



NEPAL & BHUTAN 2025

SEPTEMBER 21 - OCTOBER 7

BHUTAN: Absorb the tranquility of the chortens, fortresses and temples below the Himalayan Mountains. Walk through rice paddy fields and stroll around cultural towns of Paro, Thimphu and Punakha.

NEPAL: Experience the grandeur of the Durbar Squares in Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur. See the elephants and one-horned rhinoceros in Chitwan. Stay at a deaf-owned hotel and eat at a restaurant where a majority of employees are deaf.

DAY 1 • • •

Arrival into Delhi. Transfer to hotel for one night.

DAY 2 • • •

Arrival into Paro in the afternoon from Delhi. Meet your guides at the airport before traveling to Thimphu, the capital city of Bhutan. After lunch, we go up to see Kuensel Phodrang (Palace), commonly known as Buddha Point. The 169 feet (51.5 metres) tall statue of Lord Buddha is believed to be the tallest in Asia in sitting position. We also visit the weekend vegetable market and Motithang Takin Preserve. Free time in the evening to explore Thimphu including the Memorial Chorten. Stay in Thimphu for 2 nights.

DAY 3 • • •

Participate in colorful Thimphu Drupchen Festival. After lunch, we observe painting and sculpting students at the National Institute of Zorig Chusum. Then we visit the Folk Heritage Museum, Big Bakery (with two deaf employees) and Bhutanese Craft Bazaar. In the evening, we attend a cultural program of traditional dance and music.

DAY 4 • • •

A 3 hour drive takes us from Thimphu to Punakha with a stop at Dochula Pass. If the day is clear, we will have a stunning view of the Himalayas. See the Druk Wangyel Chorten with 108 chortens. Before reaching Punakha, we visit Chimi Lhakhang, also known as Divine Madman's Temple. After lunch, we visit the historical Punakha Dzong (Fortress) that sits majestically at the confluence of Mo Chu (Male River) and Pho Chu (Female River). Free time in the evening to stroll around Khuruthang. Stay in Punakha for 2 nights.

DAY 5 • • •

All day excursion at Phobjikha Valley, known for its flora and fauna. Visit Gangtey Dzong (Fortress), standing on a ridge overlooking the entire valley. See woolen carpet weaving.

DAY 6 • • •

After breakfast, we walk over a suspension bridge and through rice paddy fields up the hill to visit Khamsung Yuelley Chorten, which is also known as Nyzergang Lhakhang (Temple). Afterwards, we return back to Paro via Dochula Pass. Stop to see Three Chortens of different styles at Chuzom, the confluence where the Paro Chu (River) and Thimpu Chu (River) meet, then Tamchog Lhakhang (Temple) located other side of the river. Free time in the evening free to stroll around Paro, with an option to visit Choeten Lhakhang (Temple). Stay in Paro for 3 nights.

DAY 7 • • •

We hike up to the cliff hanging Taktsang Palphug Monastery, also known as Tiger's Nest, which would take approximately 4.5 to 5 hours round trip. Optional: riding on horses or mules. After the hike, we visit Drukgyel Deaf School as well as Kyichu Lhakhang (Temple).

DAY 8 • • •

Morning excursion to Chelela Pass for an amazing view of Mt. Jhumolhari (23,950 feet / 7,300 metres). In the afternoon, we visit Paro Rinpung Dzong (Fortress), National Museum and Dumsey Lhakhang (Temple).

DAY 9 • • •

In the morning, we fly to Kathmandu. Transfer to a deaf owned hotel. Visit the Kathmandu Durbar Square, which is filled with palaces and temples of the Malla and Shah kings. Then, we see Pashupatinath, one of the most sacred Hindu temples on the bank of Bagmati River. Dinner at the Bakery Café with 15 deaf employees. Overnight in Kathmandu.

DAY 10 • • •

See the monkeys and temple complex at Swayambhunath before reaching Bhaktapur for lunch. Visit the Bhaktapur Durbar Square, including the dominating 55 Window Palace, before continuing upwards to Nagarkot. Overnight in Nagarkot.

DAY 11 • • •

Sunrise viewing of the Himalaya Mountains at Nagarkot. Drive for 4 hours to Chitwan National Park with a stop at Manakama Temple, which is reached via a cable car. See elephants, one-horned rhinoceros, deer, monkeys, boars and sloths. Tharu Stick Dance and barbecue dinner in the evening. Stay in Baghmara or Sauraha for 2 nights.

DAY 12 • • •

We do some jungle safari activities throughout the day, including bird watching, jungle walk, village visits, boat rides, etc.

DAY 13 • • •

3 hour drive from Baghmara or Sauraha to Pokhara, which is a scenic lake town amplified by the majestic peaks of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri. Free time in Pokhara after lunch including optional ultralight or paragliding flights. Stay in Pokhara for 2 nights.

DAY 14 • • •

Sunrise viewing of the Himalaya Mountains at Sarangkot. Boating at Phewa Lake including visiting Barahi Temple on an island and hiking to World Peace Pagoda. Free leisure time in the evening.

DAY 15 • • •

In the morning, we fly from Pokhara back to Kathmandu. Drive to Patan for a lunch on a rooftop restaurant. Visit the amazing Patan Durbar Square with its Newari temples and palace. Return to Kathmandu for a pizza dinner. Stay in Kathmandu for 2 nights.

DAY 16 • • •

Very early in the morning, take an optional scenic flight to see the Himalaya Mountains, including Mt. Everest before breakfast. We visit Naxal School for the Deaf (which will be closed due to Dashain) and Kathmandu Association of the Deaf. Free time for some shopping after lunch. Late afternoon, we head over to Bouddhanath, one of the most holiest Buddhist sites. Special Nepalese + Sherpani dinner in the evening (at a restaurant that will be closed for our private event).

DAY 17 • • •

During the day, we transfer individuals/groups to the airport for your flights.

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\$500 deposit per person is required to reserve space. The availability of space is based on a first come, first serve basis. 100% of the balance is required 90 days before the first day of the tour.

\$4,725
per person /double occupancy

17 DAYS

GROUP of 8 to 18

TOUR LEADER: Dan Brubaker • dan@handson.travel • 520-385-5411

WHAT'S INCLUDED??

- 15 nights in 2-star, 3-star or 4-star accommodations.
- 29 meals: Breakfast (15), Lunch (11), Dinner (13)
- Services of a deaf Tour Leader on call 24 hours a day.
- Services of local deaf and/or hearing guides.
- All transportation expenses.
- All admission fees for attractions and museums mentioned in the itinerary.
- Most tips, except for your Tour Leader.
- Informative travel preparation packet.
- \$100 discount per person on your next regular tour.

WHAT'S EXCLUDED?

- Domestic and/or international airfares.
- Nepal visa (currently at \$30)
- Bhutan visa (currently at \$40)
- All other meals not mentioned in the itinerary and personal expenses.
- Any COVID-19 related tests.
- Travel insurance.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- EXTRA COSTS which will be added to the invoice.
 - Approximately \$830 for a multi-city flight: Delhi > Paro > Kathmandu and \$190 for one-way domestic flight: Pokhara > Kathmandu.
- Tour begins in Delhi, India and ends in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- Tour will be confirmed when we meet the minimum number of participants.
- When the tour is confirmed, additional deposits/payments may be required.
- Substantial amount of walking expected during the tour. Appropriate physical fitness is necessary.
- Please consult the most recent version of the HOT terms and conditions.
<https://handson.travel/terms/>
- Hands on Travel recommends that you purchase a travel insurance plan to help protect you and your travel investment against the unexpected. To learn more:
<https://handson.travel/travel-protection/>
- **Tour itinerary and price are subject to change.**