



IMAGES OF NEPAL

Raw, spiritual and extraordinary: a journey through Nepal is unparalleled. Wind through Kathmandu's medieval old town and join the flurry of pilgrims circling its most sacred temples.

Tailor-Made Journeys, Suggested Itineraries



Nepal, Indian Subcontinent



11 days from AU\$13,455 pp



Private

Journey Overview

Raw, spiritual and extraordinary: a journey through Nepal is unparalleled. Wind through Kathmandu's medieval old town and join the flurry of pilgrims circling its most sacred temples. Drive through Chitwan National Park in search of the one-horned rhino and tiger. Journey to Himalayan villages to see mountain life. And inhale the sheer enormity of a majestic landscape that will get your heart racing.

Journey Highlights

- Soak up the cultural heritage of Kathmandu Valley and its collection of UNESCO World Heritage Sites
- Enjoy sundowners overlooking the stunning Bouddhanath Stupa
- Drink in the sunrise over the Annapurna range
- Seek out rare wildlife in Chitwan National Park
- Find sanctuary in Nepal's most luxurious resorts



Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Kathmandu

Welcome to Kathmandu, the vibrant and ever-surprising capital of Nepal. Here, in the heart of the Kathmandu Valley, you'll discover one of the world's densest collections of UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Receive a warm A&K welcome on arrival and transfer privately to your exquisite hotel, a beautifully preserved Newari building tucked into the quiet fringes of the bustling city centre. Settle in and spend the rest of your day at leisure. This evening, take your place in Krishnarpan, the Nepali speciality restaurant at Dwarika's, for a culinary journey through this incredible region.

Dwarika's Hotel / Meals: D

Day 2: Kathmandu

Rise early for your first real glimpse of Nepal's mountain magnificence on a fixed wing or helicopter mountain flight (additional charge). Soar over a majestic landscape of snow-capped peaks, deep valleys and glaciers, dominated by the world's highest mountain, Everest.

After breakfast, climb the 400 steps to Swayambhunath, the oldest shrine in the world. Explore the fifth century temple with its beautiful Buddhist stupa and drink in sweeping views of the city and valley below. Return to the hotel for some time to relax and unwind, taking advantage of the incredible facilities. Later, head to the temple of Pashupatinath, and marvel at its astonishing architectural beauty on the banks of the sacred Bagmati River. Continue to the imposing 14th century Bouddhanath Stupa, one of the holiest of Nepal's Buddhist sites. Meet a local artisan for a fascinating insight into Buddhism and the Thangka paintings. Find your spot overlooking the stupa and sip sundowners as you watch pilgrims circling the site and spinning prayer wheels.

Dwarika's Hotel / Meals: B

Day 3: Kathmandu - Patan - Kathmandu

Enjoy a morning exploring at your own pace before travelling to Patan. Treat your tastebuds to a culinary surprise in a local home, where you will learn the secret behind some favourite Nepalese dishes and savour a delicious lunch.

Continue to Patan City, also known as Lalitpur, and discover an ancient city of arts and architecture. Visit Durbar Square with its palaces, shrines and temples bustling with flower sellers, pilgrims and orange-clad sadhus.

Explore many a magnificent and historic monument, including the Royal Baths, Mahaboudha, Krishna Mandir and Hiranya Verna Mahabihar (the Golden Temple).

Afterwards, immerse yourself in Nepal's cultural heritage and art history in the Patan Museum, housed in a beautifully restored Malla palace.

The collection spans much of Nepal's cultural history, primarily exhibiting metalwork sculptures from Hindu and Buddhist deities, typical of Patan's tradition in craftsmanship. Written commentary explains their significance to Nepal's art history, spiritualism, cultural heritage and contemporary life.

Dwarika's Hotel / Meals: BL

Day 4: Kathmandu - Pokhara

Fly to Pokhara, an enchanting town in the foothills of magnificent Mt Machhapucchre. Visit the nearby Tibetan Refugee Camp for a fascinating insight into Tibetan life.

Continue to The Pavilions Himalaya Resort in a tranquil valley alongside a meandering river. Relax at your villa, inhale the clean mountain air, and enjoy one of the finest mountain panoramas in the world before a delicious dinner at your hotel.

The Pavilions Himalayas Resort / Meals: BD

Day 5: Pokhara

Rise early and drive to the hilltop village of Sarangkot, balanced on the mountainside ridge at an altitude of 1,600m, for a breathtaking sunrise over the Annapurna range.

Return to your resort for breakfast and spend the rest of the day at leisure. Stroll through the maze of markets and stalls of Pokhara, soak in the views of peaceful Lake Phewa at one of the many cafes or alternatively choose to take a hike in the surrounding Annapurna foothills.

The Pavilions Himalayas Resort / Meals: B

Day 6: Pokhara - Bharatpur - Chitwan National Park

Fly to Bharatpur and take the scenic drive to Chitwan National Park, Nepal's most famous wildlife reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Arrive at your safari lodge, where rustic villas face the rushing Rapti river and the forest beyond.

After lunch, glide down the Rapti River by canoe taking in beautiful views and enjoy the unique eco system around the river and flood plains. Keep your camera ready for rhino, gharial and exotic birdlife while naturalists explain the world around the water. Later, enjoy sundowners on the riverbank.

Meghauli Serai - A Taj Safari Lodge / Meals: BLD

Day 7: Chitwan National Park

Embark on a half-day jeep safari accompanied by an expert guide. Get up close to the likes of the endangered one-horned rhino, Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, sloth bear and over 550 varieties of birds. Later this afternoon, led by your expert guide, take a walk through the dense jungle to catch a glimpse of endemic species in their natural habitat.

Meghauli Serai - A Taj Safari Lodge / Meals: BLD

Day 8: Chitwan - Kathmandu - Bhaktapur - Dhulikhel

Leave the wildlife sanctuary behind and drive to Bharatpur for your flight to Kathmandu and journey on to Dhulikhel. Pause at Bhaktapur City, an enchanting 9th century fortified town in the Kathmandu Valley, also known as the 'City of Devotees'. Tread along the 17th century cobbled pavements surrounded by wonderfully preserved architecture. Watch bustling activity in the town square and admire the Palace of Fifty-Five Windows.

Continue to Dhulikhel, an ancient Newari town nestled in the foothills of the Pachkhal Valley. Find your luxurious sanctuary in Dwarika's Resort and relax. Dip into the infinity pool or head to the meadow for yoga and meditation. This evening find a fireside spot in the bar to drink in the snow-kissed panoramas.

Dwarika's Resort / Meals: BD

Day 9: Dhulikhel

Wake to spectacular sunrise views over the great Himalayan ranges. After a sumptuous breakfast, embark on a morning hike through rural hamlets, forests and rice paddies to Balthali village. Enjoy true Nepalese hospitality in a village home for lunch, before returning to Dwarika's Resort.

This afternoon, explore your way with a choice of activities (additional charge). You can discover the charm of rural life along the walking trails, venture into the forest to seek out native birds and medicinal herbs or learn about Nepalese terrace farming at a local organic farm.

Dwarika's Resort / Meals: BLD

Day 10: Dhulikhel

A full day at leisure to relax at the hotel and soak up the incredible views or head out to further explore the local countryside and villages on an excursion.

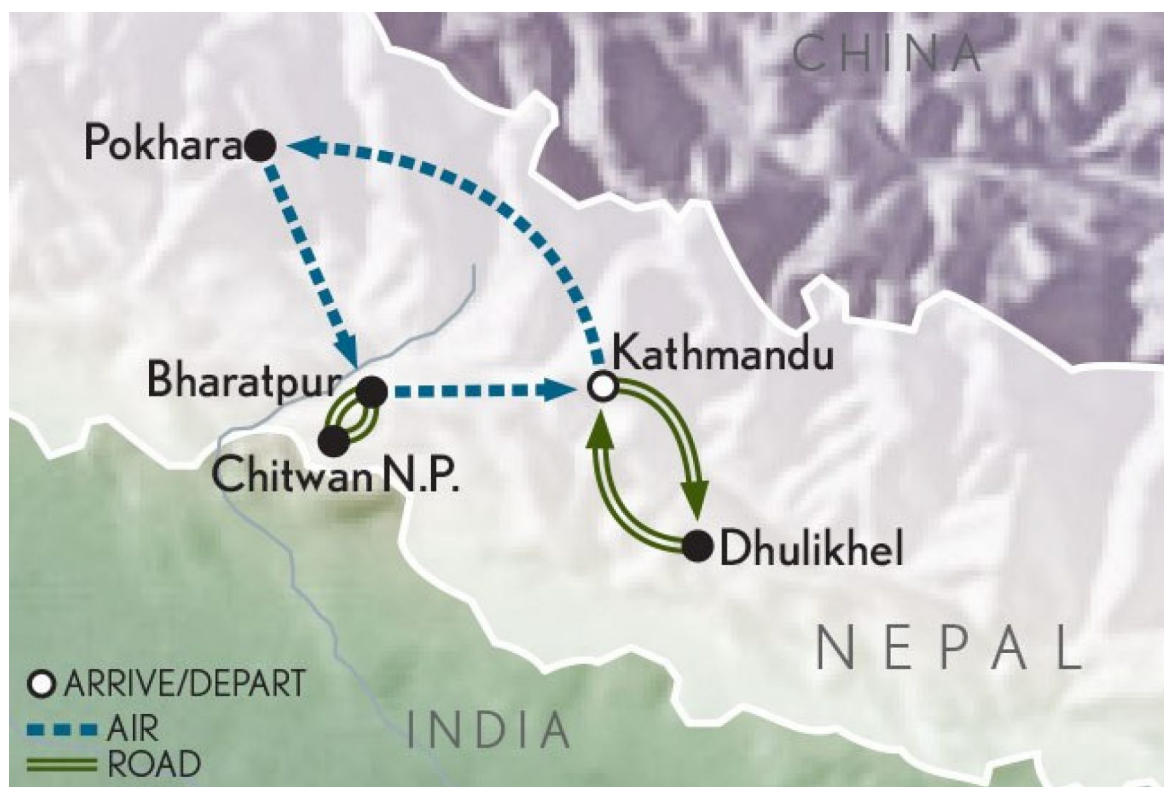
Dwarika's Resort / Meals: BD

Day 11: Depart Kathmandu

Farewell Nepal as you transfer privately to the airport for your onward journey.

Meals: B

Map



Accommodation

Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu



Dwarika's Hotel is a fine example of Nepali architecture with intricate wood and terracotta work produced by the finest craftsmen in the country. Appreciation of each handmade brick, and every piece of original wood is what makes this hotel so special and unique.

If you are an avid foodie the restaurants here will not disappoint, most of the ingredients are produced in the hotel's organic farm. Dine in style and enjoy meals reminiscent of ritual feasts up to 22 courses. We recommend a visit to the library at the hotel, full of interesting books on the history of Nepal and a splendid place to sit back and relax after an exhilarating day taking in vibrant Kathmandu.

Why we like it

- A magnificent building and display of Nepali architecture and craftsmanship
- Custom designed and handmade furniture
- Rooms and suites have the feeling of a Nepali home
- The outdoor swimming pool is reminiscent of 12th century Malla Dynasty baths
- Discover your inner self in Dwarika's Spa offering traditional treatments based on Buddhist rituals

The Pavilions Himalayas Resort, Pokhara



Located southwest of Pokhara in a natural paradise, The Pavilions is a truly eco-sensitive luxury boutique resort. Situated on land still farmed by the resort's Anglo-Nepali owners, The Pavilions is nestled beside a small river in a secluded rural valley with spectacular views of the Annapurna range and a working organic farm next door. A sensational design marries modern comforts with the natural surrounds.

All villas feature a private terrace, a claw-footed bathtub, a large rain shower and an outdoor Nepali shower. Nepalese textiles and artworks, and a real fireplace, complete the luxe experience.

With equal priority for guests, the natural environment and the community, The Pavilions puts a focus on solar energy, biogas and homemade biodegradable toiletries. The adjacent farm is also run organically, with local employees, and a substantial portion of profits is donated to community projects. Guests are encouraged to take part in the day-to-day action on the farm, which provides the organic vegetables, eggs and dairy for breakfast and other meals.

Life in the resort revolves around the living and dining area known as Bhetghat ("meeting point"), mere footsteps from the infinity pool. You can join treks and wildlife drives with the naturalists, whose knowledge of animals and birdlife is exceptional. Then, soothe weary muscles in the state-of-the-art spa and yoga studio.

Why we like it

- A truly eco-sensitive luxury boutique resort
- Three types of eco-friendly villas, 14 in total, each offering spectacular views of the

peaceful natural landscape

- Seasonal Nepalese menu crafted by chefs using farm fresh produce
- State-of-the-art spa, yoga studio, infinity pool and sauna

Meghauri Serai - A Taj Safari Lodge, Chitwan National Park



A true haven set on the banks of the River Rapti sits the Meghauri Serai. Stay in contemporary Meghauri rooms all complete with a balcony, or the more spacious Rapti Villas all with a private plunge pool and offering great views of the river and the National Park. From here enjoy Jeep safaris, walking safaris or canoe safaris.

Dining is always a great occasion and the perfect time to share stories of adventures with fellow guests or a private romantic dinner. When you are not out on safari, take some time out and sit by the beautiful infinity swimming pool with river view decks, or spend time in the private machan over the river, and sit back and wait as the wildlife comes to you.

Why we like it

- Located on the Rapti river, with superb views from all rooms
- Opportunity to spot tigers and leopards
- Explore Chitwan by Jeep, on foot, or by canoe
- Visit a local village to experience rural life
- Only 12 rooms and four villas, makes the lodge a real retreat

Dwarika's Resort, Dhulikhel



Located an hour's drive from Kathmandu city, the resort is spread across a lush hillside amongst pine, rhododendron and cherry blossom trees. Each space and suite at the resort is unique, and has been created from local materials to showcase and celebrate mother nature in all her forms. The simple, spacious and rustic style complements the tranquil surroundings. Each suite boasts extraordinary Himalayan views and private indoor and outdoor living and sleeping spaces which take you closer to nature and create an ideal setting for reflection, relaxation and renewal.

Set in different locales around the property are three restaurants serving delightful meals, with wonderful terraces on which to enjoy a sundowner. With most ingredients sourced from Dwarika's own farms (one of which is situated nearby) and a focus on quality, fresh produce, dining is one of the highlights of the resort. One of the main elements of the resort is the Pancha Kosha Himalayan Spa, where treatments are derived from a blend of Ayurveda, Buddhist Medicine and local knowledge. The unique herbs used for the treatments are grown within the Spa's grounds, or sourced from across the Himalayan region. With its relaxed atmosphere and awe-inspiring views, this is a wonderful place to end a trip to Nepal.

Why we like it

- Stunning views over the extended Langtang range of the Himalayas
- A holistic lifestyle retreat
- Each suite faces the Himalayas
- Enjoy a cookery class in the hilltop kitchen with ingredients fresh from the farm
- Try your hand at pottery, a speciality of the area and a therapeutic activity

Abercrombie & Kent

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