

# 8848 Nepal

## Chitwan National Park

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### Trip Facts

**Trip Duration:** 4 Days

**Difficulty Level:** Easy

**Trip Area:** Chitwan National Park

**Maximum Altitude:** 850m/2,788.71ft

**Best Season:** September-November and March-May.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

**Accommodation:** Hotels, Resorts & Lodges

**Transportation:** Flight, Jeep, Bus

**Trip Start:** Kathmandu

**Trip End:** Kathmandu

### Itinerary Highlights

- One-horned Rhinoceros
- Bengal Tigers
- Asian Elephants
- Bird Watching
- Jungle Safaris
- Tharu Culture
- River Activities
- Nature Walks

### Trip Overview

Chitwan National Park is a renowned UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the subtropical

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Terai lowlands of Nepal. It's celebrated for its rich biodiversity, including endangered species like the Bengal tiger, one-horned rhinoceros, Asian elephant, and Gharial crocodile. The park spans an area of 932 square kilometers, encompassing dense forests, grasslands, and riverine habitats. Visitors can explore the park through jungle safaris, elephant rides, and boat trips along the Rapti River, offering opportunities for wildlife sightings amidst a stunning natural backdrop. The park's ecosystem is a mosaic of grasslands, riverine forests, and Sal forests, creating a habitat for a wide variety of flora and fauna. Chitwan National Park is home to over 700 species of wildlife, including endangered species such as the Bengal tiger and the one-horned rhinoceros. The park's rivers and wetlands support populations of mugger crocodiles and the critically endangered gharial, while the dense forests provide sanctuary for leopards, sloth bears, and wild elephants. Birdwatchers are particularly drawn to Chitwan for its avian diversity, with more than 500 bird species recorded, including the giant hornbill, paradise flycatcher, and various species of eagles and storks. The park also serves as a significant migratory bird stopover, enhancing its ecological importance.

Chitwan National Park is not only a haven for wildlife but also a vital cultural and economic asset for the local Tharu communities. Eco-tourism plays a crucial role in the region, with activities such as jungle safaris, canoe rides, bird watching, and visits to Tharu villages providing sustainable livelihoods while fostering conservation awareness. The park's conservation efforts, including anti-poaching initiatives and community-based wildlife management, have been instrumental in preserving its unique biodiversity.

### Detail Itinerary

#### Day 1: Arrival in Chitwan

**Morning:** Arrive in Chitwan either by bus from Kathmandu or Pokhara, or by flying into Bharatpur Airport and transfer to your hotel.

**Afternoon:** Check-in at your hotel or lodge. Depending on your arrival time, you may have some free time to relax and settle in.

**Evening:** – Enjoy a welcome briefing and orientation session about the activities and guidelines for your stay in Chitwan National Park. – Dinner at your accommodation.

#### Day 2: Jungle Safari

**Morning:** Wake up early for breakfast, then embark on a thrilling jungle safari in Chitwan National Park. You can choose between a jeep safari, elephant safari, or a guided nature walk. Keep your eyes peeled for wildlife such as rhinoceros, deer, monkeys, and various bird species.

**Afternoon:** Return to your accommodation for lunch and some relaxation time.

**Evening:** In the late afternoon, take a canoe ride along the Rapti River, where you can spot crocodiles, aquatic birds, and maybe even a rare Gangetic dolphin. Enjoy the sunset over the river before heading back to your lodge for dinner.

#### Day 3: Cultural Experience

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**Morning:** After breakfast, visit a nearby Tharu village to learn about the indigenous Tharu people's culture, lifestyle, and traditions. You can participate in activities such as traditional dance performances, cooking demonstrations, and interacting with the locals.

**Afternoon:** Return to your accommodation for lunch and leisure time. You can explore the surrounding area on foot or relax at the lodge.

**Evening:** Enjoy a cultural program organized by the local community, featuring traditional music, dance, and storytelling. Dinner at your accommodation.

### Day 4: Bird Watching and Departure

**Morning:** Start your day with an early morning bird-watching excursion in the nearby wetlands and grasslands of Chitwan National Park. With over 550 bird species recorded in the park, including several rare and migratory species, it's a paradise for bird enthusiasts.

**Afternoon:** Return to your lodge for breakfast and some leisure time to pack and prepare for departure.

**Departure:** Check out of your accommodation and transfer to Bharatpur Airport or the bus station for your onward journey to Kathmandu or Pokhara.

### Cost Includes

- Entry Permit
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Transportation
- Guided Activities

### Cost Includes

- Personal Expenses
- Optional Activities
- Tips and Gratuities
- Travel Insurance

### Guidelines / Information

#### Entry Permits:

Before your trip, make sure to obtain the necessary entry permits for Chitwan National Park.

#### Accommodation:

There are various accommodation options available near Chitwan National Park, ranging from luxury resorts to budget-friendly guesthouses. It's advisable to book your accommodation in advance, especially during peak tourist seasons.

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### **Guided Tours:**

Consider booking a guided tour of Chitwan National Park to make the most of your visit. Experienced guides can help you spot wildlife, navigate the park safely, and provide valuable insights into the local ecosystem and culture.

### **Wildlife Viewing:**

Chitwan National Park is renowned for its diverse wildlife, including endangered species such as the Bengal tiger and one-horned rhinoceros. Take guided jungle walks, jeep safaris, or canoe rides along the Rapti River to increase your chances of spotting these magnificent creatures.

### **Respect Wildlife:**

While exploring the park, remember to respect the wildlife and maintain a safe distance at all times. Avoid making loud noises or sudden movements that could disturb the animals or endanger yourself.

### **Cultural Experiences:**

Chitwan National Park is not only about wildlife; it also offers opportunities to learn about the local Tharu culture. Consider visiting a Tharu village, watching traditional dance performances, or participating in cultural activities arranged by local communities.

### **Packing Essentials:**

Pack light but include essentials such as sturdy walking shoes, lightweight clothing suitable for hot and humid weather, insect repellent, sunscreen, a hat, binoculars for wildlife viewing, and a camera to capture memorable moments.

### **Health and Safety:**

Take necessary precautions to stay safe and healthy during your visit to Chitwan National Park. This includes staying hydrated, wearing appropriate clothing to protect against insects and the sun, and following your guide's instructions at all times.

### **Responsible Tourism:**

Practice responsible tourism by minimizing your environmental impact, supporting local businesses, and respecting the cultural norms and traditions of the communities in and around Chitwan National Park.

### **Enjoy the Experience:**

Relax and enjoy the unique experience of exploring Chitwan National Park. Take time to

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appreciate the natural beauty, wildlife sightings, and cultural richness of this remarkable destination.