

HOLI FESTIVAL TOUR

The Festival of Colour

25 Feb - 7 Mar 2010



Join Travel and Trek for this special tour of Nepal:
Includes an exclusive day with a Nepalese family celebrating the very colourful Holi Festival.

- 4 nights in Kathmandu including the Festival and sightseeing
- 2 nights in Pokhara, including sightseeing
- 2 nights in Chitwan, including jungle activities

You will be met at the airport and taken to your hotel where you will be greeted and briefed on your sightseeing activities the next day. Kathmandu has many World Heritage sights to choose from including the Boudanathan (Stupa), Swayambhunath Stupa (Monkey Temple), Pashupatinath Temple and Patan's Durbar Square. Whilst included in your itinerary, the tour is not compulsory and you are free to roam as you wish.

Sunday 28th Feb is Holi Festival day and you will be able to experience and witness something not many others will ever do; join a Nepalese family as they celebrate Holi. This Festival is all about colour and you should be warned that coloured powder paint gets thrown just about everywhere by excited children!

After your time in Kathmandu, you will be driven to the Royal Chitwan National Park, some 160kms to the south west. The 5 - 6hr drive will take you through rural Nepal before you arrive at your Resort. You will be briefed on your next days jungle activities, which will include an early morning safari into the jungle on an elephant. You will undoubtedly see Rhino and may be lucky enough to spot the elusive Bengal Tiger; Travel and Trek's founder Terry Crosby managed to get a good sighting of a female Tiger in April 2009 (pictured on page 2).

Other activities in this full day are a visit to the elephant breeding centre, a ride down the river in a dug out canoe and some cultural entertainment by the local Tharu ladies.

From Chitwan, you head off to Pokhara for a relaxing 2 night stop. This chilled out lake-side town sits at the base of the mighty Annapurna range with many peaks in view. Some sightseeing is planned but you are free to wander around yourselves; there is plenty to keep you busy here.

Pokhara has a plethora of relaxing cafes, restaurants and bars to watch the world go by and you also have a 1 hour boat ride on the Phewa Lake included. If you fancy something a little more energetic, you can take in a day walk, hire mountain bikes or even something more adventurous like world class paragliding or microlighting. This is the only place in the world that has trained raptors that fly with paragliders (they are there to find the thermals).

Your journey back to Kathmandu is a 30 min flight in a light aircraft, which allows you to view the terrain that you have driven through from the air.

You have a little more time in Kathmandu before you board your flight back to the UK.



Expect lots of colour and fun at this well liked festival



What is the Holi Festival?

This Hindu Festival lasts for a week, the final day being the most colourful.

The festival celebrates the prankish nature of Krishna who was said to be always playing jokes. A bamboo pole (called a chir) is erected on day 1 of the festival and is burnt on the bonfire on the final day. It is decorated with strips of clothes representing lucky charms.

Colourful powder paint is the order of the day and people of all ages are armed with plenty of it including water balloons with coloured water inside.

DETAILS

Price: £590

Duration: 11 days UK - UK

Min/Max pers: 2/16

Upgrade to 5* hotels, see page 3 for details

Notes:

- **Costs** are based on 2 sharing and are per person (singles see below)
- **Tourist Visa** required for UK Nationals. This is not onerous and can be done on entry into Nepal. Full details provided on booking.
- **Day 1** of the itinerary is deemed to be your departure day from the UK and day 15 your arrival day back in the UK.
- When you book with Travel and Trek, you will receive a set of **comprehensive notes**, an itinerary, kit list, a visa application form, notes on how to get into Nepal and a back up service to help you prepare.
- **Singles.** Travel and Trek does not believe in penalising single travellers unnecessarily. If you are a single traveller and do not request sole occupancy of a room, you will be accommodated with another member of the group of the same sex. If there is an odd number travelling and you happen to be the odd one out then you will be allocated sole occupancy at no extra cost. If you do request sole occupancy throughout all or part of the trip, then you will be charged a supplement (£50 based on full trip).
- **Extended Stays.** You are free to extend your stay in Nepal with extra days before or after this trip. Travel and Trek can assist you with accommodation if you wish or you are free to make your own arrangements.
- **Local Payments.** Travel and Trek does not charge any local payments.



TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Arrival & Departure transfers
- Domestic Airport transfers
- Domestic flight POK– KTM
- 4 nights accommodation at Hotel Manang or similar on twin sharing basis
- 2 nights accommodation at Hotel Parkland or similar on twin sharing basis
- 2 nights accommodation at Lake View Resort or similar on twin sharing basis
- Breakfast only during the stay in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- All meals (Full Board) during the stay in Chitwan
- City sightseeing as per the itinerary in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- Full day jungle activities at Chitwan National Park
- 1 hr Boating on Phewa Lake, Pokhara
- Guide
- Porterage
- All sightseeing and transportation by private non-A/C vehicle
- Comprehensive Trip Notes

EXCLUSIONS:

- Airport Taxes (Domestic is approx £1.50 pp, international out of Nepal included in your air ticket from march 2009)
- Entrance Fees at monument zones/sightseeing places
- Personal travel insurance
- All those expenses which is not mentioned in Price
- Nepal Tourist visa
- Staff gratuities (advice can be given)



CONTACT DETAILS

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Daily Itinerary

Days	Day/Date	Event	Remarks
1	Thu 25 Feb	Depart London	Travel and Trek can assist with advice on flight routings if you require it.
2	Fri 26 Feb	Arrive Kathmandu , transfer to your hotel in the heart of the city; Thamel. Met by Travel and Trek representative Evening free to explore Thamel	Arrival brief. You will be staying in the Manang hotel. Why not dine in one of the many and varied restaurants, all are within minutes of your hotel.
3	Sat 27 Feb	Cultural tour of Kathmandu with exclusive transport and Guide. Evening free	
4	Sun 28 Feb	Holi Festival day. You will be met by your hosts and escorted throughout the day as the Festivities progress.	This a day of fun and colour and you should be prepared to get some powder paint on your clothes! Don't wear your best!
5	Mon 1 Mar	Road journey to Chitwan. Brief on the following day's activities, evening free	5 - 6hr road journey through the Kathmandu valley. Much of this road is the way to India.
6	Tue 2 Mar	Full day jungle activities, including a minimum 2 hr elephant safari into the jungle, a dug out canoe journey down the river and a visit to the elephant breeding centre.	A cultural evening's entertainment by the Tharu ladies.
7	Wed 3 Mar	Road journey to Pokhara	Settle into hotel, enjoy an evening in this relaxing lake side town.
8	Thu 4 Mar	Full day in Pokhara Sightseeing is part of the itinerary although you are free to explore alone.	A 1 hr boat ride on the Phewa lake is included. There are numerous other activities available.
9	Fri 5 Mar	Pokhara - Kathmandu by light aircraft.	30 min flight. Remainder of the day at leisure
10	Sat 6 Mar	Free day	Evening flight back to UK?
11	Sun 7 Mar	Arrive UK	Or fly out of Kathmandu in morning, arrive early evening UK same day.

Cost: £590pp, based on twin share. This trip requires a min of 2 people.

Sole occupation: Please read the notes on page 2 regarding singles/sole occupation.

You are welcome to extend your stay in Nepal either before of after the planned itinerary. The itinerary itself is fixed due to the date of the Holi Festival. Contact Travel and Trek for further arrangements.

5* Nepal

If you would prefer a little more luxury in some of the best hotels that Nepal has to offer, you are welcome to upgrade. These hotels are our first choice:

The Hyatt Regency in Kathmandu <http://kathmandu.regency.hyatt.com/hyatt/hotels/index.jsp>

The Safari Adventure Lodge in Chitwan <http://www.safariadventurelodge.com/index.php>

The Pokhara Grande in Pokhara <http://www.pokharagrande.com/>

Cost: £880pp, based on twin share.

Single supplement/sole occupation: £265 (the notes on page 2 do not apply to this element; the cost of sole occupation is too high).