

NEPAL



Capital:	Kathmandu (1.264 684)
Area	
Total:	147.181 sq. km
% water:	2,8 %
Population	
Total:	29.5 millions

Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia. It is bordered by China to the north, and India to the south, east and west. The Himalaya mountain range runs across Nepal's northern and western parts, and eight of the world's ten highest mountains, including the highest, Mount Everest, are within its territory.

TOURISM SECTOR PROFILE

Nepal is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of bio-diversity due to its unique geographical position and altitude variation. The elevation of the country ranges from 60 meters above sea level to the highest point on earth, Mt. Everest at 8,848 meters, all within a distance of 150 kilometres resulting in climatic conditions from sub-tropical to arctic. This wild variation fosters an incredible variety of ecosystems, the greatest mountain range on earth, thick tropical jungles teeming with a wealth of wildlife, thundering rivers, forested hills and frozen valleys.



Within this spectacular geography is also one of the richest cultural landscapes anywhere. The country is a potpourri of ethnic groups and sub-groups who speak over 93 languages and dialects. Nepal offers an astonishing diversity of sightseeing attractions and adventure opportunities found nowhere else on earth.



Whether it is in the short term or long term plan of the government, the importance of tourism is clearly mentioned. In terms of foreign exchange, the tourism has a major contribution as it is still one of the major foreign currency earners. In overall GDP, the Travel & Tourism Industry is expected to contribute directly 3.0% to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008 (NPR20.5 bn or US\$318.9 mn), rising in nominal terms to NPR50.8 bn or US\$538.1 mn (3.6% of total) by 2018. The T&T Economy contribution (% of total) should rise from 6.8% (NPR46.1 bn or US\$716.5 mn) to 7.9% (NPR110.7 bn or US\$1,172.9 mn) in this same period. In terms of employment, the tourism provides employment opportunity for large number of population. Travel & Tourism Economy employment is estimated at 548,000 jobs in 2008, 5.3% of total employment, or 1 in every 18.8 jobs. By 2018, this should total 824,000 jobs, 6.2% of total employment or 1 in every 16.0 jobs. The 237,000 T&T Direct Industry jobs account for 2.3% of total employment in 2007 and are forecast to total 369,000 jobs or 2.8% of the total by 2018.

MAIN DESTINATION IN NEPAL

- **Katmandu**



Kathmandu is really two cities: a fabled capital of convivial pilgrims and carved rose-brick temples, and a frenetic sprawl of modern towers, mobbed by beggars and monkeys and smothered in diesel fumes. It simultaneously reeks of history and the encroaching wear and tear of the modern world. Kathmandu (4500 ft) is Nepal's largest city and the International airport.

- **Pokhara**



Pokhara (4000 ft) is a scenic town 198 km from Kathmandu accessible via a short flight. In no other place do mountains rise so quickly. In this area, within 30 km, the elevation rises from 1000 m to over 8000 m. Lake in Pokhara and surrounding Himalayan views are the main attractions. The city is also base for trekking around the area.

- **Chitwan National Park**



It stands today as a successful testimony of nature conservation in South Asia. This is the first national park of Nepal established in 1973 to preserve a unique ecosystem significantly valuable to the whole world. The park covering a pristine area of 932 sq. km is situated in the subtropical inner Terai lowlands of southern central part of Nepal. Chitwan is the Tiger Country where rare population of Royal Bengal Tiger can be sighted. Chitwan National Park is home 43 species of mammals, 450 species of birds, and 45 species of amphibians and reptiles.

- **Janakpur dham**

It's indisputably the Terai's most fascinating city, located approximately 400 KM south-east of Kathmandu and just a 22 KM from Sitamahri, the nearest Indian border. It is centre of the ancient Maithili culture with its own language and script. Janakpur also is the birthplace of lord Sita goddess (Janaki), the main female character of the Ramayana epos and it is the site of her wedding with Rama, a Hindu God.



- **Daman**



Located approx 80kms southwest of the Kathmandu valley, Daman (2,400m) offers the only unimpeded view of the entire Himalayan range roughly 400kms of Himalayan panorama. Daman is located on the Tribhuvan Highway between Kathmandu and the town of Hetauda.