

Himalayan Villages & Chitwan Safari

Nepal Cultural Walking Adventure



Classic
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DAILY ITINERARY

Nepal: Himalayan Villages & Chitwan Safari | Cultural Walking Adventure



“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

Explore the Top of the World

Nepal doesn't have to be a trek. Of course, you go to see the Himalayas, their snow-capped peaks painted with sun. But best of all, Nepal offers you truly unique cultural and nature experiences, with levels of comfort that exceed your expectations. On this stunning trip, you'll explore Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, the country's regal and religious capitals. But you'll also walk amid terraced rice paddies, chat with farmers, and explore tiny villages overlooked by splendid temples. For an unforgettable wildlife adventure, you'll strike out on a safari in search of the one-horned rhinoceros in the riverside jungle of Chitwan National Park. Your expert fulltime local guide makes the introductions, explains the history and cultural traditions, and helps you understand what life is like in the shadow of those awe-inspiring peaks. Nepal is spiritual and spirited, a lively and serene land that's even more than you have imagined.

DAY 1

KATHMANDU

• Walk in Asan Bazaar and Durbar Square • Pay respects to the Living Goddess • Enjoy a cooking instruction with a local chef

The greatest of the Himalayan cities, Kathmandu reveals the past and present of Nepal. On walks with your local guide, you'll explore Asan Bazaar where centuries-old shops sell everything from rock salt and copper pots to conch shells and clothing. You'll also wander Durbar Square, the UNESCO World Heritage site that is the ceremonial heart of the city, known for its rich concentration of traditional architecture. Nepalis in the Newar community continue to worship the Living Goddesses (Kumari), young girls who are revered for their connections to the divine world. You'll visit a temple at the hours when Kathmandu's Kumari may appear to bestow blessings. For views across Kathmandu, you'll head for the hilltop site of Swayambhunath Stupa, also known as the Monkey Temple for the hundreds of namesake animals that peaceably occupy the grounds.

Overnight: Kathmandu

Meals: L, D

DAY 2

TELKOT / NEPALI COUNTRYSIDE

• Meet the locals as you walk through terraced countryside • Get big views of the Himalayas

Today, the focus shifts from the city to the wide-open, mountain-ringed Nepali countryside. Heading out into the Eastern Valley, you'll see Changu Narayan Temple, an intricately carved pagoda-style Hindu temple that's more than 1,500 years old. From this remarkable starting point, you'll start a walk on country trails that reveal small villages and terraced fields that cascade down the hillsides en route to Telkot. Along the way, your guide will encourage interaction with the farmers and other locals who are going about their lives. It's a remarkable look at ways of life that have changed little over the centuries. You'll pause for lunch in the village of Nagarkot. This is the spot for the biggest views of the snow-capped Himalayas. On the clearest of days, it's even possible to see Mt. Everest in the far distance. This afternoon, we return to Kathmandu for a restful evening.

Overnight: Kathmandu

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 3

BHAKTAPUR

• Explore the royal city of Bhaktapur • Take the short flight to Pokhara

Of three royal cities, Bhaktapur is today the best preserved as you'll discover on today's visit. The richness of detail is remarkable. Terracotta monuments are guarded by carved wood columns. Palaces and temples have gilded roofs. The 55-Window Palace is known not just for the carvings on its window frames, but for the Golden Gate – the shimmering portal that's regarded as one of Nepal's most important works of art. You'll also visit Pottery Square where authentic kilns still operate. The pavement is covered with countless pots drying in the open air. You'll even have a chance to sit at a pottery wheel to create your own piece. After lunch in Bhaktapur, you'll return to Kathmandu airport for the brief flight to Pokhara. On arrival, you'll have the rest of the day to do a little exploring of the lakeside city on your own.

Overnight: Pokhara

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 4

POKHARA / HIMALAYAN VALLEY WALK

• Marvel at the Himalayas on a walk through villages and farms • Visit a small village school and meet the students

Today, you'll learn one of Nepal's best travel secrets: You don't need to subject yourself to a trek in order to experience the wonder of the world's tallest mountains. An easy morning drive will take you to Dhampus Village, a starting point of a gorgeous country walk in the shadow of Machapuchare or "Fish Tail Mountain". The trail wanders through small, scattered villages, and you'll see farmers at work in their steeply terraced rice paddies. The grandeur...the stillness...the freshness of the air – they all meld to make for a day of peacefulness like no other. Along the way, the villagers will say "Namaste". You may have to yield right of way to a dzo. You'll also be welcomed into a small village school to meet and chat with the students and their teachers. In the midst of this epic day, you'll take a break for a picnic lunch and some time to contemplate the serene enormity of it all. On the late afternoon return to your hotel, you're invited to have dinner on your own at one of Pokhara's traditional restaurants.

Overnight: Pokhara

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

POKHARA / PHEWA LAKE

• **Witness sunrise at Sarangkot Hill** • **Go for a forest walk to Phewa Lake**

Chances are you've seen the alpenglow, maybe in the Rockies or the Alps. But you can be sure that nothing compares to sunrise in the Himalayas. You get the proof today with a sunrise pilgrimage to Sarangkot Hill. As the first rays touch peaks like Dhaulagiri and Annapurna II, their caps of snow morph from violet to gold, even while the valleys are still in darkness. Back in Pokhara, you'll have time to rest up from the early-morning start. Back together for an afternoon walk, you'll start on a hilltop where the World Peace Pagoda shimmers white against the sky. The trail leads down through a lush Queen's Forest to Phewa Lake, the second largest body of water in Nepal. You'll board a boat for a ride on the tranquil waters that are hugged closely by the surrounding slopes. Along the way, you'll visit Barahi Temple, a two-story pagoda dedicated to the Goddess Durga and sitting on a small island. Afterward, you'll return to Pokhara for dinner.

Overnight: Pokhara

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

• **Bathe with the elephants** • **Spot wildlife during a canoe ride on the Rapti river**

A morning flight takes you to Chitwan National Park. This 932-square-kilometer reserve is justly renowned as one of the finest places for wildlife-viewing in Asia. Once a hunting ground for the Nepalese royals, it's now a protected area most famous for its success in saving the endangered greater one-horned rhinoceros. Your home for the next two nights is at a lodge that's inside the park, an ideal starting point for a variety of safari experiences. The late morning includes an elephant safari through the distinctive riverside forest, and you'll have a chance to learn about elephant behavior and, if you like, bathe with them in the river. Out on the river in a canoe, you may spot mugger crocodiles and gharials, otters, turtles, storks and kingfishers. From your unique vantage point on the river, you'll watch the sun set over the Himalayan foothills. Your hosts at the lodge welcome you tonight with a lamplit dinner of grilled Nepali specialties and a dance performance by the indigenous Tharu people.

Overnight: Chitwan

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK / RHINO SAFARI

• **Spot rhinos on a safari** • **Visit a forest village of the Tharu people**

By latest count, about 600 one-horned rhinos now thrive in Chitwan. This morning, you'll get a good start in the prime time of day to spot them. With expert naturalists, your safari will wander through the jungle and grassy open areas that are optimal viewing territory. In addition to the rhinos, you may see barking deer, birds such as peacocks and painted storks, and fresh footprints left by tigers. Breakfast will be a sumptuous spread set up on the bonnet (hood) of your safari vehicle. Your afternoon features a visit to a native village in the forest. The Tharu people, whose origins are surrounded by myth, have called this region home for centuries. Colorful handprint marks cover their homes of bamboo and mud, and each home houses cattle, pigeons, and pigs as well as the family. Your visit, with a naturalist and local guide known to the residents, offers a chance to see a distinctive way of life. Back at the lodge, you'll have time to relax before your farewell dinner: a delicious Nepali barbecue.

Overnight: Chitwan

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 8

CHITWAN / DEPARTURE

• **Depart for home**

After breakfast, you'll transfer to the airport for your onward travel with fun memories and shared experiences of your time in Nepal.

Meals: B

DAILY ITINERARY

Nepal: Himalayan Villages & Chitwan Safari | Cultural Walking Adventure



Tour Hotels



Dwarika's Hotel

Inspired by a local man's commitment to preserve the architectural heritage of Nepal, this 5-star family-owned hotel beautifully captures the native spirit. Rooms contain traditional elements with modern amenities.

OVERNIGHT: Kathmandu | **NIGHTS:** 2



Temple Tree Resort

Named for the frangipani tree, this boutique hotel nestles in the foothills of the Annapurna mountains. Rooms are in 2-story lodges and each has a private balcony. You're just a short stroll from shops and restaurants of Pokhara.

OVERNIGHT: Pokhara | **NIGHTS:** 3



Meghali Serai Hotel

Right in the heart of Chitwan National Park, this 30-room lodge is on the banks of the Rapti river. Decorated in classic local style, the rooms offer views of the jungle. A deck over the river is an incredible spot for dining and wildlife watching.

OVERNIGHT: Meghali | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	8 Days, 7 Nights
START	Lobby of Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu, Nepal
END	Tribhuvan International Airport (KAT), Kathmandu, Nepal
TERRAIN	Easy to moderate

What's Included

- All breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners including 1 cooking class
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to tastings, historic sites and other scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST
moreinfo@classicjourneys.com

AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference

HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!


President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in Nepal...

- Exploring Durbar Square in the heart of Kathmandu
- Chatting with farmers in the terraced rice fields
- Watching the alpenglow touch the Himalayas at sunrise
- Overnighting in your luxurious lodge in Chitwan National Park
- Spotting endangered one-horned rhinos on a safari

"Classic Journeys excels in providing exceptional guides familiar with the local area."

-Bert and Jo Ann E.,