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Mardi Himal Trek - 12 Days

Get close & personal with our 12 days Mardi Himal Trek!

Mardi Himal Trek is a new tea house trekking adventure at popular Annapurna region of Nepal. Mardi Himal hike was opened in 2012, and in just couple of years it got positive response from fellow trekkers. Walking in this route is like a gem of experience which has huge touristic potential. With varied atmosphere, topography, culture and excellent views of Annapurna Himalayan ranges, it involves walking through rocky terrains and couple of base camps. This Mardi Himal hike completes in around a week depending upon your interest, fitness and routes that you choose.

Mardi Himal Trekking initiates from beautiful lake city of Pokhara. During the starting day of this trek, you will take a comfortable one hour drive towards Kande, the beginning point of our trekking activity. Absorb in an excellent natural highlight along with deep cultural insights. Our Mardi Himal Trek continues as we walk through beautiful Gurung villages watching magical rhododendron forests at right side. During spring season, rhododendrons are in full bloom and simply add another reason to join this trek.

Staying at forest camp then, at low camp and high camp in next consecutive days offering exceptional sunrise, sunset views of Mt. Machapuchare, Mt. Mardi Himal and other nearby snow capped Himalayas. We finally reach the highest point of the trek at Mardi Himal Base Camp (West) located at 4500m above sea level and further return down the routes back to Pokhara, then Kathmandu which completes this short and moderate trekking adventure in Nepal.

Best season and fitness for Mardi Himal Trek

Best time for Mardi Himal Trek is during Late September, October, November. Also in early December, whereas during spring time of February, March and April, is second best. Clear views of snow white Himalayas is seen in perfect temperature during these months.

In the similar way, moderate level of fitness level with an ability to walk 4 – 6 hours a day for 6 – 7 days is recommended. Fitness and health conditions varies from one person to another. So consult a local doctor about altitude that you are going to be in and fitness, so that you can make the most out of this trip. Due to gradual increase in altitude, AMS is not common here. Choose this short and worthwhile Mardi Himal trek for your next adventure holiday around Nepal Himalayas.

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PRICE INCLUDES

- 3 nights' accommodation (twin sharing) in Kathmandu in a 4-star category hotel: Ramada Encore or similar
- Two nights' twin sharing accommodation with breakfast at a three start category hotel in Pokhara
- Guided sightseeing tour in Kathmandu including temple/monument entry fees and private vehicle
- Meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) during the trek
- Best available teahouse/lodge accommodation (twin sharing) during the trek
- Staff– one professional, knowledgeable and friendly English speaking trekking leader and porters (2 trekkers : 1 porter) including their food, accommodation, salary, equipment, transportation, and accidental insurance
- Ground transportation from Kathmandu – Pokhara and Pokhara – Kathmandu transfers by private vehicle (but tourist bus for solo trek)
- Duffel bag, sleeping bag, and down jacket for use during the trek
- Icicles Adventure T-shirt, trekking map and trip achievement certificate
- First aid kit
- TIMS and Annapurna Conservation Area Permit
- All government taxes & office service charge

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Nepal visa arrangement (more on Nepal Visa Information)
- International/Domestic airfares
- Excess baggage charges
- Travel and rescue insurance
- Added night/s accommodation in Kathmandu or Pokhara because of early arrival, delayed departure, early return from mountain (due to any cause) than the programmed itinerary
- Lunch and dinner in Kathmandu or Pokhara (and also in the case of early return from mountain than the programmed itinerary)
- All kind of drinks (alcoholic, hot, or cold)
- Personal expenses such as phone calls, bar bills, laundry, battery recharge, bottle or boiled water, hot shower, extra porters, etc)
- Personal equipments and clothing
- Tips for guides and porters (tip is expected)

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ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 1: Kathmandu Arrival(1350 m/4428ft)

After spending several tiresome hours inside the aeroplane, behold to witness the snow-covered Himalayas, terraced fields and the splendid vistas over the verdant valley beneath as soon as your flight enters the Nepalese airspace.

Following your arrival at Kathmandu Airport, one of our representatives will be waiting to escort you to your designated hotel with a private vehicle. Once you make it to the hotel, you can repose enjoying the amenities offered by the hotel.

Set off for a visit to the nearby tourist attraction of the city when you are done with the jet lag. An evening stroll around the tourist hub of Thamel will surely excite each of your senses make you wonder about this beautiful Himalayan nation.

Day 2: Kathmandu Sightseeing Day Tour and Trek Preparation

This morning, you'll head out for a sightseeing day tour in order to get acquainted with the grandeur of Kathmandu Valley, a UNESCO world heritage site since 1979. Accompanied by a knowledgeable tour guide, you'll explore the structures and monuments highlighting the historical as well as cultural accomplishments of this time-honoured valley composed of three sister cities (Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur). Starting the tour with a visit to the sacred Pashupatinath Temple, we'll then drop by the holy Buddhist stupas of Boudhanath and Swayambunath. Experience the spirituality within the tranquil ambience of these utterly significant religious sites. Subsequently, you'll come to see the Patan Durbar Square. Often hailed as one of the classical examples of ancient architecture in Nepal, you'll be amazed to see artistic works and the fine craftsmanship that adorns the magnificent complex of elegant buildings and temples.

Day 3: Drive from Kathmandu to Pokhara (900m/2952ft)

Today, you'll start out a comfortable road trip to Pokhara. This scenic drive via Prithvi Highway first follows the banks of the Trishuli River then continue further alongside the river Marsyangdi, making its way past high wooded hills, rustic settlements, terraced farmlands, and verdant valleys. With so many new things to discover throughout the journey, you'll feel the surge of energy and excitement within the body before the beginning of the actual trek. Once you reach Pokhara, check into your hotel and then direct your steps towards the lakeside to relax in a serene atmosphere. Pokhara is the gateway to numerous trek to Annapurna Region and the city of lakes is a spellcaster. From there, you can observe snowy mountain tops especially the iconic Mt. Machhapuchhre (famously known as Fishtail Peak).

Drive Distance: 200 km

Drive Time: 5-6 hours drive in private vehicle (7 hours if tourist bus)

Day 4: Drive from Pokhara to Kande, trek to Pitam Deurali (2100m/6888ft)

The first thing you'll do this day is, hop into a private vehicle that will take you to Kande. This point onwards, you'll walk a long way to reach the ultimate destination of the escapade. You'll trek on the well-marked trail, gradually

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climbing over a ridge to arrive at the clearing in the forest with lodge settlement is known as Australian Camp (1,880m). Here, you'll rejoice to observe panoramic views of Annapurna Massifs and entire Pokhara valley. Through the rhododendron woodland, the trail now winds to a mountain pass called 'Deurali'. Tugged in between Annapurna South, Mt. Machhapuchhre, Deurali overlooks into the Modi Khola valley. You'll now descend to Pothana (1,950m) and get your hands on some amazing glimpses of Mt. Machhapuchhre. After continuing uphill across woods, you'll reach Pitam Deurali (2,100m).

Drive time: 1 hour

Day 5: Trek Pitam Deurali to Kokar Forest Camp (3050m/10000ft)

Early in the morning, you'll wake up to see sublime views of the snow-clad summits, a perfect approach to start the day.

Pitam Deurali is the point where the trail splits into two. To the left, it leads to Landruk. You'll head to the right and proceed to Kokar. Bidding farewells to villages, natives, tourists and fellow trekkers; you'll advance into the wilderness. you'll have to overcome the steep climb over a ridge then traverse the forest of rhododendron, hemlock, mountain oak, birch and maple scented with pleasant earthy odour. A complete pristine setting, you'll get to observe some breathtaking mountain vistas and listen to harmonious insect noises while trekking along the off-the-beaten trail to Forest Camp (3,050m). The woods transform itself into a dreamland, full off vibrant colours during the blooming seasons of rhododendron flowers.

Day 6: Trek Kokar Forest Camp to Low camp (2970m/8364ft)

Subsequent to breakfast at a local teahouse, you'll perform a gradual half an hour ascent through foggy woods to Rest Camp. Afterwards, you'll forge ahead on an uphill route across the 'Cloud Forest' comprising wooded trees that nourishes a variety of lichens, tree ferns and orchids on its surface. As you proceed further, you'll find some natural windows in the dense forest that opens up fascinating vistas of Hiunchuli and the deep cutting traverse in the direction of Annapurna South. Beyond the horizons, as we look down to the left, you can see the Modi Khola valley leading up to the Annapurna Base camp. You'll finally reach Low Camp at lunchtime to spend rest of the day relishing the sight of Machhapuchhre which seems close enough to hold close in the arms.

Day 7: Trek Low Camp to High Camp (3580m/12790ft)

You'll climb your way through the shady woods to the Middle Camp prior to the daybreak in order to witness an enchanting sunrise in this 7th day. Though it is far cry from what you'll see tomorrow, the beauty of nature in front of you would be pretty much bliss to your eyes. Above the treeline, you'll now descent then ascend over ridges while being on the course to Badal Danda. As the name translates into hills of clouds, you'll find fluffy clouds floating above as well as beneath you. Then begins a quest to the High Camp!

Constantly overlooked by gorgeous Annapurna South and Machhapuchhre, you come across some steep ups and downs to a point where the trail again splits into two. The segment on the left side is comparatively short but consist of precipitous ascent while another to the right is a bit long but easy to trek upon. Move forward to High Camp (3,900m) after choosing a trail. The outlook of the mountains from here is even closer and more majestic when compared to what you have seen in the past few days.

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We take much of the afternoon soaking in the flabbergast landscapes and exploring this awesome spot. If you are lucky enough to reach High Camp on a clear night, you'll witness the charm of shiny peaks under the cover of twinkling stars. You can even click plenty of mesmerizing photographs of the mighty mountains during the night hours.

Day 8: Trek High Camp to Mardi Himal Base Camp (West) (4500m/14760ft) and return high camp (3580m)

It's time to answer the calls from the lofty summits!

Early in the morning, we'll depart from the High Camp to the Viewpoint. The darkness, higher altitude and freezing cold can make today's ascent a challenging task. After covering some distance, you can two routes to the top. Again, one section to the left is very steep and leads straight to the top; whereas, the other on the right side is fairly easy taking a round trip around precipitous ridges but consumes more time.

Succeeding few hours of a strenuous climb, you'll reach a flat land and encounter a final ridge to be conquered before setting your feet at the Mardi Himal Viewpoint (4,200m). From the vertex, you can observe the summits of Annapurna Massifs, Machhapuchhre, and Mardi Himal looming almost over the head, so near, but yet so far.

Depending upon weather conditions, you'll stay with the trail to Mardi Himal Base Camp (4,500m). Despite a relatively dangerous and demanding path awaits ahead, you'll advance forward to experience the joy of getting as far as the base of a Himalayan peak. This is as close as you can get to the snow-capped mountain-tops in this trekking venture. Embrace the awe-inspiring panorama extending from Dhaulagiri and Annapurnas to Ganesh Himal, which also includes great ice fields and blue glaciers below. Eventually, you'll retrace your tracks back to High Camp.

Day 9: Trek High Camp to Sidhing (1700m/5576ft)

With the shoelaces tighten and backpack on your rear side, you'll hike back on the same route to Low Camp via Badal Danda and Middle Camp. You'll then start moving down gently beyond the shadow of the woods and make out onto tranquil Nepali countryside that flaunts remarkable terraced farmlands to Sidhing (1,700m).

Alternatively, there is another route. This trail also directly direct descent to Sidhing Village but passes across precipitous descends, pristine woodlands, and cascading waterfalls. Keep in mind that this alternate trail does not house any settlements and teahouses till the final stop; therefore, you need to pack your lunches and water for the day. Some people often refer this path as very dangerous and unfit for trekkers. But in reality, for individuals who have endured all the way to Mardi Himal Base Camp and back, this trail not pose any sort of serious dangers or difficulties. On top of that, remember that there is your guide by your side eliminating any possibilities of being lost en route. Ultimately, it totally depends on your preferences to decide your way down.

Day 10: Trek Sidhing to Lumre and drive to Pokhara (900m)

Following a long and wearying journey, all you have left to do is add the finishing touch. Take a relaxed walk past pastures and Gurung villages to Lumre where one of our transfer vehicles will transport you back to Pokhara. Here, you might want to treat yourself to celebrate success. So, stretch your legs and head out to search your euphoria! Pokhara has many more to offer than one can ever imagine!

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Day 11: Drive from Pokhara to Kathmandu

You'll eventually take a drive from Pokhara to Kathmandu.

Have you missed any views? Now is the chance to see it again.

Once at the capital city, you can sightsee some of the local markets in search of souvenirs. This evening, we'll organize a farewell dinner for you at one of the cultural restaurants in Kathmandu.

Drive Distance: 200 km

Day 12: Airport Drop for International Departure from Kathmandu

We are more than happy to be able to help you with our field expertise. We hope you liked our services and help us to spread our name in your homeland. You will be transferred to Tribhuwan International Airport in time for your scheduled international flight. We expect to meet you again on your next trip to Nepal.