

Earthbound Expeditions

# Chitwan National Park Safari

4 days, from US$367 per person

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|---|---|---|
| Duration<br>**4 days** | Grade<br>**Easy** | Altitude<br>**150 m** |
| Start and end<br>**Kathmandu** | Best season<br>**Oct to Mar** | Accommodation<br>**Jungle resort** |
| Meals<br>**Breakfast daily** | Group size<br>**Up to 15** | Getting there<br>**Drive or fly** |

## Contact us


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# Chitwan National Park Safari Overview

A lowland trip combining guided jungle safaris with a stay at a luxury eco-lodge on the edge of Chitwan National Park.

### Tour overview

You spend two full days in Nepal's first national park, on the Terai plain at 150 m, which is very different from the Himalaya in climate, vegetation and pace. Chitwan is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the last strongholds of the greater one-horned rhinoceros. It is also home to Bengal tigers, sloth bears, gharial crocodiles and more than five hundred species of bird.

### Wildlife

You are very likely to see rhinos: Chitwan has several hundred, and they are often seen in the grassland at dawn. Deer, monkeys, wild boar and crocodiles are seen regularly, along with a great many birds. Tigers are seen only occasionally and by chance, and no operator can guarantee a sighting. Sloth bears are sometimes seen.

### After a trek

We add this trip to the end of Himalayan itineraries more often than any other, for physical as well as scenic reasons. After ten days above 3,000 m, two nights at 150 m in warm air, with a swimming pool and a comfortable bed, is a good way to recover. Chitwan also sits roughly halfway along the drive between Kathmandu and Pokhara.

## Itinerary

| Day | Route | Hours | Distance | Altitude |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Drive to Chitwan, afternoon in the park | 5 hrs | - | 150 m |
| 2 | Jungle walk, canoe, safari and a Tharu village | - | - | 150 m |
| 3 | Back to Kathmandu or on to Pokhara | 5 hrs | - | 1,400 m |
| 4 | Departure, or carry on | - | - | - |

Day 1

### Drive to Chitwan National Park

You travel from Kathmandu to Chitwan by car or tourist bus on winding roads past clear rivers and evergreen hills, then transfer to the resort for refreshments. In the afternoon there is a jeep safari or a guided walk on the edge of the park to look for one-horned rhinoceros, deer and, with luck, a Bengal tiger.

Altitude: 150 m  On foot: None, 5 hr drive  Night: Resort, Chitwan  Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 2

### Chitwan National Park activities

The day begins with a morning jungle walk, followed by a canoe trip on the Rapti River, where you may see gharial crocodiles, a jeep safari into the park, and birdwatching in a park with more than 500 bird species. You also visit Tharu villages to learn about rural Nepali culture through traditional dances.

Altitude: 150 m  On foot: Jungle walk, 2–3 hrs  Night: Resort, Chitwan  Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 3

### Return to Kathmandu or Pokhara

After breakfast, you drive back to Kathmandu, or take a scenic flight at additional cost. There are opportunities to shop for souvenirs and see more of local Nepali life along the way.

Altitude: 1,400 m  On foot: None, 5 hr drive  Night: Hotel, Kathmandu  Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Day 4

### Departure or tour extension

The trip ends with a transfer to the airport, or you can extend your stay. Breakfast is included.

Altitude: 1,400 m  On foot: None, departure day  Night: No overnight  Meals: Breakfast

## Chitwan National Park Safari Cost and What's Included

- Airport transfers and ground transport
- Licensed English-speaking guide
- Accommodation throughout the trip
- All permits and national park fees
- Meals as per the itinerary
- Four-star hotels in Kathmandu, upgraded from three-star
- Single en suite room wherever available on the route
- One porter per traveller rather than one between two
- Domestic flights in place of the longest road transfers
- Down jacket and sleeping bag provided
- Farewell dinner in Kathmandu

### Not included

- International flights
- Travel and rescue insurance
- Tips and personal expenses
- Nepal entry visa (on arrival)

## Chitwan National Park Safari Packing List

**Neutral colours and a warm layer for the mornings**

Wear green, brown or khaki in the park. Bright colours and white are visible from a long distance, and animals move away from them. From December to February the jeep leaves in fog at around 10°C and the temperature reaches the mid twenties by lunchtime, so bring a fleece you can take off. If you fly back from Bharatpur, the domestic baggage allowance is lower than on your international ticket and bags are weighed. Anything you do not need in the park can be stored free of charge at our Kathmandu office.

## Headwear and sun protection

- Sun hat with a brim
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen SPF 50 and lip balm
- A warm hat for foggy winter mornings, December to February

## Clothing

- Light long-sleeved shirts and long trousers in green, brown or khaki
- A fleece or light jacket for early mornings from November to February
- A light rain jacket from May onwards
- Swimwear for the lodge pool

## Footwear

- Closed walking shoes or light boots for the jungle walk
- Socks that come above the ankle, to protect against leeches and ticks after rain
- Sandals for the lodge

## Bags

- A soft bag or small suitcase
- A daypack for water, camera and a layer
- A dry bag or plastic liner for the canoe

## Health

- Insect repellent with DEET
- Any medication you take regularly, and a small first aid kit
- Antihistamine for bites
- Ask your doctor about malaria tablets. The risk in the Terai is low but not zero

## Camera and binoculars

- Binoculars, which are more useful than a camera for birdwatching
- A long lens if you have one
- Spare batteries and memory cards

## Documents and money

- Passport and a photocopy
- Travel insurance certificate
- Cash in small notes for tips and drinks. There are cash machines in Sauraha and Bharatpur

## Route map




Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: enepaltrekking.com/chitwan-national-park-safari