

Kathmandu, Pokhara, Australian Base Camp - 8 Days

Kathmandu: Nepal's Cultural Heartbeat

Kathmandu, the capital city of Nepal, is a vibrant mix of culture, history, and modernity. Known for its rich heritage, Kathmandu showcases an array of temples, stupas, and palaces that reflect the country's religious diversity. As a melting pot of ancient traditions and contemporary lifestyle, Kathmandu offers an unforgettable cultural experience. Notable attractions include the UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as Pashupatinath Temple, Swayambhunath Stupa (Monkey Temple), and Durbar Square, each representing Nepal's deep spiritual and architectural history. In the narrow alleyways of Thamel, you can immerse yourself in the bustling markets, local delicacies like momo (dumplings), and experience the lively atmosphere. Kathmandu is also famous for its art and handicrafts, such as thanka paintings and intricate wood carvings, which showcase Nepal's craftsmanship.

The streets of Kathmandu reveal a wonderful fusion of ancient temples, traditional music, and modern cafes. Visitors can explore the local markets of Asan, experience the ritual ceremonies at Pashupatinath, or simply relax and enjoy the vibrancy that envelops the city. It's a place that beckons travelers to explore its mystique, and 4-5 days here will never be enough to fully understand its soul.

Pokhara: Nepal's Gateway to Adventure and Serenity

Pokhara, located about 5 hours from Kathmandu, is known as Nepal's adventure capital. The city is set against the majestic backdrop of the <u>Annapurna</u> Mountain range, making it a paradise for trekkers and nature lovers. The highlight of Pokhara is Fewa Lake, where visitors can enjoy peaceful boat rides while soaking in the panoramic views of the surrounding mountains. The city also boasts several landmarks, including the Tal Barahi Temple situated on an island in the lake, the Bindyabasini Temple, and the serene Mahendra Cave.

In addition to its natural beauty, Pokhara offers numerous adventure activities for adrenaline junkies. <u>Paragliding</u> is one of the top activities here, where you can soar over the lake with the stunning Annapurna range below. Other activities include zip-lining, trekking, <u>rafting</u>, and <u>kayaking</u>. Pokhara's laid-back vibe, picturesque scenery, and vibrant nightlife make it a perfect destination for both relaxation and adventure.

Known for its welcoming atmosphere, Pokhara is also home to an array of restaurants, cafes, and shops along the lakeside. Visitors can enjoy local delicacies, shop for souvenirs, and experience the vibrant yet peaceful ambiance of this charming city. Whether you're here to relax or to embark on thrilling adventures, Pokhara promises a memorable experience.

Australian Base Camp Trek: Short Trek with Stunning Views

For those short on time but seeking to experience the beauty of the Himalayas, the Australian Base Camp trek offers a perfect solution. Situated near Pokhara, this trek takes you through charming villages, and dense forests, and provides incredible views of the Annapurna and Machhapuchhre ranges. The trek is short and relatively easy, making it suitable for both beginners and seasoned trekkers.



The trek begins from Kande, a picturesque village that serves as the starting point. The journey to Australian Camp is a 1.5-hour uphill hike that offers spectacular views of the Annapurna, <u>Dhaulagiri</u>, and <u>Manaslu</u> ranges on clear days. Australian Camp is a popular destination for trekkers, offering breathtaking views, local culture, and traditional homestays. From Australian Camp, the trek continues to Dhampus, another scenic village where you can enjoy stunning vistas of the Annapurna range and experience the local lifestyle. Dhampus is known for its terraced fields, traditional architecture, and the friendly hospitality of the villagers.

The Australian Base Camp trek is a perfect combination of scenic beauty and cultural immersion. It's an ideal choice for those who want to enjoy Himalayan views without committing to a multi-day trek. The clear mountain vistas, the lush green landscape, and the charm of local villages make this trek a must-do for anyone visiting Pokhara.

Why Combine Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Australian Base Camp?

Combining Kathmandu, Pokhara, and the Australian Base Camp trek offers a well-rounded experience of Nepal, combining the best of cultural exploration, natural beauty, and adventure. Kathmandu provides an introduction to the country's rich history and culture, while Pokhara offers opportunities for outdoor activities and relaxation amidst stunning landscapes. The Australian Base Camp trek adds an element of adventure, allowing you to experience the Himalayas up close without the challenge of a long trek.

For travelers looking to experience the diversity of Nepal in a short time, this combination is ideal. You can immerse yourself in the ancient traditions and vibrant life of Kathmandu, explore the serene landscapes and adventure opportunities in Pokhara, and trek to Australian Camp for a taste of the Himalayas. Whether you're a history enthusiast, an adventure seeker, or someone who enjoys peaceful natural surroundings, this itinerary has something for everyone.

By planning your trip to Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Australian Base Camp together, you save on travel time and cost, making your Nepal adventure both cost-effective and rewarding. Whether you're traveling solo, as a couple, or with family, this combination promises a diverse and enriching experience in Nepal's heart and soul.



PRICE INCLUDES

- Airport pick-up and drop
- Accommodation (7 Night)
- Food during the tour (Pokhara/Aust-camp)
- Transportation by private car jeep
- Sightseeing in Kathmandu /Pokhara
- Trekking/Tour Guide
- Farewell Dinner

PRICE EXCLUDES

- Visa fee to enter Nepal (Visa Information)
- International flight tickets and extra baggage charges
- Extra night accommodation
- Foods in kathmandu
- Travel insurance, Rescue operation costs
- All personal expenses
- Tips for guides and driver
- Temple Entry fee



ITINERARY IN DETAIL

Day 1: Arrival in Kathmandu

Our staff will pick you up from the <u>Tribhuvan international airport</u> and then take you to your respective Hotel in Kathmandu where you will rest for the day.

Day 2: Kathmandu full day sightseeing

On this day, Our staff will pick you up again in a private car or a vehicle and take you to your first stop which will be the busy streets of Thamel. It is a well-known busy tourist spot in the city's core. This busy area is known for its narrow streets lined with a variety of shops, vendors, restaurants, and bars. Thamel is also known for its wandering streets teeming with stores and street vendors.

Now we will be heading straight to Boudhanath Stupa which is an ancient Tibetian refuge spot in Kathmandu. It is semicircular in design and holds Buddha's relics and remnants. The stupa's huge mandala makes it one of the world's largest spherical stupas. From there we will make our way to Pashupatinath Temple.

Pashupatinath Temple is one of the most significant and sacred pilgrimage locations for Hindu worshippers worldwide. You can find many different temples where different gods resides. The main attraction for this place is Shiva temple but only Hindus are allowed inside.

Finally, we will head off to Swoyambhunath Stupa where you can observe the view of whole Kathmandu valley. We will now be dropping you off at your respective hotel where you will rest for the day and pack you stuffs for upcoming trip to Pokhara.

Day 3: Kathmandu to Pokhara

Our staff will pick you up from your hotel and will take you to a tourist bus traveling to Pokhara or take a private vehicle. It will be 5-6hrs long drive and once we reach Pokhara, you will be assigned to your respective accommodation.

Day 4: Pokhara full day sightseeing

On this day we will be going for Pokhara sightseeing, First, we will visit Phewa Lake and do some activities like boating and a temple visit. From there we will head to Davids Falls which is a popular tourist spot in Pokhara. The next spot will be Peace Temple which is also known as Shanti Stupa is also known to be the first peace temple in Nepal. From there we will head to <u>Mountain Museum</u> and from there and return back to our respective Hotel to end the day.

Day 5: Hiking from Pokhara to Australian Base camp . O/N in Australian base camp

We'll start the day early with breakfast. Then we'll travel to Sarangkot to participate in paragliding. Once completed, we will take a taxi to Phedi and walk to the Australian Base Camp walk. You will be assigned a lodge or tent where we will rest for the day.

Day 6: Back to Pokhara



On this day we will hike back to Pokhara and take a Hotel and rest.

Day 7: Pokhara to Kathmandu

Our vehicle will be ready to pick you up on this day and will take you to a tourist bus or if it's a private vehicle then it will directly take you to Kathmandu.

Day 8: Departure

Our staff will be ready to pick you up from your hotel and drive you to the international airport for your flight.



FAQ

1. What is the best time to visit Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Australian Base Camp?

The best time to visit Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Australian Base Camp is during spring (March to May) and autumn (September to November). These months offer clear skies, comfortable temperatures, and the best mountain views. Winter (December to February) is also possible, but it can be cold in the mountains. The monsoon season (June to August) brings rain, making hiking trails slippery.

2. How difficult is the trek to Australian Base Camp from Pokhara?

The Australian Base Camp trek is a short and easy hike suitable for beginners and families. It takes about 1.5 to 2 hours of trekking from Kande to Australian Base Camp. The trail is well-marked with gradual ascents through forests and villages. No prior trekking experience is required.

3. What are the must-visit places in Kathmandu and Pokhara?

In Kathmandu, must-visit places include Swayambhunath (Monkey Temple), Pashupatinath Temple, Boudhanath Stupa, and Kathmandu Durbar Square.

In Pokhara, top attractions include Fewa Lake, Davis Falls, Gupteshwor Cave, Bindabasini Temple, Sarangkot (for sunrise views), and adventure activities like paragliding and zip-lining.

4. What is the altitude of Australian Base Camp, and will I experience altitude sickness?

Australian Base Camp is at 2,055m (6,742ft), which is relatively low compared to other Himalayan treks. Altitude sickness is rare at this elevation, but staying hydrated and trekking at a comfortable pace is recommended.

5. How long does it take to travel from Kathmandu to Pokhara?

The Kathmandu to Pokhara journey takes about 6-7 hours by road (tourist bus or private vehicle). A domestic flight from Kathmandu to Pokhara takes only 25-30 minutes and offers breathtaking views of the Himalayas.

6. What kind of accommodation can I expect during this trip?

In Kathmandu and Pokhara, travelers stay in comfortable hotels or resorts with modern amenities. At Australian Base Camp, accommodation is in basic teahouses or lodges with cozy rooms and traditional meals.

7. Is the Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Australian Base Camp trip suitable for families and beginners?

Yes! This trip is perfect for families, beginners, and even elderly travelers. The sightseeing in Kathmandu and Pokhara is easy, and the hike to Australian Base Camp is short and scenic, making it an ideal trip for all ages.

8. What kind of clothing and gear should I pack for this trip?

For city tours in Kathmandu and Pokhara, casual clothes and comfortable shoes are enough. For Australian Base Camp, pack:

- Hiking boots (comfortable for walking)
- Warm jackets and layered clothing (especially in winter)



- Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat
- Light backpack with a water bottle

9. What adventure activities can I do in Pokhara?

Pokhara is known as Nepal's adventure capital. Popular activities include:

- Paragliding over Fewa Lake
- Zip-lining from Sarangkot
- Boating on Fewa or Begnas Lake
- Ultralight flights with aerial Himalayan views
- Bungee jumping and white-water rafting

10. How can I book this Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Australian Base Camp tour?

You can book this trip through Trek Mania Nepal, either via our official website or by contacting us directly. We offer customized itineraries, experienced guides, and hassle-free bookings to ensure the best experience in Nepal

11. Do I need a permit for the Australian Base Camp trek?

Yes, you need a <u>TIMS Card</u> (Trekkers' Information Management System) for the Australian Base Camp trek. It costs USD 20 for independent trekkers and USD 10 if trekking with a registered agency. You can get it from the <u>Nepal</u> Tourism Board (NTB) in Kathmandu or Pokhara.

12. How can I travel from Kathmandu to Pokhara?

You can reach Pokhara from Kathmandu via:

- Flight: 25 minutes (costs around USD 100)
- Tourist bus: 6-7 hours (costs USD 10-30)
- Private vehicle: 5-6 hours (customizable)