

## Nepal: Himalaya Highlights - ANENG

10 days: Kathmandu to Kathmandu

### What's Included

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- Arrival transfer
- Tour of Kathmandu
- Visit, lecture with lunch at the G Adventures-supported SASANE Sisterhood of Survivors Project
- Bhaktapur guided tour
- Tour of Patan Durbar Square
- Lecture on traditional weaving
- Experience monastic life at Neydo Monastery
- Activities in Chitwan National Park including a village walking tour and jeep safari
- Pokhara city tour
- Interesting articles, helpful tips, and photography advice from National Geographic before you depart
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

**VALIDITY:** Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2016 - December 25th, 2017

### Itinerary

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## Itinerary

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### Day 1 Kathmandu

Arrive any time. Arrival transfer and welcome dinner are included.

Arrive at the joining point hotel at any time on Day 1 as no group activities are planned except for a group meeting in the early evening, followed by dinner.

Enjoy a six-course dinner at Krishnarpan Restaurant, serving fine Nepali cuisine (organic, too), a slow dining experience reminiscent of the meals relished by the kings of yesteryear.

Kathmandu is fascinating at every turn and a great place to just wander, seeing where the city may lead you.

#### Private Vehicle

Tribhuvan International Airport – Kathmandu

Stretch out and scan the scenery from the comfort of a private ride.

#### Arrival Day and Welcome Meeting

1h

The adventure begins tonight. Feel free to explore, but make sure you're back in time to meet the group. After introductions, your CEO will review the details of your tour.

#### Nepalese Welcome feast

Kathmandu

Enjoy a six-course welcome dinner at Krishnarpan Restaurant, a culinary journey through the cuisine of Nepal. Serving some of the finest of Nepali flavours, enjoy this slow dining experience reminiscent of the ritual feasts enjoyed by the Kathmandu Valley's Newari community.

#### Meals included: Dinner

### Day 2 Kathmandu

Spend the day exploring Kathmandu, including Boudhanath Stupa, one of the world's largest Buddhist shrines, and the Royal City of Bhaktapur. After, visit the Sisterhood of Survivors Project and learn how to make Nepalese momos (dumplings) from some of the women before enjoying an authentic local lunch. Later, have a lecture with one of the women who have graduated from the Sasane paralegal program. This evening, learn about National Geographic grantee Chhing Lhomi, who works to preserve ancient weaving

traditions of the Upper Mustang region. Enjoy a talk from Chhing or one of her colleagues about the Himalayan Indigenous Society and their ongoing efforts.

### **Private Vehicle**

Kathmandu

Stretch out and scan the scenery from the comfort of a private vehicle.

### **Bodhnath Stupa Visit**

Kathmandu

Enjoy a visit to the Bodhnath Stupa, one of the largest Buddhist stupas in the world. Built in the 5th century, this UNESCO World Heritage site still attracts many pilgrims, particularly Tibetan Buddhists and local Nepalis. Take in the peaceful atmosphere and observe Buddhist monks in prayer in the monasteries surrounding the stupa.

### **Bhaktapur Excursion**

Bhaktapur3h-4h

Visit this unique old town known as the City of Devotees. Explore Hindu temples, pagodas, palaces, and monuments, including the beautiful wood-carved palace in Durbar Square. You can pick up clay pots and other souvenirs in the colourful open markets and taste home made yogourt, known as khopa dhau, which Bhaktapur is famous for.

### **Sisterhood of Survivors Project**

Kathmandu1h-2h

Visit this G Adventures-supported grassroots organization that is helping to support rehabilitated survivors of human-trafficking. SASANE, our project partners, train women coming out of trafficking to be certified paralegals, so that they are the first point of contact for other women coming out of abuse. Where survivors lack a high school diploma, the minimum requirements to be a paralegal, Planeterra and G Adventures have helped catalyze a hospitality program for these women to be reintegrated into a dignified work environment. The survivors will teach you how to make momos (traditional dumplings) as well as a Nepali lunch. The program helps support SASANE's outreach and education programs, and is completely run by survivors of trafficking.

### **Sasane Lecture**

Pokhara

Enjoy a talk with a woman who has graduated from the SASANE program, which trains victims of human trafficking to be paralegals who, in turn, fight trafficking. Gain valuable insight and learn about the struggles these brave women face in helping others in their new roles as paralegals.

### **Traditional Weaving and Indigenous Peoples Lecture**

Kathmandu

In Kathmandu, National Geographic grantee Chhing Lhomi works to preserve the ancient traditions of the Lowa community of the Upper Mustang region. We'll enjoy a lecture from Chhing or one of her colleagues on traditional weaving methods, and hear about ongoing efforts with the Himalyan Indigenous Society.

### **Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch**

### **Day 3Kathmandu/Pharping**

Opt to take a morning Everest experience flight. Explore Patan Durbar Square then drive to Pharping for a unique overnight stay at a Buddhist Monastery guesthouse. Learn about life in the monastery from the inside and opt to share tea or meditate alongside the monks or walk in the surrounding Village.

Experience the serenity of a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. The monastery guest house offers comfortable accommodations in a peaceful setting with balconies and private western-style bathrooms. There are approximately 200 monks in residence following the Nyingmapa tradition. This is a new monastery (2006), and income from the guest house directly supports it.

### **Private Vehicle**

Kathmandu – Pharping1h-2h25km

Stretch out and scan the scenery from the comfort of a private vehicle.

### **Patan Durbar Square Tour**

Kathmandu 2h-3h 8km

Enjoy a guided tour of this spectacular square built primarily in the 16th and 17th centuries. Located within it are the Royal Palace and many temples built in the traditional Newari pagoda style. We also visit the Golden Temple and Patan museum. South of the square lies the Kumari Chowk, home to Nepal's living goddess, the Kumari, a prepubescent girl chosen as the incarnation of the Hindu goddess Talejn. The Kumari lives a cloistered life, rarely leaving the confines of the chowk. When she does, it is for important religious festivals, but her feet are not allowed to touch the ground. Once the Kumari reaches puberty, another 3-5-year-old girl will take her place. If she is receiving visitors, we may be able to stop by for a blessing.

### **Overnight at a Buddhist Monastery**

Pharping

Experience the serenity of a Buddhist monastery. The monastery guest house offers comfortable accommodations in a peaceful setting with balconies and private western-style bathrooms. Opt to participate in the life of the monks: take tea alongside them and enjoy the early morning chanting before experiencing the sunrise from the roof of this stunning monastery. There are approximately 200 young monks in residence, training in the Nyingmapa tradition. This is a new monastery (2006), and income from the guesthouse directly supports it.

### **Free Time**

Pharping Afternoon

Free time to explore the monastery and gain insight into both Buddhism and the life of a monk. Set in a peaceful wooded area only 22kms (13.7 mi) from Kathmandu, popular options at the monastery include walking, hiking, and cycling the hills and small surrounding village.

### **Optional Activities**

#### **Everest Flight**

Mount Everest

247USD per person

Get a close look at awesome Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world, without having to do any climbing; this one-hour plane tour will give you an unforgettable experience.

### **Swayambhunath Temple Visit**

Kathmandu

Visit Swayambhunath Buddhist temple and Unesco World Heritage Site, the most ancient and enigmatic of all the holy shrines in Kathmandu. Explore the structure and be sure to check out the Buddha's eyes painted on each side of the Stupa. The site is also known as the monkey temple, for the vast amount of creatures who call the complex home.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 4 Pharping/Kurintar**

Rise early and enjoy the morning chanting and sunrise from the Monastery. After, drive to Kurintar and hike to our remote lodge on the banks of Trishuli River and valley. Opt to relax and enjoy the pool or take a hike in the surrounding countryside.

Arrive at our remote lodge, which sits on a ridge amidst the hills and overlooks sandy beaches and a river. Forests cascade down the hillsides, enclosing tiny settlements of tribal people.

### **Neydo Monastery Sunrise chant**

Pharping

Rise before sunrise and enter the main hall of the Monastery to listen to the monks practicing their chanting. After, we enjoy the sunrise over the Valley from the Monastery roof.

### **Private Vehicle**

Pharping – Kurintar 3h30m-4h125km

Stretch out and scan the scenery from the comfort of a private vehicle.

### **Walking**

Kurintar 30m-45m

Lace up your shoes and get to the next stop under your own power.

## Optional Activities

### Kurintar Nature walk and Village visit

Kurintar30m-1h

Free

Take a guided walk through the forests that cascade down the hillsides of Kurintar. Visit local villages inhabited by tribal people: Chepang, Dorai, Magar, some Brahman, and Chettri, making a living from foraging in the forests.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Dinner**

### Day 5Kurintar/Chitwan National Park

Drive to our lodge located on the bank of the Rapti river which borders the UNESCO World Heritage site of Chitwan National Park. After lunch enjoy wildlife viewing from traditional boats along the river.

Spend two nights enjoying cultural and wildlife excursions in and around Royal Chitwan National Park (RCNP), the oldest national park in Nepal. Established in 1973, it became a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984. Within its area of 932km<sup>2</sup> (579 mi<sup>2</sup>), RCNP is home to at least 43 species of mammals, 450 species of birds, and 45 species of amphibians and reptiles, including sambars, chitals, rhesus monkeys, tigers and langurs.

### Walking

Kurintar30m-45m

Lace up your shoes and get to the next stop under your own power.

### Private Vehicle

Kurintar – Chitwan National Park2h30m-3h30m

Stretch out and scan the scenery from the comfort of a private vehicle.

### Chitwan Boat excursion

Chitwan National Park1h-1h30m

Embark in traditional patela boats on a silent trip down the Rapti River, which borders the National Park to view aquatic birds, crocodiles, gharials, and the animals along the river banks.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

### Day 6Chitwan National Park

Explore Chitwan National Park and the village surrounding it. Activities can include a village walk, boating, nature walks, and a jeep safari in the park in search of rhinos, leopards, wild elephants, black bears, monkeys, and crocodiles. If we are very lucky, we may catch a glimpse of the elusive Bengal tiger. This evening, also enjoy a Tharu cultural dance program.

### Jeep Safari

Chitwan National Park3h-3h30m

Enjoy a jeep safari that begins in open grassland and moves into the dense Sal Forest, crossing the Reu River to see different wildlife. Continue down to the banks of Narayani River and spot gharials (freshwater alligators) basking in the sun. Also, view wildlife from Bhimle Machan (a wooden platform).

### Chitwan Village Visit

Chitwan National Park

Enjoy a visit to the farming Village bordering the National Park. Learn about the social and cultural aspects of the village people, what the farm and see how they live day-to-day.

**Meals included: Breakfast | Lunch | Dinner**

### Day 7Chitwan National Park/Pokhara

Drive to beautiful Pokhara and immerse yourself in stunning views of the Himalayas. Enjoy an orientation walk with the CEO and opt to have dinner at one of the popular restaurants in town.

Nestled in a tranquil valley at an altitude of 827m (2,713 ft), beautiful Pokhara lies on a once vibrant trade route between India and Tibet. To this day, mule trains can be seen bringing goods to trade from remote regions of the Himalayas. This enchanting city has

several beautiful lakes and offers stunning panoramic views of Himalayan peaks. It is popular place to relax and enjoy the beauty of nature.

### **Private Vehicle**

Chitwan National Park – Pokhara 5h-6h

Stretch out and scan the scenery from the comfort of a private vehicle.

### **Orientation Walk**

30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Day 8 Pokhara**

Enjoy the early morning sunrise and mountain views from Sarangkot, go boating in Phewa Lake, and hike to the World Peace Pagoda. Opt to try paragliding.

### **Sunrise at Sarangkot**

Pokhara

Rise early and experience a spectacular sunrise view of the surrounding the Annapurna Himalayas.

### **World Peace Pagoda Excursion**

Sarangkot 2h-3h 4km

Walk up to the World Peace Pagoda, which was constructed by Buddhist monks. Enjoy the structure and the beautiful view around it.

### **Phewa Lake Boat Tour**

Phewa T 1h

Enjoy a boat ride on Phewa Lake and take in the serene environment and natural beauty, including the magnificent fish-tailed summit of Machhapuchhre (6,977m, 22,890 ft) rising behind it.

### **Optional Activities**

#### **Paragliding**

Pokhara 30m-1h

8500INR per person

Enjoy a view from above of the beautiful city of Pokhara, which is surrounded by the snow-capped Annapurna mountain range.

### **Meals included: Breakfast**

## **Day 9 Pokhara/Kathmandu**

Catch a flight back to the capital, Kathmandu.

Enjoy free time in the afternoon for exploring. Visit the burning ghats at Pashupatinath and Swayambhunath, or the monkey temple. Kathmandu is fascinating at every turn, and some travelers prefer to just wander, seeing where the city may lead them.

### **Plane**

Pokhara – Kathmandu 1h

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

### **Free Time**

Kathmandu Afternoon

Take some time to explore on your own or do some last minute shopping.

### **Optional Activities**

#### **Pashupatinath Temple Visit**

Kathmandu 30m-1h

1000INR per person1500INR per group

Enjoy a visit to this charming Hindu temple dedicated to Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction. Watch sadhus (Hindu holy men) and pilgrims perform bathing rituals. You may occasionally see funeral pyres burning on the ghats (Hindus believe in cremation).

### **Swayambhunath Temple Visit**

Kathmandu

Visit Swayambhunath Buddhist temple and Unesco World Heritage Site, the the most ancient and enigmatic of all the holy shrines in Kathmandu. Explore the structure and be sure to check out the Buddha's eyes painted on each side of the Stupa. The site is also known as the monkey temple, for the vast amount of creatures who call the complex home.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

### **Day 10Kathmandu**

Depart at any time.

Feel free to depart at any time today, but remember that check out time from the hotel is 12:00pm.

### **Departure Day**

Not ready to leave? Your CEO can help with travel arrangements to extend your adventure.

**Meals included: Breakfast**

## **What's Included**

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Arrival transfer. Tour of Kathmandu. Visit, lecture with lunch at the G Adventures-supported SASANE Sisterhood of Survivors Project. Bhaktapur guided tour. Tour of Patan Durbar Square. Lecture on traditional weaving. Experience monastic life at Neydo Monastery. Activities in Chitwan National Park including a village walking tour and jeep safari. Pokhara city tour. Interesting articles, helpful tips, and photography advice from National Geographic before you depart. Internal flights. All transport between destinations and to/from included activities.

## **Highlights**

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Search for tigers in a national park, wander fascinating Kathmandu, and marvel at the Himalayas. This is Nepal with National Geographic Journeys. Book now.

## **Dossier Disclaimer**

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VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

## **Itinerary Disclaimer**

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While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

## **Important Notes**

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## 1. WEATHER

Weather conditions in the Himalayas can change rapidly and our CEO may be forced to change the trip itinerary accordingly. Travellers need to be prepared for all weather conditions. For more information please read the "what to take" section of this trip notes.

## 2. Fitness

While there are no treks on this trip this will be a fair amount of walking, so you should have an average level of fitness.

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## Group Leader Description

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

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## Group Size Notes

Max 15, avg 12

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## Meals

Eating is a big part of traveling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Included breakfasts will usually be asian style consisting of noodles or congee (rice porridge) or bread and eggs. Vegetarians will be able to find a range of different foods, although in some areas the choice maybe limited. While trekking in remote regions food is included, plentiful and made of fresh local ingredients.

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## Transport

Private bus, plane, boat, walking

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## Local Flights

All local flights are included in the cost of your tour unless otherwise noted. It is important that we have your passport information at the time of booking in order to process these tickets. Internal flight tickets are issued locally and will be given to you prior to the flight departure.

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## Solo Travellers

We believe single travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and single travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

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## Accommodation

Hotels (8 nts), monastery guesthouse (1 nt).

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## Joining Hotel

Kathmandu Guest House  
Kathmandu Guest House Road  
Kathmandu, Nepal, 44600  
+977 1-4700632  
info@ktmgh.com

## Joining Instructions

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An arrival transfer is included on this trip. Please look for our driver who will be waiting for you with a National Geographic Journeys Sign with your name on it. Please check carefully once you exit the baggage hall as there seem to be hundreds of people waiting outside in the arrival area.

When arriving into Tribhuvan Intl Airport in Kathmandu you will notice how small the city really is. It is on 7km from the downtown area.

## Arrival Complications

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We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, as soon as possible please contact your starting point hotel, requesting that you speak to or leave a message for your CEO (if you are not on a group tour please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier). If you are unable to get in touch with your CEO, please refer to our emergency contact details. If you have pre-booked an airport transfer and have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

## Emergency Contact

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Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

### AIRPORT TRANSFER

If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Airport Transfer complications at Tribhuvan International Airport please call our local G Adventures Transfer providers directly at:

Mr. Rajju Maskey

From outside of Nepal: +977 98 0201 4444

From within Kathmandu: 98 0201 4444

From within Nepal, but outside Kathmandu: 098 0201 4444

### EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

G Adventures South Asia Manager, Rishab (Delhi, India)

Emergency number:

From outside of India: +91 99 7179 5447

From within Delhi: 99 7179 5447

From within India, but outside Delhi: 099 7179 5447

G Adventures Office Bangkok, Thailand

During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5pm Local Time): +66-02-3815574

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below, which will connect you directly with our 24 hour Sales team, who will happily assist you.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100

Calls from UK: 0844 272 0000

Calls from Germany: 01805 70 90 30 00

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618

Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307

Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

## What to Take

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We suggest that you pack as lightly as possible as you are expected to carry your own luggage. As a rule we try not to have to walk more than 15-20 minutes with your bags which is why we recommend keeping the weight of your bags between 10-15kg/22-30lb. We recommended a backpack or soft case/duffle on wheels of small to medium size (no XXL ones please!). You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water, cameras and other electronics like ipods and mobile phones.

## Checklist

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Passport (with photocopies)  
Photos passport Size (x 3)  
Travel insurance (with photocopies)  
Airline tickets (with photocopies)  
USD cash  
Credit or debit card (see personal spending money)  
G Adventures vouchers, pre-departure information and dossier  
Any entry visas or vaccination certificates required

- Camera / extra memory cards
- Reading/writing material
- Binoculars
- Cover for backpacks
- Fleece top
- Windproof/waterproof jacket
- Small towel and swim wear
- 4 shirts/t-shirts
- Sun hat
- 2 pairs of long/trousers
- 1 pair hiking pants/track pants
- Warm clothing
- Jacket
- Fleece top/sweater
- Warm layers
- Hat
- Gloves
- Hiking boots/ sturdy walking shoes
- Sport sandals
- Sunblock
- Sunglasses
- Toiletries (biodegradable)
- Watch or alarm clock
- Water bottle
- Flashlight
- First-aid kit (should contain lip salve, Aspirin, Band Aids, anti-histamine, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, re-hydration powder, extra prescription drugs you may be taking).

## Laundry

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Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

## Visas

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Please note it is your responsibility to arrange visas before you travel. Your travel agent can assist. Below are the visa requirements at the time of printing (subject to change at any time). NEPAL: All foreign nationals (except Indians) require a visa to enter Nepal. Visas are obtainable from embassies abroad or on arrival at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan airport. If getting the visa at the airport be prepared for long queues. You will also need to provide one passport photo and the following fees in US dollars cash only: single entry visa valid for 15 days - US \$25: Single Entry Visa for 30 days - US \$40 and multiple entry visa valid for 90 days - US \$100

## Spending Money

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Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

## Money Exchange

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As currency exchange rates in Asia fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: [www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com) As of Feb 2012 the exchange rate for NEPAL was 1 USD = 78.76 NPR (Nepalese Rupees). There are many ATM machines that accept both Visa and Mastercard but these are limited to major cities. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops but they may charge a 2-4% transaction fee.

## Emergency Fund

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Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD \$200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

## Departure Tax

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All departure taxes should be included in your international flight ticket.

## Tipping

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It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from \$1-\$2 USD per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service. For porters during the trekking portion of your trip, the recommended amount is 300-500Rs (4-7USD) per porter per day; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference, however as a guideline \$20-30 USD per person, per week can be used.

## Health

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Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our CEO are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

## Safety and Security

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Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your CEO has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it is deemed necessary due to safety concerns. Your CEO will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy or explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer

no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgment when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Protests and Demonstrations- Protests and demonstrations, even those that are well intended, have the potential to turn violent with no warning. Counter protests can also turn violent. Action by security forces to disperse demonstrators and protesters may occur at any time. If you are in an area where demonstrators or protesters are gathering, avoid the temptation of staying for a good photo opportunity and leave the area immediately.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards) have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk.

We take all prudent measures in relation to your safety. For ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling, please visit:

[www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/](http://www.gadventures.com/travel-resources/safety/)

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## Trip Specific Safety

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage.

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## Medical Form

Our small group adventures bring together people of all ages. It is very important you are aware that, as a minimum, an average level of fitness and mobility' is required to undertake our easiest programs. Travellers must be able to walk without the aid of another person, climb 3-4 flights of stairs, step on and off small boats, and carry their own luggage at a minimum. Travellers with a pre-existing medical condition are required to complete a short medical questionnaire, which must be signed by their physician. This is to ensure that travellers have the necessary fitness and mobility to comfortably complete their chosen trip. While our CEOs work hard to ensure that all our travellers are catered for equally, it is not their responsibility to help individuals who cannot complete the day's activities unaided. Please refer to the physical ratings in this Trip Details document for more information.

The medical questionnaire can be found online at:

[www.gadventures.com/medical-form](http://www.gadventures.com/medical-form).

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## A Couple of Rules

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter, and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of prostitutes is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they use prostitutes.

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## Travel Insurance

Travel Insurance: Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your CEO, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy please bear in mind that all clients must have medical coverage and that we require a minimum coverage of USD 200,000 for repatriation and emergency rescue. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

## Planeterra-The G Adventures Foundation

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Through our commitment to responsible tourism we have developed the Planeterra Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of people and communities around the world through support of international charities, local organizations and community projects in the places that we visit on our tours. G Adventures matches all individual donations and pays all administration costs, which means that 100% of each donation is doubled and goes directly to support our projects. For more information about Planeterra and the projects we support, or to make a donation, please visit [www.planeterra.org](http://www.planeterra.org)

### Planeterra Dollar-A-Day Program

Our Dollar-A-Day Program provides travellers with the opportunity to help us give back to the people and places visited on our tours by donating one dollar per day for the duration of their tour. 100% of these proceeds will go directly to support our G Adventures for Good projects.

To participate in this program please indicate at the time of booking that you would like to participate in G Adventures' Dollar-A-Day program, either by clicking the check box online, or by advising your G Adventures specialist or travel agent. (Note: Donation will be charged in the currency of your booking)

## Local Dress

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In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool if its hot and can be layered when cool. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites.

## Feedback

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After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us that we'll give you 5% off the price of your next G Adventures trip if your feedback is completed on-line within 30 days of finishing your trip. Your tour evaluation will be e-mailed to you 24 hours after the conclusion of your trip. If you do not receive the tour evaluation link in the days after your tour has finished, please drop us a line at [customerservice@gadventures.com](mailto:customerservice@gadventures.com) and we will send it on to you.

## Newsletter

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Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at [www.gadventures.com/newsletters/](http://www.gadventures.com/newsletters/)

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for [Planeterra's monthly news](#) to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

## Travel Forum - The Watering Hole

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Be sure to stop by [The Watering Hole](#), our adventure travel forum. If you're interested in meeting others booked on your upcoming trip, check out the [Departure Lounge](#) section of our forum and introduce yourself. Otherwise, just drop in at anytime to share some travel tips, ask questions, meet other travellers and quench your thirst for travel. Our forum is located at [wateringhole.gadventures.com](http://wateringhole.gadventures.com).