

Wattletree Garden Tours

Nepal

November 2019



10 days exploring this incredible country to experience culture, natural beauty, gardens and wildlife.

Kathmandu, Pokhara, Chitwan, Nagarkot and view the Himalayas.

**Join Brian Sams
& Wattletree Garden Tours
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Tour highlights

- Kathmandu culture
- Sunrise over the Himalayas
- Wildlife safaris
- Resort spa treatment included at Pokhara
- Time to relax
- Lake cruise
- Canoeing on Rapti River
- Great hotels
- Local cuisine
- Optional flight over Mount Everest
- Market shopping
- Stopover option in Singapore

Brian Sams is a Toowoomba based horticulturist involved in running gardening workshops, consultation, leading garden based tours and presenting weekly gardening news for WIN TV and gardening talkback on Radio MMM. Brian has been leading garden tours overseas and within Australia since 2006. Why? He loves it!

Day 1 Sunday 17th November – Australia to Nepal meals in flight

Today we fly to Kathmandu via Singapore. Flight times to be advised closer to departure dates. On arrival in Kathmandu we will transfer to our hotel. *Hotel Shambala or similar for 2 nights.*

Day 2 Monday 18th November – Kathmandu B

Our first day is all about exploring Nepal's capital, Kathmandu. First up we will visit the famous 14th century Boudhanath stupa, one of the world's largest and most important Buddhist Stupas. The construction of the stupa provides a three dimensional model of the Buddha's path towards enlightenment. The base of the stupa is surrounded by 108 small images of the Dhyani Buddha Amitabha and prayers wheels. We plan to undertake a special activity of lighting the butter lamps which are a feature of Tibetan Buddhist temples and monasteries throughout the Himalayas. The lamps traditionally burn clarified yak butter, but now often use vegetable oil. Later we will visit Kathmandu Durbar Square in the heart of the old city to take in the sights and sounds before taking a rickshaw ride to the garden of dreams. The Garden of Dreams (Garden of Six Seasons) was created by Field Marshal Rana (1892-1964) in early 1920 and was considered one of the most sophisticated private gardens of that time.

Day 3 Tuesday 19th November – Kathmandu to Chitwan (Bharatpur) B, L, D

After breakfast we will transfer to the Kathmandu Domestic Airport for the flight to Chitwan (Bharatpur). We will then drive to the resort which is about an hour from the airport where we will check in and have lunch. We will have a chance to relax and enjoy the resort before an evening presentation from one of the jungle experts. They will introduce some background and history of the Royal Chitwan National Park. The park covers an area of 932 sq. km and is home to many different animals and is renowned for the protection of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros. It is also home to the Bengal tiger, gharial crocodile, gaur (rare Indian bison), wild elephant, four horned antelope, striped hyena, pangolin, Gangetic dolphin, monitor lizard, python, chital, hog deer, barking deer, sloth, palm civet, wild dog, langur and rhesus monkey. Dinner is in the resort this evening.



Tigerland Safari or similar for 2 nights.

Day 4 Wednesday 20th November – Tigerland Safari B, L, D

After breakfast we will head to the Rapti River to undertake a canoeing trip (large canoes with 10 -12 people and people to row on our behalf) in a traditional dug-out canoe which will take us on a silent trip down the Rapti River to view aquatic birds, crocodiles and other animals. Lunch will be served at the resort. Later in the afternoon we will undertake a Jungle safari by jeep to spot wildlife with a jungle expert. We will also have an Elephant back safari to explore the jungle and search for wildlife such as the one-horned rhinoceros, deer, monkeys, wild boar, bison, sloth bear, leopard and hopefully the Bengal tiger. Dinner is in the resort with an included Tharu Stick dance performed by locals that will show their traditional skills and dances. Sounds like a good day!

Day 5 Thursday 21st November – Chitwan to Pokhara B

After breakfast we will take the short flight to the scenic Pokhara. Situated at an altitude of 900m above sea level and 200km west of Kathmandu valley, the city is known as a center of adventure and beauty. The enchanting town has several picturesque lakes and offers stunning panoramic views of the Himalayan peaks. The serenity of the lakes and the magnificence of the Himalayas rising behind them is said to create an ambience of peace and magic. Upon arrival we will transfer to our hotel and explore the local area including the Phewa Lake and nearby markets. *Hotel The Fishtail Lodge or The Himalayan Front for 3 nights.*



Day 6 Friday 22nd November – Pokhara B

Start today with an early morning drive to Sarangkot for sunrise over the Annapurna Range (weather permitting). Sarangkot sits at an altitude of 1592 meters to the north of Pokhara overlooking the valley and Phewa Lake. Sarangkot is a beautiful village best known for its magnificent sunrises where on a clear day you can see great views of the Himalayan Mountains and of the Annapurna range, Dhauligiri and the iconic Fishtail Peak. We will head back to the hotel for breakfast and later enjoy sightseeing around Pokhara including the main sites such as the Bindabasini Temple. Later in the early evening we will have a cruise on Phewa Lake.

Day 7 Saturday 23rd November – Pokhara B

After breakfast we will visit the World Peace Pagoda. This Pagoda is located at an altitude of almost 1,150 meters on the Anadu hill which lies in south west of Pokhara and offers sensational view of the Annapurna Mountain range along with lovely views of Phewa lake and the Pokhara valley. The rest of the day is yours to enjoy the resort hotel and the local township which has many good eateries and markets. There is an included spa treatment that will be available in the hotel for every guest.

Day 8 Sunday 24th November – Pokhara – Bhaktapur - Nagarkot B

After breakfast we will fly back to Kathmandu before driving for approximately an hour to Bhaktapur . We will visit the Bhaktapur Durbar Square which is one of the most charming architectural showpieces of the Valley as it highlights some of the finest medieval arts of Nepal. It is best known for their exquisite artwork in wood, stone and metal. It is more like an open museum with an ambience which dates back centuries. There are many interesting places inside the square including the Lion Gate, Golden Gate, the Fifty-Five Windowed Palace and the Nyatapola Temple. Bhaktapur is also famous for its traditional pottery industry which is centered around the Pottery Square. We should be able to watch potters in action and no doubt be enticed into local shops. Later we will continue our journey to Nagarkot which should only take about 45 minutes. Nagarkot is a small village situated at an elevation of 2,195 meters making it one of the best spots in the area for the sunrise view of the Himalayas including Mt. Everest as well as other snow-topped peaks and the Kathmandu valley.

Hotel Mystic Mountain or similar – 1 night.

Day 9 Monday 25th November – Nagarkot to Kathmandu B, D

This morning we hope to see the sunrise over the Himalayas and enjoy the great views of the Nagarkot valley. After we check out of the hotel we will drive to Godavari to visit the Botanical Garden which is located in the base of Mount Phulchoki (2715m) at the south east corner of Kathmandu valley. The garden is 82 hectares and looks to be in a spectacular location surrounded by evergreen natural forests. After time in the garden we will visit Patan Durbar Square with some stunning architecture and many markets. We will also visit a few of the many temples including the Golden Temple with the statue of Yogendra Malla and Krishna.

Our final evening in Nepal will include dinner in a Nepalese restaurant where we will taste various delicious local dishes and experience classical folk music and dance show. The show will feature traditional classical folk music performed live and elegant dances performed to highlight Nepal's rich and diverse culture.

Hotel Shambala or similar – 1 night.

Day 10 Tuesday 26th November Kathmandu to Singapore (or home to Australia) B and in flight

After breakfast drive to the airport for the flight to our onward destination.

Please note that weather permitting there will be an option to take a short flight over Mt. Everest (extra charge). Details to be supplied by tour leader.

Optional Singapore stopover on the way home...

Day 10 Tuesday 26th November Kathmandu to Singapore B and in flight

After breakfast drive to the airport for our flight to Singapore. On the way to our hotel we will stop at the Gardens by the Bay to see the evening light show (if time allows). *Rendezvous Hotel or similar for 2 nights*

Day 11 Wednesday 27th November Singapore B

Today we will start at 10am to visit the sites of Singapore including the National Orchid Garden, Little India, Chinatown, the Singapore downtown, Merlion and more. Later return to our hotel to enjoy the shops and restaurants close nearby.

Day 12 Thursday 28th November – Singapore to home B

Free morning for shopping on Orchard Road before checking out of the hotel. We will visit Fort Canning Park to walk the herb garden trail and then visit Gardens by the Bay for an included visit of both amazing greenhouses before leaving at round 6pm for our evening flight. See over the page for prices.



Quality matters!

- ⇒ Comfortable modern hotels
- ⇒ Experienced tour guides
- ⇒ We always seem to have a wonderful, friendly & fun group to travel with!



Main tour price	
Full tour including land and all airfares per person twin share	\$4995
Tour deposit—deductible from final tour price	\$500
Single supplement Nepal tour	\$650
Singapore Stopover	
Price per person twin share	\$695
Single supplement	\$260

Important dates

1. Deposit – Payable asap to secure a place as seats are limited, please complete booking form.
2. Final payment 60 days before departure

The tour prices includes:

- Beautiful hotel accommodation
- Exclusive coach travel and all airfares
- All tipping for national guides, drivers and portorage
- Entry to all sightseeing, national parks and gardens as detailed in itinerary
- Quality meals listed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- English speaking guides and accompanied all the way with Australian garden guide – Brian Sams
- Taxes where appropriate (but subject to change based on prevailing rates)
- Airport transfers (for whole group only—other arrangements to be made as required)

The tour price excludes:

- All items not stated as included
- Visa which is available on arrival in Kathmandu - no need to arrange beforehand
- Travel insurance—recommended for all travelers. Please discuss if you need help to organize.

Full terms and conditions are on the booking form.



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