

CHITWAN WILDLIFE RESERVE POKHARA -- MARDI HIMAL TREK – VILLAGE SCHOOL AND HOMESTAY - KATHMANDU



NEPAL

Without a doubt this country is a potpourri of culture and diversity. I boast as having the highest mountain in the world Mt Everest mixed with unique wildlife and exotic culture. Discover yourself amidst this strange world of mystical beliefs and incredible history. Every aspect of life is tainted with spiritual reasons. From morning prayers to the universal deities, walking Sadhus on village trails and city streets, to Buddhists spinning prayer wheels while sitting in front of their stores. You will have many opportunities to witness this aspect of life, and to share with people your own ideas about it. The art and craft of Nepal are basically based on the religious themes taken from Buddhism and Hinduism. Nepalese art has been influenced and promoted since the earliest recorded times by the Newars. In Nepal, ethnical cultural groups are diverse and many of them have their own languages and customs. The country's capital Kathmandu and largest city simultaneously reeks of history and the wear and tear of increasing modernity. The tightly packed historical centre, with its squares and temples, continues to preserve a world light year away from shantytowns, expensive hotels, restaurants and shops on the city's outskirts. Kathmandu's core is Durbar Square, with the Vishnumati River to the west and Ratna Park to the east, The Bagmati River forms the southern boundary, whilst Thamel, the popular tourist hangout sprawls to the north. This would have to be one of the most exciting cities in the world today.

During your 2 days stay at Chitwan National Park you will see yet another side of Nepal. The 2 days here are spent on trips into the jungle on an elephant's back, jungle walks, and bird and rhino watching, and canoe trip on the Rapti River where you will be sure to see the Magar crocodiles

On the first few days of the Madi Himal trek we will climb gradually along the ridges that are the foothills of the Annapurnas. . Mardi Himal is the name of the long rising ridge and its summit (5,588m), that forms the south westerly slope of Mt. Machhapuchhre, immediately below its sheer south face. Machhapuchhre, which towers majestically over the Pokhara Valley, is best known as Fishtail Mountain’ We pass through many villages, and you will have ample time to take photographs and chat with the local people.

We will continue on our Nepal journey with a visit to the village of Darje where we will stay in our guides homestay for 3 nights visiting the children at Saraswati School, feeding the goats and buffalo and helping on the farm, swimming in waterfalls seeing how the local people go about their daily life. The beautiful sunsets and sunrises over the Manaslu range are spectacular.

We return to Kathmandu where we will spend another night before departing for home.

Proposed Itinerary

Day 1 Depart Sydney to Singapore transfer to your flight to Kathmandu arrival time 2230. Kathmandu met and transferred to your hotel situated in Thamel **(B)**
April 7

Day 2 – Explore Kathmandu on a 1/2-day sightseeing tour with a guide including transport, guide, and entries. **(BD)** **April 8**



Day 3 – Chitwan You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the domestic airport for your 20-minute flight to Bhadrapur. On arrival you will be met by the staff of your lodge and driven the 30 minutes to your hotel. On arrival you will be served drinks and given a briefing on your next 2 days’ activities. After the briefing you will be escorted to your cabin and lunch will be served in

the dining room. After a very healthy organic lunch you will be introduced to your naturalist guide who will take you on a walk through the Tharu village to share their world with them as you reach out to touch another culture. Later you will visit the elephant stables where your guide will explain the difference of the Asian and African elephants. At 5pm you will enjoy a relaxing jungle sunset cocktail hour by the Rapti River before returning to your hotel for the evening meal **(BLD) April 9**

Day 4: Chitwan An early rise for those who wish to go venture into the jungle for a 2-hour bird watching walk, with the camps experienced naturalist. After breakfast you will transfer to the inside park by dug-out canoe. We pass a pageant of bird life, and our naturalists are there to share their knowledge of the jungle with you. During the walk you will visit the Elephant Breeding centre where you will see the first twin elephants born in Asia.

After the visit your jeep will meet you and escort you on a short drive through the jungle, returning to your lodge for lunch. Later in the afternoon you will have the choice of going on a jeep safari or elephant ride in the jungle.

Before dinner you will experience a cultural show from the local Tharu Village people. Experience the unique society of the Tharu people who have lived for centuries close to the jungle. Their rich traditions reflect their intimate relationship with the natural world. **(BLD) April 10**

Day 5 Chitwan – Pokhara This morning there will be an optional early morning jungle hike. Breakfast will be served at the lodge before transferring by tourist bus to Pokhara (4 hour journey). Met and transfer to your hotel in Pokhara. **(BLD) April 13**



Day 6 Free day Pokhara for sightseeing (B) 11th April 2025_

Day 7 Pokhara – Australian Camp - Deurali (2232 mtrs) This morning you will have free to explore Pokhara. After lunch you will depart the hotel by vehicle to the start of your trek. We follow the trail across the ridge

affording fantastic view of Pokhara and the Annapurna Range. **Overnight Lodge (BLD) 12th April 2025**

Day 8 Deurali and Forest Camp - Laurabina After breakfast we will begin to gradually climb and continue along the ridge which affords magnificent views of the great giants arriving at Forest Camp for lunch. After lunch we will depart Forest Camp to ascend through a beautiful old forest trail to your **Lodge (5 hour walk including lunch) (BLD) 13th April**

Day 09 Laurabina – High Camp (3550 mtrs) This morning begins with an gradual ascent then steep climb reaching a beautiful grass ridge affording spectacular views to the north west looking down to Chomrong and the main trail to ABC. The final 45 minutes is another steep climb traversing the last ridge where there is a narrow trail with drops into the northeast valley and views to Mardi River and Fishtail Mountain. You will finally reach the High Camp when you see the traditional pray flags and mani stones which donate the top and show the way. Your lodge for the night is situated on a ridge with magnificent view of Fishtail that you feel you could reach out and touch her tails. You will also see other giants such as Mardi Himal, Gangapurna, Annapurna 1, Annapurna Sth Himchuli. **(BLD) Overnight lodge 14th April 2025**

Day 10 High Camp – BC – Low Camp After breakfast we will retrace our steps to Forest Camp then continue descending on an alternative trail to Landruk. 5 hours High Camp. **(BLD) Overnight Lodge Saturday 15^h April 2025**

Day 11 Landruk – Pokhara Today is an easy ½ day hike along the ridge before descending along an old trading trail to meet our vehicle which will take us to our hotel in Pokhara. **(BL) 16 April 2025**

Day 12 Pokhara - Darje This morning we will depart our hotel at approximately 7am by private vehicle. We will take the main Privity highway towards Kathmandu and after approximately 2 hours we will take another road to Arughat where we will stop for lunch before continuing our journey to the village of Darje. **(BLD) Overnight Homestay (BLD) 17^h April 2025**



Day 13 - 14 Darje village visit to Saraswasi School 2100 mtrs

The next 2 days we will travel by foot and explore our surroundings. We will visit Majuwa village and our support school Sarawasi Primary school to meet the children their families take a walk around this wonderful village interact with the children, teachers and their families. **(BLD) 18-19 April 2025**



Day 15 Village to Arughat Kathmandu

After breakfast we will say our goodbyes to our host family and return Kathmandu in a Landcruiser. Arrive at our hotel late afternoon.

20 April 2025



Day 16 Free day in Kathmandu with late departure from your hotel to the airport. 21th April.

Cost twin share \$4850 per person twin share

Children under 10 half price

Flight cost as of today \$1728 economy

Cost including

- Arrival and Departure Arrangement
- 02 Night Hotel in Kathmandu with Breakfast on 3* Category plus a hotel room to freshen up on the last day before your flight.
- 03 Nights Hotel in Pokhara with breakfast 3* Category
- 03-night village stay all meals included transfer by 4 wheel drive from Kathmandu to village and village to Pokhara
- 05-night Lodge trek – all meals
- English Speaking Guide and porter assisted. Including porter guide meals accommodation and insurance
- Ground transportation Private vehicle to village and village to Pokhara. Private transport from Pokhara to Chitwan
- private transfer to start and finish of trek.
- Flight Chitwan to Kathmandu
- Annapurna conservation permit and Trekking TIMS
- 2 nights Chitwan including all meals and activities
- Farewell dinner

Cost Excludes

- Lunch and Dinner in Kathmandu and in Pokhara
- Personal equipment, Insurance, Rescue, Tips to Staffs
- Extra activities not mentioned
- Visa
- International flights

