

A person in silhouette stands on a tent, looking at snow-capped mountains in Nepal. The scene is set during the golden hour, with warm light illuminating the peaks of the Himalayas. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking towards the left where a large, snow-covered mountain peak dominates the background. The tent's orange and grey fabric is visible in the foreground, and the overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Nepal

BABAI RIVER CAMP + ANNAPURNA SIKLIS TREK

11 DAYS

HIMALAYAN CLIMBS

We run ethical, professionally led climbs. Our operations focuses foremost on responsible tourism:

Safety: All guides carry satellite phones in case of an emergency or helicopter rescue. Carried on all treks are comprehensive emergency kits. High altitude trips require bringing a Portable Altitude Chamber (PAC) and supplemental oxygen.

Responsibility: All rubbish is disposed of properly, adhering to 'trash in trash out' practices. Any non-biodegradable items are taken back to the head office to make sure they're disposed of properly. To help the local economy all vegetables, rice, kerosene, chicken, and sheep is bought from local villages en route to where guests are trekking.

Teams: Like most of our teams, the porters have been working with us for almost 10 years. Porters are provided with adequate warm gear and tents, are paid timely, and are never overloaded. In addition, porters are insured and never left on the mountain. In fact, most insurance benefits are extended to their families as well. Teams are paid above industry average and training programs and English courses are conducted in the low seasons; their knowledge goes beyond just trekking but also into history, flora, fauna, and politics.

Client Experience: Our treks proudly introduce fantastic food. Cooks undergo refresher courses every season to ensure that menus are new and exciting. All food is very hygienically cared for. By providing private toilets, shower tents, mess tents, tables, chairs, Thermarest mattresses, sleeping bags, liners and carefully choosing campsites for location in terms of safety, distance, space, availability of water and the views – our guests are sure to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience!



SAFETY DEVICES

Portable Altitude Chamber
[on crater ascents]

First Aid Kits

Oxygen + regulator + mask

Pulse Oximeters



Neck
brace

Water Filter

Mobile Phone

Satelite Phone
(on Shira + Crater)

Stethoscope

Guest + Crew AMS
Monitoring sheets

Portable
stretcher

BABAI RIVER CAMP & ANNAPURNA SIKLIS TREK

Overview

An hour long flight west of the capital takes you to Nepalgunj from where you drive on the East West Highway to the Bardia National Park. You then drive north to a very quiet part of the park where our private tented camp lies on the west bank of the Babai River. An excellent spot to see the Royal Bengal Tiger, Rhinoceros and the Asiatic Elephant not very far from your camp. There is also opportunity to fish for the Masheer 'Tiger of the river', bird watching, observing wildlife from a Machan, jungle drive or an elephant ride to look for big game. Your private helicopter transfers you to the lake city of Pokhara. After some blissful nights spent at the rustic Tiger Mountain Lodge, you will once again fly in your private helicopter to the stunning Annapurna Base Camp for such unforgettable views of the Annapurna range from close. The views of the Annapurnas, Machapuchhare and Lamjung Himalaya is one that will remain etched in one's mind forever as you make your way back flying above terraced fields, and Brahmin, Gurung & Magar villages to Tara hilltop where an alfresco breakfast awaits to welcome you.

In April the forest is ablaze with rhododendron and magnolia trees creating a wonderful foreground to the 180 degree panorama of the Himalayas. The views of the Annapurnas, Machapuchhare, Lamjung and Manaslu are spectacular on a clear day or night from Tarahill. Beyond this point, lying at the foot of Lamjung (it's ridge humped like that of a Gaur - Wild Buffalo), is the village of Siklis. For hundreds of years generations of young men from this village have served as Gurkha Soldiers in the British Army. From the villages of Parje and Siklis we climb even higher to sheep pastures where the silence of the mountains is occasionally broken by the thundering avalanches and the mountains seem only a stone's throw away. The ever so fun loving and friendly villagers, their proud and simple lifestyle, the never ending activity in the fields, children off to school, the smart stone steps that connect these remote settlements to ever growing cities, all remind us how much we actually need and with how little they are content with.



BABAI RIVER CAMP & ANNAPURNA SIKLIS TREK: ITINERARY AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1

Kathmandu

Arrival into International Airport, welcome + briefing. Overnight Dwarika's Hotel

DAY 2

Kathmandu

Full day of guided city tour, Overnight Dwarika's Hotel

DAY 3

Babai River Camp

Fly to Nepalgunj, briefing by the Camp Manager, Overnight Babai River Camp

DAY 4

Babai River Camp

Full day jeep drive and wildlife spotting, Overnight Babai River Camp

DAY 5

Babai River Camp

Full day jeep drive and wildlife spotting, Elephant Safari, Overnight Babai River Camp

DAY 6

Pokhara

Drive to Thakurdwar for private helicopter flight, Overnight Tiger Mountain Lodge

DAY 7

Pokhara

Optional touring incl. walk to Begnas Lake or tandem paragliding, Overnight Tiger Mountain Lodge

DAY 8

Siklis Kharka

Private helicopter to Annapurnas, 6-7 Hours Trekking, Overnight Camp

BABAI RIVER CAMP & ANNAPURNA SIKLIS TREK: ITINERARY AT-A-GLANCE (CONT.)

DAY 9

Siklis High Camp

Trek 6 hours,
Overnight at Siklis High
Camp 9,000 ft.

DAY 10

Siklis Kharka

Trek 6 hours,
Overnight at Siklis
Kharka Camp 7,200 ft.

DAY 11

Kathmandu

Breakfast, helicopter
flight back to Pokhara,
scheduled flight to
Kathmandu, Overnight
Dwarika's Hotel

DAY 12

Depart Kathmandu



DAY 1: KATHMANDU

Upon arrival into Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport you are personally met and transferred to your hotel. Tonight there is a welcome dinner and briefing.

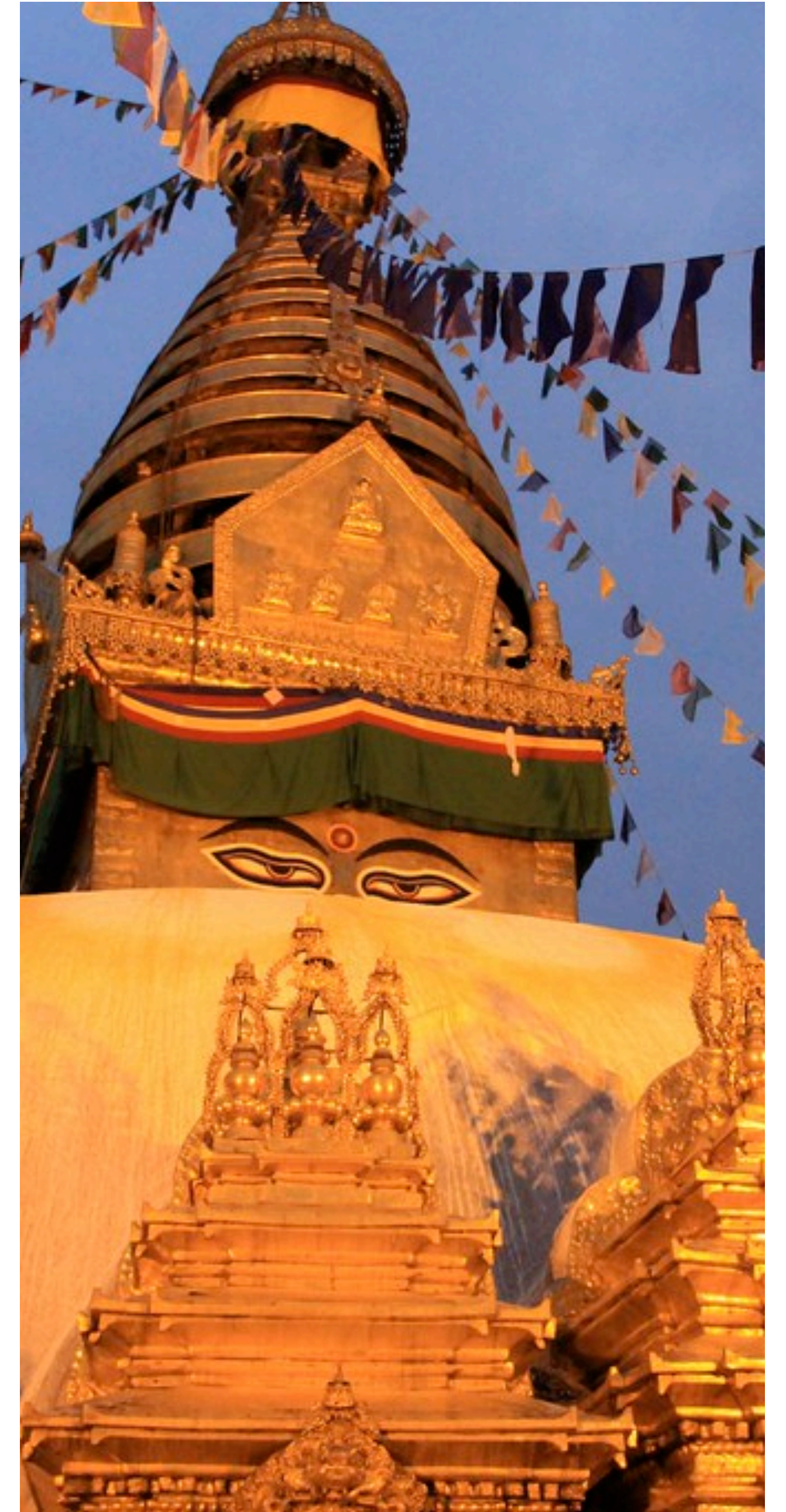
Overnight Dwarika's Hotel (Dinner)



DAY 2: KATHMANDU

Enjoy a full day of guided city tour of the exotic Kathmandu city. You will be visiting the various important Buddhist and Hindu shrines like Baudhanath stupa, the biggest in Nepal and the holy temple of Pashuatinath. You will also explore the ancient durbar (palace) of Patan, strolling through it's narrow lanes that meander through this city as you discover old temples and palaces that are still worshipped by locals followed by a meeting with the living goddess Kumari.

Overnight Dwarika's Hotel (Breakfast, Dinner)



DAY 3: BABAI RIVER CAMP

This morning, you are transferred to a domestic airport to fly to Nepalgunj (1 hour flight). Met at the airport and begin drive towards Babai River Camp (5 hours). We stop at a scenic point to enjoy a picnic lunch on the way. You will be greeted with a cup of tea or coffee upon arrival and then led to your superior tented accommodation with proper bedding and eco camp facilities. After a refreshing shower there will be a briefing by the Camp Manager. There will be no activities today but there is the option to enjoy the sunset while fishing on the nearby Babai River, or explore around camp looking for birds especially the rare Brown Fish Owl which nests close to our camp.

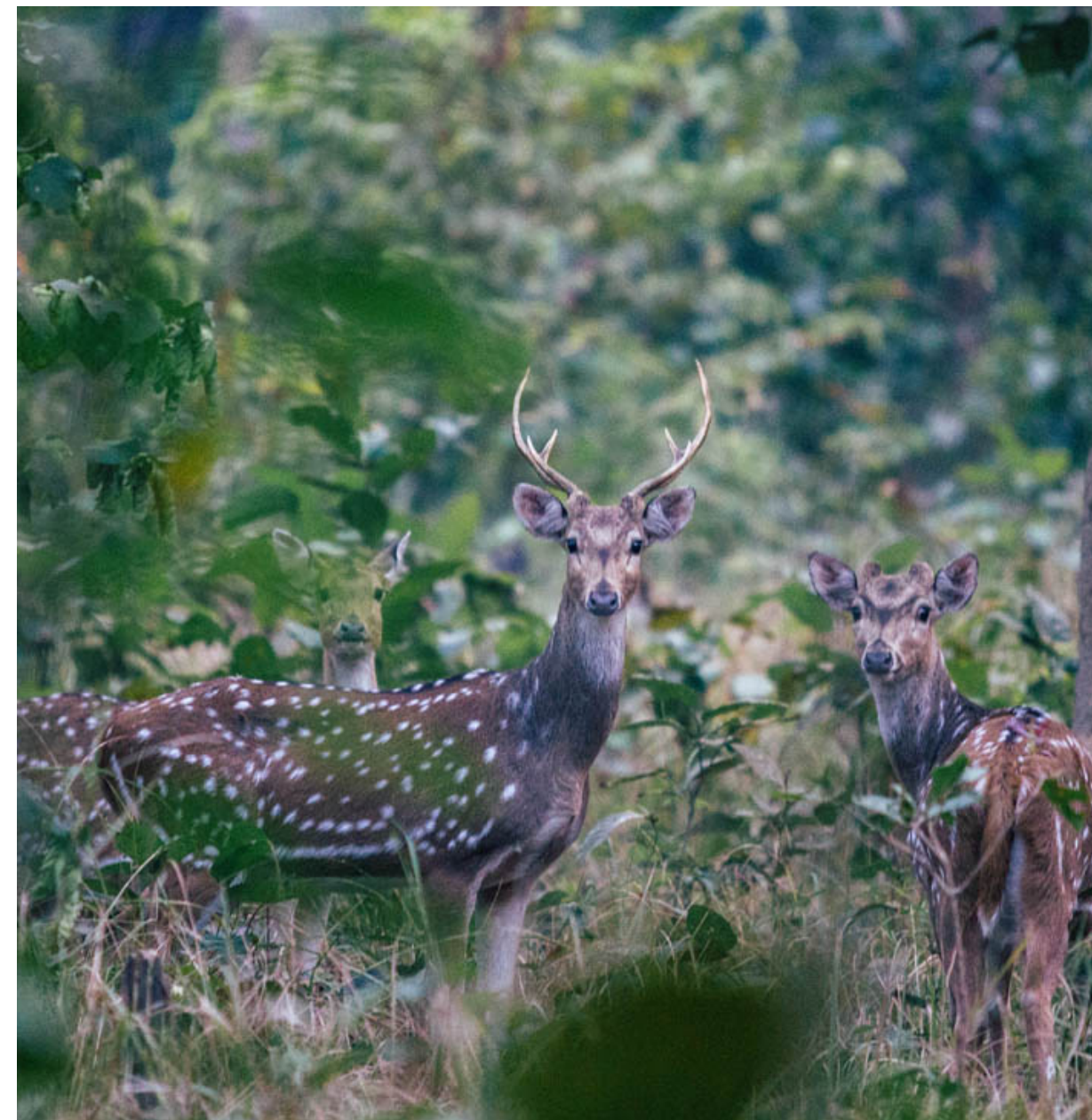
Overnight Babai River Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 4: BABAI RIVER CAMP

We start early at dawn with a Jeep drive heading to Nak Dara, an excellent view point just in time to enjoy the sunrise and to experience nature waking up to a new day. This is also a good location to spot local Marsh Muggers crocodiles and other aquatic birds. On the way back, we stop at Gaida Tal to look for the Asian one-Horned Rhino. Drive back to camp to enjoy a late cooked breakfast and a few cups of fresh ground coffee. You will have few hours at camp to relax and enjoy quiet time by the river. After lunch we will drive to Ghuti Camp to learn about Asian elephants from an expert and, if the situation permits, participate in elephant bathing in the river. Next we will hop back into our jeep heading towards Rato Matey with our fingers crossed for spotting the rare and elusive Royal Bengal tiger. After spending much time exploring this area we return to our camp.

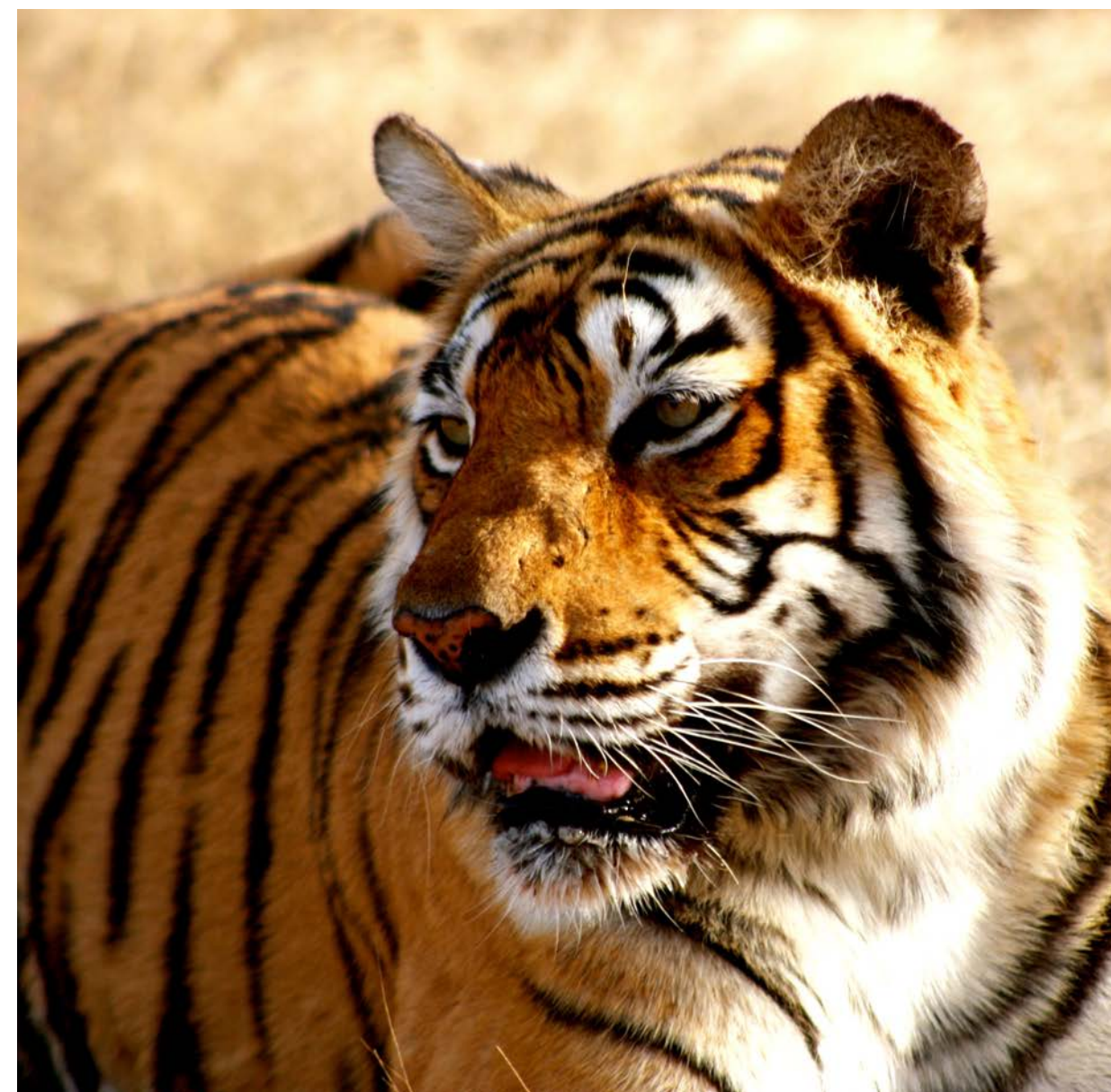
Overnight Babai River Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 5: BABAI RIVER CAMP

We start early with a Safari drive up to Gaida Tal, and then head across the river to Thulo Shree as our pursuit of spotting the rare Royal Bengal tiger continues. After scouring the area for any signs of tiger activity, we drive back to camp for a much deserved breakfast. Leisure time at camp. After lunch we begin our drive to Ghuti for Elephant Safari through forest and grassland, followed by another Safari drive to Guthi Machan for spotting spotted deer, wild boar, rhino and wild peacocks. After a dramatic day in the wild we return to our camp to enjoy a full three course dinner and drinks.

Overnight Babai River Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)





DAY 6: POKHARA

We leave camp and drive to Thakurdwar to catch our private helicopter flight to Pokhara. Transfer to the rustic and charming Tiger Mountain Lodge situated 1000ft above Pokhara valley with a glorious Himalayan backdrop. Rest of the day at leisure by the infinity pool or option for Ayurvedic massage in the privacy of your room. Overnight at Tiger Mountain Lodge (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

Overnight at Tiger Mountain Lodge (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 7: POKHARA

After breakfast consider a variety of options from a day walk to Thuloswara or a shorter walk to the charming Begnas Lake. Both routes take you through a variety of local villages, forest and farmland. We will provide a tempting picnic lunch. Or there is another option to drive down to Pokhara and try your hand at a tandem paragliding flight soaring with the eagles. Alternately, perhaps you would like to take a book from Col. Jimmy's Library and relax by the pool watching the mountains reflected in the pool's clear water.

Overnight at Tiger Mountain Lodge (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 8: SIKLIS KHARKA

A private helicopter picks you up close from the lodge and whisks you on a spectacular flight into the heart of the Annapurna region with 360 degree views of the Himalayan peaks at Annapurna Base Camp. After spending few minutes at Base Camp for photos we continue our flight to land at Tarahill. Breakfast will be served outside, while enjoying the breathtaking panoramic views from Manaslu mountains in the east to Annapurna South in the West. After trek crew introductions you will start walking along the ridge making your way through the Rhododendron and Magnolia Forest. This is a beautiful ridge walk that goes up and down for a while and then traverses on the south side of the ridge that continues from Tara Hill to pastures that look down the valley you will trek in the following days. Finally here we climb steadily to our awaiting camp on this near perfect camping meadow that looks straight at the looming Lamjung peak and above the sprawling village of Sikkis that is so well known for its many generations of young men that served as the famous Gurkha soldiers of the Indian and British army. Camp at Sikkis Kharka 7,200 ft. Trek: 6-7 hrs.

Overnight Private Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 9: SIKLIS HIGH CAMP

From the villages of Parje and Siklis we climb even higher to sheep pastures where the silence of the mountains is occasionally broken by the thundering avalanches and the mountains seem only a stone's thrown away. Today we start the day with a steep ascent first on stone steps, and then as we enter the rhododendron and deciduous forest, the trail starts to climb through the forest. These trails are used by the sheep-herders as they take their herds to graze higher up in the alpine pastures to fatten them and prepare them for the holy Dashain festival in October. During the day, clearings in the forest offer tantalizing glimpses of the peaks and also a time to take a quick break and rehydrate ourselves. During the spring season, parts of these forests are ablaze with rhododendron and magnolia trees. We finally reach a clearing right beside the main trail where we will be camping for the night. Camp at Siklis High Camp 9,000 ft. Trek: 6 hrs.

Overnight Private Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)



DAY 10:

SIKLIS KHARKA

The day begins with a hike up to another vantage point 9,900 ft, before breakfast above our camp for a breathtaking view of the Annapurna and Lamjung, at a very close range; close enough to even hear and see avalanches tumble down the mountain slopes. After the morning walk you will return to camp to enjoy your breakfast and then begin descending the same trail we came up yesterday, all the way back to the village of Siklis. You will then spend the rest of the day exploring the interesting village of Siklis, Like many of the villages of the region, the inhabitants of Siklis are Gurungs, a people of distant Tibeto-Burman origin, who live from sheep herding and cultivation of crops of maize, wheat, rice and millet. Many ex-Ghurkhas live in the village and enjoy meeting trekkers. Our guides will take you through the village explaining about the local architecture and lifestyle, visiting homes, the local daycare centre and the Conservation Area Office. You then return to camp and if time permits, our cook will demonstrate and give us some cooking lessons. You can also have showers in the evening and relax with a drink in your hand enjoying the sunset on the beautiful mountain peaks. Camp at Siklis Kharka 7,200 ft. Overnight in tents. Trek: 5 hrs

Overnight Private Camp (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

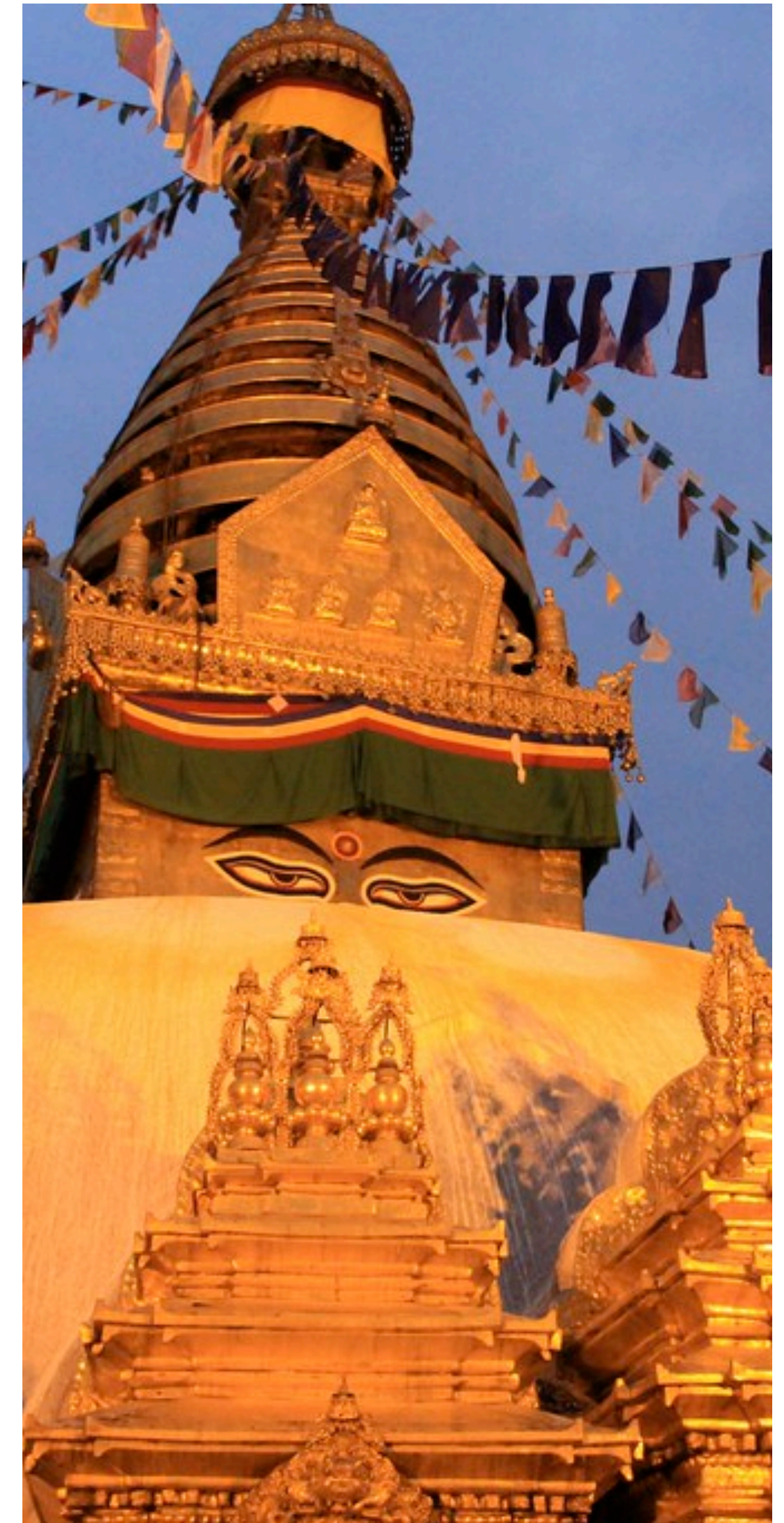




DAY 11: KATHMANDU

After breakfast enjoy a spectacular helicopter flight back to Pokhara to connect with a schedule flight to Kathmandu. You are met and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure or shopping. Tonight there will be a farewell dinner remembering all the good times spent.

Overnight Dwarika's Hotel (Breakfast, Dinner)

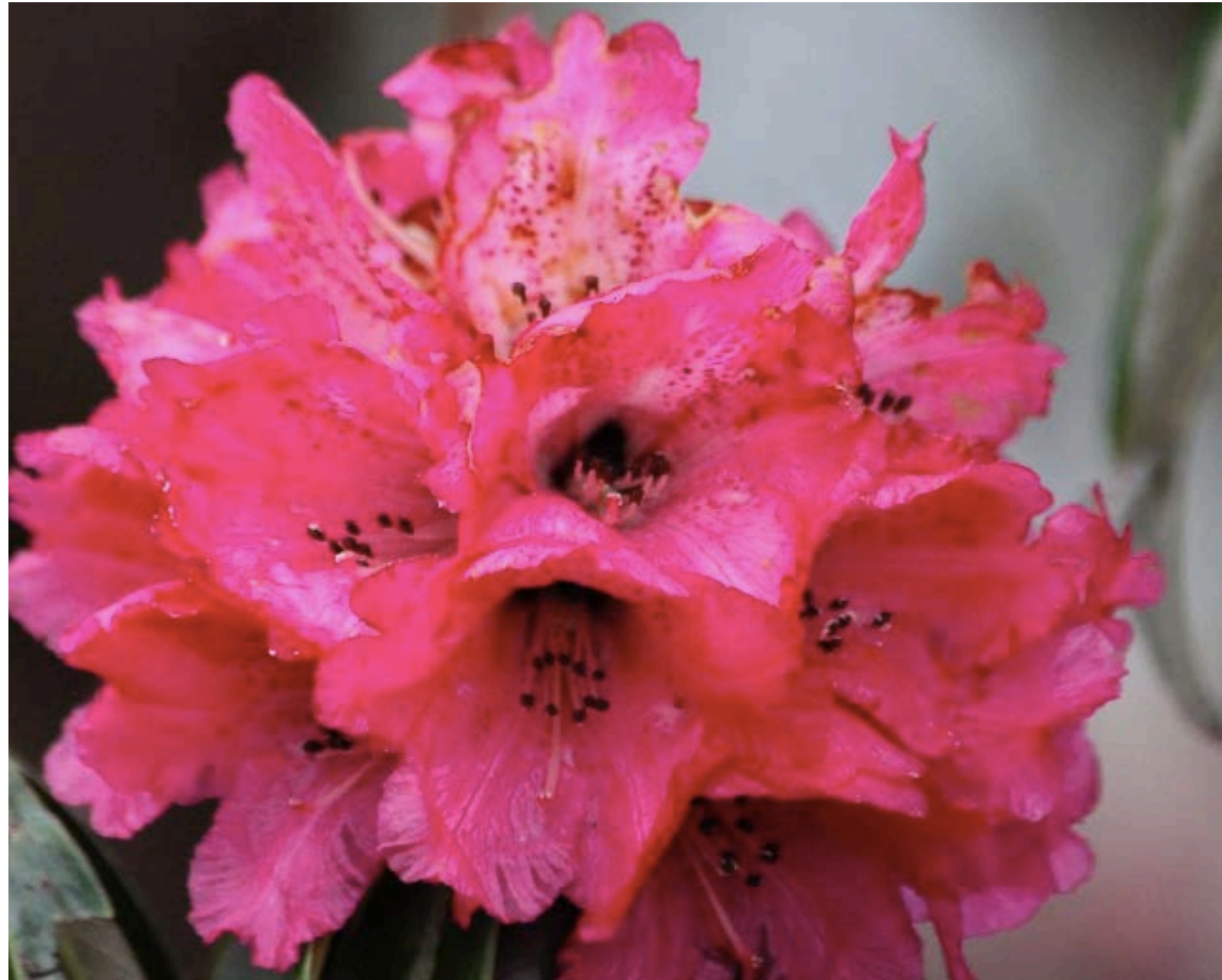


DAY 12: DEPART KATHMANDU

Today you are transferred to Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport for your International departures.

(Breakfast)





ACCOMMODATIONS

BABAI RIVER CAMP Situated deep in the Jungle of West Nepal is a river valley that has become the last refuge of the Big Game animals of the Indian Subcontinent. In this quiet corner of the world only reachable by four wheel drive lies the Babai River Camp. A camp that is totally mobile. Setup just a few days before your arrival and then dismantled immediately after to leave the place as it was, back to the wild. The camp lies in an idyllic spot beside the Babai River. Situated inside a Sal (Shorea Robusta) forest the African Style tents stay secluded yet overlook the river and the open southern bank of the Babai where herds of elephants, tiger, deer, otters, etc can be spotted. The spacious canvas tents have comfortable mattresses, crisp cotton linen with ensuite portable toilets and a beautiful handmade brass sink. Just behind the tents are day time toilets and private showers with herbal shower products. 3 course freshly prepared meals are prepared by a team of cooks with many years of experience cooking in the Himalayan Outdoors.



TIGER MOUNTAIN LODGE is set up every step of the way and ready for when you arrive into camp in the afternoon. A mess tent contains a table, chairs, and all cutlery. Whenever possible, our Himalayan crews like to have guests eat outside to enjoy the splendid views. Guest tents fit 2 people comfortably with sleeping mattress and sleeping bag, all set up for a comfortable sleep. A separate toilet tent is also set up on the perimeter for private and cleaner bathroom facilities.



ACCOMMODATIONS

HIMALAYAN PRIVATE CAMP is set up every step of the way and ready for when you arrive into camp in the afternoon. A mess tent contains a table, chairs, and all cutlery. Whenever possible, our Himalayan crews like to have guests eat outside to enjoy the splendid views. Guest tents fit 2 people comfortably with bed cots, sleeping bag, all set up for a comfortable sleep. A separate toilet tent is also set up on the perimeter for private and cleaner bathroom facilities. We also have a shower tent!



DWARIKA'S HOTEL is built upon a rich tradition of Nepali hospitality and incorporating some of the country's most exquisite architectural traditions, the Dwarika's Hotel in Kathmandu is an authentic experience of Nepal's ancient cultural heritage. A boutique hotel located in the heart of the city with spacious rooms, elegant setting and Nepali warmth make it a luxurious retreat.



A wide-angle landscape photograph of a mountain range in Nepal, South Asia. The foreground shows the dark silhouettes of trees. The middle ground features several layers of mountain ridges, with the most prominent ones covered in snow and partially illuminated by a warm, golden light, likely from the setting or rising sun. The sky is a pale, hazy blue with some light clouds. The text 'DESTINATION: NEPAL, SOUTH ASIA' is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

DESTINATION:
NEPAL, SOUTH ASIA

DESTINATION: NEPAL, SOUTH ASIA

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, is a landlocked country in South Asia. It is located in the Himalayas and bordered to the north by the People's Republic of China, and to the south, east, and west by the Republic of India. Kathmandu is the nation's capital and the country's largest metropolis. Nepal has rich geography. Nepal is popular for mountaineering, containing some of the world's highest and most challenging peaks. The mountainous north has 8 of the world's 10 tallest mountains, including the highest point on Earth, Mount Everest 29,029ft (8848m), called Sagarmatha in Nepali. It contains more than 240 peaks over 20,000ft (6096m) above sea level. The fertile and humid south is heavily urbanized. By some measures, Hinduism is practiced by a larger majority of people in Nepal than in any other nation. Buddhism, though a minority faith in the country, is linked historically with Nepal as the birthplace of the Buddha. A monarchy throughout most of its history, Nepal was ruled by the Shah dynasty of kings from 1768, when Prithvi Narayan Shah unified its many small kingdoms. In 2006, however, a decade-long Civil War by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) along with several weeks of mass protests by all major political parties of Nepal culminated in a peace accord, and the ensuing elections for the constituent assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of the abdication of the last Nepali monarch Gyanendra Shah and the establishment of a federal democratic republic on May 28 2008. The first President of Nepal, Ram Baran Yadav was sworn in on July 23 2008. Neolithic tools found in the Kathmandu Valley indicate that people have been living in the Himalayan region for at least 9,000 years. Nepal has been highlighted in many scriptures; small kingdoms and confederations arose in the region, from these a prince named Siddharta Gautama renounced his loyalty to lead an ascetic life and came to be known as the Buddha ("the enlightened one"). After some disputes over bordering territories with the British East India company and China, in 1923 the UK formerly recognized Nepal's independence. In 1924 slavery was abolished, nevertheless debt bondage even involving debtor's children has been a persistent social problem. In 1991, Bhutan expelled roughly 100,000 ethnic Nepalis, most of whom have been living in refugee camps in eastern Nepal ever since.



DESTINATION: NEPAL, SOUTH ASIA

Entry Requirements

Nepal Visas should be obtained beforehand, but can be obtained upon arrival. US Citizens pay \$40 per person for single entry for 30 days. A passport valid for six months after date of entry is required. Visitors must hold return/onward tickets and all documents required for their next destination.

Vaccinations

Hepatitis A and B, Tetanus, and Typhoid immunizations are recommended for all travelers. Malaria prophylaxis is recommended for travel in the southern Nepal regions of Terai during the hot and rainy months. Malaria is low risk in the mountain and trekking areas. You should consult your local doctor or physician to advise which malaria medication is best suited for you. Information on vaccinations and other health precautions, such as safe food and water precautions and insect bite protection, may be obtained from the CDC's Internet site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel>

Weather

Kathmandu, Nepal

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
AVE. HIGH	62	70	77	86	84	84	82	84	82	82	75	70
AVE. LOW	37	35	44	48	59	66	66	66	64	55	42	35

Communication

Nepal – country code +977. Most areas will have mobile access and Internet is very limited. Some areas while trekking or on safari may not have mobile access.

Electricity

India - Electrical current is 230 volts, 50Hz (Type C; electrical plug with two circular pins) (Type D; electrical plug has three circular pins) (Type M; electrical plug has three large circular pins)

Travel Advisories

Make two photocopies of valuables such as your passport, tickets, visas and travelers' cheques. Keep one copy with you in a separate place to the original and

leave another copy with someone at home. Be sure to inform your credit card company as well as your bank you will travel internationally into India. This will eliminate any credit card holds for fraudulent activity.

Currency

Carrying cash, an ATM or traveler's check card and also a credit card that can be used for cash advances in case of emergency is advisable. The best places to exchange money are normally bureau de change, which are fast, have longer hours and often give slightly better rates than banks. Local currency is Nepalese Rupee (NPR), however most urban places accept USD. Better hotels, lodges, and camps will accept credit cards, however it is advised to withdraw cash when visiting remote areas and villages.

Government

Nepal functions within a framework of a republic with a multi-party system. President is the head of state.

Religion

Nepal – 80% Hindu, 10% Buddhist, 4.4% Muslim, 3.6% Kirat, 0.5% Christian, and 0.4% other such as Bon.

Ethnic Groups

Nepalis are descendants of migrants from parts of earlier Greater Nepal, Tibet, India and parts of Burma and Yunnan along with native tribal population. Among the earliest inhabitants were the Kirat of east mid-region, Newar of the Kathmandu Valley and aboriginal Tharu in the malarial southern Terai region. The ancestors of the Khas migrated eastward along the Himalayan foothills out of Kashmir, Kumaon, Garhwal – parts of then Greater Nepal, Karnali Praadesh and perhaps also north from the Gangeatic Plains during invasions. Other ethnic groups trace their origins to North Burma, Yunnan and Tibet. In Terai, much of the population is physically and culturally similar to Indo-Aryans of northern India. Indo-Aryan and East Asian looking mixed people live in the hill region. Central and western Nepal ethnic Tibetans inhabit even higher semi-arid valleys north of the high Himalaya.

Languages

Nepali is the official and de facto language of Nepal and also spoken in Bhutan,

parts of India and parts of Myanmar (Burma).

Economy

Nepal – an isolated, agrarian society until the mid-20th century, Nepal entered the modern era in 1951 without schools, hospitals, roads, telecommunications, electric power, industry, or civil service. The country has, however, made progress toward sustainable economic growth since the 1950's and is committed to a program of economic liberalization. Foreign aid accounts for more than half of the development budget. Agriculture remains Nepal's principal economic activity, employing 80% of the population and providing 37% of GDP. Only about 20% of the total area is cultivable; another 33% is forested; most of the rest is mountainous. Rice and wheat are the main food crops. The lowland Terai region produces an agricultural surplus, part of which supplies the food-deficient hill areas. Economic development in social services and infrastructure has not made dramatic progress due to GDP dependency on India. Major towns are connected to the capital by telephone and domestic air services. The export-oriented carpet and garment industries have grown rapidly in recent years and together now account for approximately 70% of merchandise exports. Nepal was ranked 29th worst country on the Global Hunger Index, between Tanzania and Kenya.

Climate

The climate of Nepal varies from warm summers with mild winters in the low-lying southern region, to alpine conditions with very severe winters in the mountains. Between December and February temperatures drop well below freezing in the mountains. The best time to travel to Nepal for trekking is in early spring or late autumn, when the weather is dry and temperatures mild. The monsoon season on the coast occurs between June and September.