

Chitwan Jungle Safari

URL: <https://himalayan360.com/trip/chitwan-jungle-safari/>

Destination

Nepal Treks & Tours

Activity

Wildlife Tours

Start / End Point

Kathmandu/Kathmandu

Trip Type

Jungle Safari

Duration

3

Per Person From

USD 170

Group Size

1 - 20

Best Season

Mar, Apr, May, 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.

Major Highlights of Chitwan Jungle Safari

- Explore Chitwan National Park in a 4×4 vehicle with a trained guide.
- Glide along the Rapti River in a traditional dugout canoe.
- Visit the mud-and-thatch houses of the Tharu people and enjoy a stick dance performance.
- Spot over 500 species of birds, including hornbills, kingfishers, and peacocks.
- Stay in eco-friendly resorts or jungle lodges surrounded by nature.
- Join programs where you can walk beside elephants, bathe them, and learn about conservation.
- Discover local herbs and plants used by villagers for traditional medicine.
- Cycle through nearby Tharu villages and buffer areas.

3 days Chitwan Jungle Safari day by day Itinerary

Day 01: Kathmandu To Chitwan

On your first day, you'll start early from Kathmandu and drive southwest towards Chitwan. Most tourist buses leave Kathmandu around 7:00 am from your hotel. The drive follows the Prithvi highway and offers views of the Mahabharat Range, which is over 2,500 m. Tourist buses often have air conditioning and stop for lunch and refreshment along the way.

Upon arrival at Sauraha, a representative from your jungle lodge will manage your accommodation. You will be greeted with a welcome drink and have a briefing with a naturalist guide about your safari program. A traditional lunch will also be served at your hotel.

In the afternoon, you'll take a cultural tour of a Tharu village. An expert guide will walk you through the village, introduce you to the indigenous Tharu people and their traditional mud-and-thatch houses. You'll also be guided to the banks of the Rapti River to enjoy a sunset view. After sunset, you'll be taken to your hotel, where the Tharu people will perform their traditional Tharu drumming and the stick dance (Lathi Nach). This performance is a lively reflection of the local Tharu lifestyle.

Note: For a quick trip, take a 20-minute flight from Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) to Bharatpur Airport, followed by a short drive to your lodge.

Highest Altitude:

N/A

Meals:

Lunch, Dinner

Accommodations:

3-Star Hotel

Trek Distance:

N/A

Day 02: Jungle Activities Tour In Chitwan National Park

Your day begins with a wake-up call and a cup of tea or coffee at the lodge. A naturalist guide will take you for a ride in a traditional hand-carved canoe. This is the best way to observe the riverbank, where you can spot endangered gharial and marsh mugger crocodiles sunning themselves. If you're a birdwatcher, then you can enjoy spotting various aquatic birds, such as kingfishers, herons, and egrets.

The canoe ride often concludes near the Elephant Breeding Center at Khorsor. Here, you'll learn about the conservation efforts of the center and can observe baby elephants with their mothers. This government-run facility focuses on protecting and increasing the population of the Asian elephant.

After the visit, a guided jungle walk begins. The walk takes you along marked trails inside the forest, where you can spot deer, monkeys, and other wildlife. The guide explains the local flora and fauna with full safety. After returning from the walk, you go back to the hotel for lunch and a two-hour rest.

In the afternoon, around 2:00 PM, you head out for a jeep safari inside Chitwan National Park. This is the most adventurous part of the day. Accompanied by a naturalist and driver, you'll venture into the core jungle areas and grasslands to increase your chances of spotting larger wildlife. Keep an eye out for one-horned rhinos, several species of deer, wild boars, elephants, and, if you're very lucky, a Royal Bengal tiger.

The safari lasts about 4-5 hrs, ending before sunset. You'll then be driven back to your lodge to freshen up before dinner.

Highest Altitude:

N/A

Meals:

Breakfast,Lunch,Dinner

Accommodations:

3-Star Hotel

Trek Distance:

N/A

Day 03: Chitwan To Kathmandu

On this day, after breakfast, you'll start the drive back from Sauraha, Chitwan, to Kathmandu. The route moves north through Hetauda, following the Prithvi Highway. You'll cross the Rapti River again and pass through small towns and farmlands. The journey takes approximately 5-6 hrs, and you can stop briefly at roadside viewpoints to observe the rivers and surrounding hills.

You'll arrive in Kathmandu in the afternoon. After checking into your hotel, the rest of the day is free for relaxation or optional sightseeing in the city. This concludes the Chitwan Jungle Safari tour, with memories of rivers, forests, wildlife, and local culture along the route.

Highest Altitude:

N/A

Meals:

Breakfast

Accommodations:

Hotel

Trek Distance:

N/A

Tharu Culture, Rituals, Dance, And Museums

The Tharu community is the main ethnic group living around Chitwan National Park. Their lifestyle reflects a balance between agriculture, wildlife, and social harmony. The Tharu people celebrate many festivals such as **Maghi**, **Jitiya**, and **Ashtimki**, which mark seasonal changes and community unity. Their homes are made from mud, clay, and rice husk, designed to stay cool during summer and warm during winter.

Tharu women often wear colorful dresses and silver jewelry, while men participate in farming and fishing. Tharu culture comes alive through their traditional dances and music. In the evening, you can see cultural programs in Sauraha, where locals perform the **Stick Dance (Lathi Nach)**, **Mayur Dance**, and **Jhijhiya Dance**. These dances tell stories of bravery, nature, and daily life.

To understand this heritage more deeply, you can visit the **Tharu Cultural Museum** in Sauraha. The museum displays traditional tools, fishing equipment, household items, and paintings of the Tharu community.

Chitwan Jungle Safari Include/Exclude

Included Services

- Confirmable private vehicle for tour as per group size and itinerary only
- 2Nights in 3star hotel as per mentioned named in itinerary
- Meals as per Itinerary mentioned
- All entrance fees as per itinerary mentioned places
- All internal taxes
- 1Bottle/days of water during tour
- NOTE: all the jungle activities will be Group join basis.

Excluded Services

- International Airfare
- All drinks and food expect mentioned in itinerary
- Extra night except mentioned in itinerary
- All personal expenses
- All the services out of the list from Including services
- Single supplementary

Group Discounts Available

No. of Persons	Price per Person
1 - 1	USD 308
2 - 2	USD 195
3 - 20	USD 170

Chitwan Jungle Safari Tour FAQ's

Do I need special permits for the safari?

Yes, a park entry permit is required for Chitwan National Park. The permit is included in organized safari packages. You should carry an ID, and children under 10 years have reduced fees. The permit helps fund

conservation efforts, maintain park facilities, and ensure visitors comply with park rules and wildlife protection regulations.

Is Chitwan tour suitable for family trips?

Yes, Chitwan is suitable for family trips. Children and adults can enjoy an elephant safari, canoe trips, jeep safaris, and cultural programs. Lodges and hotels provide family-friendly accommodation. The guide maintains safety for all age groups.

Can I see tigers in Chitwan National Park?

Seeing tigers is rare in Chitwan National Park because they are elusive and solitary. Jeep safaris may increase your chance slightly, but there is no guarantee. Rhinos, deer, monkeys, and birds are commonly observed. Patience, quiet observation, and guidance from experienced park rangers are key to spotting wildlife, including tigers, during the safari.

Do I need to book a safari in advance?

Yes, you can book a safari in advance. Actually, Chitwan National Park is very famous, and lodges can be full during peak season. Moreover, early booking helps you to get good accommodation and a confirmed safari schedule. If you choose a package from Himalayan 360, then you don't have to worry about the accommodations and other services.

Can I use mobile data in Chitwan National Park?

Yes, you can use mobile data in and around Chitwan National Park, but coverage and speeds will vary. The park has good mobile coverage from the two main providers, Ncell and Nepal Telecom (NTC). Many lodges and resorts in Sauraha also offer Wi-Fi.

Is it possible to work online during the Chitwan Jungle Safari package?

Yes, it is possible to do some work online during the Chitwan safari. But it requires good planning and managing your expectations. The infrastructure is not as reliable as in major cities like Kathmandu or Pokhara, and you'll not be connected for much of your day.

Do I need to be very fit for the jungle safari?

No, you do not need to be very fit for the Chitwan jungle safari. The activities are accessible to people of most ages and fitness levels. The terrain is flat, and most of the travel is done by vehicle or boat.

Can people with health issues join the Chitwan Safari Tour?

Yes, people with the most common health issues can join the tour, because the standard itinerary is not physically demanding. However, travelers with certain conditions, especially those affecting mobility, balance, or heart health, must take extra precautions and inform their tour operator in advance.

Is travel insurance necessary for the safari?

Yes, travel insurance is recommended for a Chitwan safari. While the park is generally safe, safaris involve activities like jungle walks, canoeing, and jeep rides, which carry some risk of accidents or injuries. Insurance also covers unexpected conditions such as medical emergencies, flight cancellations, or lost belongings.

Do I need a porter for a safari?

No, you don't need a porter for a Chitwan safari. Unlike trekking in the mountains, safaris in Chitwan involve short walks, jeep rides, or canoe trips, and you can easily carry your personal belongings yourself.

Chitwan National Park As A UNESCO Heritage Site

Chitwan National Park was declared a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1984 for its rich biodiversity and ecosystem. Located in the subtropical lowlands of Nepal, the park covers an area of 932 sq km. This park was inscribed on the World Heritage List under three natural criteria:

- **Criterion (vii)-Exceptional natural beauty:** The landscapes of Chitwan consist of dense forests, lush grasslands, and big river systems. The backdrop of the Himalayas, like Annapurna, Manaslu, Ganesh Himal, and scenic views along the Narayani and Rapti rivers, contributes to its exceptional beauty.
- **Criterion (ix)-Biological and ecological evolution:** The park represents one of the largest and last remaining natural areas in the Terai region. It is home to a wide variety of plants and animals from the Siwalik Hills and the inner Terai plains.
- **Criterion (x): Massive natural habitat:** Chitwan provides habitat for numerous rare and endangered species. It is known for hosting a population of the one-horned rhinoceros and serving as one of the last refuges for the Bengal tiger.

While this is certainly one of the 10 UNESCO Sites in Nepal, you can tour [7 UNESCO Heritages in Kathmandu](#) alone.

Plants And Animals You Can Encounter During The Jungle Safari

Chitwan National Park is home to diverse plant species, mammals, birds, and reptiles. Here are some lists of species that you can encounter during the Jungle Safari:

Mammals	Birds	Reptiles	Plants and Trees
• One-horned rhinoceros • Royal Bengal tiger • Asian elephant • Sloth bear • Leopard • Spotted deer (Chital) • Sambar deer • Wild boar • Monkeys • Gaur (Indian bison)	• Kingfishers • Giant hornbill • Peafowl • Storks and egrets • Bengal florican • Lesser adjutant • Migratory birds like Pied Harrier, Common Teal, Northern Pintail, and Garganey	• Gharial • Mugger crocodile • Indian rock python • King cobra • Monitor lizard • Common Krait	• Sal tree • Sisso • Khair • Elephant grass • Kusum • Tendu • Bamboo • Acacia • Kapok tree

Note: Most of these endangered animals may not be seen during the safari because they are rare and prefer to stay hidden deep inside the forest.

Enjoy Local Foods, Cuisines, And Delicacies

During your stay in Chitwan, local food becomes an important part of the experience. The region is home to the Tharu community, whose cuisine includes local ingredients and simple cooking methods. Tharu dishes rice, lentils, fish, and seasonal vegetables grown in fields. One common dish is **Dhikri**, a steamed rice flour dumpling served with spicy lentil soup or curry. **Ghonghi**, a freshwater snail cooked with local spices, is another traditional food cooked in Tharu households.

You can also try **Bhakka**, a soft rice cake steamed in clay pots, and Bgiya, a rice flour dumpling filled

with lentil paste. Both are served during local festivals and cultural programs. The Tharu people also prepare Sidra, a dried fish dish that is rich in protein and cooked with mustard oil and chili. Alongside traditional foods, local restaurants in Sauraha and Bharatpur serve Nepali staples such as **Dal Bhat Tarkari**. Many lodges offer both local and continental dishes, but trying Tharu food gives a taste of Chitwan's local culture.

In the evenings, some cultural shows include a traditional Tharu dinner experience. You can eat while watching the dance performance of the Tharu. These meals are served on leaf plates and accompanied by local drinks like **Tharu rice beer** or **Aila**. Eating local food in Chitwan is more than a meal-It's a way to connect with the local community that lives there.

Do's and Don'ts during Chitwan Jungle Safari

When exploring Chitwan National Park, following certain guidelines confirms your safety and helps to protect wildlife. Observing these do's and don'ts makes your jungle safari enjoyable and responsible:

Do's:

- **Follow your guide's instructions:** Your safari guide is an expert on animal behavior and safety.
- **Stay silent and alert:** Maintain a quiet, low profile to spot wildlife and avoid startling the animals.
- **Dress appropriately:** Wear neutral-colored, lightweight clothing like khaki, beige, or olive green to blend in with the environment.
- **Bring binoculars and a camera:** Wildlife can be at a far distance, and a good pair of binoculars is essential for a great view.
- **Stay hydrated:** The Terai climate can be hot and humid, so bring plenty of water in a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the safari.
- **Use insect repellent:** Apply insect repellent during jungle walks and canoe trips to ward off mosquitoes and other insects.

Don'ts:

- **Do not get too close to animals:** Maintain a safe (50 m) distance from all wildlife.
- **Do not feed or touch the animals:** Feeding wildlife can disrupt their natural foraging behaviors, harm their health, and make them dependent on humans.
- **Do not litter:** Chitwan National Park is a protected ecosystem. Carry a bag to collect all your trash and dispose of it properly.
- **Do not walk alone between sunset and sunrise:** Walking inside the park after dark is strictly prohibited unless you have permission from the warden.
- **Do not purchase illegal products:** Do not buy any animal or plant products while on the safari. The wildlife and flora of the park are fully protected by law.

Packing Essentials For Chitwan Jungle Safari

Category	Items (Quantity / Brand)
Clothing	• 2-3 pairs of lightweight cotton T-shirts (The North Face, Columbia) • 1-2 pairs of quick-dry pants (Decathlon, Columbia) • 1 long-sleeved shirt (Patagonia, REI Co-op) • 1 light jacket or fleece (Marmot, The North Face) • 1-2 pairs of shorts (Under Armour, Decathlon) • 1 wide-brim hat or cap (Outdoor Research, Decathlon) • 2-3 pairs of sturdy shoes/walking shoes (Merrell, Salomon) • 1 pair of sandals or slippers (Teva, Crocs)
Accessories	• 1 daypack 15-25L (Osprey, Deuter) • 1 reusable water bottle (Hydro Flask, Nalgene) • 1 pair of sunglasses (Ray-Ban, Oakley) • 1 lightweight towel (Sea to Summit, Decathlon) • 1 pair of binoculars (Bushnell, Nikon) • Camera or smartphone + power bank (Canon, Anker)
Health & Hygiene	• Sunscreen SPF 30+ (Neutrogena, Nivea) • Insect repellent with DEET (OFF!, Jungle Formula) • Hand sanitizer & wet wipes (Dettol, Purell) • Personal medications • First aid kit (Adventure Medical Kits, Lifeline) • Oral rehydration salts (ORS, DripDrop)
Optional Items	• Notebook & pen (Moleskine, Pilot) • Rain cover for backpack (Sea to Summit, Osprey) • Travel guidebook or map (Lonely Planet, Bradt Guides)

Address

Address:

Galkopakha Marg - Kathmandu - Nepal