



Earthbound Expeditions

Kali Gandaki River Rafting

3 days, from US\$247 per person

Duration

3 days

Start and end

Pokhara

Accommodation

Beach camping

Grade

Class III to IV

On the water

4 to 5 hours a day

Meals

All meals

Altitude

1,070 m

Best season

Mar to Apr, Oct to Nov

Group size

Up to 8

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Kali Gandaki River Rafting Overview

Raft the sacred Kali Gandaki through the world's deepest gorge, with large rapids, riverside camps and stops at remote villages.

Tour overview

This is a three-day rafting trip on the river that drains the deepest gorge on earth. You put in near Nayapul below the Annapurnas and paddle south through a steep, forested canyon, with Class III and IV rapids on the first two days. You camp on white sand beaches, with a campfire in the evenings. It offers the best whitewater in Nepal on a trip of less than a week.

The sacred river

The Kali Gandaki is holy to Hindus. It is where saligram are found: black ammonite fossils, worshipped as a form of Vishnu, washed out of marine rock that was lifted five kilometres by the collision that formed the Himalaya. You will see shrines above the water and pilgrims at the confluences, and your guides treat these sites with respect.

Who this trip is for

Anyone who can swim and is prepared to fall out of the raft. You do not need rafting experience, because you paddle under instruction while the guide steers. You do need to be comfortable in moving water: on Class IV rapids you are very likely to end up in the river at some point, and the safety kayaker will pick you up. The trip is not suitable for non-swimmers or small children.

Itinerary

Day	Route	Hours	Distance	Altitude
1	Drive to Maldhunga, put in, raft to below Modi Beni	4–5 hrs on the water	2 hrs driving	1,070 m
2	Modi Beni to Perti Ghat	5 hrs on the water	–	700 m
3	Perti Ghat to Mirmi, then Pokhara	3 hrs on the water	–	500 m

Day 1

Drive from Pokhara to Maldhunga and start rafting

An early drive of three to three and a half hours from Pokhara, past Kusma, to the put-in at Maldhunga on the Kali Gandaki. After a safety briefing the afternoon runs Class III rapids down a narrowing valley, past the confluence with the Modi Khola at Modi Beni, to a beach camp just below it.

Altitude: 620 m On foot: None, 3 hr drive, then rafting Night: Tented camp, Modi Beni Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 2

Raft from Modi Beni to Perti Ghat

This is the longest day on the river. You run Class III and IV rapids through a deepening gorge, past Brahmin and Magar villages, riverside temples and waterfalls running down the rock, to a remote beach camp near Perti Ghat.

Day 3

Raft from Purti Ghat to Mirmi and drive to Pokhara

A shorter morning on easier water as the gorge opens out, to the take-out at Mirmi, above the Kali Gandaki dam. After lunch by the river, you drive back to Pokhara through farmland and Gurung villages.

Altitude: 820 m On foot: None, rafting, then drive Night: Hotel, Pokhara Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

What's included

- Airport transfers & ground transport
- Licensed English-speaking guide
- Accommodation throughout the trip
- All permits & national park fees
- Meals as per the itinerary

Not included

- International flights
- Travel & rescue insurance
- Personal trekking gear
- Tips & personal expenses
- Nepal entry visa (on arrival)

Packing list

Packing for the river

We provide a helmet, a life jacket, a paddle and a dry bag. The contents of the dry bag are all you have for three days, so limit them to one change of clothes for camp, something warm for the evening and your wash kit. Leave everything else at your hotel in Pokhara. Do not bring anything on the raft that you cannot afford to lose to the river, including good sunglasses without a strap.

On your head

- Sunglasses with a strap
- Water-resistant sunscreen, SPF 50, and lip balm
- A sun hat for camp. You wear a helmet on the river

On the river

- Swimwear or quick-drying shorts
- A rash vest or synthetic long-sleeved top, no cotton
- A light fleece or thermal top for cool mornings in March and November
- A spray jacket if you have one

On your feet

- River sandals with a heel strap, or old trainers you do not mind getting wet. Flip-flops come off in rapids
- Dry shoes or sandals for camp

At camp

- A dry change of clothes and something warm for the evening
- A light sleeping bag or liner. Ask us if you need one
- A headtorch
- A small towel that dries quickly

Health

- Any medicine you take routinely, in a waterproof bag
- Plasters and antiseptic cream for small cuts
- Insect repellent for the evenings
- Biodegradable soap

Water

- A refillable bottle you can clip to the raft
- Purification tablets as a backup

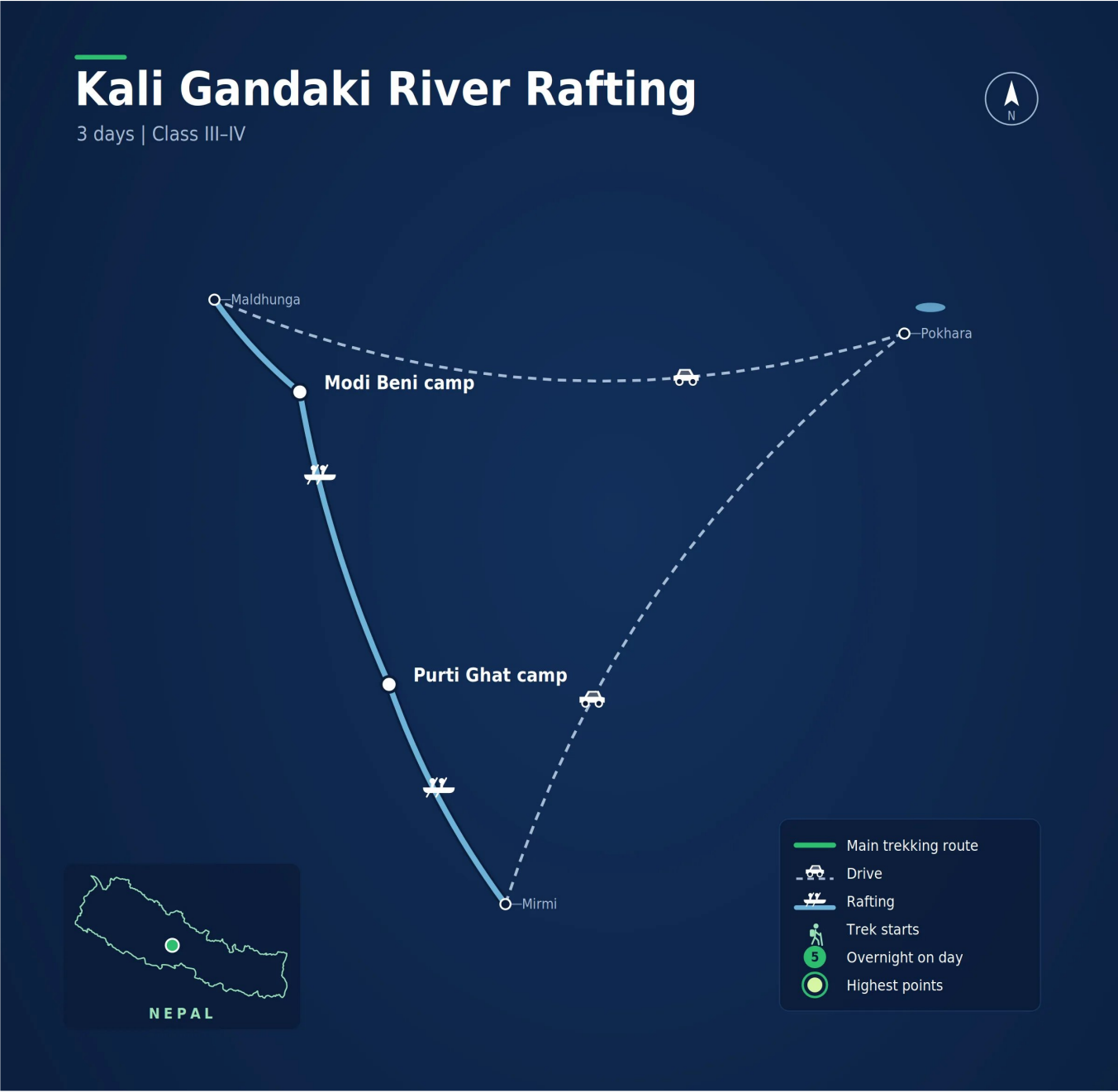
Camera

- A waterproof camera, or a phone in a waterproof pouch, on a lanyard
- A power bank. There are no charging facilities

Papers and money

- A photocopy of your passport. Leave the original at your hotel in Pokhara
- Travel insurance details, naming whitewater rafting
- A little cash for drinks and tips, in the dry bag

Route map



Photos, videos and reviews of this trip: enepaltrekking.com/kali-gandaki-rafting