

# A World Away Travels

adventure travel's complete experience...

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## Royal Annapurna

### Monthly Fall and Spring Departures

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Combining lodge to lodge trekking in the Annapurna's southern foothills, rafting on the Seti River and exploring the wildlife of Chitwan National Park, Royal Nepal is the perfect introduction to Nepal's spectacular and diverse landscapes. From Kathmandu to sub tropical jungles we pamper you with Nepal's finest accommodations and services. Our trekking course through the southern Annapurnas visits a collection of Nepal's most exclusive lodges. Set below the summits of the Himalayas our lodges offer Nepal's traditional warm hospitality with luxurious amenities. From the mountains we drift on oar rafts through the Seti River's lush green canyons to our river camp for two days of quiet evenings and a full day wandering through local villages. Before we head back to Kathmandu for our final insightful look at the capitol, we explore Royal Chitwan National Park game viewing from our resort base within the preserve.

#### **Day 1-3 *Travel to Nepal***

##### **Day 3 *Kathmandu***

Arrive in Kathmandu, reception at airport and transfer to the centrally located, 5-Star Yak and Yeti, where you will receive a full briefing on your program. Accommodation: Yak and Yeti

##### **Day 4 *Kathmandu-Pokhara***

After, enjoy a half day sight-seeing trip with a fantastic local guide. Your route will take you to the ancient city of Bhaktapur and the Temple Complex of Bodhnath. After lunch, transfer to the airport for a 35 minute flight to Pokhara, the rural capitol of Western Nepal. Transfer to the Shangri-La Village Resort. There will be a trek briefing with by your group leader and you will be introduced to your porters, who will issue you your packs and assist you in packing. Accommodations: Shangri La Village *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

##### **Day 5 *Pokhara- Sanctuary Lodge***

After breakfast, transfer with guides and porters to your trek start point. Your walk will follow a ridge-line in the lower foothills of the Annapurnas with surrounding views of the Pokhara Valley. This route then drops to the Modi River Valley, where Ker and Downey's Sanctuary Lodge is located. Lunch at the lodge with the afternoon free to explore the surrounding valley (Trek Time-3 Hours). Accommodations: Sanctuary Lodge *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

The Sanctuary Lodge is situated on a promontory overlooking the Modi River at an altitude of 3,600 feet. It is twenty minutes easy walking from the scenic village of Birethanti which straddles the ancient trading route to and from Tibet. The lodge has 2, 625 feet of river frontage and a dramatic view of Machhapuchhre. The lodge was built by a local craftsmen to traditional Nepalese design. Each room is well appointed with ensuite bathrooms featuring flush toilets, hot and cold running water and electricity. The main room provides a comfortable lounge and reference library, open fireplace and dining room. The gardens are beautifully landscaped and display much of the local flora and fauna of the area.

Visits to the local school and well as a botanical and bird watching excursions with your guide are also arranged, along with a walk to the village of Birethanti. In the afternoon there will be time to relax by the river or try fishing underneath the spectacular view of the Annapurnas.

### **Day 6 Sanctuary Lodge - Himalayan Lodge**

Leave the lodge walking out through the outlying farms following the Modi River Valley. Soon you begin to climb out of the valley and up towards the mountains. Lunch is en route with a spectacular views of the surrounding valleys. In the afternoon you will continue through beautiful countryside reaching the Ker and Downey Himalayan Lodge in the early afternoon (Trek Time -5 Hours). Accommodations: Himalayan Lodge *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

The **Himalayan Lodge** is situated on the higher terraces of Ghandruk Village at an altitude of 6,560 feet and overlooks the old quarter of the town. Ghandruk is famed for its close proximity and spectacular views of the mountains and its connections with the Gurkha Regiments. The lodge is built around and 150 year old Gurung village house which now serves as the dining area. Built in traditional style guest accommodations consist of eight bedroom wing. Each room is well appointed with en suite bathrooms featuring flush toilets, hot and cold running water and electricity.

### **Day 7 Rest Day in Ghandruk, Himalayan Lodge**

Today is a free day in Ghandruk to explore this mountain village which is not only a major recruitment center for the famous Gurkha Soldiers, but is also the hub of the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP), which promotes many varied ecological projects. The ACAP head-quarters is well worth a visit. The women of Ghandruk maintain a local industry of weaving traditional Nepalese rugs making this a unique opportunity to buy locally made goods. Accommodations: Himalayan Lodge *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 8 Himalayan Lodge-Sanctuary Lodge**

Leave the Himalayan Lodge walking out through the village of Ghandruk and trek through unspoiled forests to the Sanctuary Lodge in Birethanti following a different route that we previously took. Arriving in the afternoon you will have time to explore the village of Birethanti with your guide (Trek Time-5 Hours). Accommodations: Sanctuary Lodge *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 9 Sanctuary Lodge- Basanta Lodge**

From the Sanctuary Lodge we will follow a quiet trail toward the ridge top town of Dhamphus and the Basanta Lodge. Reaching the lodge you will pass through forests of Conifers, Rhododendrons, and Bamboo. Between these forests are small settlements where people are active harvesting rice and corn. Accommodations: Basanta Lodge *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

The **Basanta Lodge** is situated on a ridge line at an altitude of 4920 feet. South of the lodge is the Phedi Valley on the route to Pokhara. To the North the magnificent Mardi Valley. The Lodge is centered around an old Gurung village house which now provides the dining room and reception areas. Guest accommodations consist of eight spacious double bedrooms overlooking the Mardi Valley. Each room is well appointed with ensuite bathrooms featuring flush toilets, hot and cold running water and electricity. From the landscaped garden you can witness the breathtaking sunsets and sunrises with the views of the entire mountain range: from the West, Annapurna South, Annapurna I, Hiunchuli, Machhapuchhre, Annapurnas 3, 2, and 4 to Lamjung in the East.

### **Day 10 Basanta Lodge-Pokhara**

Walking along the valley rim you will descend through the wooded hillside to the valley floor. You will be met by a vehicle and transfer to the Shangri La Village Resort. The afternoon is free to wander among the shops, or take a boat out on Lake Phewa (Trek Time-2 Hours) Accommodations: Shangri La Village, *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

### **Day 11 Pokhara-Seti River Rafting**

After breakfast you will drive an hour and a half through the Nepali countryside to the starting point of your rafting journey. Here you will be met by your experienced boat crew who will give you a full briefing prior to launch. Boating in Nepal is a fascinating way to see the country. It's an incredible opportunity to travel to places very few tourists visit. Starting in an open valley beneath the Annapurnas our rafts drift over the Seti's silty green waters into a lush jungle corridor. A warm water river the Seti is lined with beautiful

white sand beaches and is overflowing with bird life. Traveling down stream we will reach our Seti River Camp in the later afternoon . Accommodations: Seti River Safari Camp *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 12 Seti River Safari Camp**

After an optional morning walk to a neighboring local village the afternoon is free to explore the surrounding forests and river bank of this unique safari style river camp. Accommodations: Seti River Safari Camp *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 13 Seti River-Chitwan National Park**

Our morning is filled with rafting. On completion of the rafting, transfer to the Royal Chitwan National Park. The journey to the Narayani River. From here you will transfer to camp by canoe and four wheel drive vehicle. The next two days will be spent on safari exploring the Chitwan, and searching for exotic wildlife, including: the rare Greater One Horned Rhinoceros, several species of deer, sloth bear, wild boar, fresh water dolphin, leopard, the marsh magger and gharial crocodiles, over 450 species of birds and the elusive nocturnal Bengal Tiger. Our naturalist lead activities include: elephant safaris, boat trips, and a jungle bird watching excursion. Walking through the jungle's forests it's hard to believe that the world's highest mountains and this sub-tropical plane are so close together. Accommodations: Tiger Tops Tented Camp *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 14 Chitwan National Park**

The day is spent game viewing on elephant back and in dug-out canoe. There are also lectures on the wildlife of the park and excursions on foot for bird watching. Accommodations: Tiger Tops Tented Camp *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

#### **Day 15 Chitwan National Park-Kathmandu**

After an early morning of game viewing and breakfast at camp, you will be transferred to the airfield for your 30-minute flight back to the Kathmandu where you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is free. Accommodation: Yak and Yeti *Breakfast, Lunch*

#### **Day 16 Kathmandu**

In the morning experience the most spectacular mountain flight in the world. The plane departs Kathmandu and flies eastward alongside the Himalayas, giving you eye level views of the highest peaks on earth, including Mount Everest. The flight last one hour. The rest of the day is free to explore Kathmandu. Your guide will be happy to suggest shops and places to visit. A delightful evening will be spent in the company of your Nepalese hosts. Accommodation: Yak and Yeti *Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner*

**Day 15 Depart Nepal** or continue your vacation on an A World Away Travels Extension (possibly a short trip to Bhutan).

#### **Day 16 Arrive Home**

All of our treks are fully supported with teams of trek and raft guides, cooks, porters and a trip leader making them safe, comfortable and unforgettable adventures. Royal Annapurna is limited to 16 participants.

**Including:**

- Accommodations (3 nights Yak and Yeti Hotel in Kathmandu, 2 nights at Shangri La Village, 5 nights accommodations in Ker and Downey Lodges, 2 nights Seti River Camp, 2 nights Tiger Tops Tented Camp Chitwan.
- Trekking equipment (including duffel bags for gear, day packs, walking sticks, down jackets, wool hats and gloves, rain poncho, and sun hat).
- Meals noted in Itinerary
- River and Trekking Guides, Tour Guides, Porters
- All Tours and Entrance Fees
- Annapurna Conservation Fees
- Internal Flight (Kathmandu-Pokhara)
- Mount Everest Flight
- Private Ground Transportation.

**Price does not include:**

- International flights
- Visa Fees
- Domestic and International Airport Taxes
- Alcoholic and Bottled Beverages
- Tips
- Personal expenses (telephone, email, laundry, etc.)

**Days: 16**

***Easy Trekking and Touring***