

NEPAL BIRD AND WILDLIFE TOURS 2027

A nine night, ten day dive into the wildlife, wild beauty and cultures of Nepal

About the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) National Park

Established in 1986, this is the largest protected area of 7629 sq.km in Nepal. Over 100,000 people live in this rich biodiverse ecosystem. The area we visit is in Kaski district in the Seti Khola valley, where we ascend up into a pristine forest and mountain environment that has been protected and more recently given special recognition as the Pipar Pheasant Conservation Landscape. This is as acknowledgement of the presence of a uniquely high number of the galliformes. Work has gone on over the last 45 years by the World Pheasant Association and BIOCOS Nepal to work with local communities to protect this species rich environment.

About Chitwan National Park

Established in 1973, Chitwan National Park, spanning 932sq.km, stands as a successful example of nature conservation in Asia. The park showcases the intricate ecosystems of the Churia Hills. There are ox-bow lakes and the floodplains of Rapti, Reu, and Narayani rivers, each holding significant ecological value. Recognised for its remarkable biodiversity, the park attained UNESCO's 'World Heritage Site' status in 1984. With over 535 bird species, 68 mammal species, 45 amphibian and reptile species, the park boasts a rich diversity that includes the Great One-horned Rhino, Common Leopard, Wild Dog, Sloth Bear, Asian Elephant, Rhesus Monkey, Common Langur, Sambar deer, Hog Deer, Spotted Deer, Four Horned Antelope, Wild Boar, Otter, Fishing Cat, Gharial Crocodile, Mugger Crocodile and Golden Lizard.

NEPAL BIRD AND WILDLIFE TOURS ITINERARY

2027

Dates: April and November 2027 (precise dates currently being finalised).

Package Type: Bespoke and limited to ten people per tour.

Duration: Nine nights, Ten days.

Cost per person: £2000 (single supplement £300 extra charge).

Vehicle type: Aeroplane, Toyota Hiace/Coaster and Higer Bus

Maximum Altitude: 2100m.

Maximum Packs: 25kg soft bag on internal flights. Extra luggage can be left in Kathmandu.

Included: Food (breakfast, lunch and dinner), accommodation, transportation, permits (ACA and CNP) and mineral water. (Please note other beverages like alcohol and fizzy drinks are not included).

Day 1: Kathmandu

You will be picked up from the International Airport and transferred to the **Hotel Himalaya**, where you will check in. If you arrive on a morning flight (or are already there), arrangements

will be made for you to have lunch at the hotel, rest, then a visit to Swayambhu (Monkey Temple), with dinner at a nearby local restaurant.

Day 2: Kathmandu

Breakfast at the hotel, then a day of sightseeing, including visiting the UNESCO World Heritage Site Bhaktapur (Durbar Square) There is an afternoon visit to the BIA Craftsmen and an optional visit to the Boudhanath Temple before a Nepali Cuisine dinner then return to your hotel.

Day 3: Fly to Pokhara and on to the Seti Khola Valley

After breakfast at your hotel in Kathmandu, you will be transferred to the domestic airport to fly to Pokhara. Upon arrival in Pokhara you will visit the Pokhara Mountain Museum and the head office of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACA), where you will attend a briefing programme on participatory conservation. After lunch you will travel to Ghachok in the Seti Khola valley and visit the Vulture Restaurant which is a safe feeding site for vultures. These sites were established after a 99.9% decline in the Asian vulture population due to their feeding on the carcasses of cattle treated with Diclofenac.

Ghachok is a village situated in sight of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail) mountain which features predominantly traditional Nepalese style buildings. The villages of the Seti Khola valley form part of the Pipar Pheasant Conservation Landscape, where the WPA (World Pheasant Association, UK) has been actively involved with the schools since the 1980's encouraging the conservation of pheasants and their habitat. Pheasants are a flag ship species whose protection is to the benefit of all wildlife. In Ghachok, you will stay in the **Machhapuchhre Village Inn.**

Day 4: Bird watching hike to Hile

This is an early start. Hile is situated at an altitude of 2100m, surrounded by pristine forest, renowned as an ideal spot for bird enthusiasts.

The hike from Ghachok to Hile is a scenic one, taking approximately four hours and provides a comprehensive experience of the entire Piper Pheasant Conservation Landscape.

Starting from Ghachok, you will head west along the ridge, offering a Himalayan panorama to your right and the Pokhara valley with lush green hills to the south and the Seti river flowing in the east. You traverse agricultural terraces, untouched forests and breath-taking landscapes. As you ascend, you will be treated to awe-inspiring mountain views of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail) mountain (6993m) and Annapurna II (7937m).

You will return to Ghachok and the **Machhapuchhre Village Inn.**

Day 5: Bird Watching walk to Dhiprang village, then on to Rani Ban Retreat.

Meet the villagers in Dhiprang village and then take a bus ride down to Lakeside Pokhara for lunch. After lunch walk it off with a gentle bird watching wander up through the forest to **Rani Ban Retreat** where you will stay the night.

Day 6: Rani Ban Retreat to Chitwan National Park

A gentle start to the day with the morning spent bird watching for those who wish and an incredibly beautiful forest walk with the chance of seeing the famous Spiny Babbler. Lunch will be down at Lakeside to leave Pokhara by 1.00pm. Travel onwards to Sahurath Tharu village, Chitwan. This is a four hour journey passing through many villages and towns.

Upon arrival you will go to the National Parks Visitors Centre, where you learn about the history of Chitwan National Park. You will be staying at the **Park Safari Resort**.

Day 7: Wildlife Safari and Bird Watching in Chitwan National Park.

An early breakfast then depart for a two hour canoe ride down the Rapti River. An excellent opportunity for bird watching and seeing the two rare species of crocodiles, the Marsh Mugger and the fish-eating Gharial. Then a jeep safari to visit the Gharial Breeding Center.

After lunch and rest there is a wildlife safari and bird watching in the Local Community Forest. This is an excellent opportunity to watch many birds and spot rhinoceros, wild boar, monkey, leopard, sloth bear and the four different kinds of deer along with the chance to encounter other smaller mammals.

In the late afternoon, we visit the Elephant Breeding Centre, a treat not to be missed. Dinner in the village and walk back to **Park Safari Resort**.

Day 8: Chitwan National Park

A relaxed morning bird watching and the day to safari in the Community Forest.

In the evening visit the Tharu Cultural House followed by dinner and return to your hotel at **Park Safari Resort**.

Day 9: Drive from Chitwan to Kathmandu

A relaxed departure at 11.00am to return to Kathmandu. The road follows the river and passes through various villages and towns, providing a glimpse into both the modern and traditional aspects of Nepalese mountain life. This is a long day of travel, with coffee stops and an optional walk across a local foot suspension bridge. Lunch is at Barahi. The end of the journey is in the Kathmandu Valley, staying at the **Hotel Timila** in Patan Durbar Square, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with free time to explore at leisure.

The farewell dinner of delicious, authentic Nepali fare is to be held at Patan Durbar Square.

Day 10: Fly back home

You will be transported to TIA (Tribhuvan International Airport) for your flight, if you are scheduled to return home. This is the end of the tour.

Extra Tour options: Kathmandu extra overnight.

Everest Experience (Mountain Flight): Taking a mountain flight to Mount Everest is an exhilarating experience, offering breathtaking views of the world's highest peak and the surrounding Himalayan range. Mountain flights take off from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. These mountain flights typically last for about an hour and take passengers on a scenic journey over the Himalayas, including views of Everest, Lhotse, Nuptse, Makalu, and other iconic peaks. The flights are operated using small aircraft, usually with large windows to ensure optimal viewing opportunities for passengers. It's essential to book your mountain flight in advance, especially during peak tourist seasons, to secure your seat. Weather conditions can also affect flight schedules. During the flight, the pilots often provide a commentary, pointing out significant landmarks and peaks along the way. It's a fantastic opportunity for those who may not have the time or physical ability to trek to Everest Base Camp to still witness the majesty of Mount Everest up close. Overall, a mountain flight to Mount Everest is a memorable experience and a fantastic way to appreciate the grandeur of the Himalayas in a relatively short amount of time. You will be given brochures to identify each peak, and also receive a certificate of completion from the Airlines.

Sunrise Tour from Nagarkot: Nagarkot is renowned for its stunning sunrise views over the Himalayas, including the majestic peaks of the Langtang and Everest ranges. The Nagarkot view point is located about 32km from Kathmandu and it takes about an hour to reach. The early start and morning drive to this hill station gives a spectacular sunrise view of the Himalayas. When the weather is clear, it offers a great Himalaya view including Everest and also an excellent view of the Indrawati River.

Costs Excluded:

1. International flight tickets and visa
2. Extra overnight stay, and any extra tours outside of this itinerary
3. Beverages (coffee, alcoholic, carbonated beverages etc.)
4. Travel insurance (mandatory)
5. Tips for guides and porters (a kitty contribution of £50 per person will cover all tips)