

Wild Nepal – Chitwan Jungle Safari

Destination: Chitwan NP, Nepal

Season: March & May



Hike the grasslands and forests of Chitwan, tracking Tigers on foot with experts



More full day jeep safaris (specialty activities for finding Tigers) than any other tour



Wild Asiatic Elephants, One-horned Rhinos and many other mammal species



Canoe trip into the park looking for endangered Gharials and Mugger Crocodiles



High success rate in Tiger sightings on previous tours & a Tiger expert throughout



Dates:

Next group tour: 1st – 11th May 2022

Private / Tailored Tour information:

This tour can be booked anytime between the middle of November and the end of May (as this is the dry winter / spring period in the Nepalese terai), (subject to availability), however we recommend booking in April or May as the temperatures are very hot and water holes less spread out. This increases the chances of seeing a tiger as they become a little more predictable.

The group tour is run annually, however you can book private tours for any number of people you wish (up to 20) and we have included prices for private groups up to 2-10 to the right.

We also have flexibility for the duration of trip you would like to book.

Some of our clients prefer to book longer trips to Chitwan or would like to add in other locations in Nepal. There are many other wonderful things to see and do in Nepal and we have a range of Nepalese holidays, including red panda tours and many mountain hikes, cultural activities and adventure activities such as white-water rafting.

Trips for any group size and any duration are possible, please enquire further for more information on our tailored Nepal tiger tours.

For our tailored tours of longer durations or including other activities please contact us and we will prepare a tailored itinerary and quote for you at the soonest.

We are experts in organising private tailor made tours anywhere in the world for wildlife watching holidays.

Prices (2022 season):

Group Tour (10 nights)

£2,395 per person

*single supplement £150

Private Tour (10 nights)

£3,995 per person (2 people)

*single supplement £150

£2,595 per person (4 people)

*single supplement £150

£2,165 per person (6 people)

*single supplement £150

£1,995 per person (8 people)

*single supplement £150

£1,870 per person (10 people)

*single supplement £150

Overview

Day 1: Kathmandu

Day 2: Suaraha

Days 3-9: Chitwan NP

Day 10: Kathmandu

Day 11: Home



Tour Information

Introduction

At first appearance Nepal is a seemingly the last place on the planet that you would expect to find rhinos, elephants, tigers and crocodiles. Known mostly for its mountains, Nepal's subtropical jungles may surprise people at first. Yes the country is home to more of the world's highest peaks than any other country, including the impressive Mt. Everest, but just 193km away to the south of the majestic Himalayas is the lush and tropical terai. Being around 100m above sea level and steaming hot the forests and grasslands of the lowlands are some of the most diverse and productive ecosystems in the world. It is here that large numbers of some of Asia's most iconic and rare animals live. With the rich nutrients washed down from the Himalayas every year during the monsoon and carried in the melt water every spring the rivers that run through the terai and onto the Gangetic plain in India are left in the soil here when the rivers flood. These annually flooded plains (alluvial) help to produce grasslands that help support hundreds of Indian one-horned rhinos, large numbers of Asiatic elephants, guar and their predators, including tigers.

It is some of these animals that we will target as high priority species when we are exploring the park, but along with the rhinos, elephants and tigers the park is home to many sloth bears, leopards, langurs, macaques, wild boar, various deer species, hundreds of species of birds and some also one of the world's rarest species. The huge and critically endangered gharial. This crocodilian has less than 250 mature individuals in the world, with Chitwan harbouring over half of the world's population.

In fact Chitwan has a very good success rate when it comes to conservation with large numbers of rhinos rebounding from a low in the 1940's and tiger, leopard, bear and elephant numbers all increasing over recent years. Whilst also in Nepal you will be taken around the historic and bustling city of Kathmandu, located in the Kathmandu valley (roughly halfway between the Himalayan peaks and the lowland Terai) and was once three separate kingdoms that were united under the powerful king Prithvi Narayan Shah. From then on the city has grown and grown. Now a major tourist hub and melting pot of travellers, trekkers, locals and businessmen we aim to show off some of the city's most fascinating sites.

Chitwan is also one of the few places where you can experience jungle safaris looking for tigers in a variety of different ways. This tour will take you into the heart of tiger territory in Jeeps, on elephant back, via canoe trips and most thrillingly on foot. All this with the expert help of local expert guides; so you can be assured of finding as much as possible and also being able to understand the behaviour of the animals we see in the forests and grasslands here.

By spending the amount of time you will be exploring Chitwan National Park you will be all but guaranteed to see signs of tigers, rhinos, gharial and wild Asiatic elephants. But it is not just the wilderness of Nepal that is fascinating about this country; so as well as the wonderful terai region you will also be taken around some historical sites in the wonderful city Kathmandu such as the ancient Boudnath Stupa, holy site of Swayambunath and Durbur Square, which is slowly being rebuilt after the earthquakes of April 2015.

Itinerary

Day 1 **Kathmandu**

Arrival & Sightseeing

Accommodation:

Ambassador
Garden Hotel (3*)

Food:

No meals included today.

Transportation:

Private vehicle.

On arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport you will be met by your zoologist escort and our local guide/driver. From the airport we will be transferred in our private vehicle into the middle of Kathmandu (20-30 mins). Once here we will head to the Thamel district and your hotel for the night. If there is time you will be taken around the winding streets of Thamel. This area is the heartbeat of Kathmandu and a place which teems with colour, sights and sounds. You can easily get lost meandering down the maze of streets souvenir shopping and we can spend hours here enjoying the hustle and bustle of Nepal's busiest city. Whilst still very touristy Thamel is a good welcome to Nepal and in particular Kathmandu. If time allows we will have a short city tour today, however it depends on the arrival times of all of the clients booked on the trip. However Thamel is safe to walk around and with a large selection of restaurants your guide can point you in the right direction for your evening meal, alternatively you can rest and prepare for the long car journey tomorrow morning to get to Chitwan National Park.

Depending on the time we arrive back into Kathmandu on the final day of the trip we will look to conduct some sightseeing around the city and show you some of the better known sites such as Boudnath Stupa, which is the largest Buddhist stupa in the world and a very important place for Nepalese Buddhists. We will then visit the hilltop temples at Swayambunath that are dedicated to Hanuman the monkey god n Hindu mythology; alongside the



playful macaques the views over Kathmandu are worth the long climb up alone. We then visit the historical Royal palaces and temples of the bustling Durbur Square.

Day 2 Kathmandu – Chitwan National Park

Travelling

Accommodation:

Sapana Village Lodge (Eco Safari Lodge)

Food:

Breakfast will be served at the hotel in Kathmandu and then dinner at the lodge today.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning you will be picked up from your hotel in Kathmandu and taken to the local bus station, you will then catch the local tourist bus towards the village of Sauraha, which is the gateway village for Chitwan National Park (5-6 hours). Chitwan (formerly Royal Chitwan) is the oldest and one of the largest national parks in Nepal and has one the greatest ranges of wildlife as well as being the best place to see rarer animals such as one-horned rhinoceros, gharials, sloth bears and tigers in the world. Sauraha is a quaint little village which has a good mix of elephants, tourists and local Tharu people walking its streets.

Once you arrive you will have lunch (there will be stops along the bus journey for snacks and depending on the traffic we may have lunch on the way instead of waiting until we arrive), if you arrive in time for lunch and then check in and relax. During the afternoon you are free to explore the village and watch the sunset over the jungles of Chitwan from the banks of the Rapti River and hopefully spot some migratory birds like ruddy shelducks or even a mugger crocodile.

This afternoon you can see the lodge's elephants and feed them, there are no jungle activities planned for today.

Days 3-9 Chitwan National Park

Wildlife Watching

Accommodation:

Sapana Village Lodge (Eco Safari Lodge)

Food:

All your meals will be served in the lodge, some activities will require a packed breakfast and or lunch and we will take them with us into the park.

Transportation:

Private Jeep, Canoe, Walking.

Over the next 7 full days you will explore Chitwan National Park from the base of Sapana Village Lodge; Chitwan is unusual in the fact that it allows people to explore the park in a variety of different ways. All of which you can enjoy during this stay (although we have scheduled a certain amount of activities and anything extra will be chargeable direct to the lodge). As the day to day activities vary and are dependent on the best logistical way for the park and lodge to manage everything we have not listed a strict day by day itinerary here, however we have booked the following for our 7 days here; 4 full day jeep safaris, 1 full day jungle walk, 1 half day jungle walk, 1 canoe safari and one bird watching morning walk.

The different activities are all excellent and offer their own unique perspective on the parks. One of the more relaxing ways of experiencing Chitwan is in a canoe safari. These canoe trips are amazing for birds and often produce a great variety of birdlife. From kingfishers, bee-eaters, lesser adjutant storks, crested serpent eagles, wagtails, hornbills, parakeets and hundreds of sand martins and barn swallows. It is also common to see large mugger crocodiles and occasionally wading rhinos and basking gharial on these canoe trips too. Tigers, leopards and even sloth bears have also been spotted along the river banks, although rarely. This ride takes around 1 hour and is a magical experience as the morning mist lifts off the river to create a haunting atmosphere.

Probably the most thrilling way of seeing tigers is when you enter the park on foot in the expert hands of local guides (however sightings of tigers when walking are rare). Once in the pristine habitats of the park, you will experience the true wilderness of the park. Tracking tigers, rhinos, leopards, sloth bears and elephants on foot amazing and it is always important to bear in mind that we are in a completely wild ecosystem where we are not at the top of the food chain. But having said that the thrill of seeing a wild tiger on foot is unrivalled in the natural world and Chitwan and Barida are just about the only places in the world where you can see tigers on foot in a national park. Depending on which routes are open in the park (monsoon damage to certain roads closes certain areas but huge areas of the park always remain open) you will explore some of the different habitats of Chitwan. As always we will be on the look out for tigers, rhinos and elephants as well as other species such as barking deer, wild boar, chital, sambar as well as hundreds of species of birds that have been recorded from here. When on the full day hike we will take a packed lunch with us and spend from sunrise to sunset exploring the park. Our half walk will of course not include a packed lunch and we will only be walking in the park for the afternoon.

The third and more conventional method of getting around Chitwan is via jeep, there is an extensive road network inside Chitwan which link all of the good wildlife watching areas as well as the breeding and research centres for gharial, freshwater turtles and vultures. This is by far the best way of exploring the park and getting deep into the heart of tiger territory. We will explore the park by jeep on four days and when we enter the park on a full day jeep safari we will take a packed breakfast and a packed lunch, this means we can spend longer in the park and travel further in search of wildlife.

The forth and probably the most unusual safari mode is on elephant back. These elephant back safaris is a good (but now very crowded) way to watch wildlife, the wildlife in the park ignores the elephants as they are naturally occurring part of the Chitwan ecosystem so you are able to get a lot closer to the wildlife. The elephant will amble through the undergrowth and through rivers with the expert guidance of its mahout and with any luck you will get great, close up, uninterrupted views of rhinos, tigers, gharials and other endangered wildlife. We have not included this activity as they are very crowded now (as they are very popular with regular tourists), however if you wish to



substitute another activity for this you can do (there may be costs involved and these would be paid direct to the lodge).

You are also free to help wash down the elephants in the nearby river, well it would be more accurate to say the elephants are free to wash you down if you wish; This is a great way to bond with the elephants as they look forward to their daily bathing sessions and a good scrub down from their mahouts. This and other activities can be booked direct with the lodge if you are interested.

As well as these various excursions into the park you will also be taken to a cultural dance performance, this traditional dance is held every night in the village community hall and enables lots of the local children and their families to receive an income from the tourism without being directly involved in the national park.

Day 10 **Kathmandu**

Wildlife Watching, Travelling & Sightseeing

Accommodation:

Ambassador
Garden Hotel (3*
Hotel)

Food:

You will have breakfast in the lodge, lunch en route back to Kathmandu and dinner are not included.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & Walking.

This morning is your last opportunity to explore the surrounding forests as you will be taken on a birding trip into the buffer zone. There is a wealth of bird life and also other animals to be seen around here. We have seen numerous tiger tracks in this part of the forest before.

On your return to the lodge you will have breakfast and then be transferred back to Kathmandu in a private vehicle. With lunch along the way you will be taken to the same accommodation as on the first day here and if we arrive in time and you would like we can look to do some sightseeing if you wish, such as Boudnath Stupa, Swayambunath and Durbar Square; however the time of arrival into Kathmandu will dictate that.

Day 11 **Home**

Departure

Accommodation:

NA

Food:

Breakfast at the hotel is the only meal included today.

Transportation:

Private vehicle & International flight.

This morning you will have a private transfer arranged for you to get you to the airport in order to catch your return flight home or onwards to your next destination.

Your tour and all Royle Safaris services end upon transfer to the airport

Please note that the itinerary stated above is correct as our planned intentions for the tour. However adverse weather conditions and other local considerations can necessitate some modifications of the itinerary during the course of the tour; any changes will be made to make the best of the time, weather conditions and other constraints forced upon us and all changes will be made in conjunction with our terms and conditions.



Tour Inclusions

Absolutely everything mentioned in the above itinerary is included (except where it is expressly mentioned as an optional extra).

- All accommodation as mentioned above or of a similar standard as mentioned.
- All meals as mentioned in the itinerary; **please note that some lunches and dinners are not included in this itinerary (in Kathmandu).**
- Bottled mineral or purified (boiled) water will be provided throughout and on request.
- Private AC vehicle for all transfers.
- English speaking local driver with years of experience in working in the areas we are travelling.
- All fuel, tolls, taxes and other expenses relating to driving.
- Royle Safaris professional zoologist escort throughout your time in Chitwan.
- National Park entrance fees for all excursions into the park as included for days 3-9 as per the itinerary.
- All safari drives (4 full day drives), guided walks (1 full day and 1 half day), and other activities (1 canoe safari, 1 birding trip, village tour and cultural performance) as mentioned in the itinerary.
- Local naturalist guide(s) and jeep driver / canoe guide for the various activities.
- Half day sightseeing in Kathmandu.

Tour Exclusions

Nearly everything you will need is included in the price you have already paid for the tour. However there are some things not included.

- International flights to and from the tour start and end points.
- Travel insurance including any fees that result from emergency medical or evacuation needs.
- Visa fees for entering the country(s).
- Vaccinations and any medication (such as anti-malarial tablets) are not included.
- Any food other than the meals provided and mentioned in the above itinerary; **please not that some lunches and dinners are not included in this itinerary (in Kathmandu).**
- Some meals will include a drink (such as juice, tea & coffee at breakfast) but most soft drinks and alcohol are an extra expense.
- Any items of a personal nature are not included, such as souvenirs, medication, toiletries, laundry and phone calls.
- Tips are also not included. There is no hard and fast rule for tipping in Nepal. However we would appreciate it, if you have been happy with the service of the guides and drivers then please tip a little something at the end of the safari. For local guides we hire for individual activities please tip individually and also if there are tip boxes in restaurants, camps, lodges and hotels then these are generally used for tipping all of the staff.
- Any departure taxes which may be due when leaving are not included (but may be included in the cost of your flights).

Please refer to our Terms & Conditions (<http://www.royle-safaris.co.uk/terms-conditions/>) before booking any trips – email or paper copies of Terms & Conditions can be provided if needed