

Indicative Itinerary

Trip **Royal Chitwan National Park, Additional Excursion**

Trekkers have the option of extending their trip by visiting the world famous Royal Chitwan National Park. This is a recommended addition; a relaxing and beautiful experience. The Park is situated in south central Nepal, just north of the border with India. The Park is home to more than 50 animal species, over 525 birds, and 55 amphibians and reptiles.

Day 1 We return to Kathmandu from Lukla, and go straight to the Park Village Hotel. Rest and relaxation normally dominates the afternoon.

Day 2 We rise early and breakfast in time for an 8am departure for the National Park; we travel by private car or van. The journey takes approximately 5 hours as we head west towards the Indian border. Lunch is on the banks of the Trisuli River. We arrive at Maruni Sanctuary Lodge early afternoon; Maruni is sited in the midst of the Tharu Village. The rest of the day is spent on a bush walk, enjoying the wildlife at its best. Dinner is at our Lodge.

Day 3 We arise early at 5.30am to take advantage of the bird watching that is on offer as the sun rises. Briefly back to the Lodge for breakfast. A dug-out canoe takes us through the open jungle that surrounds us; we see one-horned rhinoceros, crocodile (safely!), and the astounding variety of bird life. After lunch we take a three-hour elephant ride into the dense forest, where we see deer, more rhinoceros, many other animals, and with a little luck the magnificent Royal Bengal Tiger. The stunning sunset is viewed from the banks of the Rapti River.

Day 4 After breakfast we take a private taxi to the nearby domestic airport, then a 20-minute flight sees us return to the Park Village Hotel in Kathmandu, in time for lunch. In the afternoon we take our choice from shopping in Thamel, a revisit of Boudhanath, or a relax by the pool. Final reflections on a great trip.

Day 5 We depart Kathmandu, as per our main itinerary.

Price ***Estimate only*** NZ\$975 per person, as an add-on to your existing package.