

Himalaya
Indian
Sub-continent

chitwan elephant immersion



trip highlights

Observe magnificent Asian elephants up close, knowing your experience fully respects their welfare and natural behaviours
Join gentle jungle walks alongside the elephants, spotting deer, monkeys, birdlife and soaking up the sounds of the forest

Stay in atmospheric safari-style accommodation inspired by traditional Tharu longhouses

Relax in peaceful garden surrounds, enjoy outdoor meals under mango trees, unwind by the pool or gather around an evening bonfire



Trip Duration	3 days	Trip Code: EES
Grade	Discovery and Cruising	
Activities	Wildlife Safari	
Summary	2 day Wildlife Safari, 2 nights Lodge	

welcome to World Expeditions

For over 50 years, we've been creating high-quality, expedition-style adventures for active travellers with a curious spirit. From our very first trek in the mountains of Nepal to pioneering remote routes across all seven continents, our journeys are built for those who want to truly explore – not just visit.

At the heart of what we do is a simple philosophy: take the paths less travelled.

This means travelling with care, supporting local communities, minimising our impact, and unlocking experiences that most travellers will never have.

If you're ready to go further and dig deeper, we invite you to join us on the Chitwan Elephant Immersion, a journey that captures the essence of a unique adventure.

why travel with World Expeditions?

When planning travel to a remote destination, many factors need to be considered. World Expeditions have been pioneering trips in Nepal since 1975. Our extra attention to detail and seamless operations on the ground ensure that you will have a memorable experience in the Himalaya. Our private vehicles are well maintained, air conditioned and comfortable. The experience and enthusiasm of our local guides ensures that we maintain the leading edge in adventure travel. Most importantly, our adventures have always sought to benefit the local peoples we interact with, safeguard the ecosystems we explore and contribute to the sustainability of travel in the regions we experience.



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trip dates

Departs daily from October to May

These short extensions usually operate for a minimum of 2 passengers travelling together, however most can be done if you are travelling alone (Solo Traveller Surcharge). If there are two or more people travelling together who cannot or prefer not to share rooms a single supplement cost will be added to your invoice.

the trip

Set on the edge of Chitwan National Park, Tharu Tiger Tops Lodge offers a special way to experience Nepal's jungles. Here you'll enjoy a blend of wildlife activities, rich local culture and the unique chance to observe elephants living naturally, without any rides or performances.

In line with World Expeditions' Animal Welfare Code of Conduct, this experience supports ethical elephant care. At Tharu Tiger Tops, elephants are free to roam and behave as they would in the wild, which is why the venue is recognised by World Animal Protection as truly elephant-friendly. During your stay, you'll learn more about these remarkable animals and how thoughtful tourism can help protect their welfare and future

at a glance

DAY 1	KATHMANDU (1,400M / 4,593FT) TO CHITWAN (415M / 1,362FT) (5-6 HRS DRIVE)
DAY 2	EXPLORE CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK (415M / 1,362FT)
DAY 3	CHITWAN (415M / 1,362FT) TO KATHMANDU (1,400M / 4,593FT) (5-6 HRS DRIVE)

what's included

- 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners
- Safari style accommodation at Tharu Tiger Tops Lodge on a twin share basis with private facilities
- Activities as per safari schedule with necessary equipment
- Transport to and from Kathmandu to Tharu Tiger Tops Lodge

Local cash payments are becoming increasingly popular with many operators in the adventure travel industry. The policy seems to benefit the tour operators, more than the local economies or travellers, as it avoids local taxes and transfers the cost and risk of cash handling to travellers. In accordance with our Responsible Travel practices we have chosen a policy not to ask for such payments.

what's not included

- Bottled water, aerated & alcoholic drinks
- Items of a personal nature including laundry, soft drinks, phone calls etc
- Tips and gratuities
- International airfares & departure taxes
- Visa Costs
- Travel Insurance

DAY 1 Kathmandu (1,400m / 4,593ft) to Chitwan (415m / 1,362ft) (5-6 hrs drive)

Today you depart Kathmandu and drive to Chitwan, descending from the hills into the lowland Terai. On arrival, you enjoy a river cruise along the Narayani River, with opportunities to observe birdlife and wildlife including crocodiles. In the afternoon, you visit the riverbanks where elephants may be seen bathing. The day concludes at your lodge in Chitwan.

Accommodation: Lodge
meals: L,D

DAY 2 Explore Chitwan National Park (415m / 1,362ft)

Today you explore Chitwan National Park through a range of wildlife activities. You begin with a guided walk alongside elephants in the grasslands before continuing

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fast facts

Countries Visited:

Nepal

Visas:

Yes*

Vaccinations:

Please consult a travel vaccination specialist for up to date information

Private Groups:

Private group options are available for this trip*

Singles:

A single supplement is available for this trip*

Leader:

Local sightseeing guide in each city

Advice for people with limited mobility

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

*Ask our staff for more information.

with a safari through the park in search of wildlife including rhinoceros and birdlife. In the afternoon, you return to the lodge and learn more about the elephants and local conservation practices. The day concludes at your lodge in Chitwan.

Accommodation: Lodge

meals: B,L,D

DAY 3 Chitwan (415m / 1,362ft) to Kathmandu (1,400m / 4,593ft) (5-6 hrs drive)

Today you enjoy a final activity in Chitwan before departing after breakfast. You then transfer by road back to Kathmandu. The journey follows the lowland plains before climbing back into the hills. The trip concludes on arrival in Kathmandu.

meals: B

This itinerary is subject to change with any change in Community regulations as well as Governmental changes and natural circumstances beyond our control.

important note

These trip notes represent the most current information for this itinerary, and may supersede any information on our website, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control.

suggested extensions

- Everest Trek
- Annapurna Trek

country information

People from all walks of life are drawn to Nepal to experience the incredible Himalaya. Whether it is witnessing the windswept summits of the world's highest mountains, an early morning visit to a monastery high in the Himalaya, or sipping on a cup of warm Nepali tea with your trekking crew as you watch the sunrise over the mountains, we are sure you will find your adventure in Nepal with World Expeditions inspiring and rewarding. Far from the rush of the modern world, and in the delightful company of our trek crew, you will settle into a daily rhythm in the mountains that is immensely enjoyable. Our dedicated and experienced crew will take excellent care of you, helping you to relax, stay healthy and enjoy the beauty of Nepal. Their warmth and openness will give you an insight into their culture that will add a deeper dimension to your adventure. The camaraderie within your group that gradually develops on the trail, and the unexpected friendships you form with the locals you meet, will be highlights of travelling in this wonderful country.

Nepal's population of around 30 million people practice a blend of Hindu, Buddhist and traditional animist religion. While Nepal is a predominantly rural society, with 90% of the population living outside metropolitan areas, Kathmandu is rapidly urbanizing with a population of around 1 million. With over 100 different ethnic groups and languages, and an unparalleled concentration of World Heritage Sites in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal offers a fascinating cultural tapestry like few places on earth.

climate

The weather between June and September is generally very hot and wet, with monsoonal rains occurring over this period. From September through May, conditions are much more comfortable, although evenings and mornings become quite cool between November and January. Rain is unlikely between November and March.

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dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance of your departure we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance (at least 1 month prior to your trip) to determine whether we can cater to such dietary requirements on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in very remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. We are unable to guarantee a peanut-free or allergen-free trip, and therefore, we strongly encourage that travellers with life-threatening or severe allergies take all necessary medical precautions to prepare for the possibility of exposure. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

what you carry

In your daypack you will need to carry a rainjacket, water bottle, camera gear, valuables and personal items such as sunscreen, lip-eze etc.

equipment required

Specialist gear required include walking boots and day pack (a comprehensive gear list is provided in the pre-departure information provided on booking).

vehicles & safety

During the course of your trip, we will use a variety of vehicles, all of which are fit for purpose and the conditions encountered. It should be noted that laws governing transportation safety may differ from those in your home country and whilst wherever possible, vehicles with seatbelts are provided, on occasion some vehicles may not have seat belts fitted.

visas

Nepal Visa Information

All nationalities require a visa to enter Nepal. For most travellers, a multiple-entry tourist visa can be obtained on arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport (Kathmandu).

To make your arrival as smooth as possible and avoid long queues at the airport, World Expeditions strongly recommends completing the online visa application before you travel.

Option 1: Complete Your Visa Application Before Departure (Recommended)

The easiest and fastest option is to complete your visa application online before arriving in Nepal.

Online Visa Application Portal:

<https://nepaliport.immigration.gov.np/>(<https://nepaliport.immigration.gov.np/>)

Important

Applications can only be submitted within 14 days of your arrival date

The barcode confirmation generated by the system is valid for 15 days. If your travel dates change and you arrive more than 15 days after completing the form, you will need to submit a new application.

How to Apply

1. Visit the Nepal Immigration Portal above.
2. Select "Visa on Arrival".
3. Choose Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) as your point of entry if you are flying into Kathmandu.

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4. Complete and submit the application.
5. Print or save the barcode confirmation receipt.

What to Bring

- * Passport valid for at least 6 months from your arrival date
- * Printed barcode confirmation receipt
- * 4 x passport-sized photographs
- * Visa fee payment (USD cash recommended)

On Arrival in Kathmandu

1. Proceed to the visa payment counter.
2. Pay the applicable visa fee.
3. Present your passport, payment receipt and barcode confirmation at Immigration.
4. Your visa will then be issued.

Option 2: Apply for Your Visa on Arrival

If you have not completed the online application before departure, you can still obtain your visa upon arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport.

On Arrival

1. Proceed to one of the visa application kiosks in the arrivals hall.
2. Complete the electronic visa application form.
3. Print the confirmation receipt if available, or take a clear photo or screenshot of the confirmation page.
4. Proceed to the visa payment counter.
5. Present your application confirmation, payment receipt, passport and passport photographs at Immigration.

Please note that queues can be lengthy during busy periods, which is why completing the online application before departure is recommended.

Visa Fees

Current tourist visa fees are:

- 15 Days - US\$30
- 30 Days - US\$50
- 90 Days - US\$125

Payment Information

USD cash is strongly recommended. AUD, CAD and GBP are generally accepted at the exchange rate of the day. Bringing the exact amount in US dollars will help speed up processing and avoid delays

Important Requirements

Before travelling, please ensure you have:

- A passport valid for at least 6 months from your date of arrival
- 4 x passport-sized photographs
- A printed or saved copy of your visa application confirmation (if applying online)
- Sufficient funds to pay the visa fee on arrival

Visa Validity

Once issued, your Nepal tourist visa must be activated by entering Nepal within 6 months of the date of issue.

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As visa regulations can change without notice, travellers should always check the latest requirements with Nepal Immigration prior to departure.

World Expeditions Recommendation: Complete the online visa application before departure and bring a printed copy of the barcode confirmation. This is the simplest way to minimise waiting times and ensure a smooth arrival into Nepal.

Please bear in mind that visas may be required for countries you are visiting en route or transiting through on the way to your destination. It is important that you check the requirements of all countries you will visit. Visa costs and requirements do change regularly so we suggest you check with your travel agent or World Expeditions reservations consultant. It is your responsibility to obtain all necessary visas.

trip grading

LEVEL 1: Discovery and Cruising

These are our least demanding trips. These journeys of discovery involve little or no extended activity and are suitable for people with a basic level of fitness and good health. The itinerary may take place in remote areas (with basic facilities) and may involve long travel days on various types of transport. Sightseeing may be conducted on foot and all participants should be capable of carrying their own luggage from vehicle to hotel rooms.

* Suggested preparation: Once or twice a week, we recommend you walk on undulating terrain for an hour, for at least 2 -3 months prior to departure.

thoughtful travel

The environments we travel through are fragile. It is our responsibility as visitors to minimise the impact of our presence. World Expeditions were the proud recipients of the inaugural Australian National Travel Industry's Environmental Achievement award for our Responsible Travel Guidebook. This detailed guide to responsible and sustainable travel is provided to all World Expeditions clients before they travel. Please ask your consultant if you have not received your copy of our award winning book. Alternatively, you may like to download a copy from our website www.worldexpeditions.com

Elephant Welfare

For centuries throughout Asia the elephant has been revered, as well as utilised for the purpose of logging. However in the late 80s the use of elephants in the logging industry was banned because of over-logging, and so mahouts turned to the tourism industry for income. As a result elephant tourism experiences have popped up throughout Asia and it can be difficult for travellers to resist the temptation to ride these beautiful and incredibly intelligent creatures.

In recent years there has been much research into the impact of tourism activities on elephants' well-being. From the brutal taming of baby elephants called 'the crush' to ongoing confinement and the mere fact that the elephants spine is not meant to carry heavy weights there are many instances where incorrect management results in a negative impact for the elephants.

Because of this World Expeditions discourages travellers from riding on the back of elephants and we do not include elephant rides in our itineraries throughout our global program and across all World Expeditions brands.

adventure travel

By its very nature adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected. In remote and developing countries do not expect standards you are used to at home. Remote areas are sometimes unpredictable and itineraries may be altered. To get the most out of your adventure it is important that you are flexible, positive and eager to take on all the challenges that arise. If you are uncertain about your suitability for this trip we recommend that you speak with your consultant or travel agent.

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webinars & events

Catch a Webinar – Live or On Demand - to learn more about a particular trip. Make sure the trip you choose is right for you. Watch them live, so you can ask our presenters a question, or catch the recording later at your leisure and watch it On Demand. Visit our website or keep an eye on our newsletter for upcoming presentations.

private groups

The adventures that you see on our website are just a starting point. We operate many of our trips, which means we can be flexible and create an itinerary to suit your interests and dates. Talk to our team, you'll be surprised how much more affordable it can be when you get a group of friends, colleagues, a club – you name it, to travel with you!

subscribe to our e-newsletter

Never miss another deal or spot on an exciting new trip! Be part of our adventure community, head to our website to subscribe to our free e-newsletter.

trip availability

We operate small group adventures, which means availability is always worth checking early. Check trip availability online or call our team who might be able to dig a little deeper for you to find what you want, when you want.

Many adventures require services that, if not available at the time you book (like an internal flight or permit) could mean the trip is unavailable. So, book early to avoid missing out on your dream adventure.

social networking

Connect with our community @

FACEBOOK: @worldexpeditions

facebook.com/worldexpeditions

INSTAGRAM: @worldexpeditions

Follow us at [instagram.com/worldexpeditions](https://www.instagram.com/worldexpeditions)

YOUTUBE: World Expeditions

Subscribe to our channel at [youtube.com/worldexpeditions](https://www.youtube.com/worldexpeditions)

Share the love

Use the hashtag #WorldExpeditions on your best travel photos and videos to be featured.

how to book

Check trip availability and book your tour online, or call or visit one of our offices. To book a trip, you will need to complete a Booking Form (online or request a PDF) and pay a non-refundable deposit. Please note that when booking our tours to not confirm any additional arrangements until all services related to your tour are confirmed by your dedicated Reservations Consultant.