

Nepal Pilgrimage Package Tour

Trip code	
Package name	Nepal Pilgrimage Package Tour
Duration	11
Max. elevation	3800 m
Level	MODERATE
Transportation	Domestic flight and Tourist Bus during the trip
Accommodation	3***hotel in Kathmandu, Pokhara and Lumbini twin sharing bed basis on BB plan
Starts at	Kathmandu
Ends at	Kathmandu
Trip route	Kathmandu - Pokhara - Jomsom - Muktinath - Jomsom - Pokhara - Lumbini - Kathmandu.
Cost	USD 1,399 per person

Highlights

- Boudhanath
- Swayambunath
- Pashupatinath Temple
- Pokhara sightseeing
- Muktinath Temple
- Annapurna mountain views
- Jomsom flight
- Lumbini

Overview

“Unity in Diversity”, the main motto of Nepal brings every religion, every tradition and every culture together hand in hand. In the whole world, there are only few places left where you can see people of different religion living together with a mutual understanding for each other’s religion and Nepal is one of these places. Nepal is land of God and Goddess, and one of the sacred spiritual places in the world.

A few years ago, Nepal was known as a Hindu country. During those time period too, every citizens of Nepal was taught to respect each and every religion. With this belief, now Nepal is known as a country with diverse religion. No one is discriminated as Hindu, Buddhist, Muslims, Christian, Jain, etc. Everyone is equally treated and has a freedom to practice their prayers and belief in their own God. Being a birth place of Gautama Buddha, Nepal is known as a peaceful country. We feel proud that the source of Buddhism and Buddha hood started from Nepal. There are thousands of temples inside the valley, hundreds of Buddhist Pilgrimage Sites, few churches and Churches. Some of these sites are listed in the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO too. Nepal is also the gateway to Kailash Mansarovar, the mythical abode of Lord Shiva. Devotees come from various parts of Nepal and India for pilgrimage tour in Nepal. Pilgrimage sites of Nepal like Muktinath and Gosaikunda make popular trek destinations. Muktinath is a pilgrimage center for both Buddhist and Hindu.

Pilgrimage Package Tour operated by Nature Trail Travels & Tours, Trekking & Expedition will provide you with a stab to visit both the Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimage sites. During this program, you will be visiting Pashupatinath temple, Boudhanath stupa and Bhaktapur Durbar Square inside Kathmandu valley. Similarly, on the way to Pokhara, you will get a chance to visit Manakamana temple (Temple known to fulfill everyone’s wishes).

The next day, you will fly to Jomsom and explore the forbidden area of Nepal. You will see the rural side of the country. A short drive from Jomsom will take you to Muktinath Temple (Temple known to provide salvation). Thousands of tourists from India visit this place in the belief of getting salvation whereas this place is famous for domestic tourist as well as trekkers too. This place is a fine example of the religious harmony rested in the lap of Himalayas. After a day exploration around Muktinath, the next day you will fly to Pokhara and proceed for half day sightseeing tour in some religious Hindu temples and places. Driving from Pokhara to Lumbini, you will move from the hilly regions to the plains of Terai. Lumbini is the ultimate pilgrimages for every Buddhist – The Star of Asia and symbol of peace. You will explore around Kapilvastu the next day in rickshaw (famous transportation of the place). On the following day, you will be driven back to Kathmandu. One leisure day is kept in case you want to do some souvenir shopping for your loved and near ones. Basically a token or love in Nepal. Or else, you can utilize this day by adding a sightseeing tour in other religious sites of Nepal. Upon your request, we would be glad to modify the suitable itinerary for you.

Trip Itinerary

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, exist 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: Pashupatinath Temple, Boudhanath Stupa and Bhaktapur Durbar Square.

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: Pashupatinath Temple, Boudhanath Stupa and Bhaktapur Durbar Square. These three sites are the most famous pilgrimage sites of Kathmandu. Pashupatinath Temple, being one of the most important Hindu Pilgrimage site stands as a symbol of faith, religion, culture and tradition. It is one of the most sacred Hindu Lord Shiva shrines in the world and is situated 5 kilometer east of Kathmandu heart, on the banks of sacred Bagmati River. Hindus are only allowed to enter this temple. Non-Hindus can admire the beauty of the temple from the other side of the Bagmati River, on the banks of which Pashupatinath Temple stands. 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. Bhaktapur Durbar Square is a collection of pagoda and shikhara – style temples grouped around a fifty-five-window palace of brick and wood. The Square contains innumerable temples and other architectural showpieces like the Lion Gate, the statue of King Bhupatindra Malla, the Picture Gallery, the Golden Gate, the palaces of 55 windows, the Batsala temple and the bell of barking dog etc. After sightseeing, return back to the hotel and then take some rest. Overnight at hotel.

Day 3 : Drive Kathmandu to Pokhara – 6 hrs drive enroute visit Manakamana Temple.

On the following day, we have our breakfast in hotel then pack our stuff for a drive to Pokhara through Prithvi highway. After a drive about three hours, you will reach Manakamana Temple, which means Temples of fulfilling wishes. Thousands of Hindus visit this temple every year with the belief that their wishes get fulfilled after the visit to this temple in the Gorkha district of Nepal. Stories abound of people's wishes coming true: lost sons returning home, lovers finding romance against all odds, people finding success in their business ventures, students excelling in their

exams, etc. Unlike in other temples, the priest in the temples comes from an ethnic group, Magar, non-Brahmin caste. The temple located at the top of the hill can be reached with the help of the one and only cable car service in Nepal. The cable car ride of 30 minutes is an attraction on itself.

If you have a flexible time then you could extend your holiday and stay an overnight in Manakamana and visit the surrounding area. However, visiting Manakamana temple and driving to Pokhara is also possible unless you travel on Friday and Saturday. Since, the temple will have lot of visitors in these days. After sightseeing around the temple, you will be transferred to your respective hotel in Pokhara. At evening, you can walk around the lake side and have a pleasant moment all by yourself.

Day 4 : Early morning, transfer to airport for Pokhara/ Jomsom flight. Explore the surrounding area and stay overnight at Jomsom.

Early in the morning, you will be transferred to airport from where you will take a flight to Jomsom. Direct flight for Jomsom from Kathmandu is not possible. We have to fly or drive to Pokhara in order to take a flight to Jomsom. Jomsom is a major center in the Annapurna region. There is a world-class accommodation facility in Jomsom from where one can enjoy remarkable natural beauty. Sometimes, due to the bad weather condition, flights may be cancelled. In such a case, we can arrange a road transport for you.

Half an hour flight from Pokhara will take you to Jomsom through the greenery hills and above magnificent Kaligandaki George. You can also enjoy the stunning Himalayan ranges like, Machhapuchhre, Annapurna and Dhaulagiri. Upon your arrival, transfer to hotel/lodge and hike around the area. You will be amazed to see such a land in Nepal. This region is a typical region and different from that of Kathmandu and Pokhara. Views of Nilgiri and Dhaulagiri can be seen from Jomsom. Besides the holy essence the natural beauty and the view of the mighty Himalayas are the features of this place.

Day 5 : Drive Jomsom – Muktinath- Jomsom.

On this day, we will take a jeep to drive up to Muktinath. The drive will take about 2 hours along the Kali Gandaki valley. After you reach up to Ranipauwa village you will have to walk further for about 25 minutes in order to reach Muktinath. Muktinath is a holy pilgrimage site for both Hindu and Buddhists and it is believed that this is a must visit place for Hindus to attain salvation. You can visit inside the temple and take a holy bath in the Kunda and 108 Taps. After worshipping the god, you can walk around the surrounding area.

The temple is a pagoda-shaped temple which is dedicated to lord Vishnu. In this sacred site thousands of Hindu and Buddhist pilgrims visit and pay homage to Lord Vishnu. Both Hindu and

Buddhist pilgrims believe that if they go for pilgrimage to Muktinath, they are relieved from all miseries and sorrows. Other than this, there are many places of attractions like: Jwala Mai Temple, Mharne Lha Khang Gompa, Gomba Samba, Swaminarayan and Saligram. After strolling around the place, drive back to Jomsom for overnight stay.

Day 6 : Early morning, catch a flight to Pokhara. Upon arrival, proceed for sightseeing tour including: Gupteshwor Cave, Bindyabasini Temple, Barahi Temple and Shanti Stupa..

Wake up early and walk towards Jomsom airport to take a flight back to Pokhara. Our representative will be there for your pickup. After you reach to the hotel, get refreshed and proceed for sightseeing tour in some religious places of Pokhara which includes: Gupteshwor Cave, Bindyabasini Temple, Barahi Temple and Shanti Stupa. Gupteshwor Mahadev cave is the longest and the most attractive cave where we can find an idol in which amazing and natural pictures of lord Shiva, Lord Ganesh, Goddess Parvati can be found. We can see the illuminating limestone and mesmerizing scene of water fall of Dahi's fall. Bindyabasini temple is one of the most popular temples, with many Hindus and Buddhist devotees visiting all year round. Tal Barahi is one of the most religious and famous pilgrimage sites in Pokhara, devoted to the deity Tal Barahi. It is a Hindu temple of the Goddess Durga (Barahi), the protector of gods. Shanti Stupa is a Buddhist white-domed stupa (chorten). The stupa has become a tourist attraction not only due to its religious significance but also due to its location which provides panoramic views of the surrounding landscape.

Day 7 : After breakfast, drive Pokhara to Lumbini. Overnight at Lumbini.

On the following day, we travel overland from Pokhara to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, which has been reserved as the place of holy pilgrimage. 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, stupa and monasteries built by various international Buddhist communities.

Day 8 : Visit to Religious and archaeological sites of Kapilvastu.

Sightseeing tour in Lumbini will be done by rickshaw today since other transportations are not allowed in those sites. Lumbini being the birth place of Buddha is also an important architectural and historical site of the world civilization. The places of interest today are: Tilaurakot, Gotihawa, Kutan, Niglihara and Sagarhawa. Kutan was where Buddha was received by his father after his access to enlightenment. King Suddhodana specially built the Kutan (Nigrodharma Park) for the accommodation of the Buddha and his followers. Gotihawa is the birth place of Krakuchanda Buddha. Niglihawa is where Kanakmuni Buddha was born. Sagarhawa is the archaeological findings as "place of the massacre of the Shakyas".

We also walk through the Sacred Lumbini Garden where the Buddha was born, converge 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 stands up on a lotus pedestal. 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. 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.

Day 9 : After breakfast, drive Lumbini to Kathmandu.

After such a wonderful pilgrimage tour, you will be driven back to Kathmandu with full of good memories and blessings. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your respective hotel where you will take some rest after 9 days travel.

Day 10 : Free/ Leisure day in Kathmandu.

This day is kept as a leisure day for you to do some shopping for your loved and dear ones. A token of love from Nepal can be a wonderful gift for them. If you want then we can arrange an optional sightseeing tour on this day too. You may choose the sites among these: Shiva Stupa, Dakshinkali Temple, Changunarayan Temple, Swoyambhunath, Namobuddha, etc.

Day 11 : Final Departure.

Depending upon your flight schedule, you will be transferred to airport for your final departure from Nepal. We hope that you enjoyed this pilgrimage tour and will return back to Nepal in future.

Inclusions

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.

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

2 nights 3 star hotel accommodation in Pokhara on twin sharing bed basis on BB plan.

2 nights Lodge + Hotel accommodation in Jomsom on twin sharing bed basis on full board basis (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner).

Kathmandu - Pokhara - Lumbini - Kathmandu drive by Tourist Bus

Pokhara - Jomsom - Pokhara fly by domestic flight

Jomsom - Muktinath - Jomsom drive by reserve jeep

ACAP permit and TIMS permit

A professional english speaking guide for entire trip.

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 and Pokhara.

Temple and monastery entry permit fees.

Bar bills and Personal Expenses.

Tips for staff and guide (expected)

Complimentary