

Birdwatching and Wildlife Photography Tour

URL: <https://himalayan360.com/trip/12-days-birdwatching-and-wildlife-photography-tour/>

Destination

Nepal Treks & Tours

Activity

Wildlife Tours

Start / End Point

Kathmandu/Kathmandu

Trip Type

Photography tour

Route

Kathmandu-Bardia-Lumbini-Chitwan

Duration

12

Language**Per Person From**

USD 1,596

Group Size

2 - 20

Best Season

Mar, Apr, May and Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

Transportation

Private Vehicle

Accommodation

3-Star hotel

Meals

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Difficulty

Easy The trip is easy and suitable for everyone, including children and older people. It does not require any skills in mountain climbing or traversing difficult terrain.

Highlights of the 12 Days Birdwatching and Wildlife Photography Tour in Nepal

- Full-day jeep safaris in Chitwan National Park, which is famous for its high biodiversity and opportunities to photograph iconic species.
- Combine the excitement of a jeep safari with the more personal experience of a walking tour in Chitwan, offering diverse photographic views.
- Take a vulture restaurant outing to observe one of the planet's most unlikely conservation success stories, with opportunities to capture their images.
- Begin your experience in Kathmandu, Nepal's vibrant and historic capital city.

- Experience jeep safaris in Bardiya National Park for great wildlife photography opportunities.
- Engage in the fantastic wildlife and colorful birdlife photography in Bardiya.
- Discover Lumbini's diverse range of ecosystems, such as grasslands and wetlands, which are vital habitats for migratory birds.

Wildlife and Birdwatching Photo Tour Route

The 12-day bird watching and wildlife photography trip begins when you arrive in Kathmandu, where you will check into your hotel and prepare for the tour ahead. The following morning, you'll fly to Nepalgunj, the gateway to the western Terai, and then drive to the picturesque Bardiya National Park. Far less crowded than Chitwan, this park offers better photographic opportunities for viewing a wide range of wild animals, including the rare Bengal tiger, Asian wild elephant, one-horned rhino, deer, wild boar, along with 407 species of birds. Days 3, 4, and 5 are spent exploring Bardiya on exciting jeep safaris and expert wildlife and bird-watching excursions.

Day 6 is spent at Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. Not only is Lumbini culturally significant, but it also holds valuable grasslands and wetlands. These are home to many species of birds. You will stroll around these areas and take pictures of the birds you spot. Day 7 is all about birdwatching in the Lumbini grasslands. The day will give you more chances to capture rare, colorful birds like Sarus Cranes, as well as wetland birds like Red-naped Ibises, Purple Herons, and egrets in their natural habitats.

On day 8, your wildlife and bird watching tour takes you to Chitwan National Park. Along the way, you stop at a vulture restaurant, where you can photograph these scavengers. Days 9 and 10 feature jeep safaris and full-day walking tours in Chitwan. This park is renowned for its dense jungle and diverse wildlife, including rhinos, tigers, leopards, and a wide array of bird species. On the 11th day, you will drive back to Kathmandu, and on the twelfth day, you will depart by flight to return home.

12 Days Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour Itinerary

Day 01: Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu and transfer to hotel

Once you arrive in Kathmandu, our team representative will welcome you and take you to the hotel. After checking in, you can relax or explore the area before your adventures the next day. Stay overnight in Kathmandu's hotel.

Meals:

No meals included

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 02: Fly to Nepalgunj and drive to Bardiya National Park

Attraction of the Day: Bardiya National Park

Day 2 of your adventure begins with an early morning flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj, the gateway to the western Terai region. Upon arrival at Nepalgunj, you will embark on a 2-hour scenic drive through local villages and agricultural landscapes to reach the entrance of Bardiya National Park. After settling into your lodge or resort near the park, the remainder of the day can be spent relaxing and perhaps taking a short introductory walk around the lodge premises before enjoying dinner and preparing for our next day wildlife adventures.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

Resort in Baridya

Flight Hours:

40 min

Day 03: Jeep safari inside the Bardiya National Park

Attraction of the Day: Wildlife and Safari

Today, we will go on a jeep safari inside Bardiya National Park. Our guide will take you through the park, where we might see wildlife like tigers, elephants, and rhinos. The jeep safari will enable us to cover a large area and observe animals in their natural habitats. You can engage in a photography session of the wildlife and the beautiful surroundings.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

Resort in Baridya

Day 04: Jeep safari inside the Bardiya National Park

Attraction of the Day: Wildlife and safari

Another day of jeep safari at Bardiya National Park is up to us. You will spend the day visiting the area you didn't visit yesterday. Your guide will take you to places where you can see wild animals like leopards, boars, and birds. The park also has forests, grasslands, and rivers. The safari also allows you to take pictures of the animals and the fantastic, colorful birds. After a long day, you will return for an overnight stay at the Eco Resort.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

Resort in Baridya

Day 05: Wildlife and bird-watching tour around Bardiya

Attraction of the Day: Blackbuck conservation area, Badaiya Lake

Today, we will embark on a 3-hour wildlife and bird-watching tour around Bardiya. We will visit important sites to observe various birds like the Bengal Florican, kingfishers, and other colorful species. We will search for birds and a few small mammals and enjoy the serenity of the park environment. You may also take nature walks, take photographs, and indulge in the biodiversity of life at Bardiya today.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 06: Drive to Lumbini and Tour around Lumbini wetland

Attraction of the Day: Lumbini wetland and various birds

We will drive from Bardiya to Lumbini, a sacred and peaceful place where you can find a mix of history and nature. Lumbini Wetland is home to a diverse array of birds. You can see some migratory birds, waterfowl, and resident species like herons and kingfishers. In addition to the birds, the wetland has lush vegetation. This place offers excellent opportunities to capture flora and fauna in their natural form.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 07: Bird-watching tour around Lumbini grassland

Attraction of the Day: Lumbini Wetland and Jagdishpur Taal

Today, we'll take a peaceful walk around Jagdishpur Taal. It is the largest reservoir in Nepal that spans a surface area of 225 hectares (2.25 km²) and sits at an elevation of 197m above sea level. Jagdishpur Taal has become a paradise for bird watchers and photographers alike. In total, 295 bird species have been recorded here, including 113 winter visitors, 9 summer visitors, 12 passage migrants, and 147 resident species. Some commonly spotted birds include the Asian Openbill, kingfisher, eagle, and the elegant Sarus Crane.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 08: Drive to Chitwan National Park via Vulture restaurant

Attraction of the Day: Vulture Restaurant and Chitwan National Park

On day 8, we will drive to Chitwan. On the route to Chitwan, we visit the Vulture Restaurant. This conservation effort provides safety to threatened vultures, allowing you to observe different vulture species up close. We then continue to Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The park is home to more than 525 birds, over 50 mammal species, and 55 amphibians and reptiles.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 09: Full-day jeep safari inside the National park

Attraction of the Day: Wildlife and birds inside a national park

On day nine, you will explore Chitwan National Park with a full-day jeep safari. You will travel deep into different environments like sal forests, grasslands, and riverbanks. This 6-hour trip gives you a great chance to see the park's famous wild animals, including endangered species like one-horned rhinoceros, Royal Bengal tiger, four-horned antelope, Golden monitor lizard, and many colorful birds such as storks, eagles, and hornbills.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 10: Jeep safari and walking tour

Attraction of the Day: Birding around outside the National Park

Today, we resume the adventure with a jeep safari and a walking tour at Chitwan National Park. The jeep safari will take us deep into the southwestern parts of the park to spot wildlife. The walking tour enables us to connect with nature and enjoy birdwatching. You can expect to see and capture several birds, including the Indian Roller, Lesser Adjutant Stork, and several types of kingfishers, on camera.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 11: Drive back to Kathmandu

Attraction of the Day: Thamel

Today is the second-to-last day of the bird photography tour. After breakfast in the morning, we will return to Kathmandu. We will see villages and surroundings on the drive through rural areas, giving you a new photographic experience. After arriving in Kathmandu, we will proceed to Thamel, a vibrant area characterized by its multicolored streets, local shops, and bustling street activity. You can shop on arrival in Kathmandu or relax in the hotel.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 12: Fly back to Home

On the last day of your tour, you will drive to Tribhuvan International Airport for your flight home. As we travel to the airport, consider the amazing wildlife you've seen and the great photos you've taken in Nepal. We hope you enjoyed this unforgettable tour and look forward to your coming back to experience different adventures.

Meals:

Breakfast

Trip Includes/Excludes

Include

- 2 nights in kathmandu (sharing basis)
- 3 night in Bardiya (sharing basis)
- 1 night in Nepalgunj (sharing basis)
- 2 night in Lumbini (sharing basis)
- 3 night in Chitwan (sharing basis)
- **Food:** 11 Breakfast, 10 Lunch, 09 Dinner
- All itinerary mentioned places entrance fees
- All ground transfers as per itinerary.
- Domestic flight as per itinerary
- Experienced English-speaking local guide.
- Local expert for your jungle activities
- Food for vulture during vulture restaurant tour
- Nepal onarrival visa form submission
- Free luggage storage services in Kathmandu
- Farewell dinner at the end of the trek
- Meeting with expert before your trip start

Exclude

- Accommodation: Extra night accommodation in Kathmandu, Bardia national park, Nepaljung, Lumbini, Chitwan national park, Koshi tappu wildlife reserve due to early arrival, late departure, or early return from the trek.
- All personally ordered foods and drinks.
- Single room (if no. of pax is odd number then one room will be triple)

- Visa Fees for Nepal
- International flight tickets
- Personal supporter to carry your cameras and stuff
- Personal clothing and gear, and personal expenses including shopping, snacks, drinks, alcohol, etc.
- Additional costs incurred due to causes beyond our control, for example, weather conditions, landslides, itinerary modifications, illness, government policy changes, strikes, etc.
- Tips to the crew.
- All other costs and expenses not listed in “including”

Group Discounts Available

No. of Persons	Price per Person
2 - 2	USD 1,999
3 - 3	USD 1,750
4 - 4	USD 1,680
5 - 9	USD 1,655
10+	USD 1,596

FAQs For 12 Days Birdwatching and Wildlife Photography Tour in Nepal

How long does the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour last?

The Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour takes approximately 12-15 days to finish. You get to visit some of the most beautiful national parks and wetlands throughout the tour. Each of the places has varying wildlife and bird species to view. Packed with exciting adventures, you can shoot as many photos as possible.

What type of birds and wildlife will I see during the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour?

You can expect a variety of bird species, including migratory and resident birds like the Sarus Crane and Kingfishers. Wildlife like tigers, elephants, rhinos, and deer may also be spotted during safaris. You can get photos of all these various species of plants and animals for memory.

Is the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour suitable for beginners in photography?

Yes, the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour is suitable for beginners. You will receive expert

guidance throughout the tour to help you improve your photography skills. You can use either a smartphone or a professional camera, and you will receive sufficient learning opportunities.

Do I need a special camera for the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour?

You do not need a special camera, but having a DSLR or mirrorless camera with a zoom lens will enhance your experience. If you only have a smartphone, it is still possible to capture beautiful images of wildlife. Our guides are helpful, as they can help you with tips on how to take the best photos.

How physically demanding is the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour?

The physical demands of a Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour can differ based on the location, how long the tour lasts, and the activities involved. You can expect moderate activity, like walking, light trekking on uneven ground, and standing for long periods. Some tours may start early in the morning and require navigating through dense plants or taking boat or jeep rides. While the main focus is on observing wildlife and taking photos rather than intense exercise, being reasonably fit will improve your experience and help you reach the best viewing spots.

Is the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour suitable for families?

Yes, the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour is suitable for families. It can be enjoyed by people of all ages. As you will not be hiking or participating in physically demanding activities, this tour will accommodate every individual. The pace of the tour allows families to enjoy the experience together.

Will I have access to all the major photography spots during the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour?

Yes, you will have access to all the major photography spots. As your guide will accompany you, he will grant you access to all the major prime locations where you can capture the best wildlife and bird photos. These locations are chosen for their photogenic views and abundance of species.

Are the safaris in Chitwan National Park safe?

Yes, the safaris in Chitwan National Park are safe. Whenever you are taking part in this adventure, you will be provided with a guide. He will look after everything and provide you with a safe safari experience. All necessary precautions are taken during the safari to ensure your well-being.

How many people will be in each safari group?

Each safari group consists of 2 to 10 people. This small group size ensures that you can enjoy a more personalized experience. Thus, you will get the best photography opportunities. It also allows for easier access to prime spots without overcrowding.

How do I book the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour?

To book the tour, simply contact the tour provider through their website or by phone. You will be asked for basic details and a deposit to confirm your booking. Once your booking is confirmed, you will receive a full itinerary and further instructions.

Will I have a guide for the entire tour?

Yes, you will have a guide throughout the entire tour. The guide will assist with photography, help spot wildlife, and provide you with local knowledge. They will ensure you get the most out of your experience while being safe and stress-free.

What should I wear during the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour?

Wear lightweight, breathable clothes that are comfortable for long days of walking and safaris. Neutral-colored clothing, such as khaki or brown, is ideal as it blends in with nature. Do not forget a hat, sunscreen, and sturdy shoes for walking safaris.

Best Season For 12 Days Birdwatching and Wildlife Photography Tour in Nepal

Spring (March to May)

Spring is the best time for wildlife and bird photography, with temperatures ranging from 16°C to 28°C. Lovely birds, such as the Himalayan Monal, Scarlet Minivet, and Golden-throated Barbet, can be seen during their breeding season. In Chitwan and Bardia National Parks, wild animals such as one-horned rhinos, Bengal tigers, and langurs are on the move. Flowering rhododendrons add beauty to the landscapes.

Summer/Monsoon (June to August)

Nepal's monsoon season brings rain and excellent greens. The climate ranges from 20°C to 30°C. Birds such as Red Junglefowl, Lesser Adjutant Stork, and Kingfishers can easily be seen. Resident wildlife such as deer, elephants, and crocodiles can be seen in the parks and other abundant water bodies. The forest and the melodramatic, cloudy skies create an exclusive view for photographers.

Autumn (September to November)

Autumn is also the best time for bird watching and wildlife photography in Nepal. Migratory birds, such as the Bar-headed Goose, Siberian Rubythroat, and Demoiselle Crane, complement the resident species. The weather is cool and crisp, ranging from 15°C to 25°C. It is not challenging to move around and shoot. In the autumn, animals such as wild elephants, leopards, and gharials are found in the lowlands.

Winter (December to February)

A winter season wildlife and birdwatching tour in Nepal offers a fantastic opportunity to explore diverse ecosystems, from the Terai's national parks, such as Chitwan and Koshi Tappu, known for their rich birdlife and wildlife, including rhinos and tigers, to potential excursions in the surrounding hills of the Kathmandu Valley for additional bird species. Winter offers pleasant temperatures for exploration and clearer views, making it an ideal time to spot both resident and migratory birds, as well as various mammals, while experiencing Nepal's stunning natural beauty.

Why is Nepal best for Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography?

Geography

With such diverse geography featuring the Himalayas, hills, and Terai, Nepal is one of the best destinations for wildlife and birdwatching photo sessions. The Himalayas are home to rare birds, such as the Himalayan Griffon, snow leopard, blue sheep, and Snow Partridge. Imagine taking a picture with mountains in the background; isn't it amazing? Similarly, the hills are ideal places to look for the Red Panda, musk deer, bears, monkeys, and other animals. Terai, with its perfect landscapes of grasslands and wetlands, is a superb place to capture shots of animals such as rhinos, tigers, and crocodiles. Each of these landscapes offers a distinct and unique image that captures the natural beauty of Nepal.

Natural Parks & Conservation Areas

Nepal is home to several national parks and conservation areas, offering abundant wildlife and birdwatching opportunities. In places like Chitwan National Park, you can photograph one-horned rhinos, Bengal tigers, and various bird species in their natural habitats. Bardiya National Park is home to both wild elephants and leopards. These national parks and conservation areas are well-preserved, allowing for an immersive photography experience where you can capture animals and birds in untouched environments.

Accessibility

Most of Nepal's national parks and wildlife reserves are accessible, making it easy for any photographer to travel around this rich biodiversity area. Many parks, such as Chitwan and Bardia, are only a few hours' drive from the major cities of Kathmandu and Pokhara. Therefore, it is so easy that it offers excellent opportunities for photographing wildlife and birdlife without spending a long, painstaking journey traveling to them. Time spent getting around is consequently maximized in the field to get that perfect shot.

Climate

Nepal's climate is ideal for wildlife and bird-watching photography throughout the year. In the spring and Autumn, the weather is pleasant, with temperatures ranging from 16°C to 28°C, perfect for capturing birds. The monsoon brings lush greenery, though rain can limit your time outdoors. In winter, the crisp air has temperatures ranging from 5°C to 20°C in the lowlands, but the temperatures in highland regions can drop significantly. This variety in climate ensures that every season offers something unique for wildlife and birdwatching photographers.

What to expect on a photography tour?

Access To Many Locations

Nepal's national parks and wildlife reserves are accessible, making it easy for any photographer to travel through this paradise of biodiversity. Most parks, such as Chitwan and Bardia, are only a few hours' drive from the two major cities of Kathmandu and Pokhara. It is so accessible that it offers excellent opportunities for wildlife and bird photography without requiring a long, tiring journey to get there. Time spent traveling is thus minimized in the field to get that perfect shot.

Variety of Flora and Fauna

You will be amazed to observe an extraordinary array of plant and animal species throughout this tour. The various environments you will visit are home to numerous species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and unique plants. You can shoot flowers in their natural colors, capturing species that add variety and make your photography rich and beautiful. This tour would be full of surprises every day.

Beautiful Sunrise and Sunset

Expect to witness some of the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets, which will add a magical touch to your photos. The colors of the sky during these times create a soft, golden glow on the landscape. The peaceful mornings and evenings offer the perfect atmosphere for capturing nature at its best. Whether it's the sun rising over mountains or the sunset casting shadows on the forest, these times of day will offer you stunning photo opportunities.

Expert Guidance

Throughout the tour, expert guides will provide photography tips and help you maximize every photography opportunity. They will help you learn how to use your camera, find the right angles, and capture amazing moments. With their expertise, you will discover the optimal times of day to photograph various animals and plants. They will also direct you to those few hidden treasures that may work out beautifully in your photographs. Whether you are just learning how to photograph or you are already experienced, their tips will help you gain more from photographs.

Comfortable Logistics

The logistics of the tour are designed to make your experience smooth and stress-free. Transportation is arranged, so you won't need to worry about how to get from one place to another. You will stay in cozy and relaxing accommodations, giving you the chance to rest after a day of shooting. Meals will be provided, so you can focus on your photography and enjoy the trip without stress. All the details, from transportation to accommodations, are taken care of, so you can simply enjoy the experience.

Life-time Experience

The photography tour will be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that you will remember forever. You will have the chance to visit amazing places, see incredible wildlife, and improve your photography skills. It's not just about taking pictures; it's about experiencing nature in a way you've never experienced before. You will be able to cherish the memories of a lifetime through photographs and leave with a sense of fulfillment and joy out of all the experiences shared along the way.

Accommodation during the photography Tour

During the photography tour, you will stay in 3-star hotels with comfortable and convenient accommodations. You will stay 2 nights in Kathmandu, 1 night in Nepalgunj, 2 nights in Lumbini, and 3 nights in Chitwan. During your stay in Kathmandu, the hotel will provide well-equipped rooms. You will enjoy free Wi-Fi, clean facilities, and a restaurant serving a variety of local and international dishes. In Nepal, the hotel ensures a peaceful stay with comfortable rooms. The rooms are equipped with air-conditioning and amenities to make you feel at ease after a day of travel.

In Lumbini, your accommodation will offer quiet and comfortable rooms with reliable service, perfect for

resting after exploring the area. In Chitwan, you will enjoy three nights in a hotel with modern facilities, including hot water, air conditioning, and spacious rooms. Each hotel is carefully chosen to enhance your experience, with easy access to local attractions and nature reserves for photography. After each exciting day, you will have a cozy place to rest and prepare for your next adventure.

Attractions of Chitwan National Park

Variety of Wildlife

Chitwan is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and home to 68 species of mammals, including rhinos, tigers, and sloth bears. There are also 525 species of birds, making it an ideal destination for birdwatchers. Additionally, Chitwan has 55 species of reptiles and amphibians, such as snakes and frogs, which add to its rich ecosystem and diverse variety of wildlife.

Endangered Species

Seeing endangered animals in their natural habitat is both rare and unforgettable. The elusive Bengal tiger roams the dense forests, while the one-horned rhinoceros grazes peacefully in the grasslands and riverbanks. You may also spot Asian elephants, especially during elephant-back safaris, or catch a glimpse of the Gharial crocodile, with its long, narrow snout, basking along the river. With several endangered bird species also calling Chitwan home, every sighting feels meaningful.

Ecosystem Diversity

Chitwan has a mix of dense forests, open grasslands, and rivers. This variety makes it a perfect home for many kinds of animals and plants, and it's a great place to enjoy the beauty of nature.

Safari Experiences

There are many ways to explore the park. You can join a jeep safari, ride through the jungle on elephant-back, take a peaceful canoe trip along the rivers, or go on a guided nature walk to observe animals up close. Each option gives you a chance to see wildlife from a different view.

Cultural Interactions

Beyond flora and fauna, Chitwan is also home to the Tharu people, an indigenous community with rich traditions. You can visit their villages, watch traditional cultural dances, try their local cuisine, and learn how they live in harmony with nature and help protect it. Cultural dances, heritage sites, and authentic food experiences make this a deeper and more personal journey.

Photography Opportunities

Whether you're a pro or just love taking pictures, Chitwan is full of photo opportunities. From wild animals and birds to beautiful landscapes and sunsets, every corner of the park has something worth capturing. Seasonal changes add new textures and colors to every frame.

Safari options during the tour

Elephant Rides

During the tour, you will have the opportunity to experience an elephant ride. This means that you will sit on the back of an elephant and explore the deep jungle. This unique ride lets you explore the wildlife from an elevated position. While sitting on elephants, you can also spot other animals, such as rhinos, tigers, and various species of birds and animals. It is a calm and close-up experience of the area. Chitwan National Park is mainly popular for this ride.

Jeep Safaris

The jeep safaris also provide an exciting way to explore the larger area of the national park. Jeeps travel great distances, allowing one to see various wildlife, from magnificent elephants down to very rare birds. This is an expedition of great joy and sweeping scenery to photograph, great wide-angle shots of animals in the wild, and a delightful thrill for any photographer.

Walking Tours

These tours provide a more intimate experience with nature. Led by experienced travel guides, such walks give you a close encounter with the smaller wildlife and unique plants of the area. You can soak up the tranquility of the jungle while focusing on the minute details of the natural scenery, making walking safaris a choice that suits wildlife photographers in pursuit of detail or tranquility.

Address

Address:

Galkopakha Marg - Kathmandu - Nepal