Nepal & Bhutan Cultural Tour – 10 Days

The Ultimate Himalayan Dual-Nation Journey

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Embark on an extraordinary 10-day **Nepal and Bhutan Tour** across two captivating Himalayan nations. This tour seamlessly bridges the vibrant cultural heartland of **Nepal** with the untouched mountain kingdom of **Bhutan**. Furthermore, we design this itinerary for travelers who seek deep cultural connections and breathtaking natural landscapes. Consequently, you will experience a perfect mix of historic cities, sacred mountain sanctuaries, and peaceful alpine lakes. Additionally, your regional flights offer unforgettable views over the highest peaks on Earth.

First, your adventure begins in Nepal. Here, centuries of Hindu and Buddhist traditions intertw across ancient royal cities. Therefore, you will explore bustling UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Kathmandu. After that, you will watch a stunning sunrise over the Himalayas from Nagarkot Hill. Next, you will relax by the quiet waters of Phewa Lake in Pokhara. During this stay, you will enjoy constant views of the towering Annapurna Massif.

After exploring Nepal, take a spectacular flight across the high Himalayas into Paro, Bhutan. Travelers famously know this region as the peaceful "Land of the Thunder Dragon". As a result, you will step into a realm where citizens measure success in Gross National Happiness. In addition, ancient traditions continue to thrive in everyday life. Specifically, you will discover the administrative majesty of 17th-century Dzongs in Thimphu. Finally, you will culminate your **Nepal and** Bhutan Tour with the world-famous hike to **Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest)**, which sits high on a dramatic cliffside above the Paro Valley.

Highlights of Your Nepal and Bhutan Tour:

Panoramic Himalayan Flights.

Enjoy unforgettable aerial views of Mount Everest and the eastern Himalayan range during your flights between Kathmandu and Paro.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Kathmandu.

Discover sacred sanctuaries like Swayambhunath (Monkey Temple), Pashupatinath, and the grand Boudhanath Stupa.

Nagarkot Sunrise & Mountain Horizons.

Wake up early to enjoy sweeping morning views of snow-capped peaks from Nagarkot Hill.

Lakeside Charm of Pokhara.

Marvel at natural waterfalls, underground caves, and the giant Pumdikot Shiva statue before enjoying a peaceful boat ride on Phewa Lake.

Architectural Wonders of Bhutan.

Tour grand medieval fortresses, including Tashichho Dzong in Thimphu, which master builders constructed without metal nails or written blueprints. Learn more about official travel guidelines via the Tourism Council of Bhutan.

The Legendary Tiger's Nest Hike.

Trek through fragrant pine forests to reach Bhutan's most sacred sanctuary, sitting 900 meters above the valley floor.

Authentic Local Culture.

Experience warm hospitality at a traditional Bhutanese farmhouse, and celebrate your trip with a cultural dinner show in Kathmandu.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu & Leisure Time

Upon your arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, our representative will warmly welcome you and arrange your transfer to the hotel. Take the remainder of the day to relax, recover from your journey, and settle in. You can stroll through the vibrant neighborhood streets near your hotel or simply rest up for the adventure ahead. In the evening, gather for a brief orientation about your upcoming itinerary across Nepal and Bhutan.

- Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
- Elevation: 1,400 m / 4,593 ft
- Accommodation: Overnight at a 3-star hotel in Kathmandu
- Meal Plan: Welcome Dinner (D)

Day 2: Kathmandu Valley Heritage Tour & Scenic Drive to Nagarkot

Begin your day with an enriching exploration of Kathmandu's UNESCO World Heritage Sites. First, visit the ancient hilltop complex of Swayambhunath (Monkey Temple), offering panoramic views of the entire Kathmandu Valley. Next, head to Pashupatinath Temple, one of the most sacred Hindu sanctuaries on the Indian subcontinent, located along the banks of the holy Bagmati River. Continue to Boudhanath Stupa, one of the largest spherical stupas in the world and a vibrant hub of Tibetan Buddhist culture and monastic life. In the late afternoon, embark on a scenic drive winding upward through traditional farming villages to Nagarkot Hill, famous for its breathtaking Himalayan horizon.

- Location: Kathmandu to Nagarkot, Nepal
- Elevation: 2,175 m / 7,135 ft in Nagarkot
- Accommodation: Overnight at a resort/hotel in Nagarkot
- Meal Plan: Breakfast (B)

Day 3: Nagarkot Sunrise, Journey to Pokhara & Lakeside Evening

Rise early to witness a spectacular sunrise over the snow-capped Himalayan range, with views stretching toward distant eastern peaks on clear mornings. After breakfast, transfer to Kathmandu for a short, scenic domestic flight (or private drive) across central Nepal to the picturesque city of Pokhara. Upon arrival, check into your hotel located near the serene shores of Phewa Lake. Spend a relaxing afternoon and evening taking a gentle stroll along the lively Lakeside promenade, enjoying ambient cafes, local handicraft shops, and peaceful reflections across the water.

- Location: Nagarkot to Pokhara (via Kathmandu)
- Elevation: 822 m / 2,696 ft in Pokhara
- Accommodation: Overnight at a 3-star hotel in Pokhara
- Meal Plan: Breakfast (B)

Day 4: Full-Day Pokhara Natural & Cultural Wonders

Spend a full day exploring the stunning natural and spiritual attractions scattered throughout the Pokhara Valley. Begin at Devi's Fall, a dramatic waterfall that cascades down into an underground tunnel, followed by a visit to the nearby Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave, a sacred limestone cavern housing a natural Shiva lingam. Next, drive up the ridge to Pumdikot to admire the giant statue of Lord Shiva overlooking the valley, before visiting the majestic World Peace Pagoda for sweeping views of the Annapurna Range and Phewa Lake. Conclude your afternoon with a peaceful wooden boat ride across Phewa Lake to visit the island shrine of Tal Barahi Temple.

- Location: Pokhara Valley, Nepal
- Elevation: 822 m / 2,696 ft
- Accommodation: Overnight at a 3-star hotel in Pokhara

- Meal Plan: Breakfast (B)

Day 5: Return to Kathmandu & Thamel Market Exploration

After breakfast, take a quick domestic flight (or scenic private drive) back to Kathmandu. Upon landing, transfer back to your hotel to check in and refresh. Dedicate your afternoon to exploring the bustling, colorful alleyways of Thamel, Kathmandu's vibrant tourist center. Here, you can shop for authentic Nepalese handicrafts, handmade pashmina shawls, singing bowls, and Thangka paintings, or simply relax at a local bakery or cafe before your flight to the Dragon Kingdom tomorrow.

- Location: Pokhara to Kathmandu, Nepal
- Elevation: 1,400 m / 4,593 ft in Kathmandu
- Accommodation: Overnight at a 3-star hotel in Kathmandu
- Meal Plan: Breakfast (B)

Day 6: Thimphu Cultural Exploration & Heritage Sites

Board an early flight from Kathmandu to Paro, enjoying dramatic views of Mount Everest and the eastern Himalayas along the way. Upon arrival at Paro International Airport, clear customs and immigration before meeting your local Bhutanese tour guide and driver outside the terminal. Embark on a gentle 1.5-hour drive winding alongside scenic river valleys to Thimphu, the modern capital of Bhutan. After checking into your hotel, enjoy an evening stroll through the town's unique streets—the only national capital in the world operating without traffic lights.

- Location: Kathmandu to Paro & Thimphu, Bhutan
- Elevation: 2,320 m / 7,611 ft in Thimphu

- Accommodation: Overnight at a government-approved 3-star hotel in Thimphu
- Meal Plan: Dinner (D)

Day 7: Thimphu Cultural Exploration & Heritage Sites

Spend a comprehensive day discovering the rich arts, history, and administrative monuments of Bhutan's capital. Visit the sacred National Memorial Chorten, built in honor of the Third King, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. Continue to the Motithang Takin Preserve to see Bhutan's national animal, followed by insightful visits to the Folk Heritage Museum, the Textile Museum, and the National Institute for Zorig Chusum (School of 13 Arts & Crafts). Conclude your day visiting the grand Tashichho Dzong, an impressive fortress-monastery housing the throne room and government offices of Bhutan.

- Location: Thimphu, Bhutan
- Elevation: 2,320 m / 7,611 ft
- Accommodation: Overnight at a government-approved 3-star hotel in Thimphu
- Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner (B/L/D)

Day 8: Drive to Paro & Hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest)

After an early breakfast, drive back to the Paro Valley and head to the base trail point for Bhutan's iconic landmark: Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest). Embark on a rewarding 4-to-5-hour round-trip hike ascending through fragrant pine forests to reach this sacred sanctuary, precariously perched on a cliffside 900 meters above the valley floor. After taking in the views and exploring the temple chambers, descend for lunch and visit a traditional local Bhutanese Farmhouse to experience authentic rural life and hospitality before returning to your hotel.

- Location: Thimphu to Paro, Bhutan
- Elevation: 2,200 m / 7,218 ft in Paro; 3,120 m / 10,236 ft at Tiger's Nest
- Accommodation: Overnight at a government-approved 3-star hotel in Paro
- Meal Plan: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner (B/L/D)

Day 9: Return Flight to Kathmandu & Nepali Cultural Farewell Dinner

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before transferring to Paro International Airport for your return flight to Kathmandu. Upon landing in Nepal, check into your hotel and spend the afternoon at leisure, resting or doing last-minute souvenir shopping around Thamel. In the evening, celebrate the successful conclusion of your multi-country journey with an authentic Farewell Dinner at a traditional Nepalese restaurant, featuring classic regional cuisine alongside vibrant live folk music and cultural dances.

- Location: Paro to Kathmandu, Nepal
- Elevation: 1,400 m / 4,593 ft in Kathmandu
- Accommodation: Overnight at a 3-star hotel in Kathmandu
- Meal Plan: Breakfast & Farewell Dinner (B/D)

Day 10: Final Departure from Kathmandu

Enjoy your final breakfast at the hotel. At the appointed time according to your flight schedule, our representative will transfer you to Tribhuvan International Airport for your onward international flight home. Bid farewell to the Himalayas with wonderful memories of Nepal and Bhutan!

- Location: Kathmandu, Nepal
- Elevation: 1,400 m / 4,593 ft
- Accommodation: N/A (Departure Day)
- Meal Plan: Breakfast (B)

Inclusions

- **International Flights:** Round-trip flight tickets between Kathmandu and Paro (Kathmandu – Paro – Kathmandu).
- **Nepal Accommodations:** 5 nights' stay with daily breakfast at 3-star category hotels in Kathmandu and Pokhara.
- **Bhutan 4-Day Cultural Tour Package:** Complete 3-night / 4-day tour package including government-approved hotel stays, full-board meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner), guided sightseeing, and all monument entry fees.
- **Bhutan Visa Fees:** Full processing and coverage of your official Bhutan tourist visa fees.
- **All Sightseeing & Guide Services:** Guided tours throughout Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Bhutan with licensed, experienced local tour guides.
- **Private Ground Transportation:** All city transfers, daily sightseeing, and airport pick-ups/drop-offs in comfortable private vehicles.
- **Taxes & Charges:** All applicable government taxes, tourist fees, and company service charges in both countries.
- **Special Cultural Experience:** An authentic Farewell Dinner in Kathmandu featuring traditional Nepali cuisine and live cultural performances.
- **Company Souvenirs:** A complimentary company T-shirt and an official Trip Completion Certificate upon concluding your tour.

Exclusions

- **Interntional Flights Outside Kathmandu:** Airfare between your home country and Kathmandu (or other international flight legs not explicitly listed in the inclusions).
- **Nepal Visa Fees:** Official Nepal entry and re-entry visa fees payable upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu.
- **Extra Meals & Beverages:** Snacks, soft drinks, alcoholic beverages, or meals not specified in the daily itinerary meal plans.
- **Personal Expenses:** Shopping, laundry, telephone/internet charges, personal travel insurance, and emergency medical costs.
- **Optional Trail Services:** Pony rides or porter fees during the hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery or sightseeing walks.
- **Gratuities:** Tips for your local tour guides and drivers in Nepal and Bhutan (tipping is customary and appreciated, though optional).