



Ri is Tibetan for "high place", a place where prayer flags flutter, a place with a view, a place where you would like to sit and reflect.

Machhapuchhare Himal

The Secret Side of The Fish Tail

What's more inspiring and adventurous for an out-of-doors traveler than to visit Nepal in the heart of the Himalayas for a few weeks? Nepal is a land rich in history and culture, adventure travel, the arts, fascinating peoples and amazing places. There is so much to see, do and experience. Nepal is the most diverse country on earth and that makes it very much so, a repeatable destination.



Machhapuchhare is one of the three most distinguished and photographed mountains in the world. Often called "The Matterhorn of Nepal". It's dramatic shape and sheer sides are a magnet for the camera... repeatedly. Every day, every hour your camera will try to take a more unique image than yesterday. The summit above you is at 22,943 feet.

Machhapuchhare is a holy mountain, no climbing allowed as local people revere this dramatic mountain, so steep it's largely bare of snow.

Few or no trekkers know the east side of this famous mountain and the dramatic sunrises, the virgin forests, Hanuman Langur monkeys, lakes and quiet Tamang and Garung villages. This trek epitomizes what trekking in Nepal and the Himalaya can be; friendly villagers, stunning mountain scenery that burns up camera memory cards, forests of rhododendron, pine and alder trees. This trek will have you returning to Nepal for more.



If you have heard the Annapurna and Machhapuchhare have over 100,000 visitors a year, that would be true of the western approach, but the best experience is the southeastern forest approach.

This visit to Nepal will need 12 days from arrival to departure from Kathmandu. Arrive earlier or stay longer in Nepal if you wish, there is much to see and do. After all there are jungles with wildlife to explore by elephant, and of course palaces, monasteries, markets and cultures within the Kathmandu Valley itself to discover. Rusty calls Kathmandu a “5-day-city”. This is a great place to explore by foot or by bicycle.

Important Travel Details

Arriving into Kathmandu on Day 1 may entail flying from your home one or more days earlier depending your choice of flights. Day 13 can be a departure from Nepal, but may not return you to your home that same day. If you have questions about timing, contact Ri Adventure Travel to confirm your dates of travel prior to purchasing your international flights.

If your life's schedule requires you to return home from Nepal early this can be a possibility. Talk with us to work out the feasibility and logistics. Please note, such an itinerary change may or may not reduce the cost of your trip.

Lets Go

Day 01:

Arrive into Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport. With luck you have seen 5 of the world's highest summits as you approached Kathmandu. You're here! Pass through customs and immigrations into the main airport hall. You will be welcomed by Ri Sherpa staff and transfer

through the bustling streets of Kathmandu to your hotel in the Thamel neighborhood. No schedule today, but if you are ready, we'll walk a chaotic maze of little streets to Durbar Square. You'll learn about getting round and if you like we'll visit a local restaurant for dinner before returning for bed. *∞Your hotel is included, lunch and dinner are not included.*

Day 02:

Today is called a "rest day" but there is much to see and do after breakfast. Two World Heritage Sites will be visited. Kathmandu's elevation is 4460 feet; it's close to the equator with the sun rising and setting within 30 minutes of 6:00 o'clock year round. Depending on your home elevation, having just flown 25+ hours, the time differences on the body, it's best to not try to "see everything". We call Kathmandu a "5-day-city". There is time for some sightseeing and we'll give you a list of suggestions along with a list of restaurants with a healthy reputation. There is an orientation meeting prior to dinner time. *∞Hotel and breakfast are included, lunch and dinner on your own.*

Optional Fun Note that this morning is a good choice for a Mt. Everest Himalaya Mountain flight. See "Optional Fun" below or give us a ring if you wish.



Day 03:

Early breakfast, depart at 8:00 a.m. for the drive west 110 miles to Pokhara and Pewa Lake. This is a major hub for the trekkers and climbers going into the Annapurna Himalaya. Typically clear spring and late fall weather will show the massive of Annapurna II and the towering bare rock tower of Machapuchhare to be an excellent view while in Pokhara. Huge Dhaulagiri Himal, though seen does not put on a "big show" from Pokhara. Your trekking staff will transfer you and the trek gear to your lakeside hotel. The drive from Kathmandu to Pokhara is 6 or so hours, it is very scenic with

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Gurung village terraces rising steeply to the base of dozens of “lesser” Himalayan peaks. The scenery and windy road require stopping for photos and snacks along the way to Pokhara.

Elevation 1800' ∞Hotel and all meals today through Day 9 are included.

Day 04:

Today, after breakfast, we’ll drive towards the village of Phedi, our starting point of the trek. Once we reach Phedi, our Sherpa, Tamang, Rai and Gurung staff will organize for the trek. The porters are waiting all the gear, and after everything is ready, we hike up towards the village of Dhampus. As the days go by you’ll learn more about the different cultures you are walking through and whom are part of your staff.

Once we reach Dhampus, you see an amazing view of Machhapuchhare, “The Fish Tail”. This is one of the best viewing locations in all of Nepal. Peaks are towering above you, a tapestry of snowy Himalayan giants. Your cameras’ shutter will see a lot of use today.



Somewhere among rhododendron or Himalayan White Birch trees you’ll round a corner to find a hot Nepali lunch arranged. Your trails today wind up into the foot hills of the snowy Himalaya, among forests and terraces to the village of Potana. Views from this village are excellent. Villagers throughout this region are growing nearly everything; rice, mustard seed, wheat, corn, peppers and other vegetables and there are few fledgling coffee farmers too.

It’s actually great to have a few clouds today as then the summits seem to float above you and create dreamy “unreal” images. Culture is a rich feature of this trek with villages of Gurung, Magar,

Brahmin, Thakali predominating, but there are several other distinct language and cultural groups too. You may notice the differences in people's faces, and distinctive style of dress. ∞ *Small inn, all meals included. Elevation is 6200'. Hiking time 6 hours.*

Day 05:

Today, after an early morning breakfast, we hike towards the Forest Camp. Soon this morning we'll diverge from the common trail and start our secret trail leaving tourists, trekker and even most villagers behind. Your trek will now enter an enchanted forest of birch, Himalayan Giant Rhododendron, mountain oak, maple, birch, hemlock and daphnia. The higher and deeper into the forest we walk the better the birding and wildlife opportunities will become. Again lunch will be waiting as the Sherpa staff, with lots of red blood cells to use, have long since passed us on the trail. Views of mountains will come and go, what you'll enjoy is the lack of trekkers and the occasional villager.

The elevation is now 8135 feet, high enough to appreciate that the trail is taking you into the mountains. Take your time and enjoy the "walk". Snuggle into your sleeping bag, tonight you will be camping in a small clearing far from the beaten trails of the Annapurna. ∞ *Camping, all meals. Elevation 8,135'. Hiking time is 5 hours.*

Day 06:

Today, after breakfast, load your duffel with what you don't need, toss it outside your roomy tent, sling on your day-pack and say "jaane-ho". Sherpa staff will break down camp, soon catch and pass everyone on feet used to moving on trails. We're leaving Forest Camp and trekking higher to "Low Secret Camp", moving slowly up through the forests gaining and losing elevation, but mostly gaining. As you hike higher the flora will change from large trees to smaller trees and bamboo too. The forest will now include more mosses, lichen, tree ferns, and in spring time... orchids. Periodically you'll see the Hiunchuli Peak (21,126'), Annapurna South (19,736'), and northerly views of the ever-getting-closer Fishtail (Machhapuchare 22,950'). ∞ *Camping tonight with the stars, all meals. Elevation 10,332'. Hiking time about 5+ hours.*

Day 07:

Begin with "dudh-chia" this morning, then breakfast and begin the hike. Tonight you will sleep well, and smile as today produced stunning views, lots of picture taking and it was a good days work out. The bamboo forests lay below you as tree-line and unobstructed views are the goal.

High Camp is literally the high point of the trek and with clear weather the views today will not be forgotten. The Annapurna range of mountains is in front of you; just to the west is the massive of "The Fishtail" and it's black rock wall towers rising over 12,000 feet above you. Few trekkers know of this place, there is good pasturage for a local village farmer and wildlife is left at peace too.

The evening sunset competes with the morning sunrise for your camera's attention. ∞*Camp tonight again with the stars, all meals. Elevation is 13,448'. Hiking time is about 5 hours.*

Day 08:

Today is largely an exploration day at the high camp. Go on a day-hike, remain in camp, explore the area, "soak up" views of surrounding mountains, forests and farms below. To the west is Machhapuchare, near camp is Mardi Himal, 18,330'. Mardi Himal is one of the so called "trekking peaks. Mardi Himal was first climbed by an early Nepal explorer Colonel Roberts. Largely a relaxing day. Late this afternoon we'll put in a 1800 foot descent to find camp waiting for us. ∞*Camp tonight again with the stars, all meals. Elevation is 13,448'.*



Day 09:

Today, we start our return to lower elevation and "thicker" air. Leaving High Camp trekking poles may be a choice many hikers will use as we have a gorgeous but significant descend. After

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descending 5000 feet, a stream side lunch among the rhododendron trees and bamboo will be a welcome site. Rest a bit and then continue descending. Hiking through the forest with shade, occasional farms, cows, terraces and then reach the village of Siding. This whole day has provided different trails, forests and sights than during the route up a few days ago. *∞Camp tonight just outside of the village, all meals. Elevation is 4500'.*

Day 10:

After an early breakfast, terraces of the low country surround us. Village children going to school, women and men are out gathering fodder for their livestock or sifting grain to be ground in a nearby water mill, just normal daily life accompanies your short hike today. Reaching a rough gravel road, we'll find our vehicle waiting and taking a bumpy ride down to our Pokhara Lakeside hotel. Your foot steps will reach Pokhara during the late afternoon.

Enjoy a hot shower. The evening is yours, no plans. *∞Hotel, Breakfast and Lunch. Dinner is not included as there are many good choices. Elevation is 1800'.*

Day 11:

Rising early may reward you with reflective sunrise photos of the Himalaya in Pewa Lake. After an early morning breakfast, you'll load up gear and drive back to Kathmandu. The drive is approximately 6 hours back to your hotel. The afternoon is yours. *∞Hotel, breakfast. Lunch and Dinner are not included. Elevation is 4460'.*

Day 12:

Today is a free day on your own. This day is a prudent choice for any Nepal itinerary as "life happens", delays occur. This is a good day for optional fun, a Mt. Everest flight, "power shopping", visiting one of the many great sites of Kathmandu not yet visited. *∞Hotel, breakfast. Lunch and Dinner are not included. Elevation is 4460'.*

Day 13:

Some travelers will begin their flights out of Nepal this afternoon or evening. Sherpa staff will transfer you back to Tribhuvan International Airport for your continuing journey.

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Fine Print and Important Details

You are going on a trip in a developing country and though we will do our best to follow the itinerary, there are many reasons why alterations beyond our control may occur. You will find **Reservation Form Materials** on the Ri Adventure Travel website heading of Contact. Among these materials is your trips **TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM FOR RI ADVENTURE TRAVEL LLC.**

Trip Date: March 20 - April 01, 2011 (13 days)
October 12 - October 24, 2011
March 25 - April 06, 2012
October 29 - November 10, 2012

Land Cost: \$1885 per person (5 to 9 members)
\$1765 per person (10 to 14 members)
Prices are based on double occupancy.

Reserving your Trip

You may reserved your trip with a deposit of \$500 per person. Check or credit card.

The balance may be paid incrementally or as a whole by credit card or check. In an effort to keep costs lower, you may use a personal or cashier's check to pay for your adventure. If you would prefer to use a credit card, then we'll add 2.5% to your payment. When using a credit card, call Ri Adventure Travel. 888.360.4404.

Single Traveler

If you wish to be a single traveler there is an additional charge of \$270. If you are single, but would like to have a roommate Ri will assign a same gender roommate, first come, first serve. If there is

If you wish to use a check; make your check payable to: *Ri Adventure Travel LLC*
5700 100th St Sw #256
Lakewood, WA 98499

Cancellation Schedule

91 or more days prior to departure, no fee. 61 to 90 days prior, the full deposit is a fee. 60 to 31 days prior, 50% of Land Cost is a fee. 30 days or less, 100% of Land Cost is a fee. A cancellation request is based on when it is received in writing, by mail or email.

no single available, at 60 days of departure we will contact you for the single's fee. Should we later find a roommate, we will promptly return those funds to you.

What Is Included

Kathmandu airport transfers; flight and vehicle transfers to and from Pokhara; 4 hotel nights in Kathmandu; 2 hotel night in Pokhara; Ri trekking guides & porters, trekking permits, local and National Park fees; all meals while trekking and as noted in the itinerary, hotel breakfasts in Kathmandu and Pokhara; all group expedition camping gear and storage in Kathmandu.

What Is Not Included

Transportation to and from Nepal; passport and visa requirements for entering and leaving Nepal; some meals as noted in the itinerary in Kathmandu and Pokhara; alcoholic beverages and personal laundry; guides gratuities; personal gear (on making your reservation a departure package will be sent that includes the trip and trekking gear list); airport tax on departure from Nepal as well as trip evacuation and cancellation insurance.

Trip Cancellation Insurance

This is a fantastic trip, and it takes place in an exciting and interesting destination, but it's also a significant investment. We highly recommend that all travelers purchase trip cancellation insurance. You have a choice of simple emergency evacuation and medical coverage to full trip cancellation for any reason. Ri Adventure Travel LLC will be happy to provide advice or get you signed up for your insurance choice. At RiAdventureTravel.com, click on Contacts and you may link to TravelEx Insurance site from there.

Optional Fun

Mt. Everest and the Himalaya flight-seeing is a popular option. **The cost is \$235.** and is added to your invoice for the balance of payment. The flight leaves Kathmandu every morning, flying to the eastern border and the worlds 3rd highest mountain Kanchenjunga, then doubles back. Flying time is about 1 hour. The north side of the aircraft sees Himalayan peaks all the way. The flight will be sold out, last minute requests are often not available, this option needs to be reserved in advance.

Rusty has “strings” to pull and has never not had a trip member make the flight, but please reserve early. (The price goes up occasionally; Rusty will confirm the rate.)

Other options. Plan a three day visit to a jungle lodge in one of the national parks (Chitwan NP for example) to ride elephants and look for wildlife; tiger; chital, garial crocodiles, languor monkeys, etc. Elephants are the "original RV", they carry you, go where they wish and nothing argues with them. Elephants are interesting in and of themselves, and a lot of fun. Some options have an expense, others just need our advice and are easily done on your own. What extra bit of fun do you have in mind? Contact us for options and costs. Popular activities include sightseeing the Kathmandu valley by bicycle; walking the chaotic and colorful streets of the city to see markets and temples. Kathmandu is a "5 day city", there are many places to visit and we'll be happy to provide a list with your confirmed reservation documents.

Your trip has reached the minimum number of members to depart.

Ri Adventure Travel will contact you the moment we reach the minimum number of travelers so that you may go forward making flight and other reservations you may need for departure.

You've made your reservation, what happens next?

When you reserve your trip, we'll promptly send to you an invoice confirming your payment and balance of trip. Also sent to you will be pre-trip planning information that includes; suggested travel logistics, a complete gear list, visa and health information as well as a suggested reading list. Pre-departure documents will answer many questions you have about gear, cultures, travel options, medical and health suggestions.

Thirty days prior to departure you will receive trip final documents, confirmation details, last minute hints and common "horse sense" reminders about travel, emergency contact numbers in Nepal, trip roster of other travelers joining you on *The Secret Side of the Fishtail*.

Terms & Conditions

Once you have made a deposit for a trip, you agree to be bound by all our terms and conditions

included in the Terms and Conditions and Release of Liability Form. You will find this form in **Contact and Reservation Form Materials**. By making a trip deposit you agree to the full Terms and Conditions and Release of Liability Form found at riadventuretravel.com. Your participation in this trip is contingent on your signature on the full list of terms specified in the Reservation Form Materials. (riadventuretravel.com/forms.pdf).

Ready to go?

Secure your reservation with a deposit, call Ri Adventure Travel LLC, 888.460.4404 or email traveler@rustytraveler.com to confirm availability. With 32 years experience and dozens of visits to Nepal, Rusty can answer all of your travel and trip logistical questions. Credit card information and reservations are only accepted over the phone, please don't email this information.



Have a great adventure.

Namaste