

Kathmandu Valley Discovery

4 days · Easy cultural touring; uneven paving and steps · Request a quote

Four days based in Kathmandu, with unhurried visits to Patan and Bhaktapur, time in the city's old quarters and room for your arrival and departure.

Overview

Discover the Kathmandu Valley through its streets, courtyards and living cultural places, using one hotel base rather than changing accommodation every night. This four-day outline includes an arrival day, two full visiting days and a flexible final morning. It suits travelers who want a thoughtful cultural introduction before a trek or as a short Nepal holiday in its own right.

Patan and Bhaktapur each receive their own day, leaving space for walking, a museum or courtyard visit where open, a meal and time to observe the city without rushing between distant stops. Kathmandu's old quarter can be introduced on the arrival day if your schedule allows. The final morning can remain free or include a modest additional visit, subject to your departure time.

The [UNESCO Kathmandu Valley listing](#) recognizes seven monument zones, including the three Durbar Squares. This itinerary explores selected places rather than claiming to cover all seven. The proposed visits can be adjusted for an interest in architecture, crafts, photography or religious heritage; access to particular interiors always depends on local rules and opening arrangements.

Touring is generally at a gentle pace, but historic paving, steps, traffic and walking distances need consideration. Tell us about mobility needs, children's interests and any preference for shorter visits. The final proposal confirms guiding, transfers, accommodation, entry tickets and meals. Approximate city elevations are orientation figures, not surveyed measurements of each stop.

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1: Arrive in Kathmandu and settle into the valley

Arrive in Kathmandu and transfer to the hotel if that service is included in your proposal. Keep the first part of the day free for settling in, especially after a long flight. Meet your guide or trip contact to review the next two days, your interests, walking preferences and the practical details of pickups and entry tickets. If arrival time and energy allow, take an introductory walk in the old city around the Kathmandu Durbar Square area. The route should be adjusted to the time available and current site access; entry into the monument zone is subject to the relevant ticket arrangements. This is a chance to begin noticing streets, courtyards and everyday activity rather than attempting several major visits immediately. If you arrive late, move the introduction to another suitable gap or omit it without rushing.

Kathmandu → Kathmandu · Optional 1–2 hours of gentle city walking; arrival-dependent · Highest visited: 1400 m · Overnight: 1400 m · Kathmandu hotel; property and room category confirmed in proposal · As specified in the written proposal

Day 2: Patan's squares, courtyards and craft traditions

Travel to Patan for a day centered on its Durbar Square and nearby streets. Work with the guide to choose a manageable walking route, leaving time to look closely at architectural details and to understand the spaces you are visiting. A museum or accessible courtyard visit can be included if open and agreed in the proposal; not every interior is publicly accessible. Build in a relaxed lunch break and time away from the busiest square. If you want to see a workshop or meet a craftsman, request an appropriate arrangement in advance rather than assuming that a working business welcomes an unscheduled group. Purchases are optional. Return to the Kathmandu hotel after the visits, with the evening free or a dinner arrangement as agreed. Traffic affects transfer time, so keep a separate evening booking flexible.

Kathmandu → Kathmandu · About 2–4 hours in short sections, with breaks; adjustable · Highest visited: 1400 m · Overnight: 1400 m · Kathmandu hotel · As specified in the written proposal

Day 3: Spend an unhurried day in Bhaktapur

Travel to Bhaktapur and explore a selection of its squares and connecting lanes. Giving the city a full day allows the guide to adapt the route to your interests and the conditions instead of rushing through a brief stop between other sites. Expect uneven stone paving and steps, and agree a shorter circuit if required. Pause for lunch and continue with quieter streets or a further cultural visit where access permits. Ask before photographing people at work, ceremonies or private spaces. If pottery or another craft is an interest, the guide can discuss what is appropriate to observe or arrange; a demonstration is not promised unless specifically included. Return to Kathmandu after the visit. Keep the evening open for packing, reviewing the following day's departure and enjoying a final meal at your own pace.

Kathmandu → Kathmandu · About 2–4 hours in sections, with rest and meal breaks · Highest visited: 1400 m · Overnight: 1400 m · Kathmandu hotel · As specified in the written proposal

Day 4: A flexible final morning and onward travel

Use the final morning according to your onward schedule. With a later departure, choose free time, a short local walk or an agreed visit to Boudhanath if traffic and airport reporting time allow. Boudhanath is one of the valley's UNESCO-listed monument zones, but it is optional here rather than an attraction to squeeze in regardless of the flight time. For an early flight, go directly to the airport after the agreed checkout and transfer arrangements. Confirm luggage storage if you leave the hotel before an afternoon pickup. If continuing to Pokhara or a trek, set out that connection in the wider itinerary and allow the time it needs. Accommodation after the fourth day is not part of this three-night outline unless added to the written proposal.

Kathmandu → Kathmandu · Optional 0–2 hours, depending on departure time · Highest visited: 1400 m · None included in the base outline; onward night by arrangement · As specified in the written proposal

Your quotation

The written quotation for your dates identifies included services and separate expenses. Confirm guiding, permits, transport, accommodation and meals, as well as insurance, personal costs and disruption arrangements before booking.

Practical information

This itinerary begins and ends in Kathmandu and stays entirely within Nepal. The four-day duration includes arrival and departure; late arrival or early departure reduces sightseeing time. Do not arrange a final visit that compromises airport reporting time.

The approximately 1,400-metre elevation figures describe the valley-city setting. Exact elevations and walking distances vary by the approved route. This plan does not include a hilltop hike; adding one requires a separate description of its steps, ascent and access.

Historic places are active cultural settings. Follow site guidance about photography, footwear, clothing and areas closed to visitors. Ask before photographing individuals or entering private courtyards. Festival activity, conservation work and opening arrangements can affect access; the guide should suggest an appropriate alternative rather than promise every interior will be open.

The written proposal must identify the hotel, room type, guide and transfer arrangements, included entry tickets, meals and any optional costs. Airport transfers, tickets and meals are not assumed included merely because they appear in the suggested schedule. Discuss accessibility and the pace before confirming. See [UNESCO's official description](#) for the heritage context and our [Nepal planning guide](#) for the wider journey.