

8848 Nepal

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Tour



Trip Facts

Difficulty Level: Easy

Trip Area: Eastern Terai region of Nepal

Maximum Altitude: 81m/265.75ft

Best Season: October to March

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Accommodation: Eco Lodges, Guest Houses and Tented Camps

Transportation: Flight, Car, Jeep or Bus

Trip Start: Kathmandu

Trip End: Kathmandu

Itinerary Highlights

- Wild Water Buffalo (Arna)
- Bird Watching Paradise
- Diverse Ecosystem
- Scenic Boat Rides
- Tharu Culture
- Nature Walks and Safaris
- Conservation Efforts
- Fishing Cats and Other Mammals
- Photographic Opportunities

Trip Overview

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve, nestled in the eastern Terai region of Nepal, stands as a haven

8848 Nepal

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Tour

for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers alike. Covering an area of 175 square kilometers, this protected area is renowned for its rich biodiversity and unique wetland ecosystems. The reserve, established in 1976, is named after the Koshi River, which flows along its western boundary, contributing to the diverse habitats found within. One of the primary attractions of Koshi Tappu is its significance as a birdwatcher's paradise. With over 500 bird species recorded, including migratory birds from Siberia and Tibet, the reserve offers unparalleled opportunities for birdwatching. From majestic raptors like the endangered Bengal Florican and the white-tailed eagle to vibrant waterfowl like the bar-headed goose and the ruddy shelduck, the avian diversity here is astounding. The tranquil marshes, grasslands, and riverine forests provide an ideal habitat for these feathered inhabitants, making Koshi Tappu a must-visit destination for ornithologists and bird enthusiasts. Beyond its avian wonders, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is home to a diverse array of mammalian species. The reserve supports populations of several endangered species, including the wild water buffalo, the Gangetic dolphin, and the smooth-coated otter. Other mammalian inhabitants include spotted deer, hog deer, blue bull (nilgai), and the elusive fishing cat. Visitors have the opportunity to embark on guided safaris, either by boat or on foot, to catch glimpses of these fascinating creatures in their natural habitat.

The wetlands of Koshi Tappu also harbor a rich aquatic life, with numerous fish species inhabiting the rivers and ponds. The reserve's water bodies support a thriving ecosystem, attracting a variety of aquatic birds and providing sustenance for the larger predators like the Gharial crocodile and the mugger crocodile. Boat safaris offer visitors a chance to explore these waterways, providing unique perspectives and encounters with the reserve's aquatic denizens. In addition to its natural wonders, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve is deeply intertwined with the cultural heritage of the region. The indigenous communities living in and around the reserve have coexisted with its wildlife for generations, relying on its resources for their livelihoods. Visitors to the reserve have the opportunity to engage with these communities, learning about their traditional lifestyles, customs, and conservation efforts aimed at safeguarding the reserve's precious biodiversity.

Overall, Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve stands as a testament to Nepal's commitment to conservation and ecotourism. Its diverse habitats, rich wildlife, and cultural significance make it a captivating destination for travelers seeking authentic wildlife experiences amidst the tranquil beauty of Nepal's Terai region. Whether exploring its wetlands by boat, spotting rare bird species, or immersing oneself in the local culture, a visit to Koshi Tappu promises unforgettable encounters with the natural world.

Detail Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu and Transfer to Biratnagar

Morning: Arrive in Kathmandu. If time permits, explore some of the city's cultural sites.

Afternoon: Take a short domestic flight from Kathmandu to Biratnagar (approximately 50 minutes).

Evening: Arrive in Biratnagar and transfer to your hotel. Overnight stay in Biratnagar.

8848 Nepal

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Tour

Day 2: Biratnagar to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve

Morning: Drive from Biratnagar to Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (about 2 hours). Check-in at the lodge or tented camp.

Afternoon: Enjoy a brief orientation about the reserve and its unique ecosystem. Embark on an afternoon bird-watching tour around the wetlands.

Evening: Dinner at the lodge followed by a relaxing evening. Overnight stay at Koshi Tappu.

Day 3: Wildlife Safari and Nature Walks

Morning: Early morning bird-watching session to catch sight of the numerous migratory and resident bird species.

Late Morning: After breakfast, embark on a jeep safari through the reserve. Look out for wild water buffalo (Arna), deer, wild boar, and potentially the rare Gangetic dolphin.

Afternoon: Return to the lodge for lunch and some rest.

Evening: Guided nature walk through the reserve, exploring the diverse flora and fauna.

Night: Dinner and overnight stay at the lodge.

Day 4: Cultural Experience and Boating

Morning: Visit a nearby Tharu village to learn about the local culture, traditions, and lifestyle.

Late Morning: Return to the lodge for lunch.

Afternoon: Take a scenic boat ride on the Koshi River. This provides another opportunity to spot aquatic birds, Gangetic dolphins, and enjoy the serene landscape.

Evening: Dinner at the lodge followed by an informal talk or documentary on the reserve's wildlife conservation efforts.

Night: Overnight stay at the lodge.

Day 5: Return to Kathmandu

Morning: After breakfast, check out from the lodge and drive back to Biratnagar.

Afternoon: Fly from Biratnagar to Kathmandu. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel.

Evening: Free time for last-minute shopping or exploring Kathmandu. Overnight stay in Kathmandu or transfer to the airport for your departure flight, depending on your schedule.

Cost Includes

- Accommodation
- Transportation
- Meals
- Guided Tours and activities
- Entrance Fees

Cost Includes

8848 Nepal

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Tour

- International Flights
- Visa Fees
- Travel Insurance
- Personal expenses
- Optional activities
- Equipment and gear
- Medical expenses

Guidelines / Information

Preparation:

- 1. Travel Documents:** Ensure your passport is valid for at least six months beyond your travel dates. Obtain a Nepal entry visa.
- 2. Health Precautions:** Consult your doctor about vaccinations and carry any prescribed medications. Bring insect repellent and a first aid kit.
- 3. Insurance:** Have comprehensive travel insurance covering medical emergencies, evacuation, and trip cancellations.

Packing:

- 1. Clothing:** Pack light, breathable clothing for the hot climate, and warmer layers for cooler mornings and evenings. Include a hat, sunglasses, and comfortable walking shoes.
- 2. Binoculars and Cameras:** Essential for bird watching and capturing wildlife sightings.
- 3. Reusable Water Bottle:** Stay hydrated and minimize plastic use.
- 4. Personal Care Items:** Sunscreen, insect repellent, and personal toiletries.

On the Trip:

- 1. Respect Wildlife:** Maintain a safe distance from animals, avoid feeding them, and do not disturb their natural habitats.
- 2. Follow Guidelines:** Adhere to the instructions given by guides and park authorities. Stay on designated paths and trails.
- 3. Environmental Care:** Dispose of waste properly. Avoid using plastic bags and minimize your environmental footprint.
- 4. Cultural Sensitivity:** Respect the local culture and traditions of the Tharu community. Dress modestly and seek permission before taking photographs of people.

Activities:

- 1. Guided Tours:** Participate in guided tours and activities for a safe and informative experience. Guides are knowledgeable about the reserve's wildlife and ecosystems.
- 2. Bird Watching:** Early mornings and late afternoons are the best times for bird watching. Move quietly and slowly to avoid startling the birds.
- 3. Safety Measures:** Always wear life jackets during boat rides and follow safety protocols during jeep safaris and nature walks.

8848 Nepal

Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve Tour

Health and Safety:

- 1. Stay Hydrated:** Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated, especially during outdoor activities.
- 2. Mosquito Protection:** Use insect repellent and sleep under mosquito nets to protect against mosquito-borne diseases.
- 3. Weather Preparedness:** Be prepared for sudden weather changes. Carry rain gear during the monsoon season and sun protection during the hotter months.

Ethical Considerations:

- 1. Wildlife Conservation:** Support conservation efforts by following park rules and regulations. Avoid activities that may harm the environment or wildlife.
- 2. Support Local Economy:** Purchase local goods and services to support the local community. Consider donating to local conservation projects if possible.