Chandragiri Cable Car and Monkey Temple – Day Tour

Chandragiri Cable Car and Monkey Temple: Day Tour Overview

Visiting the **Chandragiri Cable Car and Monkey Temple** on the same day offers a perfect match for exploring two contrasting yet historically essential locations. Specifically, Chandragiri takes you to the rim of the valley and offers stunning views of the great Himalayan range. In contrast, the Monkey Temple lies closer to the city center atop a verdant hill, providing an opportunity to explore ancient monuments, sacred stupas, and vibrant local cultural traditions. To plan your complete itinerary and review official destination guidelines, you can check resources like the Nepal Tourism Board. Furthermore, if you want to discover other regional adventures across the country, take a look at our curated 7 Days Nepal Tour.

Chandragiri Hill: Nature and Himalayan Panoramas

Chandragiri Hill stands as one of the most popular and accessible scenic destinations around the Kathmandu Valley. While light hiking trails wind through densely forested tracks to the apex, modern cable car options also exist. Starting from an elevation of 1,650 meters, the journey ascends to the summit at 2,551 meters above sea level. The trip offers spectacular vistas of snow-capped peaks above and the sprawling capital city beneath. From the top, you can discover stunning views of Mt. Everest, the Jugal Himal, and the Langtang region on clear days. Additionally, the historic Bhaleshwor Mahadev Temple sits at the summit, adding a peaceful spiritual element to the natural landscape.

Monkey Temple (Swayambhunath Stupa): Ancient Heritage

The Monkey Temple serves as a major cultural attraction inside the Kathmandu Valley. Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this ancient complex is deeply celebrated for its exquisite woodcraft and metalcraft. Officially known as Swayambhunath Stupa, the main structure perches atop a conical hill, requiring visitors to climb a long stone stairway flanked by playful rhesus macaques. The sacred complex includes numerous shrines, monasteries, and a museum highlighting the historical significance of the site. Spinning the traditional prayer wheels that encircle the massive white dome and taking in the sweeping perspective of the city below creates an unforgettable experience during your **Chandragiri Hills and Monkey Temple** excursion.

Key Highlights of Your Dual-Destination Day Tour

- **Panoramic Himalayan Vistas:** Witness breathtaking views of Mt. Everest, Langtang, and surrounding ranges from Chandragiri Hill.
- **Scenic Ascent Options:** Choose between a peaceful forest hike or a comfortable cable car ride.
- **UNESCO World Heritage Exploration:** Visit the ancient Swayambhunath Stupa, one of the oldest religious sites in Nepal.
- **Rich Cultural Immersion:** Encounter traditional Newar art, Tibetan monasteries, and resident wildlife.
- **Thematic Contrast:** Seamlessly transition from a high-altitude Himalayan viewpoint down into an urban spiritual sanctuary.

Itinerary

Day 1: Chandragiri Sunrise View and Patan Durbar Square (UNESCO World Heritage Sites) Hike

Combine an invigorating wilderness hike with rich cultural exploration on this dynamic full-day adventure, featuring a scenic trek up Chandragiri Hill followed by an afternoon exploring the historic heart of Patan.

Your day begins early with a drive by local bus to Matatirtha Temple, where the 3-hour steady climb up Chandragiri Hill commences. The trail winds upward through dense, lush forests. *(Alternatively, participants have the option to bypass the trek and ride the Chandragiri Cable Car to the summit.)* Upon reaching the top, you will be rewarded with sweeping panoramic vistas of the Himalayan range.

After spending 1 to 2 hours exploring the summit area and enjoying lunch at Chandragiri, you will descend back to Matatirtha. From there, take an approximate 1-hour bus ride to the Patan Durbar Square area to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site until closing time at 5:30 PM, before heading back to your hotel to debrief and plan for the next route.

Detailed Timetable

- **Early Morning:** Departure from Kathmandu and bus ride to Matatirtha Temple.

- **Morning Hike:** Approximately a 3-hour steady climb through dense forests to the top of Chandragiri Hill *(Optional cable car ride available)*.
- **Summit Time:** Take in panoramic mountain vistas, explore the peak, and enjoy lunch at Chandragiri.
- **Early Afternoon:** Descend back to Matatirtha and take a 1-hour bus ride to Patan.
- **Late Afternoon (up to 5:30 PM):** Explore the temples, courtyards, and architecture of Patan Durbar Square.
- **Evening:** Return to the hotel to rest and prepare the itinerary for the next day.

Inclusions

- **Transportation:** All ground transfers via local bus and private vehicle according to the itinerary.
- **Professional Guidance:** An expert, English-speaking government-licensed tour/hiking guide.
- **Painting School Visit.:** Thanka Painting School visit.
- **Government Taxes:** All applicable local taxes, VAT, and official service charges.

Exclusions

- **Chandragiri Cable Car Tickets:** Cable car ride tickets (23 USD per person)
- **Meals & Drinks:** Lunch at Chandragiri, breakfast, dinner, bottled water, and personal refreshments.
- **Gratuities:** Tips and appreciation for your hiking guide, cultural guide, and drivers.
- **Personal Expenses:** Souvenir shopping, personal photography permits, and any additional incidentals not explicitly mentioned in inclusions.

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