

THE DOLPO OF NEPAL

It was quite a sight - 2,000 yaks in groups of fifty to a hundred and fifty winding their way over the mountains. Caravanning like this is the only way the **Dolpo** can trade in this extremely mountainous region. Drema watched the scene through her window with her sobbing little boy. "There, there, stop crying now", she said. "Father will be home in two months' time! You must be a good boy while he's away." Yet a tinge of fear lingered within her heart. Journeys in their region are filled with the risks of sudden blizzards, avalanches, sicknesses and even bandits. There have even been cases of travellers who vanished without a trace. Drema impulsively went to their family altar. Prostrating to the ground in front of the images of deities, she fervently prayed for her husband's safe return.

The **Dolpo** (population: 10,000 plus) are agro-pastoral traders living in Dolpa, a region in north western Nepal. Dolpa is one of the most remote and sparsely populated districts in Nepal. There are no roads, and only one airport, so transportation is by foot. High in the Himalayas, Dolpa is also reportedly one of the most beautiful regions of the world.

Along with raising their yaks, sheep, and goats, the **Dolpo** also trade salt for grain with their neighbours. Life is beginning to change for the **Dolpo** since the government of Nepal has decided to prioritize their tourism and medicinal plant industries.

Deep in Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhist and animistic beliefs, there are only a few known believers (0.2%) among them.

- Pray that as the Dolpa region is opening to tourism and commercial development, it will also open to those bringing the Gospel of Jesus.
- Pray for the nullification of the demonic powers over the **Dolpo** people.
- Pray that the few known **Dolpo** believers will grow to be a relevant, indigenous church.

This is a series of useful prayer profile compilations to pray for people groups collated from various online sources. Please click on the links below for more info: <https://joshuaproject.net/>, <http://www.globalprayerdigest.org/>, <http://asiaharvest.org/people-group-profiles/>