

Journey Idea to Nepal

The Dhorphatan Wilderness Trail



Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients



The Dhorpatan Wilderness Trail

Access to the 1300 square kilometre Dhorpatan valley has now become possible with the re introduction of the short take off and landing Pilatus Porter which returned to Nepal after an absence of 30 years. Indeed it was the Pilatus plane that first opened the valley in the 1960's. Once the preserve of Royalty because of its stunning scenery, remoteness and game, we are now able to offer a unique 5 night program that would otherwise take 13 nights to accomplish if one had to trek in and out of the area. For this reason very few tourists are ever seen in this truly unspoilt area. The first two nights involve a stay at one of the first Tibetan settlements in Nepal. Central to the settlement is the monastery and herbal medicine centre. There is then a one night stay at our riverside camp set in a glade of ancient trees. Finally two nights will be spent at our mountainside camp from which there are magnificent and unspoilt views of Dhaulagiri and the surrounding peaks including. Annapurna 1 making two of Nepal's 8000 meter peaks viewable from our camp. The trip ends with a scenic mountain helicopter flight back to Pokhara. Our suggestion is to combine the trek with a few days in Kathmandu before hand to acclimatise. You could also do this in Pokhara if you preferred.

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/Dhorpatan
Day 7	Dhorpatan
Day 8	Dhorpatan
Day 9	Dhorpatan
Day 10	Dhorpatan
Day 11	Dhorpatan/Pokhara/Kathmandu
Day 12	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 hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight at Hotel in a 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 a superb view of the valley below. The four sides 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 Varna 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 Hotel in a 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. Transfer to local hotel.

Explore Pokhara town.

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

Day 6



Pokhara/Dhorpatan

After an early breakfast in Pokhara you are accompanied by your guide to the airport where you board the six seater Pilatus plane for your short 30 minute flight to Dhorpatan located in the mid Western region of Nepal. En route you will have spectacular views of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges. Landing at the grass airstrip situated at an altitude of 2800 m or 9240 ft, the plane will be surrounded by local children. Waiting at the airstrip will be the sturdy horses that will carry your baggage and supplies. A short walk into the village of Dhorpatan will be followed by tea at one of the local houses. Two hours walk along the valley sees you arriving at Chentung Monastery situated at an altitude of 2950m or 9735ft. In the afternoon, you will meet the resident Lama in the monastery who will give a talk on Buddhism and spend time

explaining the symbols, paintings and decorations that adorn the monastery.

Overnight Monastery. BLD

Day 7

Dhorpatan



In the morning, there will be a guided walk for three hours amongst the pine forests and woodlands to look for the differing plants that make up some of the famed herbal medicines that Tibetans have used for centuries. In the afternoon you will spend time with the resident Tibetan herbalist who will teach you about the various herbal medicines that are prepared at the monastery and their various uses. Dinner tonight will be with the senior Tibetan residents, the Lama and the Herbalist.

Overnight Monastery. BLD.

Day 8

Dhorpatan



After breakfast, we leave the monastery and again walk along the valley floor to the settlement of Gurjaghat which is some two hours walk and located at an altitude of 2960m or 9768 ft. Our camp is situated in an ancient glade of trees many of which are hundreds of years old. The camp is surrounded by two streams that flow into the Ganga river which borders our property. The rivers are crystal clear, free from pollution, have plentiful fish during the season and are ideal for taking a dip when the sun is shining. In the afternoon, we take our horses for a pony trek into one of the surrounding unspoilt valleys.

Overnight Riverside. BLD

Day 9

Dhorpatan



Today your walk lasts some three hours. The trail climbs steadily to an altitude of 3300m or 10890 ft. The walk takes you through some magnificent pine forests which thin out becoming forests of Rhododendron bushes and trees. Emerging onto a plateau known as the Jalja La, you will be greeted with a wide panorama of mountains predominant of which is the 8000m or 26400 ft Dhaulagiri and the surrounding peaks. The rest of the afternoon can be spent watching the massif as it changes colour whilst the sun sets.

Overnight Mountain View. BLD

Day 10

Dhorpatan



For those wishing there is an early start to watch sunrise over the mountains. From the viewpoint there are unparalleled vistas of Dhaulagiri, the surrounding peaks, Annapurna 1, Annapurna South, and the Fishtail mountain. We return to our base for a late breakfast. The remainder of the morning and afternoon are for local walks that either offer clear and uninterrupted mountain and valley views or walks through the rhododendron forests. This evening drinks will be served as you watch the sun set over the mountains.

Overnight Mountain View. BLD.

Days 11

Dhorpatan/Pokhara/Kathmandu



After an early breakfast, the helicopter will arrive on the plateau for your return 25 minute flight to Pokhara. The flight as with the inbound Pilatus journey offers further superb views of the Dhaulagiri and Annapurna ranges before you land in Pokhara for your onward journey.

Connect with the short flight from Pokhara to Kathmandu.

Transfer to hotel in Kathmandu on arrival.

Day 12

Kathmandu/Delhi/London

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

Tour Extension Suggestions could include Annapurna and/or Everest trek programmes. Instead of staying under canvas you can stay in local lodges. Please request further details.

STEPPESTRIPES
travel beyond the ordinary

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, 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.

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 for further information.

Steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary