



**CHITWAN SAFARI  
WEEKEND TRIP**

There are several amazing weekend trips to get involved in during your time with PMGY in Nepal. Travelling over the weekends is a huge part of the experience as it gives you the opportunity to explore the country with fellow volunteers on the program.

Due to a lack of public transport travelling independently in Nepal is not the easiest thing to do. Even if there were a better transport network it would not be viable to travel out to a national park and then be left to your own devices. As a result, you really need to travel in a more private network to ensure your safety and to make the most of the weekend opportunities.

There are many travel agents based in Kathmandu who can provide affordable and reputable weekend trip options to our volunteers, and they also allow for you to meet other travellers in Nepal. Our local team are also able to organise weekend trips for volunteers, but we want to ensure participants have the freedom to book elsewhere if this suits their plans better.

As a result, we have found participants to prefer the flexibility to explore all the opportunities available to them once they arrive in Kathmandu rather than pre-organising trips only for people to want to change these plans once they arrive. You can therefore book weekend trips locally based on your budget, travel preferences and once you have met other volunteers on the program.

We have outlined a couple of popular weekend trip options to give you an idea of some of the trips you can get involved in during your time with us. We recommend participants do not make any firm commitments until they arrive in Nepal as participants will usually travel in a group and our team are a great resource to help you make plans!

It is common for volunteers to make weekend trip plans for a 3 day period when travelling further afield. This will mean choosing to miss a day from your volunteer project. Subsequently, you should give as much notice as possible to the local team and staff at the project to ensure they can approve your plans before you make any trip commitments and make alternative arrangements if necessary.

Chitwan National Park lies in the subtropical south-central Nepal, boasting an abundance of wildlife and bordered by the Narayani River, creating a natural boundary to the surrounding villages. This World Heritage Site protects a huge area of grassland and forests, inhabited by Bengal tigers, sloth bears, monkeys, rhinos, leopards and deer. This is the perfect place for wildlife lovers in Nepal, there are thought to be over 500 species of birds living here too!

The best way to explore is a safari around the jungle and marshland, with a guided tour to help you spot those camouflaged tigers and learn about the one-horned rhinoceros. You can glide along the Narayani River by canoe and join the Tharu cultural dancers for a bit of Nepalese tradition!

## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - TRAVEL TO CHITWAN

We will be heading to Chitwan by Tourist Bus this morning from your project location. Please note that depending on your location the journey may take a few hours due to the road quality and traffic.

After freshening up it's time for some lunch and some rest. Depending on the weather and season the following activities may be rearranged on your schedule to maximise your experience in Chitwan National Park.

In the evening you can experience the traditional songs and dances from the Tharu culture. This is a unique display of colourful costumes and instruments, with the chance to get involved and join them on stage at the end!



### DAY 2 - CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

We'll be heading into Chitwan National Park by jeep or bicycle to spot the rhinos, tigers and bears, so get your camera ready! You'll get a guide on your tour to point out the wildlife hiding behind the trees! The terrain here is the perfect tiger habitat, and there are leopards lurking outside of their territory too. Chitwan is famous for hosting the endangered one-horned rhinoceros, This National Park is also believed to have the highest population density of sloth bears too, a relatively small and very furry brown creature, with very long claws! You may also find monkeys, crocodiles, boar, porcupines and beautiful species of birds.

On the way back we can stop off at the Elephant Breeding Centre to see the local efforts of protecting the endangered elephants in the region.

There's also a chance to hop in a Canoe along the Narayani River, spotting the birds and crocodiles along the way!

Hopefully we can catch a nice view of the sunset to end a great day. Why not bring a pack of cards to play after dinner or teach the group your favourite game!



## DAY 3 – TRAVELLING TO PROJECTS

It's time to head back to your projects after breakfast, with a chance to reflect on your trip on your bus journey home.



## ACCOMMODATION

You will stay at a hotel or guesthouse for the two nights. Rooms are shared, up to 6 volunteers per room. Our team will do their best to arrange twin rooms or single beds, but from time to time some volunteers may be required to share double beds depending on availability. The guesthouse will be basic but clean and comfortable. You should have all the amenities you need such as western toilet and hot shower. Wi-Fi is also available, although it may be intermittent.

## MEALS

You'll be provided with lunch and dinner on Day 1, breakfast, lunch and dinner on Day 2 and breakfast on Day 3. Meals may be typical Nepalese cuisine and served at either the guesthouse or a local restaurant. Drinks or snacks will be at your own expense.

## TRANSPORT

You will be travelling to Chitwan via a Tourist Bus. Your transport to the National Park and activities will be arranged for you from your accommodation.