

## THE BEST OF KATHMANDU AND POKHARA NEPAL

Without a doubt this country is a potpourri of culture and diversity. It boasts as having the highest mountain in the world Mt Everest mixed with unique wildlife and exotic culture. Discover yourself amidst this strange world of mystical beliefs and incredible history. Every aspect of life is tainted with spiritual reasons. You will have many opportunities to witness this aspect of life, and to share with people your own ideas about it. The art and craft of Nepal are basically based on the religious themes taken from Buddhism and Hinduism. Nepalese art has been influenced and promoted since the earliest recorded times by the Newars. In Nepal, ethnical cultural groups are diverse and many of them have their own languages and customs. The country's capital Kathmandu and largest city simultaneously reeks of history and the wear and tear of increasing modernity. The tightly packed historical centre, with its squares and temples, continues to preserve a world light years away from shantytowns, expensive hotels, restaurants and shops on the city's outskirts. Kathmandu's core is Durbar Square, with the Vishnumati River to the west and Ratna Park to the east, The Bagmati River forms the southern boundary, whilst Thamel, the popular tourist hangout sprawls to the north. This would have to be one of the most exciting cities in the world today.

Pokhara is a beautiful town set on the banks of the Phewa Lake. It is smaller and much less hectic than Kathmandu and is the perfect starting point for our trip. Whilst in Pokhara we will stay at the delightful Hotel Stupa run by Mrs Raj Kumari and her family. Upon arrival we will be free to relax in the hotel after our long journey, or explore this friendly easy-going town and take in the many shops and bazaars. The following morning a tour will be arranged for us to visit the Tibetan Refugee Camp and Devi Falls.

No other area in Nepal has such a splendid variety of natural beauties as the Annapurna region. It is a rare combination of long arrays of snow-capped peaks, crystal lakes, and turbulent rivers with deep gorges, Tibetan monasteries, and picturesque villages, inhabited by simple and friendly ethnic people.

#### PROPOSED ITINERARY

**Day 1 Arrive Kathmandu** Your adventure begins when we arrive at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan airport 1400. Met by our guide Mr. TB Ghale and transferred to your hotel situated within a short walk of Thamel. **3 January (B)** 

**Day 2 Kathmandu – Pokhara – Australian Camp** After a leisurely breakfast depart your hotel at 9am for a fully guided tour of Bouddanath and Pasapatinath before transferring to the airport for your 12pm flight to Pokhara (20 minute flight). On arrival transfer to your hotel afternoon guided sightseeing (**B**)

# Day 3 Pokhara - Australia Camp

After breakfast you will be driven by vehicle to the start of your 2 day trek. On your journey you will afford spectacular views of Dhaulagiri, Annapurna I, II, III, IV, Lamjung Himal and Manaslu. As we steer away from the tourist trail for several days, you will see how the Nepalese have gone about day to day life for centuries. Remember, however, that you are in the Himalaya and that 95 percent of the country is hilly and criss-crossed by numerous trails, there is very little flat land. **Overnight Lodge at Australian Camp (BLD)**4<sup>th</sup> January



**Day 4 Australia Camp to Dhampus** (2500 mtrs) Today you will ascent for approx.20 minutes before taking the main trail to Dhampus which is a quaint village situated on the ridge, it is then a flat walk to Dhampus Overnight Lodge (BLD) 5<sup>th</sup> January

**Day 5 Dhampus – Pokhara** After breakfast you will hike for approximately 1-1/2 hours ascending to the road where your transport is waiting to take you to Pokhara and your hotel. After lunch your guide will take you on a boat ride on Phewa Lake and show you the sights of Pokhara. **(B)** 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Day 6 Pokhara - Kathmandu** - This morning you will have a free day in Pokhara before taking your afternoon return flight to Kathmandu. Transfer to your hotel free time to enjoy the excitement of Kathmandu. **7**<sup>th</sup> **January (B)** 

Day 7 End of Tour After breakfast transfer to the airport for your onward journey. (B) 8<sup>th</sup> January

Cost of Tour Aust\$1200 twin share

### **Trip Inclusions**

\*2 internal flights \*2 day fully escorted lodge trek incl. all meals \*private transport to start of trek. \*2 Nights Pokhara 3-1/2 star including b'fast \*2 nights Thamel including b'fast \*Sightseeing Bouddanath and Pasapatinath \* Experienced English Speaking Nepalese Guide and Australian Group Leader \*Arrival and departure transfers \*Trekking permit and National Park Fees \* meals stated, Guides flights, wages, meals and accommodation

### **Not Included**

\*International Airfare \*Gratitudes to guide allow US\$100 he will be with you for the full trip \* Entry into Bouddanath and Pasapatinath allow \$20 \*Airport taxes



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