



## Buddhist Circuit Tour

<b>Trip code</b>	
<b>Package name</b>	Buddhist Circuit Tour
<b>Duration</b>	8
<b>Max. elevation</b>	1400 m
<b>Level</b>	BEGINNER
<b>Transportation</b>	Domestic flight and grounded vehicals.
<b>Accomodation</b>	3***hotel twin sharing bed basis during the tour.
<b>Starts at</b>	Kathmandu
<b>Ends at</b>	Kathmandu
<b>Trip route</b>	Kathmandu - Pharping - Lumbini - Kathmandu - Namobuda - Kathmandu.
<b>Cost</b>	USD 910 per person

## Highlights

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World Heritage site ( Boudhnath, Pasupatinath, Swayambunath and Kathmandu durbar square.

Lumbini (birth place of Gautam Budha)

Panoramic mountain views from Namobudha.

Old Buddhist Monestary in Pharping.

## Overview

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Usually the Buddhist circuit tour covers all the significant places from the birth place of Buddha in Nepal to the place in India where he got enlighten. But this circuit can't be covered

**in 8 days; hence we will offer a visit to the symbolic places where you can...**

Buddhist influences are evident in the culture of Nepal because Buddha was born in Nepal. Nepal has got strong Buddhist background and has played role in spread of Buddhism to Tibet. Nepalese princess Bhrikuti played a significant role in development of Buddhism in Tibet and Far East. At present, Buddhism has also become the wide spread religion all over the year.

This Buddhist circuit tour is operated within 8 days of time period where the visitors will get chances to observe the famous World Heritage Sites in Nepal like: Boudhanath, Swayambhunath and Lumbini. Also they will get chance to visit the most famous monasteries which includes a day visit to Neydo Tashi Chöling Monastery and Kopa Monastery and an overnight stay in Thrangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery which is situated in Namobuddha. These places have high significance to the Buddhism and have their own historical backgrounds. The tour starts with a full day sightseeing tour in two heritage sites which includes: Boudhanath and Swayambhunath. On the next day, we take an hour drive to Pharping where we will take a tour around Neydo Tashi Chöling Monastery. After a day tour, we will return back to Kathmandu and stay overnight. On the fourth day, we will take a long-drive tour from Kathmandu to Lumbini followed by Lumbini sightseeing tour on the next day. Continuing our tour, we fly back to Kathmandu and drive to Namobuddha on the same day. This day we will stay overnight at Thrangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery. On the seventh day, we will visit Kopan monastery before departing from Nepal.

Since there is a huge celebration in the Buddhist sites of Nepal on the occasion of birth date of Lord Buddha on the month of May, thus you can take this tour in this month. However, this tour can be done throughout the year.

## **Trip Itinerary**

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### **Day 1 : Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport. Upon arrival, meet and transfer to hotel**

Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu. After the clearance of customs and luggage's, exit from the Airport Departure lounge and as soon as you exist you can see number of peoples outside holding a placard. Among them one of the representative of Nature Trail Travels & Tours, Trekking & Expedition will be holding a placard with your name in it. So, closely look at them. He will then transfer you to your respective hotels. Or else, you can visit our office and after full description about your trip, you will be driven to your hotel. Overnight at hotel in Kathmandu.

### **Day 2 : After breakfast, proceed for full day sightseeing tour including: Swayambhunath and Boudhanath**

Today after breakfast, you will have a private vehicle and a professional tour guide at your disposal. After breakfast, get on with today's sightseeing tour which includes: Swayambhunath and Boudhanath. Early morning, we visit Swayambhunath to witness the rituals of monks, pilgrims and worshippers. Swayambhunath is known as "Monkey Temple" since you can see numbers of monkeys around the surrounding areas of the temple. Keeping in this mind, small swimming pool has been made for monkeys to cool themselves in the escorting heat of summer. After strolling around the area and clicking some pictures of Stupas, temples, monuments and of course monkeys, we drive towards Boudhanath Stupa. Boudhanath Stupa is the largest stupa in Nepal and the holiest Tibetan Buddhist temple outside Tibet which is said to be 2500 years old. It is the center of Tibetan culture in Kathmandu and rich in Buddhist symbolism.

### **Day 3 : Drive to Pharping (24 km) and visit Neydo Tashi Chöling Monastery – 1 hr. drive**

Today we will visit the Neydo Tashi Chöling Monastery which is located at Pharping, 24 kilometers drive from Kathmandu. Pharping is so Holy site because Great Guru Padmasambhava got enlightened at Asura Cave, Gorakhanath and Sheshnarayan Cave at Pharping. It's important religious place for Buddhist pilgrimages as well. There are many nice monasteries to visit and where we can make special puja if you want. After our exploration to the sacred site of holy pahrping we drive back to the hotel in Kathmandu.

### **Day 4 : Drive Kathmandu / Lumbini (205 km) – approx. 7 hrs. drive**

After breakfast, we travel overland from Kathmandu to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, which has been reserved as the place of holy pilgrimage. You could also fly from Kathmandu to Lumbini which will take only 45 minutes to reach there. Lumbini has been included as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This pilgrimage site in southwest Nepal attracts devout Buddhists from around the world, who arrive to pay homage at the Sacred Garden where the 'Enlightened One' was born. A famous landmark is the Ashoka Pillar raised by the great Emperor who converted to Buddhism. Today Lumbini has been enlivened by the multitude of architecturally beautiful temples, stupas and monasteries built by various international Buddhist communities. Overnight at Hotel in Lumbini.

### **Day 5 : Ride rickshaw and explore around the pilgrimage sites**

Today we will be spending whole day sightseeing around Lumbini by riding a rickshaw. Lumbini being the birth place of Buddha is also an important architectural and historical site of the world civilization. We also walk through the Sacred Lumbini Garden where the Buddha was born converges on the Ashoka pillar, visit the Maya Devi Temple with its bas-relief sculpture depicting Maya Devi holding on with her right hand to a branch of pipal tree and giving birth to the infant Buddha who stand up on a lotus pedestal. There's a museum nearby, The Kapilvastu Museum; the pottery, jewelry and ornaments are gathered in-house. End up the remarkable tour in Tilaurakot by visiting the shrines, monasteries and stupa near the sacred garden. Tilaurakot is the ancient palace of King Suddodhan (Siddhartha Gautama's father), where the Buddha spent

his formative years as a Shakya Prince. The remains of many ancient stupas and monasteries can be found in the surroundings of Lumbini. The Ashoka pillar is said to have been erected by the Indian Emperor Ashoka in 250 BC and bears an inscription confirming this as the birth place of the Buddha. A stone image of Maya Devi giving birth to Lord Buddha as she holds onto a branch is seen in the Maya Devi temple.

### **Day 6 : Fly Lumbini / Kathmandu and drive to Namobuddha. Overnight at Thrangu Tashi Yangtse Monastery**

After breakfast, fly from Bhairahawa airport to Kathmandu. Upon arrival at Kathmandu, continue your drive to Namobuddha. Namobuddha is a beautiful place. There is no need to exaggerate this. The place is very quiet and pure. Its environment is very clean, with no pollution, and the natural air is so fresh, cool and healthy. It is also the right place for meditation and practice. You can enjoy snow-covered Himalayan ranges which look so amazing and pure. From the Buddhist point of view, Namobuddha is one of the most important religious sites in Nepal. Thrangu Tashi Yangtse connects the story of compassion shown by the Buddha in his one of the incarnations, offering his own flesh to the hungry tigress who was totally ill and was about to eat her cubs around. On this day, we will stay overnight at this sacred place.

### **Day 7 : After breakfast at the monastery, drive to Kopan monastery**

Today we will visit the Kopan Monastery and Nunnery which is 6 km far away from Kathmandu. It is a wonderful pilgrimage and touristy hub. It is a Tibetan Buddhist monastery near Boudhanath, on the outskirts of Kathmandu. It belongs to the Foundation for the Preservation of the Mahayana Tradition (FPMT), an international network of Gelugpa dharma centers, and once served as its headquarters. The monastery was established by the FPMT founders, Lamas Thubten Yeshe and Thubten Zopa Rinpoche, who bought the property from Nepal's royal astrologer in 1969. Its name comes from the name of the hill on which it was built. Kopan has become especially famous for teaching Buddhism. The first of what would become annual month-long (November–December) meditation courses was held in 1971. These courses generally combine traditional Lam Rim teachings with informal discussion, several periods of guided meditation, and a vegetarian diet. After a day visit to the monastery, transfer to airport. At evening, you can enjoy your leisure time or do some shopping of famous Nepalese handicrafts.

### **Day 8 : Final Departure**

Depending upon your flight schedule, you will be transferred to airport for your final departure from Nepal. Make sure you have got all your souvenirs in your luggage and have all the necessary documents to make it easy for the immigration officials at the International airport. You will be transferred to the airport by private vehicle depending upon your departure flight schedule. The tours around Kathmandu ends but the memories will be eternal. We hope that you enjoyed this pilgrimage tour and will return back to Nepal in future.

## Inclusions

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### What is included?

International & domestic airport transfers as per the itinerary.

4 nights 3 star hotel accommodation in Kathmandu on twin sharing basis on BB plan.

1 nights hotel accommodation in Namo Buda twin sharing bed basis on full board basis ( Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner ).

2 nights 3 hotel accommodation in Lumbini twin sharing bed basis on full board basis ( Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner ).

Kathmandu - Lumbini - drive by Tourist Bus.

Lumbini - kathmandu fly by domestic flight.

A professional english speaking guide for entire trip and his Salary , Insurance.

Complementary farewell dinner in a Typical Nepali cultural restaurant.

All government taxes, VAT, Tourist Service charges and official expenses.

### What isn't included?

International Air fare

Entry Visa fees - at present \$25 for 15 day, US\$ 40 for 30 day, and US\$ 100 for three month visa on entry into Nepal.

Lunch and Dinner in Kathmandu.

Temple and monastery entry permit fees.

Bar bills and Personal Expenses.

Tips for staff and guide (expected)

### Complimentary