



BEST OF NEPAL

11 days / 10 nights

Situated between India and Tibet, the Kingdom of Nepal is filled with many different ethnic groups, customs and traditions reflected in a wonderfully diverse geography. From the hot Indian plains and steamy southern Tarai lowlands, the terrain crosses the Kathmandu Valley and rises to the frozen heights of the Himalayan peaks towards the Tibetan plateau known as the 'roof of the world'.

Spread across these varied altitudes are communities of colourful cultures and people (many untouched by modern development), animated cities and towns, and far-flung mountain villages. Life here revolves around an intricate intermingling of ancient Hindu and Buddhist religious rituals. Numerous festivals are celebrated throughout the year coloured by a diversity of religious and tribal traditions. The capital of Kathmandu brings an assortment of these different societies together into a vibrant collection of brilliant sights and exotic smells, with modern shops co-existing with street sellers, while pyramidal Buddhist temples, holy Sadhus of the Hindu faith and medieval palace squares fill the urban landscape.



Nepal is well endowed with glorious scenery – verdant terraced valleys, rushing rivers and ice-blue lakes that originate in the 'abode of snows', or Himalayas. The uplifting sight of soaring mountains is a magnet for mountaineers and trekkers, offering some of the greatest challenges and most scenic walking opportunities on earth. Its diverse terrain offers tremendous opportunities for adventurous activities, and although mountain climbing and trekking are the most popular, there is also superb white-water rafting on steep mountain rivers, as well as elephant-back safaris or tiger tracking in the Royal Chitwan and Royal Bardia National Parks situated within the jungles of the southern Tarai belt.

Nepal has many attractions, but the essence of the country is its smiling, friendly people with their heartfelt palm-pressed greetings, and together with its inspiring scenery, this beguiling kingdom is a place where one visit is usually not enough to satisfy the captivated traveller.

Day 1

Kathmandu

On arrival at Kathmandu Airport you will be met with a floral welcome and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2

Kathmandu

This morning you will enjoy a city tour of Kathmandu and then visit Swayambhunath, one of the oldest Buddhist stupas overlooking the entire Kathmandu Valley. In the afternoon, you will visit Hindu Temples and other impressive sites in Pashupatinath, Boudhanath and Bhadgaon. B



Day 3

Kathmandu

Today you have the option of boarding an early morning mountain flight over the Himalayas. The flights last for about an hour and you will have a close up view of the beauty of the Himalayas, including eight of the world's highest mountain peaks. Later in the afternoon you will be driven to Patan City. Known as a paradise of fine arts, it is a city of Buddhist monuments, Hindu temples and fine wood carvings. B

Day 4

Kathmandu-Dhulikhel

After breakfast you will visit the medieval township of Banepa en-route to Dhulikhel. The rest of the day will be at leisure. B

Dhulikhel is a small town at an altitude 1,440-metre from the sea level. The artistic skills and urban ethos of its Newar inhabitants have made a place of charm and beauty. Once an important link in the ancient trade route to Tibet, the town has a glorious past that can be witnessed in the lovely buildings and intricate woodcarvings found along the shop-lined streets and in the temples. The place has many vantage points that offer a panorama of the low hills, valleys and the Himalayas. Sunset views are spectacular from here. Bird watching, mountain biking and hiking are the favourite activities of this place.

Day 5 **Dhulikhel-Nagarkot**

Watch the sunrise from your hotel before being driven to Nagarkot. The rest of your day will be at leisure. Enjoy the stunning views and peaceful majesty of the Himalayas. B

Nagarkot, at 2,175 meter above the sea level, is the most popular resort destination in the Kathmandu Valley. At sunrise, the Himalayan range, stretching from Dhaulagiri in the west all the way past Everest to Kanchenjunga in the east, emerges from the darkness to greet the happy visitors with its awe inspiring majesty and beauty.



Day 6 **Nagarkot-Kathmandu-Pokhara**

This morning you will be driven back to Kathmandu airport to board your flight for Pokhara. On arrival at Pokhara, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. B

Pokhara is a remarkable place of natural beauty. Situated at an altitude of 827m from the sea level and 200km west of Kathmandu valley, the city is known as a centre 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.

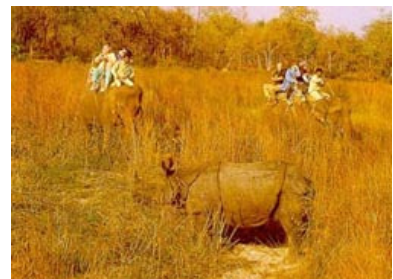


Day 7 **Pokhara**

After breakfast you will enjoy a half-day sightseeing tour of Pokhara city. Pokhara is situated in a beautiful valley and is a rare combination of snow-clad peaks, crystal-clear lakes and picturesque villages. The afternoon will be at leisure. B

Day 8 **Pokhara-Chitwan**

Today you will be driven to Chitwan National Park at the foot of the Himalayas. After lunch, you will enjoy an elephant back jungle safari. The wildlife that is native to this region include One-Horned Rhinoceros, Gaur, Bengal Tiger, Wild Elephant, Four horned Antelope, Pangolin, Gangetic Dolphin, Gharial Crocodile, Golden Monitor Lizard and Python. B



Day 9 **Chitwan**

Enjoy a full day of jungle activities including another elephant back safari, or nature walk, jungle drive, canoeing and bird watching in the Park. This is another opportunity to encounter some of the more elusive animals of the Terai such as the Bengal Tiger. B

Day 10

Chitwan-Kathmandu

This morning you will be taken on your final jungle safari, before returning to your hotel for breakfast. After breakfast you will be driven to Kathmandu. B

Day 11

Kathmandu

After breakfast you will be transferred to Kathmandu International Airport for your onward flight. B

Tour Cost per person – valid for travel from 06 Jan until 30 Sep 2009

Superior Hotels

Land Only: 2-4 paying pax	A\$3386
Land Only: 5-9 paying pax	A\$3290
Single Supplement:	A\$1683

Deluxe Hotels

Land only: 2-4 paying pax	A\$3795
Land only: 5-9 paying pax	A\$3688
Single Supplement:	A\$1923

Cost Includes:

- 4 nights accommodation in Kathmandu with breakfast
- 1 night accommodation in Dhulikhel with breakfast
- 1 night accommodation in Nagarkot with breakfast
- 2 nights accommodation in Pokhara with breakfast
- 2 nights accommodation in Chitwan on full board
- All jungle activities in Chitwan
- All transfer and sightseeing tours as per the itinerary using AC vehicle
- Services of local English speaking guide in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- Entrance fees at the monuments and National Park fees at Chitwan
- Economy class airfare from Kathmandu to Pokhara

Costs Exclude:

- International airfares ex Australia.
- Lunches & dinners
- Entrance charges for camera/video camera.
- Expenses of personal nature such as laundry, telephone calls, drinks, etc.
- Tips to driver/guide
- Nepal Visa Fees
- Insurance

Superior Hotels:

Hyatt Regency Kathmandu
Mountain Resort Dhulikhel
Club Himalaya Resort Nagarkot
Shangri La Villa Pokhara
Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge Chitwan

Deluxe Hotels:

Hotel Dwarikas Kathmandu
Mountain Resort Dhulikhel
Club Himalaya Resort Nagarkot
Fullbari Resort Pokhara
Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge Chitwan