



Culture, Wildlife and Nature Tour

7 nights / 8 days

Tour code : DA-1001

Itinerary in detail

Day 1 - Arrive in Kathmandu

You will be met by our representative at the airport and transferred to the hotel. If time permits, you may be able to explore old Kathmandu City with its Durbar square of old temples, palaces and homes. Overnight at hotel.

Day 2

Visit Pashupatinath, Boudhanath, old Kathmandu City and Swayambhunath. Situated 5 km east of Kathmandu, Pashupatinath temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, sits on the bank of the sacred Bagmati river in a tranquil location, but may only be viewed from across the river as access is restricted to Hindus only. Built in pagoda style, it stands over two tiers with four triple silver doorways and a golden roof. A unique example of Nepalese temple architecture, it is one of the largest Hindu temple complexes in South Asia with hundreds of Shiva lingam shrines and icons of Hindu gods and goddesses. During the festival of Shivaratri, tens of thousands of devotees and pilgrims visit this temple and light ceremonial fires.

Boudhanath is one of the oldest and biggest Buddhist monuments ever built in the Himalayan Kingdom at 36 m high. Built by King Man Dev taking advice from the Goddess Mani Jjogini, it sits on an octagonal base inset with prayer wheels. Four pairs of eyes adorn its surface, each directed towards the four cardinal points of the compass. Lamas' houses ring the shrine. Every year thousands of pilgrims flock here from all over the Himalayan region.

We then return to the old part of Kathmandu

City to visit the temple of the Living Goddess, who acknowledges the greetings of the devotees from the balcony of her temple residence. Kasthamandap temple — the source of the name Kathmandu and supposed to be made from the timber of a single tree — and Durbar Square with its array of temples are overlooked by the Hanuman Dhoka Palace, the ancient residence of Nepalese Royalty.

Our final stop is Swayambhunath, a particularly fine Buddhist stupa in the western hills of Kathmandu. The 2,500 year old monument is a holy site replete with symbols: the mound represents the four elements of earth, fire, wind and water and the 13 gilded rings of the spire symbolize the 13 steps of the ladder leading to Nirvana. The entire shrine is bedecked with colorful prayer flags and is accessed via a path with 365 steps. Return to hotel to overnight there.

Day 3

Fly to Pokhara. After a morning flight to Pokhara the day is left free for you to wander round this tranquil city of lakes with its gorgeous vistas of snow-clad peaks, the most famous of which is Machhapuchhare or Fishtail mountain. Dense forests, gushing rivers, peaceful lakes and world famous views of the Himalayan mountains are inspiring indeed. Overnight at hotel.

Day 4

Sunrise viewing from Sarangkot followed by sight-seeing of Pokhara Valley. A short drive to the beautiful village of Sarangkot (1,592m) to view the sunrise is followed by breakfast at the hotel, then a full

sightseeing tour of Pokhara and its surrounds takes in the major sites in and around Pokhara: Davis Fall, the most famous waterfall in Pokhara; a one-hour boat trip on Phewa Lake with its island temple dedicated to Goddess Barahi; Bindebashini temple, one of the oldest temples in Pokhara, and the old bazaar area; Gupteswor Mahadev cave and the Tashi Palkhiel Tibetan Refugee Camp, a center for the production of wool carpets and other handicraft items. Overnight at hotel.

Day 5

Drive to Chitwan National Park. After breakfast at the hotel, we take the five-hour drive to Chitwan National Park, after which we transfer to our lodge for briefing on jungle activities and facilities at the park. Chitwan is one of the last surviving examples of a continuous band of forest and grasslands that once extended from the Indus River in Pakistan to the Burmese border. It is Nepal's first National Park, a huge area that protects 932 sq km of sal forest, water marshes and grassland. The park is one of the last refuges of the endangered One-horned Indian Rhino and there are sizeable populations of tigers, leopards and rare Gangetic dolphins. Overnight at lodge.

Day 6

Jungle activities at Chitwan. The day is filled with jungle activities including a nature walk, elephant safari, bird watching, boat ride on the river, jeep ride and canoeing. Overnight at lodge.

Day 7

Fly to Kathmandu. Half-day tour of Patan City. A quick flight brings you to Kathmandu, after which we transfer to the hotel. In the afternoon, we drive the five km to Patan City, also known as Lalitpur, a

city of fine art. Surrounded by four stupas said to have been built in the third century by the Emperor Ashoka, it is an attractive place. The Durbar square, with its bronze collection at Patan Durbar, the Krishna temple built by King Siddhi Narsingh Malla, Hiranya Varna Mahavihar and Mahaboudha temple are all included. The tour also includes a visit to the Tibetan Refugee Camp and Handicraft Centre, a center for carpet weaving and the molding of metal statues.

In the evening we have a farewell dinner at one of Nepal's finest restaurants with a cultural dance performance.

Day 8 - Tour concludes

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.