

This itinerary can be modified and tailored to suit your timing, fitness and other considerations

Itinerary - Khopra Ridge

This is one of the most spectacular *off the beaten track* treks in the Annapurna region. From the Pokhara Valley there will be views of Macchapuchare and the Annapurna massif, walks through rhododendron forests and finally a trek high above the tree line with views of the Annapurnas, Dhaulagiri and far up the Kali Gandaki towards Tibet. Much of the trek will be off the teahouse trail amongst ordinary Nepali villages.

Day 1: Fly to Kathmandu 1,330

Arrive in Kathmandu around midday local time. You will be met in Kathmandu by Bhoj Tandan our Nepalese leader and transferred to Hotel Vaishali for a pre-trek briefing. Arrangements are made for the distribution of your kit bag, sleeping bag and down jacket. The rest of the afternoon is yours to shop and explore the Thamel area of Kathmandu. A Nepali welcome dinner will be provided for this evening.

Day 2: To Nayapul 1,100m

Travel by bus for approximately 7-8 hours. This is one of the most scenic road journeys in Nepal. You head south west along the Trisuli River, having descended from the Kathmandu Valley. We camp by the river.

Day 3: To Shauli Bazaar 1,200m

Walk 3 ½ hours, an easy flat stretch along the river to our lunch stop and camp at Shauli Bazaar.

Day 4: To Gandrung 2,050m

Walk approximately 3½ hours steady uphill to lunch and camp at Gandrung. The afternoon can be spent exploring the village and visiting the Annapurna Conservation Area offices.

Day 5: To Tadapani 2,650m

Walk approximately 4 hours. Our trail meanders uphill through fields and into the forest of magnolia and rhododendron. Tadapani is a clearing in the forest and a rest place for porters. We make camp here.

Day 6: To Do Bato 3,420m

Walk approximately 6 hours. We continue to ascend, leaving the teahouse trail and trekking on a less defined path. You may be fortunate to see some wildlife here, including monkeys. Our campsite is in a treed gully and quite isolated.

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Day 7: To Chistibung 3,150m

Walk approximately 6 hours. The trail leads to a spur where we have a stunning view of the massive cliffs of Dhaulagiri 1 (8,167m). 7,000 metres below lies the valley of Kali Gandaki, said to be the deepest gorge in the world. It is hard to imagine that the peaks around us were once part of the ocean floor. Our campsite is below Khopra Ridge.

Day 8: To Khopra Ridge 3,880m

Walk approximately 3 hours. The ridge above our camp is our goal today and it should be accomplished in a steady but comfortable morning walk. We walk through forest then above the tree line along grassed alpine meadows. Here we have one of the most expansive views of the Annapurnas. There is time in the afternoon to explore nearby ridges for better vantage points.

Day 9: To Chitre 2,400m

Walk of approximately 5 hours. We descend steeply from our high point, following the ridgeline towards the Kali Gandaki and pass a temple used by pilgrims on their annual visit to the sacred lakes. As we descend there is more activity and signs of civilisation in stark contrast to the previous days' trekking.

Day 10: To Pul Bari 2,570m

Walk approximately 5 hours. From Sautha we walk for 45 minutes to the main trail at Chitre and take the Pokhara-Jomsom trail, which is an old Tibet-Nepal trading route. At Ghorepani we will take a side trail to Poon Hill, which provides tremendous views of the mountain ranges. We will make camp that night just outside Ramche village, nestled on the ridge top between the Kali Gandaki and Ramche valleys.

Day 11: To Lespar 2,000m

Walk approximately 6 hours. We descend to the village of Nah, then cross a stream and make our way over the next foothill by traversing its ridges. Again we are off the well-worn tracks today passing through villages with the people going about their daily tasks.

Day 12: To Nayapul 1,100m

Walk approximately 6 hours. This is our final day of trekking in which we descend to our camp at Nayapul near the Modi Khola. On all our descending treks we will travel slowly and carefully to avoid injury. This night will be our farewell to the sherpas, porters and cook team who have provided us with such a warm and caring environment.

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Day 13: Drive to Kathmandu (fly option also available)

Approximately 5 hours. Free afternoon for final shopping and exploration of the city.

Day 14: Fly home

Time to head home, view all those photos and to relive the memories of an extraordinary journey.

Day 15: Arrive Home