



UNRAVEL NEPAL – 9 DAYS

Overview:

Nepal is an amazingly diverse country that offers everything for everyone. Kathmandu, with its towering pagodas, fascinating architecture, and artistic workmanship along with the old durbars (palaces), is a living museum of Nepali civilization and culture. Your journey takes you from the religious temples of Kathmandu to the pristine Pokhara valley that boasts stunning views of snow-capped Himalayas. The scenery here tells its own tale with a blend of fresh air and dramatic mountain ranges. We will visit places from where a panorama of the valley unfolds. Also get the feel of wildlife in the lush jungles of Chitwan.

Trip facts:

Destination: Nepal

Theme: Culture

Activity: Tour

Difficulty: N/A

Max Altitude: 1,600 m/ 5,250 ft

Best Season: September – April

Highlights:

- Drop by at the temple of the Kumari, the most important of several living goddesses in Nepal.
- Drive to Sarangkot, a beautiful village in Pokhara, popular for sunrise and panoramic mountain views.
- In Chitwan enjoy endless jungle activities and game drives.



Itinerary at glance:

Day	Program	Accommodation
1	Arrive in Kathmandu	Hotel
2	In Kathmandu	Hotel
3	Fly to Pokhara	Hotel
4	In Pokhara	Hotel
5	Fly to Chitwan	Hotel
6	In Chitwan	Hotel
7	Fly to Kathmandu	Hotel
8	Visit Patan, Bungamati and Khokana	Hotel
9	Final Departure	

Detailed Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Kathmandu

Upon arrival in Tribhuvan International Airport – Kathmandu, you will be met and assisted by our airport representative and transferred to the hotel. Rest of the day is free for relaxation.

Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, is a mixture of rich culture, ancient traditions and hustling bazaars. Home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the city boasts of natural beauty, vibrant culture, unique cuisine, and an intense religious devout that are apparent by the variety of festivals celebrated throughout the year. Despite suffering from a massive earthquake in 2015 that caused immense devastation, Kathmandu retains its hustle and bustle and its people are still as jovial as ever.

Overnight at Hotel [-/-/-]



Day 2: In Kathmandu

After breakfast at the hotel, set out to explore different sites in Kathmandu, Swayambunath and Bhaktapur.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, the **Kathmandu Durbar Square** is an old royal palace from the Malla Dynasty. Consisting of small courtyards and shrines, the main highlight is the temple of the living goddess, Kumari. The Kumari Devi is the most important of several living goddesses in Nepal and can be seen on the temple's balcony during the many ceremonial processions and festivals. You will also come across vendors selling snacks, priests performing their daily rituals, and young couples strolling along the narrow alleyways.

A short walk through a vibrant alley takes you to an old part of Kathmandu which now bustles as a vegetable and spice market.

Visit **Swayambhunath**, which literally means "self created". A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Swayambhunath is accessible by a car road leading to the southwest entrance, while the more adventurous ones take the 365 long steep stairways leading to the main platform of the temple. This ancient stupa adorned with Buddha's eyes, is surrounded by many other smaller chaityas and temples and is worshipped by both Hindus and Buddhists. This is the most ancient and perhaps the most enigmatic of all holy shrines in Kathmandu.

Later drive to the ancient city of Bhaktapur.

Bhaktapur or **Bhadgaon**, literally the 'City of Devotees' is a major tourist destination that takes visitors back in time. Bhaktapur lies on the Arniko Highway that connects Kathmandu to the Chinese border. This ancient city boasts of traditional art and architecture, historical monuments, rich culture, pottery and numerous festivals and is a world in itself.



Bhaktapur Durbar Square is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and has the best-preserved extraordinary temples and palaces from the Malla Dynasty. In Bhaktapur Durbar Square, visit the **Nyatapola Temple**, **Bhairavnath Temple**, **The Golden Gate**, and **Taumadhi Tole**.

Transfer back to the hotel.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 3: Fly to Pokhara

Flight Duration: 25 minutes approx.

Altitude: 827 m / 2,713 ft – 1,740 m / 5,710 ft

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport for your scenic flight to Pokhara.

Pokhara's bewitching beauty has been the subject of many travel writers. Its pristine air, spectacular backdrop of snowy peaks, serene lakes and surrounding greenery make it 'the jewel in the Himalaya', a place of remarkable natural beauty.

Enjoy boating at the **Phewa Taal**, the second largest lake in Nepal. The lake is stream fed but a dam regulates the water reserve, therefore, it is classified as semi-natural freshwater lake. Visit **Barahi Temple** – the island temple situated in a small island in the Phewa Lake surrounded by marvelous views.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 4: In Pokhara

Early morning drive to **Sarangkot**, a beautiful village located on a mountainside ridge at an altitude of 1600 m with panoramic Himalayan views. Visit the **Bindabasini Temple** on the way towards hotel, one of the oldest temples in Pokhara.



Breakfast will be served at the hotel.

After breakfast, visit **World Peace Pagoda** a Buddhist stupa built by the Buddhist monks of the Japanese Nipponzan Fujii organization at a narrow ridge above the Phewa Taal. Also visit the **International Mountain Museum**.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 5: Fly to Chitwan

Flight Duration: 20 minutes approx.

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Bharatpur. Upon arrival at Bharatpur Airport, you will be transferred to the hotel.

The **Chitwan National Park** is the first national park in Nepal, located in the lush valley of the Chitwan District, 75 miles south west of Kathmandu, in the foothills of the Churia Ranges.

Upon arrival at the hotel, check into your rooms. During lunch, you will be briefed about the evening activities.

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 6: In Chitwan

After early breakfast, experience the thrill of walking inside the dense jungle to catch a glimpse of a one-horned rhinoceros, birds, and other animals, accompanied by an expert naturalist.

Or, go for the adventurous half day jeep safari in specially designed 4x4 vehicles driven by experienced naturalists.



After lunch, float down the picturesque Rapti River enjoying beautiful views of the Himalayan foothills and keep an eye for innumerable rhinoceroses, gharials, and birdlife.

(Note: Jeep Safari is prohibited during monsoon season by the park authorities from June-September and in some season, it can prolong till October).

Overnight at Hotel [B/L/D]

Day 7: Fly to Kathmandu

Flight Duration (Domestic Flight): 20 minutes approx.

Early morning drive to Bharatpur and fly back to Kathmandu.

After freshening up, visit **Boudhanath Stupa**, one of the most imposing landmarks of Kathmandu and a center of Tibetan Buddhism. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this stupa is built on a massive three level mandala and is one of the largest in the world. A popular tourist attraction, there are many shops around the stupa selling souvenirs, handicrafts, and a variety of exclusive Tibetan specialties and delicacies.

The Stupa is on the ancient trade route from Tibet that enters the Kathmandu Valley. Tibetan merchants have rested, offered prayers and fed the frequent pigeons here for many centuries. When refugees entered Nepal from Tibet in the 1950s, many decided to live around Bouddhanath. The Stupa is said to entomb the remains of a Buddhist sage, perhaps parts of the Buddha's body (bones, teeth), or sacred texts and other ceremonial objects.

Also visit the magnificent **Pashupatinath Temple**, one of the holiest Hindu shrines in Nepal. Set on the banks of the sacred Bagmati River, the major purpose of this religious site is cremation of Hindus, whose body is burnt by the eldest son of the



family. The ashes from the dead body are swept into the Bagmati River that eventually joins the Holy Ganges.

Pashupatinath Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dedicated to the Hindu god of destruction, Lord Shiva, in 1696, the temple with its astonishing architecture of gilded roof and richly carved silver doors, is thronged with devotees and pilgrims from all over the world. Access to the shrine is strictly limited to Hindus; however, others are permitted to view the temple from the east banks of the River Bagmati.

Transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 8: Visit Patan, Bungamati and Khokana

Today we will set out to visit Patan and go for a village walk to Bungamati and Khokana.

After breakfast transfer to **Patan**, the city of artisans and a paradise of fine arts. It is a home to the valley's finest craftsmen who have preserved the ancient technique of repoussé – the art of turning, chiseling and hammering a sheet of metal using the lost wax process to produce exquisite sculptures. The city retains much of its old charm with its narrow streets, brick houses and multitude of courtyards, or *bahals*, Hindu temples and Buddhist monasteries.

The narrow streets subsequently bring you to the heart of the city, the Patan Durbar Square, one of the great architectural vistas. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is home to ancient palaces, pagoda temples, stone baths, Hindu and Buddhist statues, engravings and bronze cravings. One of the main attractions is the Royal Palace where the Malla Kings resided. The Patan Museum, also located here, is a popular place of interest.



Bungamati, a typical medieval Newari village, less influenced by modernization retains its age-old charm. A tour through the village of Bungamati gives a clear picture of the primitive lifestyle of the Newari community.

Khokana is a small Newari village that was established in the 7th century by the mighty Licchhavi rulers of Nepal. A village of its own, Khokana has its own history. Warding off modern civilization Khokana has managed to retain its own culture and tradition.

Transfer back to the hotel.

Overnight at Hotel [B/-/-]

Day 9: Final Departure

Today you will be transferred to the airport for your onward journey. *[B]*

Trip Ends

Note: All information in this itinerary is accurate to the best of our knowledge but please note that changes to our trips can and do occur. This may be due to our effort to improve our program or logistical reasons such as changes in flight schedules, traffic conditions, weather conditions, or government policies. Dharma Adventures will make every effort to keep you informed of any changes but cannot be held liable for any alterations made to the published itinerary.

[B= Breakfast, L= Lunch, D= Dinner]



Trip Includes:

- All necessary arrival/ departure transfers.
- Meet assistance at the airport.
- 4 nights hotel accommodation in Kathmandu in a single/ twin sharing room on bed and breakfast basis.
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Pokhara in a single/ twin sharing room on full board basis.
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation in Chitwan in a single/ twin sharing room on full board basis.
- All the sightseeing tours with English speaking guide, entrance fees and transfers as per above.
- Entrance fees.

Trip Extras:

- Nepal entry visa fee.
- Airfare [Will be quoted separately].
- International airfare and airport tax.
- Insurance and rescue of any form.
- Cost arising out of flight cancellation/road blockades/landslides/riots and events beyond our control.
- Expenses of personal nature such as bar bills, communication charges, laundry, tips etc.
- Tipping & gratuities to guides & drivers.
- Meals and any other services not mentioned in the itinerary.