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Temples and Tigers

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Overview

Nepal has seen many rulers and ruling dynasties, which lead to a colorful, mixed history. From the moment you arrive at Kathmandu, discover its enrichment with more temples than homes, and its festivals that seemingly exceed the number of the days in a year. Explore the whole valley with its seven World Heritage Sites. When time comes to travel to Chitwan you will understand why Nepal is considered the biggest natural museum in the world. The Chitwan National Park has Sal forests which cover 70% of the area and there are about 600 species of plants. The Park is home to the only significant number of one-horned rhinos and other endangered species like the Bengal tiger, the gangetic dolphins and the gharial crocodile. There are altogether over 43 species of large mammals, 526 species of birds, 150 different types of butterflies, 126 species of fish and 49 species of reptiles in this wonderful Park.

Your Itinerary

DAY 1

WELCOME TO NEPAL

Upon arrival at Kathmandu International Airport, you are received and welcomed by one of our friendly representatives who will offer you a "Khada," a religious silk scarf. Transfer to your Kathmandu hotel where you can rest prior to your exciting week that lies ahead!

DAY 2

FULL-DAY KATHMANDU SIGHTSEEING

Following breakfast at the hotel, depart for a full-day sightseeing tour of Kathmandu, the "City of Glory". Visit Durbar (palace) Square, the epicenter of religious and cultural life, an area filled with old temples and historical significance. Some of the sights include Kal Bhairav, Hanuman Dhoka, Taleju Temple, Kasthamandap and Kumari Ghar; home to the Living Goddess. Afterwards visit **Swoyambhunath Stupa**, said to be one of the oldest Buddhist stupas in the world, which is majestically set high on a hill overlooking Kathmandu Valley.

Proceed towards Patan, the city of Fine Arts. Your tour includes a visit to Durbar Square, Krishna Temple, Golden Temple (Hiranya Varna Mahavihar) and more. Also visit the Tibetan Handicraft Centre where you can see the art of making carpets by the Tibetan refugees. Stay overnight at your hotel in Kathmandu.

DAY 3

ENJOY A CULTURE AND HERITAGE EXPERIENCE BEFORE TRAVELING TO NAGARKOT

After a delicious breakfast, depart your hotel for a full-day sightseeing tour of Pashupatinath Temple, a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. This massive temple complex sits alongside the banks of the holy Bagmati River. Only Hindus are allowed to enter the courtyard of the temple, whereas tourists can see the temple from the eastern side of the Bagmati River. Later visit Boudhanath, a Buddhist Stupa said to be one of the largest in the world. This massive structure stands tall with four pairs of eyes each facing the four cardinal directions, watching for righteous behavior of mankind and for human prosperity. Afterwards visit Bhaktapur, the "City of Devotees". Your tour here begins with a visit to Durbar Square, the Golden Gate, Palace of 55 Windows, Lion's Gate, The Nyatapola Temple, the tallest of its kind in Nepal, Bhairab Temple and the Pottery Centre.

Later, drive to Nagarkot, one of the most popular tourist hill-stations in Kathmandu Valley, situated 18km east of Bhaktapur at an altitude of 2175 m above sea level. It is also famous for its spectacular sunrise and sunset views. On a clear day, one can enjoy the panoramic views of snow capped mountains of eastern Nepal including Mt. Everest. Enjoy your overnight stay at your resort in Nagarkot.

DAY 4

DRIVE TO CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

After an early morning breakfast and view of the sunrise, head west to Chitwan National Park (approx. 196km/ 6½ hours drive), one of the best managed national parks in the world. The Park is home to at least 450 species of birds, 45 species of amphibians and reptiles and 43 species of mammals which include the majestic Bengal tiger, the single-horned Indian rhinoceros and the sloth bear. Enjoy lunch at a lodge within the Park, participate in various jungle activities such as an elephant safari, jungle drive and nature walk. Have dinner and spend the night at a Jungle resort.

DAY 5

UNFORGETTABLE CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE

Explore the flora and fauna of Chitwan National Park as you enjoy a safari through the park, go on an elephant safari, or take a nature walk. Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and overnight at the lodge in Chitwan are included.

DAY 6

TRAVEL BACK TO KATHMANDU

After breakfast, embark on a scenic five-hour drive along the sacred Trisuli River as you travel back to Kathmandu. You are free to explore Kathmandu for the remainder of the afternoon at your leisure. This evening, enjoy dinner accompanied by a cultural program in a Nepali restaurant.

DAY 7

DEPARTURE DAY

After checking out of your hotel, our representative transfers you to the airport for your departure flight back home or to your next exciting destination.

Tips & Travel Guide

What are the passport/visa requirements for travel to Nepal?

Visas for Nepal are obtained upon arrival in Nepal. Please go to the Immigration Counter and have 3 passport-sized photographs and approximately US \$30.00 cash per person ready for the visa fee, along with your passport.

I am flying to Nepal from India. Do I need a re-entry permit for India?

If you are planning to enter India multiple times within a 2-month period, recent updates to Indian visa regulations may impact your travel. Further clarification was issued stating that if the visa holder is traveling to multiple countries on the same itinerary, no permit is needed, as long as the trip follows the itinerary exactly. The visa holder must carry a copy of their itinerary to show the Immigration Officer upon their first entry to India.

What is the best season to travel to Nepal?

We operate tours throughout the year; however the best seasons to travel to Nepal are spring and autumn. We do operate tours in the off-season but do not recommend them, as Tiger Tops in Chitwan is closed from June until the second week of September.

What should I bring for my stay in Nepal?

We recommend that you bring casual clothes in jungle colors such as beige, brown, khaki and green that are least disturbing to the environment and are most appropriate for wildlife viewing. Natural fiber clothes are often best for the humid jungle conditions, trousers are preferred and a fleece jacket or sweater is recommended if you are traveling during wintertime. We also recommend that you bring binoculars, sunscreen, insect repellent, camera with extra film and a small suitcase/overnight bag if your tour includes an overnight in Chitwan.

Approximately how many hours do the tours each day last?

sightseeing tours start at 9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Every half-day sightseeing tour lasts for a maximum of 3 hours and each full-day tour will last for 7 hours with a 1 hour lunch break.

What types of vehicles are utilized for tours/transfers?

We provide luxury vehicles with air conditioning. Size of the vehicle (ie: car, van, coaster or bus) is based on the group size.

What type of cuisine is served during the tour?

Most of the hotels that you will stay at provide a variety of cuisines including local specialties with a vegetarian option.

Is the tap water safe to drink? Is bottled water provided?

We do not advise tap water for drinking. Most of the hotels provide boiled and filtered water to the clients. Bottled water can be provided at an extra charge.

Is there internet/telephone access while on the tour?

Most of the hotels have internet access in the business center and telephone access in every room. Only satellite (international roaming) mobile gets a signal in **Nepal**. Pre-paid mobile SIM card can be purchased or rented.

Do you have any recommendations for gratuities?

Gratuities are left solely to the discretion of the clients.

Terms & Conditions

PAYMENT TERMS:

- (i) 25% of total tour cost due at the time of booking
- (ii) 75% or balance no later than 68 days prior to date of the first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE TOURS

CANCELLATION FEES:

- (i) 25% of the total tour value if cancelled more than 65 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE TOURS
- (ii) 50% of the total tour value if cancelled 64-30 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE TOURS
- (iii) 100% of the total tour value if cancelled 29-0 days prior to date of first service sold by TRAVBUZZ / PALACE TOURS

We strongly recommend purchasing travel insurance to cover the losses incurred in case of cancellation. For information on available plans or to purchase travel insurance, please visit www.palacetours.com/insurance.

Ready to Book Your Journey?

Contact Palace Tours for personalized rates and departure dates

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