

# Patan and Bhaktapur Tour

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## Destination

Nepal Treks & Tours

## Activity

Day Tours

## Start / End Point

Thamel/Thamel

## Trip Type

Day Tour

## Route

Patan - Bhaktapur

## Duration

1

## Language

## Per Person From

USD 32

## Group Size

1 - 20

## Best Season

All Season

## Transportation

Private Vehicle

## Meals

N/A

## 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 Sights of Patan and Bhaktapur Tour

- Explore the Royal Palaces in **Patan Durbar Square**, built in the *17th century*.
- Visit **3 main courtyards** - Keshav Narayan Chowk, Sundari Chowk, and Mul Chowk in Patan Durbar Square.
- Admire the famous **Krishna Temple** and **Jagat Narayan Temple**.
- Discover historic art at the **Patan Museum**.
- Visit the sacred **Golden Temple** (Hiranyavarna Mahavihar).
- See the **ancient water spout** Tusha Hiti, still in use today.
- Visit the iconic **55 Windows Palace** in Bhaktapur Durbar Square.
- See the beautifully crafted **Golden Gate**, the entrance to the Bhaktapur Durbar.

- Explore temples like **Nyatapola**, **Bhairavnath**, and **Vatsala Temple**.
- Walk through local markets filled with handicrafts and jewelry.
- Watch **traditional pottery making** at Pottery Square.

## Patan and Bhaktapur Day Tour Itinerary

### Day 01: Drive To Patan Then, To Bhaktapur

Our representative will pick you up from your hotel at **9:00 AM**. After that, you will head towards **Patan** with your tour guide. The drive can take **25 minutes** if there is no traffic, and will extend depending on the traffic. Once you arrive at Patan Durbar Square, you will buy your entry ticket and start exploring. The square has **several ancient temples, royal palaces, and courtyards** that display the best of Newari architecture. Must-visit sites include the **Krishna Mandir** and the **Golden Temple** (Hiranya Varna Mahavihar). Walking through the narrow lanes of Patan, you can also see traditional Newari houses, local workshops, and small hidden shrines.

You will also visit the **Patan Museum**, which is a short walk from the square. It has a wonderful collection of artifacts, sculptures, and religious art from different periods of Nepal's history. After Patan, you will drive towards **Bhaktapur**, an ancient Newari city about 13KM east of Kathmandu. This heritage town is famous for its temples, squares, traditional houses, and local crafts. The core heritage zone of Bhaktapur, including Durbar Square, is a pedestrian-only area, making it a peaceful place to walk around. You can see artisans making pottery, wood carvings, and handmade souvenirs using centuries-old techniques.

The highlight of Bhaktapur is the Durbar Square, home to the historic 55-Window Palace. The palace's Golden Gate leads to the Taleju Temple, one of the city's most sacred sites. Before leaving, don't miss tasting Bhaktapur's specialty dessert, **Ju Ju Dhau** (King of Yogurt), a creamy curd loved by locals and visitors alike. At around 5:00 PM, you will drive back to Kathmandu city, completing a full-day tour of Bhaktapur and Patan Durbar Square.

#### Meals:

N/A

#### Accommodations:

N/A

## Trip Include and Exclude

### Included Services

- Confirmable private vehicle for the tour as per the Group size and itinerary only.
- English-speaking guide.

- All internal taxes.
- Special JUJU dhau yogurt in Bhaktapur.
- 1Bottle/days of water during tour.

## Excluded Services

- International Airfare.
- All entrance fees as per the itinerary mentioned places.
- All personal expenses.
- All the services out of the list from “Including” services.
- Tips for the crew member (it is expected).
- Drinks and food during the tour.

## Group Discounts Available

| No. of Persons | Price per Person |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1 - 1          | USD 75           |
| 2 - 2          | USD 50           |
| 3 - 5          | USD 38           |
| 6 - 20         | USD 32           |

## FAQs for Patan and Bhaktapur Day Tour

### Are the entrance fees included in the tour price?

No, entrance fees are usually not included in the tour price. You need to pay at the ticket counter when you arrive at each site. It's best to carry Nepalese Rupees (NPR) in cash, as cards are not accepted.

### What kind of transportation is used for the tour?

We use comfortable private vehicles for the day tour. The type of vehicle (car, van, or bus) depends on the size of your group. Private transport lets you travel comfortably at your own pace and avoids the hassle of public transport.

### Is a tour guide provided, and what languages do they speak?

Yes, a professional tour guide is included. Guides provide history, culture, and architecture information about the sites. Our guides are fluent in English, and we can offer tours in other languages on request.

## Is this tour suitable for all ages and fitness levels?

We recommend this tour for all age groups and fitness levels, as the tour is easy. However, note that you need to do a fair amount of walking. So, wear comfortable shoes.

## What is the proper etiquette for visiting temples and religious sites?

Nepal is very spiritual. When visiting temples in Patan and Bhaktapur, always remove your shoes before entering temples or private homes. Also, walk clockwise around stupas and prayer wheels. Avoid touching religious objects and never point with your feet.

## Where can I buy local crafts as souvenirs during the tour?

You can buy crafts from local shops near the Durbar Square areas. Bhaktapur is famous for pottery and wood carvings, while Patan is known for metalwork. Buying directly from artisans supports traditional skills and gives you unique souvenirs.

## Patan Durbar Square as UNESCO World Heritage Site

Patan Durbar Square, in the *heart of the city of Lalitpur* (Patan), is one of the most beautiful [UNESCO World Heritage Sites in the Kathmandu Valley](#). It is famous for its **mix of Hindu and Buddhist monuments**, Newar architecture, and lively courtyards. The square is full of temples, shrines, ancient royal palaces, and museums that show the art and culture of medieval Nepal. Some major attractions around Patan Durbar Square area include:

1. **Krishna Mandir:** The Krishna Mandir is a stone temple built in the *Shikhara style* by **King Siddhi Narasingha Malla**. It has **21 golden pinnacles** and is dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple shows carvings of Vishnu's ten avatars and stories from the Mahabharata and Ramayana. A statue of Garuda, Vishnu's mount, stands in front of the temple. Every year, during Krishnasthmi (Bhadra month), many devotees gather here.
2. **Patan Museum:** The Patan Museum is part of the old royal palace and is one of the best museums in South Asia. It has Hindu and Buddhist statues, stone carvings, paintings, and inscriptions from as early as the **Lichhavi period** (4th-9th century). The museum also shows the **17th-century throne of King Shree Niwas Malla** and old photographs of Lalitpur and Kathmandu.
3. **Mul Chowk:** Mul Chowk is the main courtyard of the palace and was used for royal ceremonies. It is surrounded by smaller temples and shrines, including the **Taleju Temple**, dedicated to the royal goddess Taleju Bhawani. It is still an important place for Hindu rituals.
4. **Sundari Chowk & Tusha Hiti:** Sundari Chowk is famous for its wood and stone carvings. At its center is **Tusha Hiti**, *a sunken royal bath built in 1647 AD by King Siddhi Narsingha Malla*. The bath has beautiful images of gods and goddesses and was used for purification and religious ceremonies.
5. **Keshav Narayan Chowk:** Located north of Mul Chowk, Keshav Narayan Chowk now houses the Patan Museum. Its main attraction is the Keshav Narayan Temple, decorated with a **golden gateway** (torana) and surrounded by **royal Newar architecture**.
6. **Golden Temple (Hiranya Varna Mahavihar):** It is a **12th-century Buddhist monastery** located just 200 meters north of the square. It has a copper-plated facade and a peaceful courtyard guarded by stone elephants. Inside, there is a statue of *Shakyamuni Buddha* and a smaller shrine with a replica of the Swayambhunath Stupa. The temple complex also includes **Lokeshwor Gumba**, dedicated to *Avalokiteshvara*, the Bodhisattva of Compassion. This temple

shows the blend of Buddhist and Hindu traditions that makes Patan special.

## Bhaktapur Durbar Square as UNESCO World Heritage Site

Long ago, Bhaktapur Durbar Square was the palace of the Malla kings, but today it is like a living museum showing Nepalese culture, art, and architecture. The square is famous for its temples, palaces, and courtyards, as well as its busy markets, where you can buy handicrafts, pottery, jewelry, and traditional clothes. During festivals like Bisket Jatra, Indra Jatra, Gai Jatra, and other Newar celebrations, the square becomes lively with ancient rituals and local traditions. Some of the notable places inside Bhaktapur Durbar Square include:

1. **55 Windows Palace:** The 55 Windows Palace was initially built by **King Bhupatindra Malla** and completed by **Jaya Ranjit Malla**. The palace is known for its 55 intricately carved windows, which show amazing Newar craftsmanship. *It is not allowed to enter inside after the 1934 earthquake, but visitors can see the courtyards, the Golden Gate (Sun Dhoka), and the Naga Pokhari, a pond surrounded by stone snakes.* The palace also has the **Taleju Temple**, which is open only to Hindus.
2. **Nyatapola Temple:** The Nyatapola Temple is the **tallest temple in Nepal**, about 30 meters high. Built by **King Bhupatindra Malla**, it is dedicated to *Goddess Siddhi Lakshmi*. The stairs leading up to the temple have large stone statues of wrestlers, elephants, lions, griffins, and gods. Only priests can enter the main temple. Visitors can climb the terraces to admire the carvings and enjoy the views of the square.
3. **Lion Gate:** The Lion Gate is the main entrance to the palace. The gate has two big stone lions. A legend says that King Bhupatindra Malla liked it so much that he had the artist's hands cut off so it could never be copied. The gate is now a symbol of royal power and protection for Bhaktapur.
4. **Bhairavnath Temple:** The Bhairavnath Temple is a three-story temple dedicated to Bhairava, a fierce form of Lord Shiva. The first one-storey small shrine was built in the **15th century**, and later King Bhupatindra Malla added two more storeys in 1717. Inside is a huge **12-foot-long statue of Bhairava**. Many people visit during **Bhairav Ashtami** and **Bhairav Jayanthi** to pray for **protection from evil and bad luck**.
5. **Vatsala Temple and Big Bell:** The Vatsala Temple is a beautiful stone temple in Shikhara style, dedicated to *Goddess Vatsala Devi*. It is famous for its fine stone carvings and detailed craftsmanship. Next to it is the *"Dog Barking Bell"* or *Big Bell*, built in **1737 AD by King Ranjit Malla**. People believed that ringing the bell could silence dogs and evil spirits. The temple was damaged in the 2015 earthquake, but restoration work is bringing back its original beauty.
6. **Taleju Bhawani:** The Taleju Temple is dedicated to Devi Taleju Bhawani, the clan goddess of the Malla kings. In the past, only kings could enter, but now it is open to Hindus. The temple is believed to be built in the **shape of a Tantric mandala** (Yantra), a sacred Mandala pattern. It is located in the courtyard to the left when you enter through the Golden Gate. Visitors can see the temple from the outside, and on the **ninth day of Dashain, devotees are allowed to go inside to offer prayers**.

## Permits and Entrance Fees for Patan and Bhaktapur Tour

Visitors need to pay entrance fees when visiting Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Patan Durbar Square.

These fees help maintain, preserve, and restore these important UNESCO World Heritage Sites.  
Here is a breakdown of the fees:

| Site                                          | SAARC Nationals | Foreign Visitors   | Chinese Visitors |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Patan Durbar Square &amp; Patan Museum</b> | NPR 250         | NPR 1,000          | NPR 1,000        |
| <b>Golden Temple (Patan)</b>                  | NPR 50          | NPR 100            | NPR 100          |
| <b>Bhaktapur Durbar Square</b>                | NPR 500         | USD 18 / NPR 1,800 | NPR 500          |
| <b>National Art Museum, Bhaktapur</b>         | NPR 50          | NPR 150            | NPR 150          |

**Important Note:** *Children below 10 years can enter Bhaktapur Durbar Square for free. The Golden Temple (Patan) is closed on Buddha Jayanti, and the National Art Museum is closed on Tuesdays.*

## Address

Address:

Galkopakha Marg - Kathmandu - Nepal