

CLASSICAL NEPAL

Day 01 KATHMANDU

Meeting at the Kathmandu international airport upon arrival by our company's representative. Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal and the Kathmandu Valley is the political and cultural heart of the Kingdom. Founded in the 8th century AD by King Gunakamadeva at the join of the Bagmati and Bishnumati rivers the founding point is the Kashta (wood) Mandap (temple), built where two old trade routes crossed, and now the oldest building in the city. The europhile first minister of Kathmandu in the 19th century, Jung Bahadur Rana, built many classical looking buildings and palaces in the city, in contrast to those of Newari style that existed before. The urban sprawl that makes up modern Kathmandu is in fact two cities, Patan and Kathmandu.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 02 IN KATHMANDU

This morning you will enjoy a guided tour covering Kathmandu's Durbar Square, which is one of three durbar (royal palace) squares in the Kathmandu Valley. It is the site of the Hanuman Dhoka Palace Complex, which was the royal Nepalese residence until the 19th century and where important ceremonies, such as the coronation of the Nepalese monarch, still take place today. You will then visit one of the most curious attractions in Nepal, the Kumari Chowk. This gilded cage contains the Raj Kumari, a young girl chosen through an ancient and mystical selection process to become the human incarnation of the Hindu mother goddess, Durga. She is worshipped during religious festivals and makes public appearances at other times for a fee paid to her guards. You will next continue to visit Swayambhunath the golden spire of the 5th-century Swayambhustupa is adorned with a colorful fluttering of prayer flags; it crowns a hill overlooking the Kathmandu Valley and offers fantastic views over the city of Kathmandu. Swayambhunath is one of the most recognizable symbols in Nepal and the painted eyes of Buddha watch all who ascend the worn stone steps.

This afternoon your guided tour will take you for a visit of the Hindu culture in Nepal, Pashupatinath. This is the place where holy sadhus pray and cremations on the Bagmati River are carried out. While you are not allowed into the temple if you are not a Hindu, the grounds surrounding the temple usually have a fascinating crowd of the faithful. We then continue to the holiest shrine for the Buddhist culture in Nepal, Bouddhanath, with its large stupa, this is the place where all devout Buddhists come for a pilgrimage. It is not unusual to see very old devotees circumnavigate the shrine hundreds of times falling to their knees and rising again for a few steps only to go back down again to their knees.

Overnight in hotel.

Day 03 KATHMANDU / RAFTING / CHITWAN

Early morning drive from Kathmandu to Chauradi (raft put in point) 70 km. (approx. 2.5 hrs drive). The rafts are inflated and we load our gear. After changing into suitable attire we are briefed by the raft captain - a few notable about the river, the technical knowhow to maneuver the raft and safety measures. We begin rafting in a languid pleasurable fashion to get the feel of the motion on a raft. On the way shall encounter rapids named "Snell's Nose", "Monkey" and many other small rapids are run before we end our trip. Rafting ends at Kuringghat (90 km From Kathmandu). Continue drive to Chitwan is 180 Km from Kathmandu & is a 05 hour's drive from Kathmandu. An elephant-back safari in the jungles of the Royal Chitwan National Park is a must for every visitor to Nepal. Less than 60 miles south of the Great Himalayan Range in Nepal's sub-tropical Terai lowlands (600 ft), Chitwan is one of Asia's premier wildlife reserves. Its 360 square miles of tall grasslands and forests are home to a wide variety of mammals and birds, including several endangered species. The park is most famous for Bengal Tiger, rare Gharial and Marsh Muggier crocodile and a large population of Asian rhinoceros.

Overnight in hotel



Day 04 **IN CHITWAN**

Full day jungle observation at Chitwan National park. The highlight being the Elephant Safari in the jungle. Other activities are Canoeing, Dugout canoe, Nature Walk and Bird Watching. You will also be guided by Naturalist who will help you to identify the nature of wildlife and various plants and animals. Then you can enjoy the Native Tharu Folk dance and stick dance in the evening.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 05 **CHITWAN / POKHARA**

Drive to Pokhara. Pokhara is 180 Km & is a 04 hours' drive from Chitwan. From Pokhara town (2,352 feet) the 25,000+ peaks of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges rise a scant 20 miles away with no intervening ridges to spoil the view. Pokhara offers the best mountain scenery in Nepal without undertaking a trek. In good weather there are splendid views right from the hotel.

Overnight at hotel



Day 06 **IN POKHARA**

This morning you will go for an excursion trip to Sarangkot. The village of Sarangkot (1590 m) is situated on the top of a hillock just north of Phewa Lake. One gets to see beautiful views of sunrise and sunset from Sarangkot as the sun splashes hues of red on the Himalayan range. On a clear day, the panoramic ranges of Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Machhapuchhre and Ganesh Himal can be observed from here.

This afternoon you will visit Bindebasini Temple. This is one of the oldest temples in Pokhara was a part of Kaski Kingdom, the main deity of the temple, Goddess Durga, was brought from India. Apart from the peace and tranquility that can be felt in this region, the premises of the temple offers a good view of the Himalaya on a clear day. The temple is in the area of the bazaar; hence, a journey of the old bazaar can be combined with a visit to the temple. Sightseeing to Devi's fall, also known as Patale Chango is an awesome waterfall lying 2 km southwest of Pokhara. During summer and rainy season, the waterfall takes its real form, with gushing water splashing and making its way through the rocks. Just opposite of Devi's fall, on the other side of the road, there is Gupteshwor Cave. This cave is popular for the different natural forms made from limestone deposits. Photography is strictly prohibited inside the cave.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 07 POKHARA / KATHMANDU

Drive back to Kathmandu & transfer to hotel. Rest of the day at leisure

Overnight at hotel.

Day 08 **KATHMANDU - DEPART**

Morning will be comparatively free and closer to the time of your flight; you will be transferred to the airport in time to board your flight for onward journey.

END OF SERVICE