

# Khaptad National Park safari tour and trek

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Khaptad National Park Tour offers one of the non-touristic wilderness national park experiences in Nepal that is visited by very few numbers of tourists. The area of the park is 225 square km.

Khaptad National Park is a protected area in the Far-Western Region in Nepal. Khaptad National Park was established in 1984 on the advice of the region's holy man Khaptad Baba. It covers the four districts of Bajhang, Bajura, Achham and Doti an area of 225 km<sup>2</sup> (87 sq mi) and ranges in elevation from 1,400 m (4,600 ft) to 3,300 m (10,800 ft).

The renowned Khaptad Baba Ashram, a religious site where Hindu pilgrims come to worship Shiva on the full moon of July–August each year is located near the park headquarters. A buffer zone of 216 km<sup>2</sup> (83 sq mi) was declared in 2006. Khaptad Baba moved to the area in the 1940s to meditate and worship. He spent about 50 years as a hermit and became a renowned spiritual saint.

The landscape consists of moorland, steep slopes, streams, 567 species of flora have been recorded in the protected area. Vegetation types include chir pine-rhododendron forest, oak forest and Himalayan fir-hemlock-oak forest and alder forest in riverine areas.

Currently we have 23 mammals, 287 birds, and 23 amphibians and reptiles. Mammal species symbolic of the park are leopard, Himalayan black bear, wild dog, and musk deer. Bird species symbolic of the park include the impeyan pheasant, peregrine falcon, and white-rumped vulture.

## Itinerary

### **Day 01: Arrival in Kathmandu and Transfer to Hotel.**

Arrival in Kathmandu, Our representative pick you up from Airport and transfer to Hotel. Evening briefing for the trip.

### **Day 02: Fly Kathmandu – Nepalgunj (198m) – 1 hr flight and drive to Buditola**

The first day of our journey begins with a scenic flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj which takes about 1 hour to reach Nepalgunj. Arrive Nepalgunj and drive towards Buditola along the Karnali River which is the longest river in Nepal. After four hours drive from Nepalgunj, we reach Buditola where we will stay overnight.

### **Day 03: Drive Buditola to Silgadhi (1330m) – 6 hrs drv**

After breakfast, we move forward towards Silgadhi, the famous city in the region. The drive for about six hours takes you to Silgadhi where we will spend our overnight

**Day 04: Trek to Jhigrana (2300m) – 7 hrs walk**

On the third day, we start our trek from Silgadhi to Jhigrana via Baglek (2160m). After having breakfast, we trek to Baglek for about 3 ½ hours and stop for the lunch. After lunch, the trek to Jhigrana takes about 3 ½ hours. Overnight at Jhigrana.

**Day 05: Trek to Bukipani (3080m) – 6 / 7 hrs walk**

Commencing trek from Jhigrana, we walk further four hours to reach Bichpani Dharmasala (3020m). Taking lunch at Bichpani, we walk two and half hours and reach Bukipani where we will stay for overnight.

**Day 06: Trek to Khaptad (3010m) – 2 hrs walk**

Today is the shortest day of our trek. After breakfast, we will walk for two hours and reach Khaptad. Upon arrival we will have lunch and visit Khaptad including Khaptad Baba's Ashram and Triveni. This area is also well known as the place of "Khaptad Baba" who was great master of society having religious & social philosophy. Overnight at Khaptad.

**Day 07: Explore Khaptad National Park and stay overnight**

We will explore Khaptad National Park today. Our visit will include: Museum, Khaptad Danda, Patan and tower. The National park "Khaptad National Park" established on 1984 has extra ordinary eco system with huge variety of vegetation ranging from sub-tropical forest in the lower altitudes to temperate forests on the Khaptad plateau. The National park is rich on flora and fauna such as oak and rhododendron in the higher area. There are more than 224 species of medical herbs, about 11 percent of flowering plants of Nepal, 270 species of birds, various species of animals. Overnight at Khaptad.

**Day 08: Trek back to Jhigrana – 7 hrs walk**

Following our foot steps back to Jhigrana, we will pass through the same trail. Four hours

trek from Khaptad to Bichpani and then to Jhigrana. Overnight at Jhigrana.

**Day 09: Trek from Jhigrana to Silgadi via Uditola(1790m) – 5 hrs walk**

Commencing our trek from Jhigrana, we move forward towards Silgadi. Passing along the trail from Uditola, we reach Silgadi after five hours walk. Overnight at Silgadi.

**Day 10: Drive to Dhangadhi and stay overnight**

Early in the morning, after breakfast, we drive towards Dhangadhi. Dhangadi is a village development committee in Siraha District in the Sagarmatha Zone of south-eastern Nepal. Overnight stay at Dhangadhi.

**Day 11: Drive or fly back to Kathmandu – 1 hr 20 minutes flight, 12 hrs drive**

In the last day of our journey, we return to the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu. There are two options to arrive in Kathmandu. You can catch a flight from Dhangadi – Kathmandu which will take about 1 hour and 20 minutes to reach Kathmandu whereas it takes 12 hours by drive. Upon arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay in Kathmandu.

**Day 12: Final Departure**

After Breakfast transfer to Airport for your flight to onward destination.