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# Kathmandu, Chitwan, Lumbini & Pokhara - 13 Days

# **Introduction to the Ultimate Nepal Tour**

Embark on an extraordinary journey through <u>Nepal's</u> most captivating destinations, where ancient heritage, breathtaking landscapes, and diverse cultures intertwine. This tour takes you through Kathmandu, Nagarkot, Bhaktapur, Chitwan, Lumbini, Pokhara, Bandipur, and Gorkha, offering a perfect blend of historical exploration, nature's grandeur, and thrilling adventures.

# Kathmandu – The Cultural and Historical Capital of Nepal

Kathmandu, Nepal's vibrant capital, is a treasure trove of ancient heritage and cultural wonders. The city's UNESCO World Heritage Sites, such as Swayambhunath Stupa, Pashupatinath Temple, Kathmandu Durbar Square, and Boudhanath Stupa, reveal centuries-old traditions and architectural brilliance. Wander through the bustling streets of Thamel and <u>Asan Bazaar</u>, where the aroma of traditional Newari cuisine mingles with the vibrant sounds of local markets. Try iconic dishes like Mo:Mo, Yomari, and Chatamari, and shop for authentic handicrafts and souvenirs.

#### Nagarkot – Sunrise Over the Himalayas

A short drive from Kathmandu leads to Nagarkot, a serene hill station renowned for its awe-inspiring sunrise views over the Himalayas. On a clear day, you can even catch a glimpse of Mount Everest in the distance. Hiking through forested trails rewards visitors with panoramic vistas, making it a paradise for nature lovers and photographers.

# Bhaktapur - A Living Museum of Newari Culture

Bhaktapur, known as Bhadgaon, is a medieval city that transports visitors back in time with its impeccably preserved Newari architecture. The grandeur of Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the towering Nyatapola Temple, the intricate 55-Window Palace, and the lively Pottery Square showcase the city's rich cultural heritage. A taste of the famous Juju Dhau, a creamy local yogurt, is a must for every traveler.

#### Chitwan – The Ultimate Wildlife Experience

Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, offers an unparalleled wildlife adventure. The lush jungles are home to one-horned rhinoceroses, elusive Bengal tigers, Asian elephants, and gharial crocodiles. Exploring the park through jungle safaris, canoeing along the Rapti River, and engaging in birdwatching unveil the rich biodiversity of Nepal's lowlands. The local Tharu community adds a cultural dimension to the visit, with their traditional dance performances and unique village lifestyle.

# Lumbini - The Birthplace of Lord Buddha

Lumbini, the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama (Lord Buddha), is one of the world's most revered spiritual sites. The sacred Maya Devi Temple marks the exact location where Buddha was born, surrounded by ancient ruins and a tranquil garden. The Ashoka Pillar stands as a testament to Lumbini's historical significance, while the monasteries built by various countries showcase diverse Buddhist traditions. Walking through this peaceful sanctuary provides a deep sense of spirituality and reflection.



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#### Pokhara - Nepal's Adventure Capital

Nestled beside the picturesque Phewa Lake, Pokhara is a haven for adventure seekers and nature lovers. A boat ride on the tranquil waters of Phewa Lake offers mesmerizing reflections of the Annapurna range, while Davis Falls and Gupteshwor Cave reveal fascinating underground wonders. The World Peace Pagoda provides sweeping views of the city and surrounding peaks. Thrill-seekers can experience paragliding, zip-lining, or an ultra-light flight, while trekkers can set off on iconic trails leading to Annapurna Base Camp or Poon Hill.

# Bandipur - A Hidden Gem of Nepal

Bandipur, a charming Newari town, is known for its well-preserved cultural heritage and breathtaking mountain views. The traffic-free streets lined with traditional houses exude an old-world charm. The Bindabasini Temple and Tundikhel Viewpoint provide spectacular panoramic sights of the Himalayas. A visit to Bandipur offers a serene retreat, away from the bustle of modern life, making it a perfect place for relaxation and cultural immersion.

# Gorkha - The Birthplace of the Unification of Nepal

Gorkha holds immense historical significance as the birthplace of King Prithvi Narayan Shah, who unified Nepal in the 18th century. The majestic Gorkha Durbar Palace, perched atop a hill, offers a blend of religious, historical, and strategic importance. The sacred Gorakhnath Cave and the renowned Manakamana Temple, accessible via a scenic cable car ride, add spiritual depth to the visit. This historic region allows travelers to delve into Nepal's past while soaking in its natural beauty.

#### Conclusion

This Kathmandu, Chitwan, Lumbini & Pokhara Tour weaves together Nepal's cultural, spiritual, and natural wonders into an unforgettable journey. From the bustling streets of Kathmandu to the serene monasteries of Lumbini, from the wildlife-rich jungles of Chitwan to the adventure-filled landscapes of Pokhara, this itinerary is crafted to offer the perfect blend of exploration, relaxation, and excitement. Plan your Nepal adventure today and immerse yourself in a land of timeless beauty and rich traditions.



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# PRICE INCLUDES

- · Airport pickup and drop service
- Accommodation in Kathmandu (2 Night)
- All meals and Accommodation during the tour.
- Transportation
- English-speaking guide. His salary, lodging, food, and insurance.
- Jungle Enter permits
- · First aid medical box
- Farewell Dinner
- 13% VAT and 10% company service charge

#### PRICE EXCLUDES

- Visa fee to enter Nepal (Visa Information)
- International flight tickets and extra baggage charges
- Extra night accommodation and meal costs in Kathmandu due to any change in scheduled itinerary
- Travel insurance/ Rescue operation costs
- All personal expenses
- Tips for guides and porters
- Temple Entry fee



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#### ITINERARY IN DETAIL

# Day 1: Arrival in Hotel Chhimeki

Our staff will be waiting for you at the International Airport with a vehicle which will drive you to your respective <u>Hotel</u> in Kathmandu.

Depending on your arrival time, you can plan your visit to these attractions accordingly. If you arrive early, you can explore Thamel Dream Garden on the same day. This popular garden, situated in the heart of Thamel, offers a peaceful retreat with its lush greenery, vibrant flowers, and serene pathways.

On the other hand, if you arrive late, you can visit Kathmandu Durbar Square on the second last day of your departure from Nepal. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is a historic plaza showcasing temples, statues, courtyards, and palaces from the medieval era of the Malla Dynasty. It is a remarkable example of Newar architecture and holds immense cultural and religious significance in Nepal.

Additionally, you can also explore Asan Bazaar, one of the oldest and busiest marketplaces in Kathmandu. Known for its lively atmosphere and diverse range of goods, this marketplace offers everything from spices and vegetables to textiles and household items. Asan Bazaar is also renowned for its traditional architecture and is a center of activity, particularly during festivals and religious celebrations. It provides a glimpse into the vibrant daily life of Kathmandu's residents.

### Day 2: Kathmandu Sightseeing O/N Nagarkot

Swyambunath, Boudhanath Stupa, Pashupatinath Temple, and all iconic destinations in Kathmandu, each offering a unique cultural and spiritual experience. Swyambunath, with its stunning architecture and panoramic views, sets a serene tone for the journey. Boudhanath Stupa's grandeur and historical significance provide a glimpse into Tibetan Buddhism's rich heritage. Pashupatinath Temple's reverence and devotion make it a profound spiritual center for Hindu worshippers. Finally.

Nagarkot's breathtaking vistas offer a serene finale, allowing visitors to marvel at the majestic Himalayas and the beauty of the Kathmandu Valley. It's sure to be an unforgettable adventure. Driving from kathmandu to nagarkot takes approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes by car.

Nagarkot is famous for its stunning sunrise and beautiful sunset, which can be best enjoyed from the hilltop view tower at an altitude of 2170m. From Nagarkot, you can witness breathtaking panoramic views of eight mountain ranges, including Annapurna, Manaslu, Ganesh Himal, Langtang, Numbur, Mahalangur, Jugal, and Rolwaling. Among the 15 Himalayan ranges in Nepal, Nagarkot offers a remarkable glimpse of many of them. Additionally, you will be treated to a mesmerizing view of the entire Kathmandu Valley and the Shivapuri National Park.

# Day 3: Nagarkot to Kathmandu (Changu Narayan, Bhaktapur and Patan Durbar Square)

After having breakfast, you can head to Changu Narayan.

Changu Narayan Temple, located near Kathmandu, UNESCO World Heritage Site. The journey from Kathmandu to



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Changu Narayan typically takes around an hour by car, taking into account factors such as traffic and road conditions. However, if you traveling from Nagarkot, approximately 20 minutes take proximity. Allotting approximately an hour to explore the rich history and architectural splendor of Changu Narayan Temple is a reasonable estimate. Afterward, we proceed to Bhaktapur, which is a mere 15-minute drive away.

In Bhaktapur Durbar Square, located in the city of Bhaktapur, you will find well-preserved medieval structures and experience the rich Newari culture, which has earned it the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage site status. Explore the royal complex, courtyards, and the famous Nyatapola Temple, all of which are intricately adorned with wooden carvings. Engage in various activities at the pottery square and art galleries, and witness locals showcasing their traditional crafts. The next stop on your journey will be Changu Narayan Temple, situated on a mountaintop near Changu village. This ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu is renowned for its historical and artistic significance. Enjoy the sweeping views of the surrounding countryside while marveling at the exquisite stone sculptures and statues.

Patan Darbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Kathmandu, is a must-visit location for tourists. This historical site in the heart of Patan showcases stunning architecture, intricate wood carvings, and a rich cultural heritage. Explore the temples, statues, and palaces that surround the square, including the beautiful Krishna Mandir and the fascinating Patan Museum. Don't miss out on the vibrant markets, traditional crafts, and cultural performances that make this square a lively gathering place, efforts to preserve and restore the square have made it a top destination for those interested in Nepal's history.

#### Day 4: Kathmandu to Chitwan by tourist bus

Traveling from Kathmandu to Chitwan by tourist bus is a popular choice for both tourists and locals. The duration of the journey typically ranges from 5 to 7 hours, depending on the road conditions and traffic. Here's what you can generally expect:

Starting Point: Tourist buses usually depart from the Tourist Bus Park in Kathmandu. You can easily find these buses near the Sorhakhutte Kaldhara area or Thamel, which are well-known tourist hubs in Kathmandu.

Bus Amenities: Tourist buses are designed to provide comfort and convenience, offering amenities such as reclining seats, air conditioning, and sometimes even Wi-Fi.

Route: During the bus journey, you will be treated to breathtaking landscapes, winding roads, and charming small towns. Along the way, you'll have the opportunity to admire the stunning views of the Himalayas on clear days as you pass through the scenic Prithvi Highway.

Rest Stops: The bus usually makes a few rest stops along the route, allowing passengers to grab refreshments, and snacks, and use the restroom.



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Arrival: Upon reaching Chitwan, the bus will drop you off either at the main bus park or directly at your designated hotel if it is located within the town.

To ensure a smooth journey, it's always a good idea to check the departure schedule and confirm the details with the bus operator or your hotel concierge beforehand. Additionally, don't forget to pack some snacks, water, and entertainment to make your trip even more enjoyable.

#### Day 5: Chitwan activities (elephant ride jungle walk kayaning, etc)

After breakfast, we will take a jeep that is waiting for us and make our way to Chitwan National Park. This park provides you with a spectacular view of the forest and its species. Here we will be enjoying bird watching and Elephant rides. We will also take part in other activities like Jungle safari and Elephant bathing, etc. After that, we will return back to our hotel and rest.

# Day 6: Chitwan to Lumbini

From there we will now take a vehicle and make our way to Lumbini. As the birthplace of Lord Gautam Buddha, Lumbini is a holy and historic location with tremendous religious and cultural value. We will go to the Maya Devi Temple, which is said to be the exact place where Maya Devi gave birth to Buddha. We will also visit other locations such as German monasteries, Japanese monasteries, and so on. We will then proceed to our hotel to rest.

#### Day 7: Lumbini to Pokhara (By touris Bus)

That sounds like a wonderful trip! Lumbini, the birthplace of Buddha, holds immense spiritual significance, and Pokhara's blend of natural beauty and cultural richness makes it a must-visit destination. The Newari architecture you'll encounter in Pokhara adds a unique charm to the cityscape. The intricate woodwork, pagoda-style temples, and quaint alleys provide a glimpse into Nepal's rich cultural heritage. Don't forget to explore Phewa Lake and enjoy the stunning views of the Annapurna mountain range while you're there

#### Day 8: Pokhara sightseeing

It sounds like you're listing some of the attractions in Pokhara, Nepal! Pokhara is indeed a beautiful city surrounded by stunning natural landscapes and cultural landmarks. Here's a brief overview of the places you mentioned:

Fewa Lake: Also known as Phewa Lake, it's one of the main tourist attractions in Pokhara. The serene lake offers boating opportunities with a backdrop of the Annapurna mountain range.

Peace Stupa (World Peace Pagoda): Situated on a hilltop overlooking Pokhara Valley, the Peace Stupa offers panoramic views of the city, Fewa Lake, and the surrounding mountains. It's a symbol of peace and tranquility.

David's Fall (Davis Fall): A mesmerizing waterfall located a short distance from the city center. It's known locally as Patale Chhango. The waterfall originates from Phewa Lake and disappears into an underground tunnel.

Gupteshwor Cave (Gupteswor Gufa): Adjacent to Davis Fall, this cave is famous for its natural limestone formations and the Gupteshwor Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. It's a sacred site for Hindus.



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International Mountain Museum: Located in Pokhara, this museum showcases the history, culture, and biodiversity of the Himalayas. It's a great place to learn about mountaineering and the people who live in the region.

These are just a few of the many attractions Pokhara has to offer. Each place has its own unique charm and significance, making Pokhara a must-visit destination in Nepal for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike!

#### Day 9: Pokhara to Bandipur

That sounds like an incredible journey! The drive from Pokhara to Bandipur indeed offers a feast for the eyes with its picturesque landscapes. And arriving at Bandipur, known for its preserved cultural heritage and stunning views, must be quite an experience. Enjoy your stay at the hotel and take the time to soak in the tranquility and beauty of the surroundings! If you need any recommendations or assistance during your stay, feel free to ask

# Day 10: Bandipur to Gorkha (By Local bus)

Today, we are embarking on a delightful adventure to Gorkha from Bandipur. This expedition promises to treat you with breathtaking vistas of the mesmerizing Nepalese landscape. As we proceed, we will traverse through picturesque green hills, terraced crops, and ancient communities.

If the weather is on our side, we might catch glimpses of rural life and be awestruck by the majestic Himalayan mountain ranges. Moreover, this route is adorned with numerous cultural and historical gems waiting to be explored. Get ready for an unforgettable journey!

#### Day 11: Gorkha to Kathmandu

Traveling by bus from Gorkha to Kathmandu is a popular route in Nepal. The distance between the two cities is approximately 140 kilometers, and the duration of the journey typically ranges from 5 to 6 hours, depending on the condition of the roads and the traffic.

To catch a bus from Gorkha to Kathmandu, you have the option of going to the local bus station or inquiring with local transportation providers about the schedules and fares. Buses from Gorkha to Kathmandu usually depart throughout the day, but it is advisable to check the schedule in advance to plan your trip accordingly.

Upon reaching Kathmandu, you will find yourself in the heart of Nepal's capital city, where you can immerse yourself in its rich cultural heritage, vibrant markets, and bustling streets. Enjoy your journey!

Once you return to Kathmandu, you can rest and relax as you wish, or even opt-in for a <u>Trekker's Recovery Massage</u> or other spa services to rejuvenate after the trek.

# Day 12: Shopping and Rest

Since we have few time before our departure, we will be going to Thamel for shopping. Thamel is an excellent place to shop for souvenirs and other items that you want to take back to your home country as a memory. After that, we will return back to our hotel and pack for our upcoming departure.

#### **Day 13: Departure Airport**



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Our departing date has finally arrived. The staff from our company will meet you at your accommodation and transport you to the international airport for your flight back home.



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#### **FAQ**

#### 1. What is the best time to visit Kathmandu, Chitwan, Lumbini & Pokhara?

The best time to visit is spring (March–May) and autumn (September–November) when the weather is pleasant, skies are clear, and views of the Himalayas are stunning. Winter (December–February) is also good for sightseeing, while monsoon (June–August) brings heavy rains, especially in Chitwan.

#### 2. How many days are required for this tour?

A well-planned tour covering Kathmandu, Chitwan, Lumbini, and Pokhara typically takes 7 to 10 days, depending on the activities and travel pace.

#### 3. What kind of accommodation is available in these destinations?

Accommodation ranges from budget guesthouses to luxury hotels and resorts in all four destinations. Chitwan also offers jungle lodges and safari resorts for a unique experience.

# 4. What activities can I do on this tour?

This tour offers a mix of cultural, wildlife, and adventure activities, including:

- Kathmandu: Sightseeing at UNESCO heritage sites.
- Chitwan: Jungle safari, canoeing, elephant encounters, and Tharu cultural programs.
- Lumbini: Visiting monasteries, Maya Devi Temple, and meditation retreats.
- Pokhara: Boating, paragliding, hiking, and exploring caves and waterfalls.

# 5. How do we travel between these places?

You can travel by tourist bus, private vehicle, or domestic flights. Flights are available from Kathmandu to Bharatpur (for Chitwan), Bhairahawa (for Lumbini), and Pokhara, reducing travel time significantly.

# 6. Is the tour suitable for families with children?

Yes, this tour is family-friendly. Activities like wildlife safaris, boating in Pokhara, and cultural visits are great for children. However, long road trips might require extra breaks for comfort.

#### 7. What should I pack for this tour?

- Light clothes for Chitwan and Lumbini (warmer climates).
- Jackets and warm layers for Kathmandu, Pokhara, and early mornings.
- Comfortable walking shoes, sunscreen, sunglasses, insect repellent (for Chitwan), and a camera.

#### 8. Is a guide necessary for this tour?

While self-guided travel is possible, having a professional guide enhances the experience, especially in cultural sites like Kathmandu and Lumbini and for wildlife tours in Chitwan.

# 9. Are vegetarian or special diet meals available?



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Yes, all destinations offer vegetarian, vegan, and special dietary options upon request. Nepalese cuisine includes plenty of vegetarian-friendly dishes.

# 10. How can I book this tour?

You can book this tour through Trek Mania Nepal for a hassle-free experience, including accommodation, transport, guided tours, and permits.

