

Nepal Bhutan combined Tour

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Nepal and Bhutan tour is a dedicated tour for those enthusiast travelers who want to explore Nepal and Bhutan within a limited time frame. This itinerary is designed in such a way that you can experience the hospitality of the innocent Nepalese and Bhutanese people who have unchanged culture and traditions for thousands of years.

In Nepal you will visit the World Heritage Sites in Kathmandu including old places, Stupas, Temples . Next you will visit Pokhara, a beautiful city also known as the city of Lake Paradise. You can see the panoramic views of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri from Pokhara. Another destination of Chitwan for wildlife adventure.

In Bhutan, you will visit the Punakha Valley, Wangdiphodrang and Taktsang Monastery. Additionally, sightseeing in Paro and famous places like the National Library, Painting school, Folk Heritage Museum, Handicrafts Emporium and more.

This tour offers you wonderful experiences of the South Asian countries of Nepal and Bhutan.

Itinerary

Day 01: Kathmandu Arrival & transfer to Hotel (D)

Welcome to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, rich in culture and religion. After arriving at Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport, you will be greeted by our enthusiastic guide with a very smiling face, then be transferred to check in your hotel downtown by an air-conditioned private vehicle. The rest of today is your free time to take a rest or walk around.

In the evening, you will be treated to a “Welcome Dinner” at an excellent traditional Nepalese Restaurant where you will enjoy authentic Nepalese Traditional Nepalese Food with culture program.

Day 02: Drive from Kathmandu - Nagarkot / 30km, About 1.5hrs' Driving (B)

Today's activities start with a wonderful stroll around the grand Kathmandu Durbar Square, which is the social, religious and urban focal point of the city. With the complex made between the 12th and 18th centuries by the ancient Malla Kings of Nepal. It provides many interesting things to see, like Taleju Temple, Kal Bhairav (God of Destruction), Nautale Durbar, Coronation Nasal Chowk, the Gaddi Baithak, the statue of King Pratap Malla, the Big Bell, Big Drum and the Jagannath Temple etc. Then you will visit Kathmandu's most ancient and enigmatic holy shrine – Swayambhunath, also known as “Monkey Temple”. It lies 2km west of Kathmandu City. On clear days, you are able to see a line of Himalayan Ranges. From its hilltop setting, you can get a fine view over Kathmandu and the valley.

After that, move to see the giant Buddhist stupa – Boudhanath, the largest stupa in Kathmandu Valley at about 131ft (40km) high and one of the largest and most important Buddhist stupas in the world. The all-seeing red, white and blue eyes of Buddha are painted on all four sides of the stupa, similar to Swayambhunath, and surrounded by hundreds of fluttering prayer flags, prayer wheels and small images of Buddha. Leaving Boudhanath, you will drive about 34 km northeastward to Nagarkot. With an altitude of 2,715 meters, this place is an ideal place to enjoy the grandiose views of Mount Everest and some other high peaks over 7500m on the Himalaya Range. When the time is right, you will catch up with the

breathtaking sunset. Stay overnight at Nagarkot.

Optional Activity: you can choose to take an Everest Mountain Flight in the early morning. From the airplane, fantastic Himalayan peaks, lakes and glaciers can be witnessed.

Day 03: Drive Nagarkot - Pokhara / 30km, About 1.5hrs' Driving (B)

Get up early in the morning to catch the precious moment to watch the breathtaking sunrise over Mt. Everest from Nagarkot, then get back to your hotel to have breakfast.

After having a fantastic time in Nagarkot, you'll be transferred to another sister city of Kathmandu and Patan – Bhaktapur which is one of three medieval city-states in the Kathmandu Valley as well as the best preserved one with an altitude of 1,401 meter. With three different styles square – Durbar Square, Taumadhi Square and Dattatreya Square, it is the best place to explore traditional Nepalese architecture and local life and custom, also the best place to witness the great achievements of arts and crafts created by the famous Nepal's Malla Dynasty (1201–1769). Bhaktapur is also famous as the Town of the Devotees. There are many devout Hindus and Buddhists living in the city.

In the afternoon, you'll be transferred to Pokhara. Pokhara is a remarkable place of natural beauty. Situated at an altitude of 827m from the sea level and 200 km west of Kathmandu valley, the city is known as a center of adventure. The enchanting city with a population of around 95,000 has several beautiful lakes and offers stunning panoramic views of Himalayan peaks. The serenity of lakes and the magnificence of the Himalayas rising behind them create an ambience of peace and magic. So today the city has not only become the starting point for most popular trekking and rafting destinations but also a place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

Stay overnight in Pokhara.

Day 04: Pokhara Sightseeing (B)

Today, you will begin the full-day sightseeing of Bokhara. In the early morning, you will drive to Sarangkot to watch the breathtaking sunrise. When the sun picks out the peaks, they are transformed from a purple-pink to a celestial gold. As the day breaks thoroughly, you can admire a wonderful panoramic sweep of Himalayan peaks from west to east. The view of the Annapurna Himalaya from Sarangkot is praised as a religious experience. After the spectacular sightseeing from Sarangkot, you will drive to Peace Temple to see the brilliant-white World Peace Pagoda. The road to the pagoda is not in very good condition, but the scenery is stunning. The World Peace Pagoda was constructed by the Buddhists from the Japanese Nipponzan Myohoji organization, symbolizing the peace of the world. While seeing the enchanting natural sights around, you will also get a feeling of inner peace as well.

After lunch, you will visit Devil's Fall, locally known as Patale Chhango (Hell's Fall). It is an awesome waterfall lying about 2 km south-west of Pokhara Airport on the highway to Tanmen. Then, pay a visit to the nearby Gupteswar Gupha, which is a sacred cave. It has some big hall-size rooms and some passages where you have to crawl on all fours. Afterwards, you will have a relaxed journey in Phewa Lake which is the second largest lake in Nepal. It is available to take to the lake with one of the beautifully painted boats or walk/cycle around the lakeshore. The most important religious monument in Pokhara, Barahi Temple, is built almost in the middle of Phewa Lake. The two storied pagoda is dedicated to the boar manifestation of Ajima, the protector deity representing the female force Shakti.

Day 05: Pokhara - Chitwan / 150km, About 5hrs' Driving (B)

Today after breakfast, you will drive about 5 hours to Chitwan which is famous for Chitwan National Park. During lunch, your tour guide will have a briefing about Chitwan National Park. Before arriving at Chitwan, you will go to enjoy the Sunset view from Rapti River Beach.

Chitwan National Park is the most popular destination for tourists who want to experience Nepal's wildlife. It was declared a National Park in 1973. In 1984, UNESCO designated Royal Chitwan National Park a Natural World Heritage Site. The Park offers protection to 56 species of mammals including the one-horned rhinoceros, Bengal tiger, leopard, sloth bear, wild elephant, striped hyena, Gangetic dolphin and wild bison. There are estimated to be 470 species of mammals, over 500 species of birds, 126 species of fish, 150 species of butterflies and 47 species of reptiles in the park! A recent study also points out that over a third of Nepal's tigers are in Chitwan.

Day 06: Chitwan National Park Activities (B, L, D)

Today after breakfast, you'll have a full day at Chitwan National Park, which has been declared by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site.

You will discover why the National Park holds an important place in preserving the wild lives that are rapidly getting extinct from this planet. You're almost sure to spot water buffalo, egrets, woodpeckers, and deer in their natural habitat. The Park is also home to rhinoceros, tigers, leopards, sloth bears, wild bison, 500 birds, butterflies, as well as the near extinct Gharials crocodiles.

You can do a number of activities here – an elephant safari, a nature walk, bird watching, a jungle drive or a canoe trip. You may even take a bath with an elephant and learn how to

wash your elephant! Don't forget to take a video of your elephant-bath which will be one of the fondest memories of the lifetime.

Day 07: Drive Chitwan - Kathmandu / 150km, About 5.5hrs' Driving (B)

After breakfast, drive back to Kathmandu.

Take a hearty lunch in Kathmandu, then transfer to visit Kathmandu's sister city – Patan. As a historical city, Patan offers amazing cultural experience. The best highlight is the grandiose Patan Durbar Square which is full of ornate monasteries, temples, statues, places, carvings, etc. Also don't miss the ornate Golden Temple and Patan Museum

Day 08: Flight from Kathmandu to Paro – Drive to Thimphu / About 1h's Flight & 1h15mins' Driving (B, L, D)

Early this morning, your driver will meet you at your hotel and then take you to the airport to catch your international flight to Paro Airport, the sole international airport in Bhutan. If you sit near the left window of your plane, and fly on a clear day, you will be very lucky to enjoy a spectacular view of the Himalaya peaks, including the world's highest mountain – Mount Everest (Alt: 29,029ft) and its neighbors – Mt. Lhotse (the world's fourth highest mountain, Alt: 27,940ft), Mt. Makalu (the world's fifth highest mountain, Alt: 27,838ft) and Mt. Nuptse (Alt: 25,791ft) as you approach Paro (Alt: 7,364ft). The captain's broadcast introduction and the magazines on the plane will help you recognize these peaks. On arrival, meet your local guide, then go to visit the National Museum which is more of a temple with all the collection of paintings (Thangka). Continue to visit Rinpung Dzong (fortress) where you can take a leisure walk down through cantilever bridge and to Paro town. Just beside the bridge you can witness national game archery, which is played almost every day on the ground. After the sightseeing, drive about 1.5 hours to Thimphu, the capital of Bhutan Kingdom, for accommodation.

Day 09: Thimphu Sightseeing - Drive to Punakha / 80km, About 2.5hrs' Driving (B, L, D)

This morning you will start the day by visiting the National Memorial Chorten (shrine), a monument dedicated to the 3rd king of Bhutan, Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Then go to visit Traditional Painting School, a school where students are taught to make Bhutan's 13 traditional Arts and crafts, Visit Textile weaving to know the living national art of weaving. Last activity of this morning was to go to see the national animal Takin, a unique looking animal with the head of sheep and body of cattle.

After lunch, drive through a forest of pine and hemlock, up to cross over the Dochula pass (Alt: 10142ft/ 3,050 m). From the pace, you can enjoy the panoramic views of the majestic Himalaya Mountains. Keep driving along the winding road to the fertile valley of Punakha / Alt: 4430ft/ 1,350 meters.

Accommodate in Punakha Town..

Day 10: Punakha Sightseeing - Drive to Paro / 130km, About 3.5hrs' Driving (B, L, D)

After breakfast, you will go to visit Punakha Dzong, situated in between Pho Chhu and Mo chhu (male and female river). It has three towers, and is praised by many people as the most beautiful one in Bhutan's 21 Dzongs. Next, move to the Chimi Lhakhang, a mysterious temple. It was built in 1499 by the legendary "Divine Madman" – lama Drukpa Kunley. There is a tradition that the childless women can visit this temple to receive a wang (blessing) from the saint, then they will have a child. After lunch, drive back to Paro. Have a good night in Paro Town

Day 11: Paro - Takshang (Tiger's Nest) / About 20mins' Driving plus 2~3hrs' Hike (B, L, D)

After breakfast, start the day with a short drive to Paro's upper valley. On a clear day you'll have an unforgettable view of the "Goddess" – Mt.Chomolhari (23,640 feet).

Afterward, it's a short drive to the Taktsang trail ahead. Hike to Taksang Monastery, the most famous monastery in Bhutan also known as "Tiger Nest Monastery, because Guru Rinpoche reportedly flew to the site on the back of a flying tiger late in the 7th century. Between blue pines and a blue sky, the monastery perches miraculously on a cliff nearly 2,700feet above Paro's valley floor. Break along the way for tea and snacks in a small tea house.

Hike down the mountain, then drive back to Paro for accommodation.Takshang is also known as Tiger's Nest Monastery Taktshang (Tiger's Nest).

Day 12: Paro Departure (B)

Your journey in Bhutan comes to an end today! After breakfast, your guide will pick you up from the hotel to the airport in time for the scheduled flight to your next destination. Before that, you can take a rest at the hotel or go for a walk nearby.