

# Nepal Bhutan Myanmar (Burma) Tour

Experience Buddhist culture, heritage & jungle safari and views of amazing Buddhist Pagodas



## **Overview**

If you are an avid traveler seeking culture and adventure within three of the world's most beautiful countries, read on. The **Nepal Bhutan Myanmar** (**Burma**) **Tour** provides both of these in abundance. The serene natural beauty all three counties provide, only go to compliment in 2 to 3 wonderful weeks.

Begin in Nepal, to discover the unique fabric of life amongst the pure beauty of The Kathmandu Valley. Visit the ancient and ornate temple squares of Patan, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur, each listed as a World Heritage Site. Pay homage at the deeply religious Buddhist and Hindu pilgrim places Pashaputinath, Bouddanath and Swayambunath.

**The following days in Nepal** showcase the natural beauty the country is so admired for. We spend two fantastic days on **Safari** in **Chitwan National Park**, searching for tiger on elephant back. Finally relax in the beautiful lake city of **Pokhara**, to simply admire what is arguably the grandest mountain backdrop in the world.

Move on to **the last Shangri La** of <u>Bhutan</u>, it begins with a superb Himalayan flight into the heart of Bhutan. We stay in **Thimphu**, Bhutan's tiny capital. The following days include visits to **Memorial Chorten**, **National Textile Museum**, **National Institute of Arts and Crafts**, and the **National Library**. There are also excursions to **Punakha** via **DochuLa Pass** and the famous **Taktsang** (**Tiger's Nest**) **monastery** sitting precariously on the edge of a cliff.



The third leg of the **Nepal Bhutan Myanmar** (**Burma**) **Tour** begins with a flight to **Yangon** via **Bangkok.** Carefully planned days provide you with the very best of **Myanmar** has to offer. Known as the "**Garden of the East**", the elegance and sheer beauty of this country shines through from day one. Visit the major tourist pilgrimage sites in the country. **Yangon** for the ornate pagodas including **Shwedagon** and colorful street markets, **Bagan** with its 3000 ancient temples spread over lush green plains. Finally, no journey to **Myanmar** would ever be complete without a visit to the **Inle Lake**; to relax within its pristine surroundings.

## **Highlights**

- **Nepal:** 7 Nights in Kathmandu with Kathmandu Durbar Square, Pashupatinath, Boudha stupa, Swoyambhunath, Elephant Safari in Chitwan and Mountain views with sunrise/sunset at Pokhara.
- **Bhutan:** 4 Nights in Bhutan with a hike to Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Paro, Thimphu and Punakha with local life style.
- Myanmar: 7 Nights in Burma with Shwedagon Pagoda at Yangon, Buddhist Pagodas in Bagan and view of floating houses in Inle Lake.

#### **Outline**

- Choose your own departure date as it is your private tour.
- Select the comfort level of accommodation. Tour cost will be calculated depends on your hotel choices.
- Adjust activities to cater to special interests
- Modify tour duration & any aspect of the tour as needed
- Flexible travel route (start from Kathmandu and end to Yangon/Bangkok or vice-versa)

## Your Journey day by day

#### Day 01: Arrive at Kathmandu

Our staff will receive you at the TIA airport after landing. A brief welcome session and you will be accompanied to the hotel. Take some rest and refreshments at the hotel or an evening walk around will be good too. Thamel is a great way to get a first-hand experience of Nepalese culture and lifestyle in the Kathmandu valley. Sliding through beautiful streets and handicraft shops return to your hotel and rest for the day. Overnight in Thamel, Kathmandu.

#### Day 02: Sightseeing at Kathmandu

An optional activity in the morning Everest flight or helicopter ride is available for Everest base camp.

Today's Heritage tour of Kathmandu showcases the main UNESCO world heritage sites of the valley. Our First destination today following breakfast will be the Hindu Temple of Pashupatinath. This shrine complex is one of the most significant in Asia dedicated to the major Hindu god 'Shiva'. The immense spiritual feeling is intact in the banks of the holy Bagmati River. Witness Hindu cremation process, an eye-opening spiritual journey while you are here. You can explore over 500 small and big shrines,



sculptures, Lingams, and temples while you are here.

A quick drive will take us from here to the beautiful Buddhist dome of Boudhanath Stupa. The biggest stupa of Nepal, Boudhanath is also the core of Tibetan Buddhism in the Kathmandu valley. Enjoy the Tibetan inspired crafts, paintings, and foods in the surroundings of Boudhanath. The Basantapur Durbar Square is the next site to visit reachable within a short walk of your hotel. This was the ancient ruling palace for the Malla kings of Kathmandu. Enjoy the vast courtyards, magnificent monuments, stoneworks, sculptures, and temples while you are here.

We will end our day with a short drive to 'the monkey temple' or Swyambhunath Temple. A quick drive followed by a short hike will lead you to this Buddhist temple situated at a hill. Soak in a beautiful view of the sunset over the valley from the temple with devotees and visitors alike. Overnight in Kathmandu.

#### Day 03: Fly or drive from Kathmandu to Chitwan (B/L/D)

Today we drive towards Chitwan From Kathmandu (Optional 25 minutes flight available). Enjoy the scenic view of beautiful valleys, mountains in a hill highway beside the Trishuli River. Stopping in some settlements and bazaars along the way you can experience a different lifestyle and culture as well. Also, the change in vegetation and climate is also eminent once close to Chitwan.

Chitwan lies in the Terai plains of Nepal is famous for Chitwan National Park. As the oldest national park of the country the wildlife and cultural experience here is not one to be missed. Post lunch you can walk through the villages and view the Tharu culture. Tharus are the native of the Terai region with their unique culture, lifestyle, and cuisine. Before dinner, enjoy a lively and informative Tharu program organized by the locals. Overnight at Chitwan.

#### Day 04: Chitwan National Park Tour (B/L/D)

Our day in Chitwan commences with a refreshing canoe ride in Rapti River towards the national park entrance. The river ride is an opportunity to see some aquatic life including gharials and crocodiles. Entering the national park we will start the Elephant safari through the jungle. You can witness numerous mammals, birds, and reptiles during the safari.

The one-horned rhinoceros and Royal Bengal tiger are rare but majestic to gaze at given the chances to spot. Your guide will familiarize you with the flora and fauna of the region while leading you to the major hotspots for spotting them. From the banks of Narayani river enjoy a beautiful sunset view ending the day. Rest for the day after completing the safari. Overnight at Chitwan.

#### Day 05: Drive or Fly from Chitwan to Pokhara (B)

After breakfast, we will start our journey to Pokhara. Pokhara is one of the major destinations for tourists due to its cultural, natural, and adventure-packed activities. Also the starting point for numerous short and long treks to the Annapurna region, a visit here will quench your travel-thirst. After 5 hours of scenic drive (optional flight 25 mins), we will arrive at Pokhara. Relax and head out for an evening tour around the market and banks of Phewa lake. Overnight at Pokhara.



#### Day 06: Pokhara Tour (B)

We will explore the magnificent Pokhara city today. Starting early today, you will visit the major attractions of the city. The caves of Pokhara are your first destinations with Mahendra, Gupteshor, and Bat caves being the most popular ones. The beautiful underground waterfall of Davis falls is next to visit. After lunch visits the International Mountaineering Museum nearby. The majestic Seti Gorge is another wonderful natural destination here in Pokhara. Spend the evening in the surrounding of the Phewa Lake enjoying the view of a glowing sunset over the Annapurna mountain range. Overnight at Pokhara.

## Day 07: Fly or drive from Pokhara to Kathmandu. (6 hour drive) (B)

You have options to do a couple of hikes around the city for a sunrise view today. After breakfast, we will head back to the Kathmandu valley. The drive is scenic following the same hill highway but you can take a flight (30 mins) back too. Try some local fruits and snacks in small settlements on the way back.

After reaching Kathmandu, we will drive you back to the hotel. You can visit some nearby attractions or explore the evening markets of Ason in the evening. Overnight at a hotel in Kathmandu

## Day 08: Fly to Bhutan and drive to Thimphu (B/L/D)

From TIA, Kathmandu we have a morning flight to the Paro Airport in Bhutan. The flight is short and you will be received by your Bhutanese guide sat the airport. After clearing the customs he/she will drive you towards the Bhutanese Capital Thimphu.

Stop halfway to the Paro-Thimphu highway and visit the 16<sup>th</sup>-century old Tachogang Lhakhang temple by traversing an old bridge. From the bridge, enjoy the scenic views of the villages. Tachogang temple means the hill of the excellent horse. Continue to drive to Thimphu.

Rest for a while at a hotel and head out for a brief tour of the local markets here in the evening. Overnight at Thimphu.

## Day 09: Sightseeing at Thimphu (B/L/D)

Our Thimphu sightseeing trip commences today with a visit to the heritage Museum near your hotel. Our visit here focuses on the history and culture of the Bhutanese people and Bhutan. After spending some time at the Museum head out to the National Library housing centuries-old manuscripts and artifacts. Following lunch visit the paper and handicraft factories, Bhutan Postal Museum, and Late King's Memorial Chorten around Thimphu.

Later, take a short drive will take us to the outskirts of Thimphu to the Great Buddha Dordenma. The majestic golden monument oversees the city and beyond. Explore the traditional medicine center and Takin zoo next to complete the Thimphu sightseeing tour. Overnight at Thimphu.

#### Day 10: Thimphu to Punakha excursion- back to Thimphu (150 kilometers.) 5 hrs (B/L/D)



We will head towards beautiful Punakha city from Thimphu today. The drive takes about two and a half hours and is packed with scenic delights. We will drive to the Dochu La Pass (3100 m) midway to Punakha. In a brief stop visit the beautiful Druk Wangyal Chortens and royal botanical garden. The views of Gangkar Puensum rising over the majestic Himalayas is Sublime from the drive.

We will visit the Chimi Lhakhang or 'The temple of divine madman' temple after arriving at Punakha. Next is the magnificent historic Punakha Fort on our tour. Punakha Dzong highlights the Punakha district and a visit takes you closer to Bhutanese history and architecture. Walk in the terraced rice fields and enjoy the picturesque surroundings while you are here. Not so far is the longest and oldest Punakha Suspension Bridge. Enjoy the beautiful views from the bridge that connect three lovely villages of Bhutan. After the exploration, we will drive back to Thimphu and rest. Overnight at Thimphu.

#### Day 11: Thimphu to Paro (B/L/D)

Today might be the most anticipated day of the Bhutan tour as the hike to the top of Taktsang Monastery. An hour of drive post breakfast will see us on the foothills of the Taktsang monastery in Paro. Also known as the Tiger's Lair, the monastery is long-acting as the face of Bhutanese tourism.

The hike is about 2 hours long and you can have scenic natural views from the way. Stopping in the midway shops have some snacks and head back to the monastery. Upon reaching here you can have marvelous views all around. Situated at a cliffside the architecture is one to gaze at and enjoy as well. Explore the art and cultural components whilst your guide will explain to you the historic legends surrounding the monastery.

After returning from this magical hike have lunch. Next, visit to some major attractions like Kyichu Lhakhang Temple, Paro Rinpung Dzong, and the National Museum of Bhutan. Overnight at Paro.

#### Day 12: Fly to Yangon (Burma) via Bangkok – Arrival in Yangon (B)

We will commence Myanmar's part of the tour with a flight to Yangon from Paro. As there are no direct flights you are likely to reach there through Bangkok. After landing, our representative will receive you here and transfer you to the hotel here. In your spare time, today visit some of the colonial monuments in Yangon and more. Overnight at Yangon.

#### Day 13: Yangon tour (B)

We will start the Yangon tour after breakfast. The pagodas of Yangon are beautiful and we will visit the significant ones today. Chauk Htat Kyi, Bitahtaung Pagoda, and Sule Pagoda define our day with so many other majestic sites to visit as well. Explore the surrounding settlements and know the local lifestyle and culture better in between the pagoda visits.

We will head to the Shwedagon Pagoda towards late afternoon. From the pagoda view a warming sunset leaving the horizon. Rest for the day back at your hotel after completing the tour. Overnight at Yangon.

## Day 14: Flight from Yangon to Bagan (B)



We will head towards the ancient city of Bagan with a flight from Bagan. Bagan is one of the most iconic cities in Myanmar also given the title of 'Land of a Thousand Pagodas'. Rightly so, as Bagan is home to over 2200 magnificent Pagodas some dating back to the 9th century. Start the Bagan tour visiting some chosen pagodas. Htilominlo Temple, Ananda Temple, and Gu Byauk Kyi Temple are some of the memorable places that you will visit today.

After lunch, visit the local Nyaung U Market and learn the local culture and commerce. We will visit Shwe Zigon Pagoda and Kyansittha Umin to complete our Bagan tour today. Enjoy the sunset view from one of the high pagodas and rest for the day. Overnight at Bagan.

#### Day 15: Bagan Tour (B)

Our Bagan exploration continues as we focus on the southeastern parts of the city today. Phayathonezou Temple, Tayokepyay Temple, Nandamanya Temple, Layhmyetna Temple, and Dhammayazika Pagoda are the main places you will be visiting in today's tour.

After lunch visits the Minnanthu village to know more about the village lifestyle and traditional Burmese culture here. We will take a boat towards Jetty in the afternoon and visit Kyauk Gu U Min temple. Take a fantastic sunset view from the boat returning to Bagan and rest for the day. Overnight at Bagan.

#### Day 16: Flight from Bagan to Heho and drive to Inle Lake (B)

We will visit a few more pagodas today before our flight to Heho. After arriving at Heho we will transfer you to your hotel. Heho and Inle region is different than the other places you've visited in Myanmar. Closer to the natural side of the country you can get closer to the local indigenous lifestyle here. If you have time you can take a drive to Inle Lake and enjoy a sunset view before returning to your hotel. Overnight at Inle.

#### Day 17: Inle Lake Tour (B)

You will explore and walk around the beautiful Inle Lake in todays tour. In a small boat visit the popular Floating markets of Inle Lake. Also, visit the small islands and pagodas in the banks of Inle lake. The Indien village and Shwe Indein pagodas are the musts to visit here. You can take short hikes in the nearby villages from the lake to know more about the village lifestyle and culture. Enjoy the majestic sunset view from the lake to end the day. Overnight at Inle.

## Day 18: Drive to Heho and flight from Heho to Yangon (B)

After breakfast drive to the Heho Airport. We will fly back to Yangona and head to the hotel. In your spare time, you can explore more of Yangon city. You can also spend some time in the markets for some souvenir shopping here. Try some local delicacies and rest for the day. Overnight at Yangon.

#### Day 19: Final Departure from Yangon, Myanmar (B)

We will drive you to Yangon Airport for your departure. With some amazing experiences and stories to remember you will complete the Nepal Bhutan Myanmar tour with us.



Assisting you with your further travels we will remain connected for your suggestions and stories. Asia Experiences team wishes you a safe journey.

#### **Cost & Inclusion**

## Nepal:

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Breakfast in Nepal.

#### **Bhutan:**

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Full meals in Bhutan.
- Processing Travel Permit and Entry Visa.

#### Myanmar:

- Airport pickups and drops service.
- Private ground transportation with A/C.
- Twin-sharing hotel accommodation.
- Local cultural tour guide with English speaking.
- Sightseeing entrance fees for museums and monuments.
- Breakfast in Myanmar.

#### Select: