

## Classic Nepal

15 Days



Prepared for  
Steppes Travel Clients

## QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly London / Delhi (overnight)
Day 2	Fly Delhi / Kathmandu
Day 3	Kathmandu
Day 4	Kathmandu
Day 5	Kathmandu/Pokhara
Day 6	Pokhara
Day 7	Pokhara/Trek
Day 8	Trek
Day 9	Trek
Day 10	Trek/Pokhara
Day 11	Pokhara/Chitwan National Park
Day 12	Chitwan National Park
Day 13	Chitwan National Park
Day 14	Chitwan National Park/Kathmandu
Day 15	Fly Kathmandu / Delhi Fly Delhi / London

## DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

### Day 1

#### UK/Delhi

Depart the UK on a flight to Delhi, a flight time of approximately 8 hours, flying overnight. (Day flights also available).

### Day 2

#### Delhi / Kathmandu



Connect with Jetair flight to Kathmandu.

On arrival in Kathmandu you are met and driven to Dwarikas Hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.

*This hotel is a breathtaking, museum like complex showcasing traditional Nepali art. The large rooms hold custom-designed furniture, which are practically works of art themselves, particularly the four-poster king-size beds. The bathrooms feature deluxe sunken baths. Near National Heritage sites Pashupatinath and Boudhanath, the hotel is in the heart of the "real" Kathmandu of barbers, tailors, cows in the street, and busy shoppers rushing through their errands. Room service offers only tea, coffee, and snacks. There are no televisions in the rooms. 71 rooms, 1 presidential suite, 2 normal suites. 2 restaurants, massage, bar, library, meeting room.*

Overnight at Dwarika Hotel in a heritage deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

### Day 3

#### Kathmandu



AM: Sightseeing tour of **Kathmandu City** and **Swayambhunath**.

**Kathmandu City** - Although the fertile Kathmandu Valley has been inhabited for thousands of years, its rich and varied cultural legacy essentially began during the 14th century under the Malla Dynasty. Patronized by the nobility, Newar artisans constructed temples, monasteries and elaborate courtyards that constitute a fascinating architectural history. Visit Durbar Square and Teleju Temple with its gilded roofs; the present temple was restored by King Mahendra Malla in 1562. The gate to the Hanuman Dhoka Durbar, the old Royal Palace, is guarded by a statue of Hanuman, the monkey - god, wrapped in a red cloak' the deity's face is covered by a thick layer of sindur, a red dust mixed with mustard oil. Stop at the House of the Living Goddess where the virgin goddess known as Kumari may look down from one of the upper floor windows. Kathmandu derives its name from the 12th century wood temple of Kasthamandap, said to have been built from a single tree. Walk through the bazaar and labyrinthine back streets of the old city.

Move on to **Swayambhunath** - the "Monkey Temple", the oldest shrine in the world established more than 2500 years ago. Situated on top of a high hill where legendary Manjushri discovered the lotus growing in the ancient Kathmandu Valley lake, Swayambhunath commands an superb view of the valley below. The four side of this ancient structure are painted with



the compassionate eyes of Buddha. Between the eyes is a mystical third eye symbolizing true wisdom. The nose, appearing as an incomplete question mark, is the Nepalese number of one, a symbol of unity

PM: Sightseeing tour of **Patan City**: the City of arts and architecture founded in 250 A.D. is also known as Lalitpur. It is renowned for its fine works in bronze, silver and copper. Visit the Durbar Square, Royal Baths, Mahaboudha, Krishna Mandir and Hiranya Verna Mahabihar (the Golden Temple). A visit to the new **Patan Museum** is a must. The museum faces Durbar Square and is housed in a beautifully restored and renovated former Malla residential palace. The collection spans much of Nepal's cultural history, primarily exhibiting exquisite sculptures of Hindu and Buddhist deities, typical of Patan's tradition in craftsmanship.

Also visit the **Tibetan Refugee Camp** at Jawalakhel to watch weavers making carpets.

Overnight at Dwarika Hotel in a heritage deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 4

#### Kathmandu



AM: Sightseeing tour of **Pashupatinath** and **Bodhnath**.

**Pashupatinath**- The most sacred of all Hindu temples in Nepal is situated on the banks of the holy Bagmati River and is called Pashupatinath. Non Hindus are not allowed to enter the temple precincts but may look in from the opposite bank. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, It draws tens of thousands of pilgrims and devotees from Nepal and India during the festival of Mahashivaratri (the night of Lord Shiva) that takes place in early spring.

**Boudhanath**- Possibly the world's largest Buddhist stupa, Boudhanath is a site of great veneration for Buddhists. Around the stupa there are numerous monasteries of the various sects of Tibetan Buddhism including one (on the west side of the stupa) that houses an enormous seated statue of Maitreya Buddha (future Buddha), splendidly adorned.



PM: Sightseeing tour of **Bhaktapur City**, home of medieval art and architecture, is also known as the 'City of Devotees'. Walk along the cobbled streets and marvel at the magnificent ancient architecture. Visit the Lion Gate, the Art Gallery, the famous Golden Gate and the Palace of Fifty-five Windows.

Overnight at Dwarika Hotel in a heritage deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

#### Day 5

#### Kathmandu/Pokhara

Transfer to airport. Fly Kathmandu / Pokhara.

**Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge** - Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge is half an hour's drive from Pokhara in western Nepal. Situated on a spectacular hilltop ridge a thousand feet above the Pokhara Valley, it has panoramic views of Machhapuchhare, and three of



the world's 8,000m Himalayan peaks, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna and Manaslu. The Lodge sets new standards of elegance for Nepal's second tourism destination with its relaxed atmosphere and tranquil setting. It has won several prestigious tourism awards including the PATA Heritage and Culture Gold Award and the Conde Nast Traveler magazine Ecotourism Award. With just nineteen rooms, this exclusive retreat provides extreme comfort and total attention to personal service.

Activities available from the Lodge include a ridge-top walk visiting local villages; a full day Gurung village trek circuit exploring the picturesque communities of Tulaswor, Chiteipani and Lankachhar; naturalist-guided nature and bird watching walks; or relaxing in Col. Jimmy's Library reading about some of the more famous mountain expeditions. A beautiful swimming pool is located in a strategic site at the end of the ridge and reflects the high mountains which drop away to the Bijaypur river far below.

Overnight at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.

#### Day 6

#### Pokhara

Activities and overnight at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge.

Overnight at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.

#### Day 7

#### Pokhara/Trek



The sherpa team will meet you this morning. Drive approximately 25 minutes to Hyenja (with an option to stop at a Tibetan refugee camp if you wish).

At Hyenja, start your trek down a rough vehicle road to the bridge over Mardi River just above confluence of Mardi and Seti Kholas (Rivers). Turn right and trek along Seti river valley reaching south end of ghachol village in an hour. Lunch stop. Then go north through this mixed race Chettri/ Bahun and then Gurung farming area. Camp above the huge Seti river Gorge with views (on clear days of Machapuchare, Annapurna 3 and 4.

Overnight at Camp in a tent/lodge on a full board basis.

#### Day 8

#### Trek

Easy trekking up through farming land and tall bamboo forests to Diprang village. Descend and cross the Seti (white) river to the east bank close to a natural hot springs bathing area. 15 minute climb away you reach Karpani Lodge. This is not a commercial lodge and was previously a private home set in the most beautiful natural location above 'a bend in the river' with wonderful views north up the valley. Choice of camping in the grounds or with just a few people there are two good bedrooms that can be used. There will be no other trekkers there.

Overnight at Camp in a tent /lodge on a full board basis.

## Day 9



## Trek

Choice of taking it easy and just relaxing and doing a little local exploration, or of re-crossing the river and trekking 1.5 hrs up through mustard fields in flower (Feb) to the pretty village of Karuwa. Lunch. Return back can be via a long new 'Kadoorie Fund' built bridge to the east bank again. Head down through the grey stone farming village of Bara Buri. Overnight Lodge.

Overnight at Camp in a tent /lodge on a full board basis.

## Day 10

## Trek/Pokhara

There is a paved road from Pokhara up the east bank of the river that reaches all the way up to Dibrang bridge by the hot springs, and it is an hours drive back to Pokhara. Better to stretch the legs with an approx 2.5-3 hrs walk up through the Gurung village of Kavre, then climb away through the forest to the Bhanjhang (crossing point) and descend down to the Sardi river through Changlandg village. Meet the sherpas for lunch by the river and drive back to Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge.

Overnight at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.

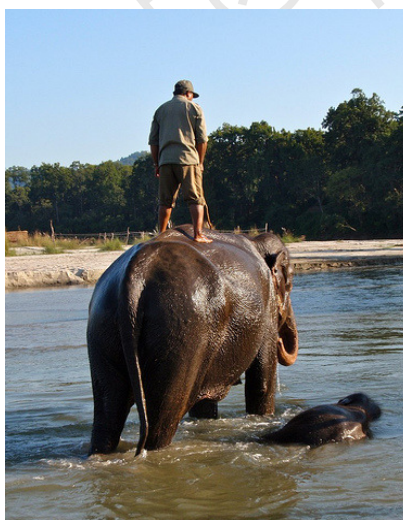
## Days 11



## Pokhara/Chitwan National Park

After early morning activities and breakfast drive to Meghauly on the edge of Chitwan National Park. Upon arrival you will be met by the Tiger Tops representative and transferred to Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge by boat and landrover. Upon arrival at the Lodge, you will be briefed by the resident Guest Relations officer regarding the Park and the wildlife programmes available.

**Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge**, situated 75 miles directly southwest of Kathmandu, is at an elevation of 150 meters (495 feet) above sea level. It is in the heart of Chitwan National Park, a 932 square kilometre (360 square mile) area of tall grassland and magnificent forest, one of Asia's richest and most spectacular wildlife sanctuaries.



All double rooms at the Lodge are attractively furnished and each room has solar powered reading lamps and ceiling fans, with solar heated showers in the attached bathroom. Nepalese and Western cuisine is served in the central dining hall with its huge domed roof and central open fireplace. A fully stocked bar is open until the last guest retires.

Activities at the Lodge include wildlife viewing from elephant back, jungle walks, bird-watching, landrover drives, river safaris, elephant camp visits, wildlife viewing and photographing from machans (blinds). Every evening a slide show explains more fully about the flora and fauna of the National Park. All wildlife activities are escorted by experienced naturalists.

Wildlife in Chitwan includes the greater one-horned rhinoceros, spotted deer, hog deer, sambar deer and barking deer as well as

a wide variety of birdlife. With a bit of luck, there are always the chance of glimpsing the leopard, sloth bear and Royal Bengal tiger.

Overnight at Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.

**Day 12 to Day 13**

**Chitwan National Park**

Wildlife activities and overnight at Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge

Overnight at Tiger Tops Jungle Lodge in a standard room on a full board basis.

**Day 14**

**Chitwan National Park/Kathmandu**

After early morning activities and breakfast, transfer to airport. Fly Meghauli / Kathmandu. Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight at Dwarika Hotel in a heritage deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

**Day 15**

**Kathmandu/Delhi/London**

Transfer and depart Kathmandu on the Jetair flight to Delhi. Depart Delhi on your chosen flight to London.

## TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, It is difficult to categorise each property as they vary so much therefore this is a general price guide only.

**Estimated Price from: £2,995 per person, based on two sharing**

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

International economy flights, domestic flights within Nepal, all transfers and sightseeing as per the programme with English speaking guide in non air-conditioned vehicle, accommodation in twin or double room with breakfast in Kathmandu, full board at Pokhara and Chitwan, fully inclusive trek with all food on trek, all equipment including two man tents, inner sheets, mattresses, mess, kitchen and lavatory tent, camp chairs and tables, crockery, cutlery, services of camp cook, sherpas, trekking sherpa guide, portorage on the trek, all permits on trek. Accommodation at Tiger Tops includes all meals, wildlife activities by elephant/landrover, nature walks with English speaking naturalists/guides, all park fees.

The price excludes travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

**Please note** that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

### Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

### Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

### Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

### A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you

like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

#### 24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

#### Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website [www.steppestravel.co.uk](http://www.steppestravel.co.uk) for further information.

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