



## Nepal – Annapurna, Kali Gandaki and jungle safari

This discovery trip to Nepal offers a fantastic variety of activity and a real insight into the Nepalese village culture.



### **Day 1**

Depart London and arrive at Kathmandu where a Voyage guide will meet you. Transfer to hotel.

### **Day 2**

From Kathmandu, we drive to Nayapul, the starting point of the trek. The Poon Hill trek is in the foothills of the Annapurna ranges and offers fantastic views of the mountains and a glimpse of traditional village life. The highlight of this trek is the watching the sunrise over the mountains from Poon Hill standing at 3000m. We start trekking to Tirkhedunga at approximately 1800m, which is around 4 hours of walking. A fairly easy start to the trek, the terrain is medium up's and down's through villages. Overnight at Tirkhedunga.

### **Day 3**

From Tirkhedunga, we continue walking up to Ghorepani at 2800m. We start the day with a gentle walk on a flat trail for about half an hour but the terrain soon starts to prove challenging with a steep ascent for around two hours where we arrive in Ulleri. Once rested with a spot of lunch, we take a gradual walk up to Ghorepani. Ghorepani means 'horse water' and it is no doubt a welcome watering stop for the teams of horses, mules and ponies that carry loads between Pokhara and Jomsom. From here, we get a fantastic panoramic view of Dhaulagiri I, Tukucho, Nilgiri and Annapurna. Overnight at Ghorepani.

### **Day 4**

An early morning excursion to Poon Hill at 3193m, about an hour's climb, provides an even better, unobstructed view of the high Himalaya. The trail then climbs, leaving the moist, high mountain forests and enters a field of cane. We make some up's and down's and finally settle at a vantage point that offers a brief view of the mountains. The trail then leads on to Tatopani where we can experience the waters of some natural hot pools. Stay overnight in Tatopani.

### **Day 5**

Starting our descent, we head south along the banks of the rivers towards Ranipauwa. Walking high above the valley below we will have amazing views of the surrounding mountains. Overnight in Ranipauwa.

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### Day 6

The last part of the trek descends down to Beni, where we can really experience the local communities and sample the friendliness of the people. We will camp overnight next to the river and rise early to change our kit and prepare for the river!



### **KALI GANDAKI**

The Kali begins its journey high on the Tibetan plateau in the kingdom of Mustang. Plunging its way down through the Himalayas, the river carves the deepest gorge in the world between the two 8000m peaks, Dhaulagiri and Annapurna. First opened to commercial use in 1991, the Kali Gandaki journey descends through challenging white water, unique cultures and amazing beaches. When not negotiating rapids, time on the river can be spent under cascading waterfalls and enjoying the backdrop of the Annapurna ranges. Both experienced and novice rafters will love it. Being one of the holiest rivers in Nepal, every river junction on the Kali Gandaki is dotted with cremation sites and above ground burial mounds.

### Day 7

Making an early start we drive for around 3-4 hours to the put-in point near Beni. Throughout this drive there are stunning views of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri peaks, as well as the sacred Machapuchare. Upon arrival, we unload all the equipment and receive a full safety briefing. After lunch the guide will take us to the river starting point, ready to begin an exciting 3-day raft trip.

We begin with some class III rapids - a warm up for the team. After 10-15 minutes you will be encountering two big, class 4 rapids called 'Small Brother' and 'Big Brother'. Your guide will be making you work hard at doing exercises to work as a team maneuvering the raft efficiently. After scouting the rapid, the safety kayakers will pave the way for the rafts. Soon after encountering the rapids we will reach the Modi Khola confluence, where we will choose the beach for the evening campsite. We unload the rafts and one raft team prepares dinner and rum punch whilst the others play volleyball or relax and take in the scenery.

### Day 8

Once the rafts are packed, we start down the river for a day mixed with adrenaline, calm and spectacular scenery, including views of Annapurna 1 and Himachuli. We will tackle many class III sections and the challenging class IV named REFUND. This section of river is abundant with vines, wildlife and lush vegetation hanging from the cliff faces. Our campsite is below the village of Puri Ghat.

### Day 9

Soon after being back on the water, we reach the holy village of Seti Beni. The river has deposited a house size boulder in the confluence, with a smaller tributary. Since a confluence is considered a holy place in the Hindu religion, this boulder has become an important shrine to the local river people. There is usually a great audience to watch and listen to the spectacle as each team negotiates the rapid that has formed around this holy place. Not long after this, it is time for the journey to end. Our bus will be waiting for us. We load up the gear and prepare for the bus journey back to Pokhara.

### Day 10

Today is a long drive to Chitwan, the venue for our jungle safari. Overnight in Chitwan.

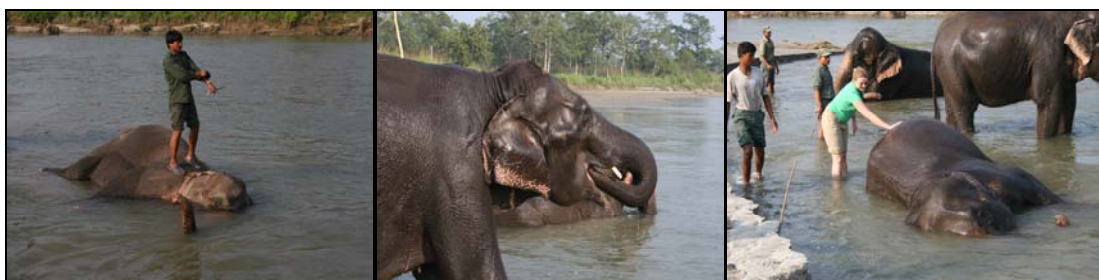
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### **JUNGLE SAFARI - CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK**

Home to some amazing wild animals and fantastic scenery, the Royal Chitwan National Park is the oldest national park in Nepal. It is situated in the subtropical inner Terai lowlands of south-central Nepal and was designated a World Heritage Site in 1984.

There are more than 43 species of mammals in the park. The park is especially renowned for the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, the tiger and the gharial crocodile along with the wild elephant, four-horned antelope, striped hyena, pangolin, Gangetic dolphin, monitor lizard and python. Other animals found in the park include the sambar, chital, hog deer, barking deer, sloth bear, palm civet, langur and rhesus monkey.

There is also over 450 species of birds in the park. Among the endangered birds is the Bengal florican, giant hornbill, lesser florican, black stork and white stork. Common birds seen in the park include the peafowl red jungle fowl, and different species of egrets, herons, kingfishers, flycatchers and woodpeckers.



#### **Day 11**

The first day of this incredible experience that takes us in and around the Chitwan National Park on elephants! Chitwan is also one of the only national parks that will allow you to help wash the elephants after a long days work.

#### **Day 12**

We continue our safari experience and hope for a glimpse of a tiger as well as encountering many wild animals and birds. It's also a time to enjoy the scenery and wilderness.

Later, we prepare to fly back to Kathmandu where we stay overnight.

#### **Day 13**

A time to enjoy Kathmandu and prepare for home.

#### **Day 14**

We depart Kathmandu and start our journey home – no doubt with many memories of the past two weeks.

**Includes:** Accommodation, meals and transfers as detailed in the itinerary.

**Excludes:** International flights, tips and gratuities, any visas.

**Price per person:** Price on application

**Best time to travel:** October/November

**Is it for you?** This trip does not require any technical climbing and, although challenging, any moderately fit person who has done some training should be able to achieve the summit. Acclimatisation days are built into the itinerary to help combat altitude sickness.