

Specialized - Customized - Personalized Journeys to India & Beyond

Our expertise is your advantage

CST 209-9942-40



Escorted by  
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President

MEMBER  
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NATIONAL SPEAKERS ASSOCIATION



## Discovering Nepal with Friends

A Behind-the Scenes Encounter with Nepal's Finest Treasures

(Limited to 6 guests)

Day by Day Itinerary – 10 Nights

Tour begins in Kathmandu on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012

Tour Ends in Kathmandu on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012

**On a Journey with Tara, the Possibilities are Endless & the Discoveries Magical!**



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### **Day 1 Kathmandu – Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Arrive in Kathmandu (from USA or from India). Transfer to your hotel to recover from jet lag. The day is at leisure.

**Meals:** None      **Hotel:** Thamel Eco Resort

### **Day 2: Kathmandu – Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

On our city tour we explore Durbar square, with its famous sites that have housed kings of different dynasties and its temples representing finest specimens of Hindu and Buddhist architectures. We visit

- Taleju temple- tallest of all structures built by King Mahendra Malla in 1549 A.D.
- Jagannath temple- built in the 16th century, known for fascinating erotic figures carving.
- Kal Bhairav- one of the largest stone idols in Kathmandu representing the terrifying aspects of Shiva.
- Statue of King Pratap Malla in prayer to Digu Taleju the royal family deity
- Kumari Ghar- 17th century Kumari temple, an example of the highly developed Nepalese temple craft.
- Kasthamandap- built from the timber of a single tree. The Kathmandu City derives its name from Kasthamandap.

The towering Nautale Durbar overlooks the beautiful cityscape and the vast Basantapur square where Prithivi Narayan Shah built a mansion to commemorate his victory in 1768 A.D. This building is known for its intricately carved wooden doorways, roof struts and massive lattice windows of mythical figures.

This afternoon we visit Patan, also known as “Lalitpur” literally the city of fine arts. It is living museum as it still retains its medieval air of the ancient times with almost half the inner city residents as craftsmen in their own right. In ancient times the ancestors of present day craftsmen were invited to as far as Tibet and Peking to build monasteries, pagodas and images of Buddha. Patan was one of the major Buddhist cities in Asia by the 7th century and it is said that at one stage the entire population of Patan City comprised of monks and craftsmen only. Hindu temples, Buddhist monuments and structures with bronze gateways, guardian deities and wonderful metal and woodcarvings abound here.

**Meals:** Breakfast      **Hotel:** Thamel Eco Resort



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**Day 3: Kathmandu – Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

Pashupati, literally, “Lord of the Animals” is the patron deity of Nepal. The Pashupatinath temple of lord Siva - with two tiered golden roof and silver doors is famous for its superb Newari architecture situated near the banks of sacred Bagmati River. Entrance to the temple precinct is permitted for “Hindus Only”, however visitors can see the temple from the eastern bank of the Bagmati River. Across the sacred river, above the array of decorated monuments is the “Slasmantak or Mrigasthali Ban (forest)” where Lord Siva is believed to have dwelled in the form of an antelope to evade the hordes of demigods.

Bouddha - This colossal and ancient Stupa, one of Nepal’s most unique monuments, attracts pilgrims from as far as Tibet, Ladakh (India) and Bhutan. Baudhanath Stupa with all its seeing eyes of primordial Adi Buddha is said to hold the remains of Kasyapa - the Buddha of the previous time. The 5<sup>th</sup> C Stupa is 100 meters in diameter is built on an octagonal base and rises to 36 meters above the base . The “all seeing eyes” and the pinnacle represent the stages of enlightenment, symbol of royalty, compassion, knowing and nirvana. There are many myths about the origins of the stupa.

**Meals:** Breakfast    **Hotel:** Thamel Eco Resort

**Day 4: Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2012 –Kathmandu – Nagarkot (32 kms/ 1 ½ hours)**

Shaped like a conch-shell, Bhaktapur, the essence of the Newari City, 14 km east of Kathmandu is Nepal’s greatest treasures. Also known as Bhadgaon, situated at an altitude of 1401 m, it is home to medieval art and architecture and was the site for Burtoluchhi’s Little Buddha. Covering an area of 4 sq. miles, this city of Devotees, is well known for its pottery and weaving.

This afternoon we leave for Nagarkot for our overnight stay.

**Meals:** Breakfast                      **Hotel –** Country Villa



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**Day 5: Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2012- Nagarkot to Chitwan National Park (210 kms/5 ½ hours)**

Perhaps wake up early to watch the spectacular sunrise and the panoramic views of the eastern Himalaya including five of world's ten highest peaks - Mt. Everest, Lhotse, Cho O Yu, Makalu and Manaslu. After breakfast, drive to Chitwan National Park. Naturalists welcome us at the ghats (river crossing point) where we cross the river by canoes to the waiting elephants which ferry us to our camp, situated in the heart of the Park. Chitwan, is home to the great one horned rhinoceros, sloth bear, wild boar, gaur(bison), deer, monkeys, crocodiles, leopard, the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger, over 400 species of birds and reptiles.

**Meals:** Breakfast and Dinner

**Hotel –** Temple Tiger Jungle Resorts

**Day 6: Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Chitwan National Park**

This morning we experience an elephant -back safari as we penetrate the dense 18-20 feet tall grasslands. It is the favorite habitat of the rhinoceros and other mammals. After breakfast we visit the elephant stables to learn about these gentle giants as they bathe. Afternoon is at leisure at our camp or perhaps we can take a canoe ride down the Narayani River to see gharial and other marsh mugger crocodiles. This evening enjoy a delicious dinner around the campfire at the hotel.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

**Hotel –** Temple Tiger Jungle Resorts

**Day 7: Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012, Chitwan National Park to Lumbini ( 192 kms / 4 ½ hours)**

After breakfast, we drive through the great Terai (plain) belt of Nepal, to Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel –** Lumbini Garden New Crystals

**Day 8: Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 Lumbini to Pokhara (230 kms./6 hours)**

The nativity site of Lumbini is identified by the Ashokan Pillar, which was erected over 2200 years ago by Magadhan emperor Ashoka to commemorate the birth place of Buddha, the Lumbini grove. Among the prime attractions are the sacred garden with an area of 8 sq. km, the Mayadevi Temple, the Buddha's mother and a



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sacred stone marked with a "foot imprint" of Ashoka. The Ashokan Pillar, the oldest monument so far found in Nepal lies to the west of the Mayadevi Temple. Today, only the lower shaft of the pillar remains. To the south of the pillar is Puskarni, the sacred pond, wherein, Mayadevi is said to have had taken a bath just before giving birth to the Buddha - the Enlightened one.

After lunch, we drive to Pokhara, a beautiful valley with a panoramic view of Annapurna and Machapuchare (shape of fish tail) in the north and Dhaulagiri in the west and, Lamjung himal and Manaslu in the east. Pokhara is the second most popular tourist destination of Nepal after Kathmandu. Pokhara has several lakes, but most hotels, lodges and restaurants are located on the eastern edge of the most attractive Phewa Tal (lake)

**Meals:** Breakfast                      **Hotel –** Temple Tree

**Day 9: Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> January, Pokhara**

A full day of sightseeing lies ahead of us as we drive to Sarangkot hill station to view the sunrise. On our way back we'll visit Vindhyavasini Temple and Mahendra Cave. Then we'll continue to beautiful Fewa Lake for a boat-ride. A short hike will take us to the World Peace Stupa of Lord Buddha situated on a small hill. Magnificent views of Pokhara and the stunning mountainous range awaits us. We will also visit David Falls on the way.

**Meals:** Breakfast                      **Hotel –** Temple Tree

**Day 9: Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, Pokhara – Kathmandu ( 230 kms/6 hours)**

After a leisurely breakfast we drive back to Kathmandu. The evening at leisure for last minute shopping and exploring.

**Meals:** Breakfast                      **Hotel –** Eco Thamel Resort

**Day 10: Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> January, Kathmandu – Delhi/USA – departure flight**

Transfer to your flight to USA/Dellhi

**Meals:** Breakfast