

Spectacular Sightseeing without Trekking

Overview

This trip combines cultural sightseeing, an exciting safari trip and the splendour of 8000m peaks without having to trek. A thrilling 30 minute flight takes you to a 5 star Nepali eco resort in the Annapurnas where you have the option to do some half day walks or relax and enjoy the views from the hotel lounge. Dine at roof top restaurants while you soak up the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu, visit Buddhist monasteries and observe traditional funeral rites at sacred Hindu sites. Take a trip to the World Heritage listed medieval city of Bhaktapur often described as "a living museum" and watch the mountaineers seeking a "puja" blessing at Bodnath before embarking on an Everest ascent. Search for wild rhinos and Royal Bengal tigers as you ride an elephant through the lush tropical jungle on the border of India and Nepal. Enjoy the amazing diversity that this country has to offer, stay at luxury accommodation and interact with the friendliest people on earth

Trip Details

Day 01 Welcome to Kathmandu

A local Himalayan Holidays' representative will meet and welcome you at Kathmandu airport and transfer you to your hotel for a two night stay. The remainder of the day is at your leisure o/n at hotel

Day 02 Today you begin your Nepal adventure with a day of sightseeing within the Kathmandu Valley. You travel to the medieval city of Bhaktapur, one of the three major cities of Nepal, and the only one to be heritage listed as an entire city. Bhaktapur is Nepal's home of medieval art and architecture and has a thriving pottery and weaving industry. On the way you stop at Bodhnath home to one of the largest stupas in the world. It is also home to many Tibetan exiles as this town was on the major trading route from Lhasa to Kathmandu o/n at hotel B

Day 03 Today you take an interesting drive to Pokhara by private vehicle. Nestled on Phewa Ta Lake, Pokhara is a thriving township with a very relaxed atmosphere where you can spend your time strolling around the shops, go out on the lake or enjoy a drink at one of the lakeside restaurants o/n Pokhara hotel B

Day 04 Transfer to the airport for a spectacular early morning flight to Jomsom a town in the Annapurna region. On arrival in Jomsom transfer to your deluxe 'eco resort' for an unforgettable two night stay at Jomsom Mountain Resort. From here there are options to take a walk to a neighbouring village, visit the eco centre or simply relax at the resort. The resort is among the few places in Nepal where the giant Himalayan peaks can be admired safely and yet at such close proximity B

Day 05 There is an option to take an escorted short walk to nearby villages such as Thini, the oldest village in the area where King Thang Mig Chen used to rule over the region and demand taxes in either labour or produce from the locals. Remainder of the day is at leisure B

Day 06 A morning return flight to Pokhara gives you plenty of time to relax on arrival. You can visit one of the many museums, talk with the Tibetan traders or sit by the lake and watch the para-gliders take off from a nearby vantage point. Stay three nights at hotel in Pokhara B

Day 07 Set out to explore one of the most tranquil and picturesque valleys in Nepal. Enjoy the view of the mountain peaks of Machhapuchhare or 'Fish Tail', the Annapurnas and Phewa Lake, the second largest lake in Nepal. Visit the Old Bazaar—this traditional bazaar is colourful and so are the ethnically diverse traders. In its temples and monuments, the ties to the Newar architecture of the Kathmandu Valley can be seen. Also see Devi Falls and the Mahadev Cave B

Day 08 This morning there is a chance for you to see the sunrise from Sarangkot where you will be able to take some great photos of the spectacular scenery. After breakfast we board a boat for a cruise on the lake and visit the Varahi Mandir Hindu Temple on an island in Phewa Ta Lake. Our cruise will take us across the lake, and for those energetic enough to walk up the steep path to the Peace monument, will be rewarded with spectacular views of Pokhara B

Day 09 Travel to the town of Sauraha for a two night stay, close to the gate of Chitwan National Park. This park is long regarded as the third biggest attraction in Nepal and one of the largest refuges of the One-Horned Rhinos. This afternoon you take an ox cart ride to a nearby Tharu village to meet and chat with the local Tharu people, learn more about village life and perhaps purchase some locally made handicrafts. Later there may be an opportunity for a slide and information session on the wildlife and flora of the area before your smorgasbord evening meal of fresh local produce BLD

Day 10 Today you take a canoe ride to the elephant breeding centre, spotting many different species of birds as you travel up the river. After visiting the centre you return by jeep. Before lunch there may be time for a swim in the resort pool, or you may choose to witness the very entertaining elephant washing routine. Our afternoon elephant ride takes us into the jungle where we get a chance to see rhinos, monkeys and deer. If very lucky you may catch a glimpse of the Royal Bengal Tiger. In the evening you can see the Tharu Cultural Show where guests are invited to join in the dancing and fun BLD

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Day 11 An early morning walk gives you the opportunity to do some more bird watching, then it's time for breakfast before you are transferred to the nearby airport at Bharatpur for your morning flight back to Kathmandu for a three night stay at your hotel. The remainder of the day is at your leisure B

Day 12 Enjoy a day of sightseeing in Kathmandu including Durbar Square which is the main square of the city featuring innumerable temples and architectural showpieces. Swayambhunath stupa (or Monkey Temple), situated high on a hill top, is one of the most recognised images of Kathmandu Valley and affords magnificent views of the city and valley below. From here travel to Pashupatinath, the site of the most important Hindu temple in Nepal and is located on the banks of the Bagmati River. Here you will see holy men known as Sadhus performing their religious rituals. B

Day 13 Today is at leisure. Optional extras which can easily be arranged including an early morning Everest mountain flight, or further sightseeing perhaps to Patan, the third ancient city of Kathmandu valley B

Day 14 There is a last minute opportunity for shopping before your late morning transfer to the airport for your international departure B

Inclusions:

- 9 nights twin share accommodation at Nepal 4 - 5 star hotel
- 2 nights twin share accommodation at Jomson "eco resort"
- 3 day/2 night safari package Chitwan's Rhino Residency Resort or similar
- 3 internal airfares within Nepal
- Transfers by private vehicle as per itinerary
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- 13 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 2 dinners

Not Included :

- International air fare
- Visas
- Airport Departure taxes/Excess baggage charges
- Other meals not stated (Lunch/Dinner in Kathmandu and Pokhara)
- Items of personal nature ie. Soft/hard drinks, morning/afternoon tea, tips etc.
- Travel Insurance (this is a mandatory condition of booking)
- Medical evacuation in case of emergency
- Optional sightseeing in Kathmandu on Day 13
- Optional Everest flight (cost approx A\$200)