

## Kathmandu Pokhara Chitwan Tour - 9 Days

Embark on a cultural, natural, and wildlife tour of Nepal in a go with our Kathmandu Pokhara Chitwan Tour -9 days. Visit the ancient palaces, temples, monasteries, pagodas, and squares in Kathmandu savoring the cultural experience and then move to Nagarkot for a cozy night stay while seeking Himalayan sunrise and sunset views from the Nagarkot hill top. Have a fun of driving through the undulating hills, villages, riversides and breathtaking panoramic views reaching the lake city of Pokhara to spend two beautiful peaceful nights in Pokhara exploring the lakes, temples, falls, and marveling at the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri range of Himalayas.

Next get to Chitwan National Park that supports a huge range of both unique indigenous species and those passing through on their annual migration. Visit the elephant breeding center, get deep into the Jungle on elephant back, walk the jungle on foot and enjoy the nature and its inhabitants in their own business. Our naturalists in Chitwan National Park will make your time there enjoyable as well as informative inspiring you to return and see more of the great wildlife wealth of Nepal. From the colorfully magical appeal of Kathmandu markets to the serenity of Himalayan trails, this 9-days Kathmandu Pokhara Chitwan tour offers a fascinating blend of well-paced excursions.

## PRICE INCLUDES

- Airport / Hotel / Airport pick up & transfer by private car / van
- Three nights' accommodation with breakfast at a 3-star category hotel in Kathmandu
- One nights' accommodation with breakfast at a 3-star Nagarkot hotel in Bhaktapur
- An hour's Everest View Flight on day second, inclusive of departure tax
- An English speaking tour guide during the trip inclusive his food, accommodation, salary
- All tour activities as per above program
- Two night's three days wildlife warfare activities inside Chitwan national park including all meals
- Two nights' accommodation in Pokhara at a 3-star category including breakfast
- Surface transfer to/from Kathmandu by private car/van/bus
- Entry permits and fees for all temple, park, monasteries, cultural and historical spots
- Farewell dinner in typical Nepalese restaurant with cultural dance
- All our government taxes
- Official expenses

## PRICE EXCLUDES

- Lunch and Dinner
- International airfare
- Nepal entry visa: you can obtain a visa easily upon your arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. (a multiple-entry tourist visa good for 30 days can be obtained by paying US \$ 40 or equivalent foreign currency. Similarly, multiple-entry tourist visas for 90 days can be obtained by paying US \$ 100. Please bring 2 copies of passport-size photos.)
- All cold drinks such as: alcoholic beverages, soft drinks, tea/coffee, etc.
- Tips for trekking staff and driver (Tipping is expected)

## ITINERARY IN DETAIL

### Day 1: Arrive at Kathmandu, Nepal

Welcome to the land of Himalaya! On arrival in Kathmandu Airport, you will be met by our representative who will be waiting with an Icicles Adventure sign. Upon meeting our company's representative at arrival terminal at the airport, you will be transferred to your respective hotel in our private comfortable vehicle. Accommodation: Kathmandu Hotel. Included Meal: B

### Day 2: Experience Mountain flight followed by sightseeing around Kathmandu valley

In the early morning we will go for a scenic Mount Everest flight. This amazing experience will take you over Sagarmatha National Park, over some of the highest peaks in the world, climaxing with getting up close to Mount Everest. Late in the morning, we start a guided tour to four of the historical and spiritual sites in Kathmandu which are also listed as UNESCO World Heritage sites to provide you an insight on the history, religious significance, architecture, and culture of prosperous Kathmandu. Major sites we visit are Pashupatinath, Swoyambhunath, Bouddhanath and Durbar Square.

Pashupatinath, scared Hindu Temple of Pashupatinath dates back many hundreds of years and makes it one of the most important Shiva locations across the Indian subcontinent. Besides being a place of worship, it is also the most important cremation site for the Hindus in Nepal. Here you will see Hindu holy men (sadhus) meditating, pilgrims bathing, and occasionally funeral pyres burning on the ghats.

Durbar Square is a complex of historic palaces, courtyards and temples, built between the 12th and 18th centuries, used to be the seat of the ancient Malla kings of Kathmandu. An intriguing piece here is the 17th century stone inscription set into the wall of the palace with writings in 15 languages.

Next we will visit Swoyambhunath Stupa, popularly known as Monkey temple due to abundance of monkey found in the shrine area is a 2000 years old stupa situated on a hillock. It is world's most glorious Buddhist shrine and its main temple is capped by a pinnacle of copper gilt and is painted on the four sides with all seeing eyes of Lord Buddha.

Next come Bouddhanath which is a Buddhist shrine and one of the large Stupas in the world. You will visit Bodhnath Stupa, one of the biggest Buddhist shrines in the world, where you can observe Buddhist monks in prayer in the monasteries surrounding the stupa. The shrine has unique octagonal Mandala design with hundreds of prayer wheels and the 108 images of the Buddha are set into the niches around the huge structure. The area of Bouddhanath is also famous for over 50 Tibetan monasteries, thus the area is also known as 'Little Tibet'. As you wander round the shops surrounding the stupa, you will find yourself interacting with monks in their maroon and saffron robes, and traditionally dressed Tibetan refugees who live here at the religious center for Himalayan Buddhists. You can join the locals to circumambulate the stupa, bargain for handicrafts in the shops or sit on a rooftop restaurant and absorb the atmosphere. Accommodation: Kathmandu Hotel. Included Meal: B

### Day 3: Bhaktapur and Patan Sightseeing and drive to Nagarkot

After breakfast you will drive on to Bhaktapur, which was once the capital of Nepal and the Great Malla Kingdom during the 15th century. Its rich heritage, inspiring temples and artisanal history played a big part in Bhaktapur being

named a UNESCO World Heritage site. Spend the day exploring Bhaktapur's famous temples, starting at Durbar Square, which is reputed to be the most beautiful piece of art in Nepal. Durbar Square is home to the majestic Lion Gate and Golden Gate. You will also visit Patan Durbar square at the center of Latitpur city which is a marvel of Newari ancient architecture. Temple of Krishna, Golden Temple, Bhimsen Temple, Vishwanath Temple, etc. Patan is famous for arts and craftsmanship, so you might buy some beautiful souvenir from this city of artist. We drive to Nagarkot for overnight stay. Nagarkot is a beautiful hill station popular for sunrise and sunset views. Accommodation: Kathmandu Hotel. Included Meal: B

#### **Day 4: Nagarkot to Pokhara (820m/2,690ft)**

We set off for Pokhara after breakfast. Driving today is adventurous and pleasant as it winds down hugging the mountain side through terraced fields. Following the side of Mahesh River we come to the Trishuli River. We follow Trisuli River side all the way up to Mugling where Trisuli River confluences with the Marshyangdi River. After crossing a bridge over Marshyangdi River we head further west to Pokhara. If you are on the right pane of your vehicle the journey today provides plenty of opportunity to view cultivated terraced fields, rivers, streams, green valleys, rocky gorges, farmlands and typical rural life of Nepal. We take lunch break in a restaurant along the way. Upon arrival in Pokhara, the naturally beautiful city with many crystal clear lakes you may take time to spend leisurely at Phewa lakeside or just hang around the market. Driving Time: 7 hrs. Accommodation: City Hotel. Included Meal: Breakfast

#### **Day 5: Pokhara City Tour**

Today you will spend the whole day sightseeing, relaxing, and hanging around the beautiful Pokhara city and lake side areas. We will take a boat ride across the lake (Phewa Tal), which is the second largest in Nepal. We can also visit the Peace Pagoda from where we will enjoy excellent views of the mountains including the Annapurnas and the famous fishtail peak, Machhapuchhare, along with views back across to Pokhara. We visit the fascinating International Mountain Museum, where you will learn some amazing tales, and hear about the exploits of the various climbing expeditions in the past – some ending in triumph and some in tragedy. Further exploration will be around Davi's fall, Mahendra cave, temple and monastery. The lakeside area has great shopping opportunities and Internet cafés. Accommodation: Hotel. Included Meal: B

#### **Day 6: Sarankot visit and drive to Chitwan National Park**

Early morning we drive/hike to the Sarangkot Hill to have the sunrise views over the Himalayas. After breakfast we will start our journey to Chitwan National Park. Our drive is through villages, river side, forests, so you will enjoy the sceneries while on the drive too. After arriving and settling in, you will be introduced to the camp staff and resident naturalists who will discuss the program. In Chitwan there is some flexibility and activities may vary depending on the time of the year, and known wildlife movements and locations. You will visit the elephant camp to see how their handlers, known as phanits, care for these beautiful creatures. A late afternoon safari will take you through forests and across grasslands to observe the varied and exciting wildlife in the park. In the early evening the local Tharu dance troupe may perform a cultural program. You will then enjoy dinner and afterwards you will be free to relax in the bar and discuss the day's sightings or listen to the exotic sounds of the jungle at night.

#### **Day 7: Full day jungle activities at Chitwan National Park**

An early morning excursion will include either another safari to different parts of the park in search of the great Indian rhino, deer and exotic bird life, or joining one of several other activities such as a visit to the elephant breeding centre. Tiger sightings are rare these days, but these magnificent animals do inhabit the park, so you may sight them if you are lucky. After breakfast you will leave the lodge for a trip by dugout canoe on the Rapti River. This is an exciting trip with chances to view marsh mugger crocodiles and various birds that inhabit the riverbanks. A program will be organised for the rest of the day that will either include further excursions by jeep, or a visit to one of the nearby villages.

#### **Day 8: Drive back to Kathmandu from Chitwan National Park**

If you are an avid bird and wildlife lover, there is an optional early morning bird watching safari today, a worthwhile activity to your trip. After breakfast, we start our journey back to Kathmandu which is about 6 hours drive through interesting green mountains, lush valleys, villages, farmlands, riversides, etc.

#### **Day 9: Trip conclusion, shopping and final departure**

Today your cultural and wildlife tour in Nepal with Trekking experience ends. If you have late flight you may explore around Kathmandu yourself or spend time shopping and strolling around the Thamel area. Finally, you will be transferred to International airport 3 hours prior to your flight time.