

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 Ghorepani trek we will climb gradually along the ridges that are the foothills of the Annapurna's. . 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 This morning we will take a rickshaw ride around the sights of the city. After lunch you will then transfer by car with your guide to Pashupatinath the historic cremation grounds of the Hindu people of Kathmandu. On our return to from the site we will stop at Bouddanath Stupa to enjoy a meal overlooking the Stupa. Before returning to our hotel in Thamel **(BD) April 8**



Day 3 – Chitwan After a leisurely breakfast we 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 private vehicle to Pokhara (4 hour journey). After checking into our hotel and enjoying lunch by the lake we will then take a boat ride across the lake where we will take a hike to the Peace Temple. The remainder of the afternoon will be free to do some shopping for the trek. **(BLD) April 11**



Day 6 Pokhara – You will have a free morning in Pokhara to enjoy before departing by vehicle at 11 am for a 2 hour drive to the start of our trek at Kimche (1610mtrs) We will have lunch in Kimche then

begin our 2 hour hike to the Gandruk 3 klms (1960 mtrs). (BLD) April 12



Ghandruk is the unique culture of the Gurungs living in the area. It entertains the tourists with the Gurung dances and allows the tourists with the opportunity to wear traditional Gurung dresses and ornaments. The tourists are very pleased to experience the new Gurung attire and take pictures in the traditional style. The local food is also a major attraction, especially for foreign tourists. A tour of Ghandruk village eventually brings you to a privately run museum that houses a collection of traditional wares from earthenware and kitchenware to clothing, jewelry and iron weaponry and hand-tools, which allow you a rare glimpse into the age-old lifestyle and culture of this ethnic community.

Day 7 Ghandruk – Tadapani a We will have an early departure after breakfast and hike to Tadapani (2600M) 7 klms 3-4 hours. (BLD) April 13

Day 8 Tadapani – Dobato Today we will trek to Dobato walking through magnificent forests and Rhododendron trees 4-5 hours 6-7 klms (2600 mtrs) (BLD) April 14

Day 9 Dobato – Muldai Hill Viewpoint – Ghorepani (3637 mtrs) The hike today will be the highlight of your trek. The views from Muldai Hill of the Annapurna Range is spectacular. (5-6 hours) 9 klms All hiking times include rest breaks and lunch (BLD) April 15

Day 10 Ghorepani – Hile Today is all downhill walking through villages and farmland. (1480M) (4-5 hours). Our vehicle will meet us and transfer to our

hotel in (BL) April 16. The remainder of the afternoon/evening is free in Pokhara April 16

Day 11 Pokhara - Darje This morning we will depart our hotel at approximately 9am by private vehicle. We will take the main towards Kathmandu and after approximately 2 hours we will take another road to Goroka where we will stop for lunch before continuing our journey to the village of Darje. **(BLD) Overnight Homestay (BLD) 17th April 2025**



Day 12 - 13 Darje village visit to Saraswati 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 Saraswati 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 14 Village to Kathmandu

After breakfast we will say our goodbyes to our host family and return Kathmandu in a Landcruiser. Arrive at our hotel in Kathmandu at approximately 2 pm **20 April 2025 (BLD) Tonight we will enjoy a Farewell dinner 20 April**



Day 15 Free day in Kathmandu with late departure from your hotel to the airport. 21th April. Transfer to the airport at 6pm

Day 16 Arrive Singapore and connect with your flight to Sydney. Arrive Sydney 8pm 22th April.

Cost including \$4550 per person

- Arrival and Departure Arrangement
- 03 Night Hotel in Kathmandu with Breakfast on 3* Category plus a hotel room to freshen up on the last day before your flight.
- 02 Nights Hotel in Pokhara with breakfast 3* Category
- 03-night village stay all meals included transfer by 4-wheel drive from Pokhara – village - Kathmandu
- 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 Kathmandu – Chitwan
- Guides flight Kathmandu – Chitwan
- 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