

Day 4

After an early breakfast we set off on a canoe trip along the meandering waters of the Rapti River where endangered gahrial crocodiles can be seen close up on the rivers' banks along with the larger marsh mugger crocodiles. It's a lovely journey down stream through the morning mist in the company of a park ranger who can point out some of the 450 species of birds that live in the park you might be able to see.

From down stream it's then a walk through the Sal forest with the park rangers who can pick out any of the many varied animals you might see along the way. Being part of a small group helps to make the experience a bit more special and the chances of seeing wildlife are increased.

We return to the hotel for lunch after which you can choose to take an elephant safari that takes you deeper into the park or you might want to hire a bicycle to take off and explore the many villages around Sauraha. The roads are flat and the weather is excellent for bicycle riding.

In the evening you can relax in any of the many restaurants in Sauraha.

Day 5

We fully recommend the all day jeep safari that takes you deep into the jungle to view some of the many animals living within the park. Rhinos,tigers,leopards,sloth bears,monkeys,deer,wild boar and hyenas are just some of the 50 different species that live here. An expert guide and driver will assist us on our journey through dense jungle and tall grassland. Both these habitats are favoured by the one horned Indian rhino and the beautiful Royal Bengal Tiger, on one visit we were lucky enough to see three of these magnificent creatures.

We return late afternoon to Sauraha and our hotel where the evening is free.

Day 6

Today we get to climb a little through woodlands off the beaten track to a Gurung village, along the way we get to see beautiful views of the Himalaya and get to meet some of the locals. Our charity in Nepal, The Sarimilla Trust, has been assisting in education, school building and training programmes for some years now. We visit the village which has been at the centre of our programmes from the start. For those of you who help by sponsoring children to go to school it's a good chance for you to meet your sponsored child.

The walk follows small trails through the forest and out into an open valley where this Gurung community live. Life carries on here as it has done for hundreds of years and it's a great opportunity to see first hand how other people live. It's a very pleasant walk although steep at first but the views make it very rewarding and we will be assisted by a local guide.

A jeep will take us back to our hotel on completion of our walk and the evening is free. On each evening it's highly recommended to take a walk along the banks of the Rapti River where you have every chance of seeing rhinos coming down to the waters edge to drink. The sunset is very special here.

Day 7

After breakfast we take a local bus to Lumbini the birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama ,the Buddha, close to the border with India. This world heritage listed sight is a fascinating place and is the centre for many Buddhist pilgrims from around the world. Lakes and gardens make it a very peaceful place and you can visit all of the many beautiful and exotic temples here. We can hire bicycles here as the grounds are well spread out and there are many things of interest to see. The historical Buddha was born here in 563 BC and the remains of the old palace still remain. You can visit the very place he was born, historical documents support the finding of this very place.

We end the day with a meal back at our hotel.

Day 8

This morning we take the road to Pokhara either by jeep or van along the dramatic Siddhartha Hwy. This winding mountain road takes up from the plains of the Terai north into the mountain region. The views of the Himalaya along this road are fantastic and having our own private transport we get to stop and take in these views at our own pace. Steep valleys make it an interesting journey as we follow the rivers' course towards our destination. We arrive in Pokhara late afternoon where we can relax and enjoy some excellent restaurants and maybe take in some cultural dancing the evening is free for you to decide.