

Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour

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

Destination

Nepal Treks & Tours

Activity

Wildlife Tours

Start / End Point

Kathmandu/Kathmandu

Route

Lumbini, Chitwan National Park

Duration

9

Language**Per Person From**

USD 1,011

Group Size

2 - 20

Best Season

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

Transportation

Private Vehicle

Accommodation

3-Star hotel

Meals

B.L.D 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 Wildlife Bird Watching Tour In Nepal

- A scenic drive from Kathmandu to Lumbini through an adventurous hilly route.
- An exploration tour around Lumbini for birdwatching.
- A unique dining experience at Vulture Restaurant.
- Jeep safari inside the Chitwan National Park.
- A closer look at the varied wildlife in their natural home.

- A short tour on the outskirts of the Chitwan National Park for birdwatching and connecting with locals.

9 Days Itinerary of Wildlife Birdwatching Photography Tour

Day 01: Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu and Transfer to Hotel

On the first day, you will arrive at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Upon arrival, our team will welcome you and transfer you to the hotel in Thamel. At the hotel, you will rest for a few hours and become accustomed to the surroundings. You can dedicate the rest of the time to exploring the nearby places before preparing for the next day.

Meals:

No meals included

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 02: Drive to Lumbini

- **Attraction of the Day:** Lumbini wet Land and bird

On the second day, we will begin our journey towards Lumbini by Private vehicle as per our group size. The drive will take us through a scenic route offering a glimpse into the beautiful landscape of Nepal. After about 7 hours of driving, we will arrive at Lumbini. Upon arrival, we will explore the city in the evening. A short walk around the city will let us connect with locals and learn about the city's cultural heritage. As the sunlight fades away, we will return to the hotel and settle down for the night.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 03: Bird Watching Tour Around Lumbini

- **Attraction of the Day:** Lumbini Wetland and Jagdishpur Taal

Today, we'll explore the rich birdlife around Lumbini's wetlands. Our main destination is Jagdishpur Lake, a popular spot for birdwatching. With a bit of luck, we may spot rare and endangered birds such as the Sarus Crane, Lesser Adjutant, and Bengal Florican. Further, a knowledgeable local guide will accompany you, who will share interesting facts about the region's birds, plants, and wildlife. You'll also have plenty of opportunities to take photos of the birds and go on wildlife nature tours, making it an enriching experience.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 04: Drive to Chitwan National Park via Vulture Restaurant

- **Attraction of the Day:** Vulture Restaurant and Chitwan National Park

The trip continues on the fourth day. Today we will drive towards the Chitwan National Park. Our first stop will be at a unique community-managed Vulture Restaurant. We will make a short stop at this restaurant and enjoy watching the vultures flying in the distance. We will also have a chance to take a few pictures of these majestic creatures. We will then continue our journey towards Chitwan National Park. Upon arrival, we will check in at the hotel and rest for the night.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 05: Full Day Jeep Safari Inside Chitwan National Park

- **Attraction of the Day:** Wildlife and bird watching inside the National Park

Today is the most entertaining and productive day of our journey, as we will tour Chitwan National Park by jeep. As we tour through the heart of the park, we may encounter animals such as the Bengal tiger, deer, and wild boar, along with many species of birds in their natural habitat during our bird photography tours. This is a great opportunity for wildlife photographers to take photos of animals against the park's stunning backdrops. Our experienced tour leader will ensure the safari is both safe and informative, reminding us to observe wildlife respectfully and from a safe distance.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 06: Walking and Jeep Safari Around the National Park

- **Attraction of the Day:** Wildlife and bird watching inside the national park

Today, we'll continue our wildlife adventure with a jeep safari into new parts of Chitwan National Park that we didn't cover yesterday. Every corner of the park offers something different, so keep your eyes open for new sightings. In the afternoon, we'll also take a short guided walk along the edge of the park. This walking safari gives us a chance to take in every part of the jungle, from colorful birds and butterflies to the rich plant life that thrives here.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 07: Jeep safari and Walking Tour

- **Attraction of the Day:** Birding around outside the National Park

On our last day in Chitwan, we'll explore some of the quieter, lesser-known parts of the park. These areas are ideal for spotting shy or rare birds and animals, such as four-horned antelopes, Pangolins, golden monitor lizards, Pythons, Bengal floricans, lesser floricans, giant hornbills, and black storks, that are not typically found on the usual safari routes. Later in the day, we'll head outside the park to visit a nearby Tharu village. Here, we'll get a taste of local life and try some delicious traditional Tharu dishes.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 08: Drive Back to Kathmandu

- **Attraction of the Day:** Thamel

After a fun time in Chitwan National Park, we will drive back to Kathmandu today. Following an early morning breakfast, we will begin our journey to the capital to catch a flight back home. Along the way, we will take a few stops before arriving at Kathmandu in the evening. Upon arrival, our guide will assist you in returning to the hotel. After resting your bags at the hotel, you can spend the evening exploring the vibrant city for one last time before returning home.

Meals:

Breakfast, Lunch

Accommodations:

3 Star Hotel

Day 09: Fly Back Home

Today is the day we say goodbye to Nepal and fly back home. A few hours before our flight, we will check out of the hotel and drive to Tribhuvan International Airport. Upon reaching here, we will share our goodbyes and enter the terminal, reminiscing about the incredible time we had here. Namaste. Have a safe flight.

Meals:

Breakfast

Trip Includes/Excludes

Include

- 2 nights in kathmandu (sharing basis)
- 2 night in Lumbini (sharing basis)
- 4 night in Chitwan (sharing basis)
- **Food:** 8 Breakfast, 7 Lunch, 6 Dinner
- All itinerary mentioned places entrance fees
- All ground transfers as per itinerary.
- Experienced English-speaking local guide.
- Local expert for your jungle activities
- Food for vulture during vulture restaurant tour
- Nepal on arrival 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, Lumbini, Chitwan national park 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 and Domestic 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 1,388
3 - 3	USD 1,199
4 - 4	USD 1,099
5 - 9	USD 1,055
10+	USD 1,011

FAQ's about Wildlife & Birdwatching Photography Tour

Do I need to be an experienced photographer to join a tour?

No, you do not need to be an experienced photographer to join a tour. These group tours are ideal for photographers of all skill levels. Anyone interested in watching and capturing wildlife is welcome to join the tour. You will be guided throughout the tour to take perfect wildlife and bird images.

Will I be able to photograph rare or endangered species?

Wildlife photography tours primarily focus on locations that are home to rare and endangered animals. Although it is hard to guarantee their sightings, these tours maximize your chances of seeing them. The only thing you will need to do is stay aware of the surroundings.

Do I need any special permits to photograph wildlife?

In most cases, taking pictures of wildlife is free of charge. However, if you are doing it for commercial purposes, you will need to collect a special permit from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC).

What is the best time of the day for wildlife photography?

Early morning and late afternoon are the best times of the day for wildlife photography. The sunlight during this time creates a beautiful backdrop and perfect lighting for taking stunning photos. Animals are also more active at this time, making numerous appearances.

Is the tour physically demanding?

Compared to other physical activities, such as hiking, running, or climbing, wildlife photography tours are less physically demanding. However, waking up early and carrying heavy gear can get slightly challenging for someone with less experience.

Can I bring a drone for aerial shots?

Yes, you can bring a drone for aerial shots of wild animals and birds. But if your drone weighs more than 2 kg, you must collect a permit from the Department of Tourism, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. A drone can give you a wide view of the area and help you spot animals.

Will I get help identifying the species I photograph?

Yes, you will get all the help identifying the species you photograph on the tour. A knowledgeable guide accompanying you is always happy to share the information you need. They can even give you some photography tips.

Are these tours eco-friendly and sustainable?

Yes, the wildlife photography tours are both eco-friendly and sustainable. The tours are often conducted under guidance, ensuring the safety of the environment. Some tours even adhere to strict guidelines for wildlife viewing. This makes sure that human activities have no negative impact on the ecosystem.

Can I use a smartphone for wildlife photography?

While cameras have an advantage over smartphones, you can still use a smartphone for wildlife photography. It can be used to capture smaller animals or document sightings. Carrying just a small phone instead of a camera can also lower the extra weight on your shoulder.

Are there age restrictions for wildlife photography tours?

Wildlife photography tours are open to individuals of all age groups. However, it is essential for people traveling with children to take proper care of them in the wilderness. For elderly people, a jeep safari can still be fun, but photography can be quite challenging.

Is a telephoto lens necessary for bird photography?

If you have access to a telephoto lens, bringing it along on the tour can be an ideal choice. It can be pretty helpful when capturing birds resting at the top of trees without getting too close to them. You can still make it work without a telephoto lens by focusing on other aspects of bird photography.

Can I use the photos taken during the tour for commercial purposes?

If you have already obtained the permit for a commercial photoshoot, you are free to use the images captured during the tour as you see fit. However, tourists who haven't obtained the permits may need to obtain permission from the location before using the photos commercially.

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

As for clothing, clothes made of breathable fabrics are highly recommended. Such garments will help you stay comfortable throughout the day. Wearing neutral colors like khaki and brown will further help you blend with the environment. Also, be sure to carry a hat, sunglasses, sunscreen, and a light jacket.

How large will the Group be?

The group typically consists of 2 to 10 people. The small group size will allow you to enjoy the photography tour much more effectively. This will also ensure safety as the guides can easily keep track of all the people.

Are the safaris in Chitwan National Park Safe?

Yes, the safaris in Chitwan National Park are completely safe. You will be guided throughout the tour by a knowledgeable guide. They will also keep track of your movement and provide you with all the necessary safety information beforehand.

Why Choose Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tours

Wildlife and birdwatching photo tours are an excellent way for photographers of all skill levels to enjoy nature and improve their photography skills. These tours take you to diverse natural environments where you can spot and photograph various animals and birds in their natural habitats. You'll also have the chance to learn from expert guides and get tips to sharpen your skills.

Several Moments for Wildlife Photography

Wildlife and birdwatching photography tours are a perfect way to capture stunning images of animals in their natural habitats. Whether it's the majestic flight of a bird or the intimate moments of wildlife, you'll have unparalleled access to subjects in their undisturbed settings. Further, the expert guides know the best times and places for photography, helping you catch those once-in-a-lifetime shots.

Expert Guidance and Insight

Most wildlife and birdwatching tours come with knowledgeable guides who are experienced in both the species you're photographing and the landscape around you. They'll help you understand animal behavior, habitats, and migration patterns. The knowledge these people hold can also be beneficial during an uncertain animal encounter.

Opportunity to Learn New Photography Techniques

Whether you're a seasoned photographer or a beginner, these tours provide an excellent opportunity to improve your skills. Guides often offer tips on capturing wildlife in motion, perfecting composition, and using natural light to your advantage, all while you practice in real-world settings.

Comfortable Travel with Private Vehicles

These tours are a hassle-free experience. Meaning that throughout the trip, you will travel comfortably via private vehicles both in remote landscapes and wildlife-rich areas. There is no need to worry about crowded buses or navigating challenging terrains. Everything is arranged to ensure your comfort and allow you to focus on the photography.

Presence of Quality Accommodations

The tours offer quality accommodations to suit every budget range. You can choose between a lodge, a hotel, or a homestay. These accommodations provide the necessary facilities to ensure a restful stay after a long day of exploring and shooting. Thus, you'll be able to unwind in a comfortable setting, often with scenic views. You can also connect with fellow photographers over dinner in the communal dining hall.

Access to Exclusive Locations and Rare Sightings

Lumbini Wetlands



Lumbini Wetlands are an ideal spot for birdwatching. The spiritual city has more than 20 wetlands spread across Kapilvastu and Rupandehi districts, which are home to over 200 species of birds. These wetlands are considered important habitats for many wildlife species. Visiting such wetlands would allow you to see majestic birds, such as the Sarus Crane, Cormorants, Kingfishers, and many more.

Jagdishpur Tal



Among all the wetlands in Lumbini, Jagdishpur Tal is one of the largest and most significant water reservoirs. About 45 species of birds call this place home. Every winter, Jagdishpur Lake becomes a haven for migratory birds from distant countries, including Siberia, China, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, and Kyrgyzstan. According to conservationists, a variety of bird species like common coot, gadwall, lesser whistling duck, tufted duck, ferruginous duck, northern pintail, northern shoveler, Eurasian wigeon, common pochard, and cotton pygmy-goose flock to the lake every winter. At Jagdishpur Tal, you will have the opportunity to show your macro photography skills.

Vulture Restaurant



Jatayau Vulture Restaurant, also known as Vulture Restaurant, is a community-owned establishment located in Pithauli, Nawalparasi District. It is a perfect place to watch and feed various species of vultures. As a feeding place for vultures, visiting this place will give you enough opportunity to capture

these birds in the best possible way. Moreover, the restaurant also offers homestay facilities for people willing to spend time in nature.

Chitwan National Park



As one of the largest wildlife conservation areas in Nepal, Chitwan National Park is the major attraction of our entire wildlife photography trips. The park is home to over 50 species of mammals, 525 species of birds, and 55 types of amphibians and reptiles. Some of the endangered animals you can find here include the one-horned rhinoceros, the Royal Bengal tiger, the wild elephant, the gaur (Indian bison), the four-horned antelope, the pangolin, the golden monitor lizard, and the python. Among the rare birds are the Bengal florican, lesser florican, giant hornbill, black stork, and white stork.

Bird Species to Watch in Nepal

With an ever-changing landscape and a country rich in natural beauty, Nepal has long been a haven for birds of various species. A perfect climate, dense forests, and diverse habitats attract tropical birds and animals from all around the globe to Nepal. Here, you will find endangered birds that inhabit grasslands, wetlands, and forests. You can expect to see the Bengal Florican, Great Hornbill, Large Warbler, and Deep-blue Kingfisher, among others. These birds have been a major part of the region's fauna for a long time.

Meanwhile, touring the Chitwan National Park will offer a glimpse of birds like the Red-vented bulbul, lesser adjutant, black drongo, and many others. However, over time, it has become increasingly difficult to spot these birds due to their declining numbers. Climate change and habitat loss, resulting from human decisions, are the primary factors affecting them. Therefore, it is essential to follow responsible tourism practices and observe these birds from a safe distance, without harming them or their habitat.

Cost of the Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour

At Himalayan360, the cost of the wildlife bird watching and photography trip is USD 1,388 per person, given a group size of 2 people. However, the price decreases with the increase in the number of people in the group. Check out the table below for detailed pricing:

Group Size	Price (per person)
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2 pax	USD 1,388.00
3 pax	USD 1,199.00
4 pax	USD 1,099.00
5 - 9 pax	USD 1,055.00
10+	USD 1,011.00

Tips for Capturing Wildlife and Birds

Capture Action and Emotion

Wildlife photos are often more pleasing when captured in action. Photos captured while the animals are in motion enhance the overall quality of the photo. Needless to say, you will have several photo opportunities. You can look for birds flying, predators hunting, or animals interacting with one another. However, for a perfect shot, you might want to consider taking burst or continuous shots.

Stay Patient

While capturing wildlife through a lens, staying patient is a crucial skill to master. Animals in dense forests often try to remain undisturbed and rarely move around, making them difficult to spot. And even if you spot one, waiting for a perfect shot will further test your patience. You might have to spend hours in the same spot trying to capture the perfect shot.

Shoot in the Right Light

Lighting plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of the pictures. Wildlife photos often look great during the early morning or the evening. With sunlight creating a golden hue, taking a perfect shot gets easier at this time of the day. Similarly, golden hours are also an ideal time for animals to roam around. This makes it far easier for you to spot rare and endangered species.

Respect Wildlife and their Habitat

Wildlife in the forest generally prefers an undisturbed environment. Although they are not capable of conveying messages to human, we must always respect their space. While taking their pictures, it is important not to interfere with them and to observe them from a distance. Moreover, we must always follow the key principle of leaving no trace behind to keep their habitat safe for their survival.

Photography Challenges in Nepal's Wilderness

Unpredictable Weather

With varying landscapes, the weather in Nepal keeps changing quite frequently. Unpredictable rain and swift winds are quite common in forest areas, where most wild animals are found. These uncertain weather changes can disturb wildlife and the lens while taking pictures. Additionally, due to rain, the paths leading to the animal habitats may also become slippery, making it even more challenging for photographers.

Safety Concerns

Roaming in the wild forest without proper guidance is quite risky. One may encounter animals like tigers, rhinoceroses, and venomous snakes in the deep forest. And without adequate knowledge of these animals, you will find it hard to face them or know what to do. Similarly, the sloppy trails make the photo safari even more dangerous. There is always a risk of falling off a cliff and getting severely injured.

Managing Low Light

Another challenge is managing low light. Large trees and bushes covered the forest area, so there is always low light and shadow in the area. Due to this, capturing a desired image becomes impossible for photographers.

Dense Vegetation

As mentioned earlier, the most photogenic wild animals are found in deep forests. The dense vegetation covering the landscape creates a perfect yet challenging environment for photography. Navigating through this area while also looking for animal movements gets quite difficult. You must always stay aware of your surroundings and pay attention to the sounds for a perfect shot.

Adjusting to Dynamic Wildlife Movements

Wildlife movements are hard to predict. Most animals exhibit fluctuating behavior in response to their surroundings. It is hard for any photographer to adapt to the changing behavior and movement. You will need to reflect quickly, make keen observations, and develop sharp skills. Doing this is challenging for a beginner or an intermediate photographer, which can ruin the entire experience.

Preparing for a Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography Tour

A wildlife and birdwatching tour focuses on photographing in Nepal is a great experience. But the real challenge is getting perfect shots on the lenses. So, prepare thoroughly beforehand. The first thing you will need to do is prepare a list of animals you wish to see and select the locations accordingly. After you have your list, try and understand the behavior of these animals through proper research.

Similarly, familiarize yourself with their habitat, response to human interaction, and, most importantly, their activity pattern. Now, you can start packing all the necessary gear, including your camera, lenses, tripod, proper clothing, sturdy footwear, and so on. Additionally, pack some extra batteries for your camera and a first aid kit for emergencies. A [14 days wildlife and birdwatching photography tour](#) may also suit you if you are looking for a little longer tour experience.

Jeep Safari Inside Chitwan National Park

A jeep safari inside Chitwan National Park is a truly unforgettable experience. As you travel through the park's dense forest and grasslands, various animals and birds make an appearance. You might see a famous one-horned rhinoceros, colorful kingfishers, and soaring eagles. You may also encounter deer, wild boars, and even the Bengal tiger if you are lucky enough.

Watching these animals up close is a truly adventurous and exciting experience. In addition to large animals, Chitwan National Park is also home to a variety of smaller wildlife. Monkeys are quite common, while crocodiles may appear to be lounging by the riverbanks. As a home of several creatures, the park is full of surprises. All in all, the park is a heaven for animal lovers, offering a chance to witness a wide range of wildlife.

Gear Recommendations for Wildlife and Birdwatching Photography

Cameras and Lenses

- DSLR or Mirrorless Camera with fast autofocus and high burst rate (e.g., Canon R5, Sony A1, Nikon Z9)
- Telephoto Lens (300mm, 400mm, or 600mm focal length)
- Wide-angle Lens
- Macro Lens

Tripods and Supports

- Sturdy tripod with a gimbal head for stability and smooth tracking
- Monopod for mobility in rugged terrains
- A bean bag for stabilization when shooting from vehicles

Accessories

- Spare batteries and memory cards (high capacity and fast speed)
- External flash with a diffuser for low-light conditions
- Camera rain cover for protection against weather elements
- Polarizing filter to reduce glare and enhance colors

Clothing and Gear for Comfort

- Camouflage clothing or neutral colors
- Weatherproof jacket and pants
- Lightweight hiking boots
- Hat and sunglasses for sun protection

Carrying and Storage

- Padded camera backpack for easy transport and organization
- Dry bags for additional waterproofing
- Lens cleaning kit to keep gear dust-free

Tech and Navigation

- A GPS device or a smartphone with mapping apps for navigation
- Field guide apps for identifying species

Optional Equipment

- Remote shutter release for minimizing camera shake
- Teleconverters for extending the lens focal length
- Binoculars for scouting subjects before photographing
- Portable power bank for charging devices on the go

Address

Address:

Galkopakha Marg – Kathmandu – Nepal