

CULTURAL EXPERIENCE OF NEPAL

Departing April 2023

Day 1 Arrive Kathmandu met and transferred to your hotel situated in Thamel (B)

Day 2 – 3 Free Days to Explore Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Durbur Square OPTIONAL full day sightseeing tour with a guide can be arrange including transport, guide, and entries into Bhaktapur, Pasapatinath and Boudanath)



Day 4 – Chitwan You will be collected from your hotel and transferred to the domestic airport for your 20-minute flight to Bhadrapur. On arrival you will be met by the staff of your lodge and driven the 30 minutes to your hotel. On arrival you will be served drinks and given a briefing on your next 3 day's activities. After the briefing you will be escorted to your cabin and lunch will be served in the dining room. After a very healthy organic lunch you will be introduced to your naturalist guide who will take you on a walk through the Tharu village to share their world with them as you reach out to touch another culture. Later you will visit the elephant stables where your guide will explain the difference of the Asian and African elephants. At 5pm you will enjoy a relaxing jungle sunset cocktail hour by the Rapti River before returning to your hotel for the evening meal (**BLD**)

Day 5: Chitwan An early rise for those who wish to go venture into the jungle for a 2-hour bird watching walk, with the camps experienced naturalist. After breakfast you will transfer to the inside park by dug-out canoe. We pass a pageant of bird life, and our naturalists are there to share their knowledge of the jungle with you. During the walk you will visit the Elephant Breeding centre where you will see the first twin elephants born in Asia. After the visit your jeep will meet you and escort you on a short drive through the jungle, returning to your lodge for lunch. Later in the afternoon you will have the choice of going on a jeep safari or elephant ride in the jungle. Before dinner you will experience a cultural show from the local Tharu Village people. Experience the unique society of the Tharu people who have lived for centuries close to the jungle. Their rich traditions reflect their intimate relationship with the natural world. **(BLD)**

Day 6: Be greeted by another early wake up call to enjoy nature at its best – on foot in the jungle with your experienced naturalist. Return in time for breakfast the remainder of the day is yours free, you may wish to hire a local push bike and ride around the area. Later in the afternoon you will go on a jeep safari into the jungle to look for the elusive Bengal Tiger, spotted deer, rhino, crocodile, sloth bear. Return to your lodge for dinner. **(BLD)**

Royal Chitwan National Park is where you will see yet another side of Nepal. The days here are spent on trips into the jungle on an elephant's back, swimming, jungle walks, and bird watching and if the river is up, even a canoe trip on the Rapti River to look at crocodiles. Or, if you prefer, you can stay at the lodge and just relax. Your Jungle Lodge is very comfortable, and in a great location, on the edge of the park. Facilities are not luxurious, although you will have electricity and hot water. The food is excellent - a combination of western and traditional Nepali. The friendliness and knowledge of the staff will be a highlight of your stay here.

situated in the Rapti Valley, Chitwan National Park is approximately 80 miles southwest of Kathmandu by road. The region in which the park is situated is known as the Terai, a flat and highly cultivated plain that constitutes the entire southern quarter of the country. Extremely hot in the Summer while mild and cool in winter, this region produces most of the country's food. Early this century, the Terai was a rarely visited jungle expanse with very few inhabitants, the only visitors being members of the Nepalese upper class on hunting trips.

During the 1950's malaria was eradicated, and the population began to expand rapidly. Loggers and farmers in search of new fields slowly cleared the jungle. Conservationists soon realized that if action were not taken it wouldn't be long before all the animals of the Terai would be extinct. In 1962 King Mahendra designated Chitwan as a rhinoceros preserve. In 1973 it was finally gazetted in parliament as the first national park in Nepal.

Today there are only about a thousand one horned rhinos left in the world, and over 300 of these are in the Chitwan National Park. Fewer than 2000 tigers remain in the sub-continent, more than 40 live in Chitwan. There are many other animals as: the fish-eating gharial crocodiles, buffaloes, sloth bear, hog deer and wild peacocks. For a more in-depth study of all the animals in the park you should read *The Heart of the Jungle* by KK Gurung. Remember that although there are many animals to be seen in Chitwan, it is not a zoo. Nor is it like the vast open plains of southern Africa. It is a small compact jungle park where you must go out and find the animals; it is possible that you may not see anything at all. If you rise early in the morning and go on a jungle walk or elephant ride with the park guides, you are very likely to spot some wildlife. It should also be noted that there are over 400 species of birds living in the park, and if you are interested in bird watching there will be plenty of opportunities. Just ask the Lodge guides all transport, meals and activities are included in your stay.

INCLUSIONS:

3 Nights Royal Chitwan National Park at Gaida Wildlife Reserve
All transfers
All Meals
All Activities

Day 7 Chitwan – Pokhara Transfer from Chitwan to Pokhara by tourist bus. Met and transfer to your hotel in Pokhara. (BLD)



Day 8 Free Day in Pokhara Your guide will be staying at the same hotel and if required will help you to arrange excursions, eg boat ride on the lake, short hike to the Peace Temple, visit To the Tibetan Refugee Camp **(B)**

Day 9 Free Day Pokhara Relax and enjoy this lovely city situated on Phewa Lake. 3rd May **(B)** **One recommendation is to take a helicopter scenic flight to Annapurna Base Camp the hotel can arrange this for you and the cost is approximately AUD\$150 It is certainly worth the experience. (B)**



Day 10 – 11 Pokhara – Lwang Village. (2 nights) After breakfast you will be accompanied by your guide and transfer by landcruiser for your 2-hour drive to Lwang Village **Homestay** is a beautiful experience. Lwang is a beautiful scenic hilly village lying in the Kaski district. It is 20-30 km northwest face from Pokhara. The village is highly famous for the organic tea gardens. As well as nowadays the place is getting familiar for the Homestay. Lwang is inhabited mainly by Brahmin, Chhetri, Gurung, Blacksmith, Tamang, Newar people. Thus, the visitors will have a great opportunity to experience the culture of people of various races and castes. Visitors are allowed to stay in a small stone roofs houses with clean lanes and surrounding, served with typical Nepali food (dal, rice, curry) and local chicken, alcohol made from local millet, cultural events and shows.

Your Homestay in Lwang will be an extraordinary experience where you will be surrounded by tea plantations with views of Pokhara in the distance. **(BLD)**

Day 12-13 Lwang Village to Dhampus This morning you will transfer to the outskirts of Pokhara by jeep, your taxi will the transfer you to your hotel in Dhampus situated in 1950 mtrs above Pokhara with stunning views of the Annapurna Ranges and Phewa Lake. Here you will spend 2 nights at a lovely night in a lodge **(BLD)**



Day 14 Dhampus – Pokhara – Kathmandu fter breakfast transfer to Pokhara airport for your flight to Kathmandu O/N (B)

Day 15 - Kathmandu Free Day (B) Hotel



Day 16 Kathmandu– Transfer to the airport for you flight

Cost: On Request

Inclusions:

- *Airport Transfers
- *4 nights Kathmandu Hotel including breakfast
- * Tourist Bus Kathmandu/Chitwan
- *3 Nights Chitwan including all meals and activities
- *Transfer by tourist bus to Pokhara
- *3 nights Pokhara Hotel including breakfast
- *guide service Lwang Village
- *Transfer by jeep to Lwang Village
- *2 nights Lwang Village including all meals
- *2 night lodge stay including all meals Dhampus
- *National park permits and Tims permit
- *transfer by vehicle to and from Dhampus
- * Flight Pokhara/Kathmandu

