

Nepal Pilgrimage Tour

Trip Overview:

Nepal Pilgrimage Tour is a specially crafted tour itinerary, which offers ample opportunity to visit the most popular pilgrimage sites that Nepal has to offer. The spiritual journey begins with an exciting flight to Janakpur Dham, the birthplace of Sita Mata. The trip also includes a visit to Dev Ghat, Valmiki Ashram, Gajendra Moksha Dham, Lumbini, Pokhara, Muktinath, Damodar Kund/Kagbhusundi Lake and Manakamana Temple. This trip not only allows to visit the holiest pilgrimage sites, but also offers opportunity to experience and explore Nepal's diverse culture, lifestyle, nature, picturesque landscape and wildlife.

Trip Highlights:

- Visit to Pashupatinath Temple, Janakpur Dham, Valmiki Ashram, Lumbini, Muktinath Temple, Damodar Kund/Kagbhusundi Lake and Manakamana Temple
- Scenic overland journey
- Breathtaking helicopter ride
- Wildlife safari in Chitwan

Trip Facts:

Total Duration: 10 Days

Max. Elevation: 4,949m

Trip Grading: Moderate

Best Months: May to November

Places covered: Kathmandu, Janakpur Dham, Devghat, Valmiki Ashram, Gajendra Moksha Dham, Lumbini, Pokhara, Muktinath and Damodar Kund/Kagbhusundi Lake

Trip Starts/Ends: Kathmandu, Nepal

Day-to-day brief itinerary:

Day 01: Fly to Kathmandu and transfer to hotel

Day 02: Visit Pashupatinath, Budhanilkanth and Doleshwor Mahadev

Day 03: Fly to Janakpur Dham, explore Janaki Temple and drive to Chitwan

Day 04: Morning Dev Ghat Darshan and jungle safari in the afternoon

Day 05: Visit Valmiki Ashram and Gajendra Moksha Dham and drive to Lumbini

Day 06: Explore major attractions of Lumbini and drive to Pokhara

Day 07: Fly to Jomsom, visit Damodar Kund/Kagbhusundi Lake and Muktinath Temple and return to Jomsom

Day 08: Fly to Pokhara and explore major attractions of Pokhara

Day 09: Drive to Kathmandu; en-route visit Manakamana Temple

Day 10: Trip concludes

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Trip Cost: Please kindly contact us for the best price and detail information

The cost includes:

- All ground transfers including airport pickup and drops
- Guided sightseeing with all applicable entry fees as mentioned in the itinerary
- All necessary documents and permits
- Domestic flight fares (Kathmandu-Janakpur and Pokhara-Jomsom-Pokhara)
- Chartered helicopter to/from Damodarkund/Kagbhusundi Lake from Jomsom
- Service of experience and knowledgeable Karnali leader
- All accommodations and meals as mentioned in the itinerary

The cost does not include:

- Nepal visa fee
- International flight fares from/to your home country
- Travel and medical insurance
- Pure personal nature expenses, e. g. bar bills, laundry and telephone bills
- Personal gears and clothes
- Tips and gratuities
- Any other costs not specified in the cost includes section, but may incur due to unforeseen circumstances

Brief description of visiting places

- **Janakpur Dham**



Janakpur Dham

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Janakpur is the birthplace of Sita Mata. It is located in the eastern part of southern Terai. Janakpur Dham was maintained as the capital city of ancient Mithila Kingdom during reign of King Janak in the Treta Yug. Thus, the Janakpur Dham was named after the virtuous king Janak.

Janaki Temple is the most popular attraction of the Janakpur Dham. It houses the rare and precious idol of Sita Mata inside its main sanctum. The history suggests that the Janaki Temple was constructed by the Brisha Bhanu Devi, the queen of Tikamghad, about 129 years ago. She spent Rs. Nine Lakhs for the construction of the temple, thus, it is also known as Naulakha Mandir. It is one the biggest temples of Nepal.

Ram-Sita Vivaha Mandap, Dhanus Sagar, Ganga Sagar, ancient Ram Mandir and Dhanusha Dham and Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir, are other not-miss-attractions of Janakpur Dham.

- **Valmiki Ashram and Gajendra Moksha Dham:**



Valmiki Ashram



Gajendra Moksha Dham

Valmiki Ashram is the place where Rishi Valmiki wrote Ramayana. It is located in Chitwan district of Nepal, close to Nepal-India border. This is the place where Mata Sita gave birth to Lov and Kusha who were educated by Rishi Valmiki. Mata Sita also spent later part of her life after being sent into the exile by her husband Rama. Eventually, she vanished herself into the earth at this place.

There is another holy place nearby Valimiki Ashram called Gajendra Moskhya Dham. It is located on the bank of Narayani (Gandak) River nearby Triveni Dham. According to the Vishnu Purana, Lord Vishnu saved the Gaja, an elephant from the Graha, a crocodile while they were wrestling for a life.

- **Devghat:**

Devghat is the confluence of two holy rivers: - the Kali Gandaki River (originated from Gosain Kunda) and the Trisuli River (originated from Damodar Kunda and Muktinath).

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The word Devghat means sacred bathing place of God and Goddesses. This is the place where Gods and Goddesses regularly take holy bath to increase their “Dewatto” or quality being God. It is said that one can cleanse sins of a lifetime having a holy bath at Devghat. It has been mentioned as the most sacred religious place in different holy books like Barah Puran, Vishnu Purana, and Bhagwat Geeta.

- **Lumbini**

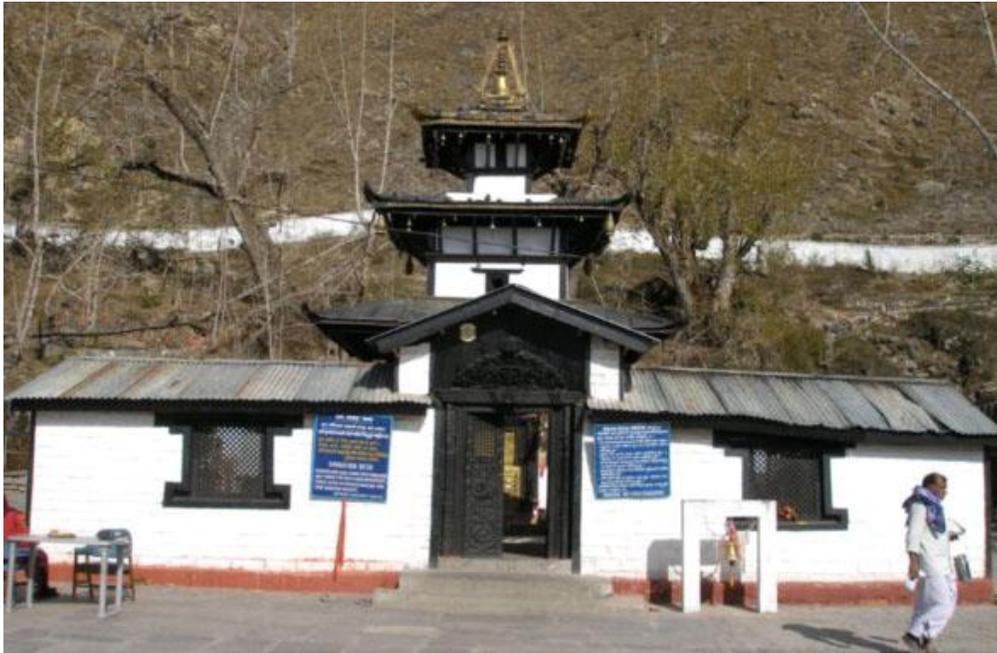


Lumbini

Lumbini is the birthplace of Lord Buddha. This is the place where Mayadevi, the queen of Kapilvastu, gave birth to a baby boy who later became Lord Buddha, awaken one. Emperor Ashokan also visited this place in 250 BC and erected a pillar to commemorate his visit, which is known as Ashokan Pillar nowadays. Sacred Pond, Puskarini, nativity marker stone to mark the exact birthplace of Buddha, eternal perpetual flame, sacred garden, World Peace Stupa and monasteries constructed by various nations, are the major attractions of the Lumbini.

- **Muktinath**

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Muktinath Temple (3,800m)

Muktinath, the place of salvation and liberation, is one of the 108 Divya Vishnu Dhams in the world. It is situated at the elevation of 3800 meter on the lap of Thorang peak in Annapurna Mountain range. Mukti Kshetra and Thiru Saligrama are the other names of Muktinath. As mention in Gandaki Mahatmya of Vishnu Puran, Lord Vishnu is considered reclining in the Himalayas putting his head towards the Damodar Kunda (the Saligram Lake) and the chest being located at Muktinath. So it is a very important pilgrimage site for the Hindu followers. There are 108 holy water spouts considered to be fed by different sources of holy sites dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

The main sanctum of Muktinath Temple houses the idols of Vishnu, Sridevi, Bhu Devi and Garuda. Buddhist believes the image of Vishnu placed in the Muktinath temple, is one of the manifestations of Avalokiteshwara. Narsingh Gompa, Jwala Mai (perpetual natural eternal flame) and small shrine of Bhagwan Nilkantha Swamy are other not-to-miss attractions of the Muktinath. Narsingh Gompa is the sacred site for Buddhist followers. Jwala Mai is the melting point of the five super natural elements (Pancha Mahabhut: Prithvi, Jal, Vayu, Tej and Aakas). The founder of Swamynarayan sect, Bhagwan Nilkantha Swamy also visited this place and sanctified by meditating here. It is believed that Guru Rimpoche alias Padmashambhav, also meditated at Muktinath and sanctified this place while he was on his way to Tibet. Thus, Muktinath is considered a very important pilgrimage site for both, Hindu followers and Buddhist believers. Kagbeni, the confluence point of Kaligandaki and Muktinath Rivers, is believed to another important holy site for Hindus in and around Muktinath area. Hindu peoples perform ablution (Tarpan) in the name of departed souls.

▪ Damodar Kund

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Damodar Kund

Damodar Kund is one of the holiest lakes for Hindu and Buddhist followers. Geographically, it is located in the Upper Mustang area of Nepal and north of Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Nilgiri Himalayan massifs. Millions of Hindus dream to visit the sacred Damodar Kund and take a holy bath once in their life time.

Significance of making a pilgrimage to Damodar Kund and taking a ritual bath in it has been mentioned in the Barah Puran. It is believed that Lord Krishna has said that anyone who pays a visit to sacred Damor Kund and take a ritual dip will be freed from sins of a lifetime. Puran also narrates as that two sons of Kubera also received liberation from wrongdoings and sins, which they had committed in their previous birth after being advised by Lord Krishna to take a ritual bath in the holy Damodar Kund.

▪ Kagbhusundi Lake



Kagbhusundi Lake (4,949m)

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Kagbhusundi Lake is one of the holiest lakes for Hindu followers. It is also known as Tilicho Lake and it is located in the Manang district of Nepal. It is situated at an altitude of 4,949m in the Annapurna range of the Himalayas and surrounded by Tilicho, Nilgiri, Khangsar and Muktinath peaks.

The Kagbhusundi Lake carries a great spiritual significance because this is where sage Kagbhusundi narrated Ramayana to the rishis. Because of its spiritual significance and serenity, many Hindu followers dream to visit this lake once in a lifetime.