panki) Sood, Charan Chauhan, Bicky Thapa and Jeff Salz



Here are few excerpts from [Dr. Salz's blog](#):

When I last wrote I may have left some of you wondering: Will the team make it to the top of the un-named mountain? And what about Salz and his blown-out knee?

Let me take a minute to fill you in.

Firstly, it turned out the mountain did have a name after all. Such an awesome peak was too impressive not to. (The name is Chakri – Sanskrit for the ‘circle of life’). The tip of its rocky spire measures just shy of 17,000 feet, rising like Shiva's holy trident above the sacred waters of the Tirthan River. Handily, our journey is fully encapsulated by the

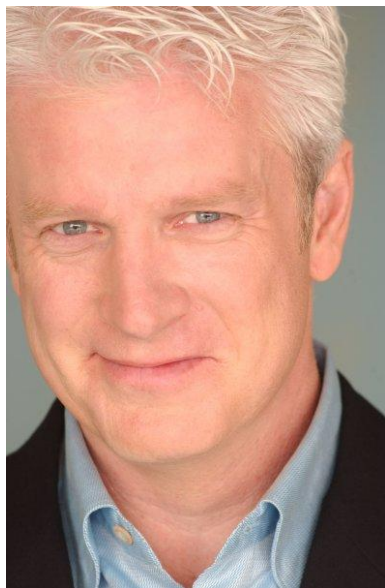
concept of those universal. Few excerpts from his post, [Himalaya Bound: Lessons in Leadership or Confessions of a Disabled Amateur](#) - The greatest happiness comes not from attaining one's dreams...but in finding ways to help others attain theirs. Last year, I reconnoitered the peak. This year I have already sent an advanced team to rebuild bridges washed out by this year's monsoon storms. Another to scout out the route. I've done all I can to advance the team's odds of success. Even if I cannot climb this peak, I believe some members will do so and have the once-in-a-

lifetime experience of standing atop a glorious untrammelled summit. Standing down below, as professional trip leader and mountain-loving 'amateur', my satisfaction will equal – perhaps even exceed – theirs.

Through the Middle by Vince Poscente

Author of *The Ant and the Elephant*, *Invincible Principles* and *The Age of Speed*

The day before we were to attempt the unclimbed Chakri Peak in India a fellow neophyte climber asked for my perspective on mortality. He was nervous. With a wife, kids and a business back home and he was anxious about his



own transience. Indeed, what would we face on this 17,000 foot mountain. Admittedly I didn't know what to expect either. My answer? To live with as much curiosity as possible. Over the next couple of days we summited and were back at base camp safely. We went right through the middle of our fear.

Two years later my curiosity gene is alive and well. I'm going back to India. This time we'll climb a new summit. Since it has no name, we have a new adventure in store. The expedition just got more interesting than naming a mountain. Our leader is Jeff Salz. I affectionately refer to him as a Jewish Indiana Jones. Jeff has a PhD in Anthropology and is a dear, close friend. We found out this weekend, on doctor's orders, Jeff can no longer lead our group to the Himalayas. I was Jeff's first call. Before you could say "Oy Vay, my name's Indy," I uttered, "yes" to being the trek's



group leader.

After getting the phone call, a memory jumped back into consciousness. Sixteen years prior I was in the middle of a West Coast Trail trek on Vancouver Island. Our group of rookie trekkers were soaked to the bone from three relentless days of rain. We were miserable as we trudged through mud and slipped up and down the steep trail. At the midpoint river crossing our group leader decided to quit and the group followed suit. I was left standing in a forest of pines saying, "We can't quit. We started this. We need to finish." My logic was lost on everyone else who knew that a dry bed was just a boat ride away.

A few hours after the group was shuttled off up the waterway, the rain stopped. The sun shone for the balance of the trek. I met some amazing people and was immersed in the wonders of mother nature. It was a defining time in my life. I also learned something about myself. "You start. You finish." A simple formula.

Explorer Jeff Salz, calls nature, "The lazy man's teacher." It provides a venue for learning that unfolds with every step. Each day in hiking towards progressive heights of rarified air forces the body to be entirely preoccupied. Meanwhile, the mind is thoroughly engaged with the importance of each measured step. Pure awareness dances like the Northern Lights - in and out of this soul scrubbing experience. Joy and bliss infuse with exhaustion as one climbs. Our team's goal was to supercede the 17,600 foot Pin Parvati Pass. Then we would climb higher to an unsummitted - unnamed peak. Due to a combination of hot weather and unexpected trials we discovered the safe window for our second objective had closed. Unstable snow and team safety meant the virgin peak would chaste for the time being. We climbed through the pass feeling empty handed but safely intact. The days that followed had an adventure at every turn. We listened to the Dalai Lama who included in his talk, "Don't go back and tell everyone that you were

with the Dalai Lama," as if he was some Certificate of Achievement to be held up for others to admire. (Enough said ;-)
Via dirt roads we drove to 1,000 year old monasteries, were visitors in mud homes 15,000 feet above sea level,
traversed across the plateaus 18 miles from the Tibetan border and even came across seabed fossils scattered along
rows and rows of Himalayan teeth piercing an impossibly blue sky.

DICK PLUSH – Pilot with the United Airlines

ANANDA BANERJEE- Editor of Namaskaar follows