# Damodar Kunda Heli Tour

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| DURATION | **1 Days** |
| DIFFICULTY | **Easy** |
| MAX ALTITUDE | **4890m** |
| GROUP SIZE | **17 People** |
| BEST SEASON | **September–November and March–May** |
| START / END | **Kathmandu / Kathmandu** |
| PRICE FROM | **USD 1,000 per person** |

## Trip overview

The Damodar Kunda Helicopter Tour is a sacred and adventurous high-altitude pilgrimage journey to one of the most revered holy lakes in Nepal, Damodar Kunda (4,890 m), located in the remote Upper Mustang region near the Tibetan plateau. This exclusive helicopter experience offers travelers a rare opportunity to visit one of the holiest sites for Hindu devotees while enjoying breathtaking Himalayan and trans-Himalayan landscapes in a single day.

Departing from Kathmandu or Pokhara, the helicopter flight takes passengers over dramatic valleys, deep river gorges, alpine landscapes, and the world-famous Kali Gandaki region before entering the arid, mystical desert of Upper Mustang. The highlight of the journey is Damodar Kunda, believed to be associated with Lord Vishnu and highly significant in Hindu scriptures. Pilgrims believe that taking a holy bath in these sacred lakes leads to purification and salvation (moksha).

This tour is ideal for pilgrims, spiritual seekers, luxury travelers, photographers, and adventure lovers who wish to experience one of the most remote and sacred Himalayan destinations without the long and difficult trekking journey.

### Geography and Landscape

The Damodar Kunda Helicopter Tour covers one of the most extreme and diverse geographical regions in Nepal. The journey begins either from Kathmandu (1,400 m) or Pokhara (820 m), flying over lush valleys, terraced farmland, rivers, and traditional settlements.

As the helicopter moves northwest, the landscape dramatically changes into deep gorges of the Kali Gandaki River, one of the deepest river gorges in the world. This region lies between the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri Himalayan ranges, offering spectacular views of snow-capped peaks and rugged terrain.

Passengers will witness breathtaking aerial views of iconic Himalayan mountains such as:

- Annapurna I (8,091 m)
- Dhaulagiri (8,167 m)
- Nilgiri Himal
- Tukuche Peak
- Machhapuchhre (Fishtail)

As the flight enters Upper Mustang, the scenery transforms into a barren, desert-like trans-Himalayan landscape influenced by Tibetan geography. The colorful cliffs, wind-carved valleys, and ancient Buddhist villages create a mystical atmosphere.

The final destination, Damodar Kunda, consists of three sacred high-altitude lakes surrounded by rocky mountains and snow-covered ridges, forming a powerful spiritual and natural setting.

### Climate and Weather Conditions

Damodar Kunda experiences an extreme high-altitude alpine and trans-Himalayan climate due to its elevation and proximity to the Tibetan plateau.

In Kathmandu and Pokhara, the climate is generally mild and comfortable. However, as the helicopter ascends above 3,000 meters, temperatures drop sharply and conditions become cold, dry, and windy.

At Damodar Kunda (above 4,800 m), weather conditions are extremely harsh, with freezing temperatures, strong winds, and sudden weather changes. Oxygen levels are very low, so stay time is strictly limited.

Clear visibility is essential for safe helicopter operations. Early morning flights are strongly recommended, as winds are calmer and skies are clearer. Flights may be rescheduled due to unpredictable Himalayan weather conditions.

### Best Time for Damodar Kunda Helicopter Tour

#### Spring Season (March – May)

- Stable weather conditions
- Clear Himalayan and Mustang views
- Moderate temperatures in lower regions
- Excellent visibility of mountains and desert landscapes

#### Autumn Season (September – November)

- Crystal-clear skies after monsoon
- Sharp visibility of Himalayas and Mustang plateau
- Ideal pilgrimage and photography conditions

#### Winter Season (December – February)

- Very clear skies and dramatic mountain views
- Extremely cold conditions at Damodar Kunda
- Limited but peaceful pilgrimage experience

#### Monsoon Season (June – August)

- Not recommended
- Cloud cover, rain, and unstable flying conditions
- Low visibility and possible flight cancellations

## Highlights

- Aerial view of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri Himalayan ranges
- Scenic flight over Kali Gandaki Gorge (world’s deepest gorge)

- Fly over Upper Mustang's desert-like trans-Himalayan landscape
- Visit to sacred Damodar Kunda (4,890 m)
- Hindu pilgrimage experience in one of Nepal's holiest sites
- View of ancient Tibetan-influenced villages and cliffs
- Optional landing at Damodar Kunda (weather dependent)
- Spiritual bathing and prayer rituals (time permitted)
- Same-day return to Kathmandu or Pokhara
- Luxury, safe, and time-efficient Himalayan pilgrimage

## Day-by-day itinerary

### Day 1 : Kathmandu / Pokhara – Damodar Kunda Helicopter Experience – Return

#### Early Morning: Hotel Pickup & Airport Transfer

Early in the morning (around 5:00–6:00 AM), our representative will pick you up from your hotel in Kathmandu or Pokhara and transfer you to the domestic airport. Early departure is essential for stable weather conditions and clear Himalayan visibility.

Upon arrival, passengers complete check-in procedures and receive a safety briefing from the helicopter crew. Boarding is arranged in an organized and comfortable manner.

#### Flight Departure from Kathmandu / Pokhara

The helicopter takes off toward the northwest Himalayan region. Passengers enjoy spectacular aerial views of rivers, valleys, terraced hills, and traditional villages.

As the flight progresses, the landscape transitions into the dramatic Kali Gandaki Gorge and then into the arid Mustang region.

#### Scenic Himalayan Flight Route

Passengers will experience breathtaking views of:

- Annapurna Himalayan range
- Dhaulagiri range
- Nilgiri and Tukuche peaks
- Deep river gorges and alpine valleys
- Upper Mustang desert landscape
- Remote Tibetan-style settlements

The pilot provides live commentary on geography, mountain names, and cultural significance.

#### Damodar Kunda Landing (Weather Dependent)

If weather conditions and aviation permissions allow, the helicopter lands near Damodar Kunda (4,890 m), where passengers can experience:

- Sacred Hindu pilgrimage lake system
- Holy bathing and prayer rituals
- Stunning high-altitude Himalayan desert scenery
- Spiritual atmosphere of Lord Vishnu's sacred site

- Short exploration and photography time (10–20 minutes)

Due to extreme altitude, the stay is kept very short for safety.

### Return Scenic Flight

After the visit, the helicopter returns to Kathmandu or Pokhara following the same route. Passengers enjoy final aerial views of:

Upper Mustang landscapes

Kali Gandaki Gorge

Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges

Green hills and river valleys

### Arrival in Kathmandu / Pokhara

Upon landing, you will be transferred back to your hotel. The rest of the day is free for relaxation or personal activities.

Your Damodar Kunda Helicopter Tour concludes with unforgettable spiritual and Himalayan memories.

## What’s included

## Helicopter Services

- Private or shared helicopter flight (Kathmandu/Pokhara – Damodar Kunda – Kathmandu/Pokhara)
- Experienced licensed pilot with high-altitude flying expertise
- Fuel charges and aviation operational costs
- Standard flight duration (approx. 3–5 hours depending on route and conditions)

### Airport & Ground Services

- Hotel pickup and drop-off in Kathmandu or Pokhara by private vehicle
- Domestic airport transfers
- Airport taxes and aviation service charges
- Ground handling and coordination support

### Permits & Entry Fees

- Upper Mustang restricted area permit (if required)
- Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP)
- Damodar Kunda local/municipality entry fees (if applicable)
- Landing permission fees (if included in package)

### Safety & Operational Support

- Onboard oxygen supply for high-altitude safety
- Emergency communication and mountain safety equipment
- Pre-flight safety briefing
- Real-time weather monitoring and coordination

### Crew & Assistance

- Professional ground coordinator in Kathmandu/Pokhara
- Airport handling staff assistance
- Full customer support during the tour

## Not included

## International Travel

- International airfare to and from Nepal
- Nepal visa fees

### Personal Expenses

- Meals and beverages during the tour
- Personal shopping and gratuities (tips)
- Hotel accommodation in Kathmandu or Pokhara (unless included)
- Wi-Fi, laundry, and personal services

### Insurance

- Travel insurance covering medical emergencies
- Helicopter evacuation
- Trip cancellation or delay
- High-altitude travel risks

### Optional Services

- VIP private charter upgrade
- Extended flight or additional landing time
- Professional photography/videography
- Custom pilgrimage extensions (Upper Mustang / Muktinath combination)

### Weather & Operational Conditions

- Flight delays or cancellations due to weather
- Additional accommodation due to rescheduling
- Extra transport due to operational changes

## Dates & prices

- 02 Mar 2027 – 02 Mar 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 16 Mar 2027 – 16 Mar 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 06 Apr 2027 – 06 Apr 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 20 Apr 2027 – 20 Apr 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 04 May 2027 – 04 May 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available

## Best time to visit

Best months: May–June and September–October. Mustang and Dolpo lie in the rain-shadow of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges, so they are one of the few regions you can trek during the summer monsoon. May–June and September–October are ideal; winters are harsh and many lodges close.

## What to bring — packing checklist

## What to wear

- ☐ Warm down jacket — landing spots can be –10 °C
- ☐ Warm hat, gloves and buff
- ☐ Comfortable shoes with good grip
- ☐ Sunglasses and sunscreen

### Useful items

- ☐ Camera or phone with spare battery (cold drains batteries)
- ☐ Small bag only — luggage weight is limited
- ☐ Passport and insurance details

*Down jackets and sleeping bags can also be rented in Kathmandu.*

## Essential information

### Duration

- Total experience: 3 to 5 hours (depending on weather and landing time)
- Flight time: approximately 2 to 3 hours round trip
- Ground time at Damodar Kunda: 10–25 minutes (strictly limited due to altitude)

### Route & Flight Path

Typical helicopter route:

Kathmandu or Pokhara -> Jomsom / Kagbeni -> Upper Mustang (Lo Manthang region flyover) -> Damodar Kunda -> Return

Key highlights during the flight:

- Aerial views of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges
- Kali Gandaki Gorge – world’s deepest gorge
- Mustang’s dramatic desert landscapes
- Traditional Tibetan-influenced villages
- High-altitude plateau near Tibetan border
- Sacred Damodar Kunda lakes (three holy lakes system)

### Aircraft Type

Flights are operated using high-altitude helicopters such as:

- Airbus AS350 B3e (primary aircraft used)
- Seating capacity: 4–5 passengers (weight dependent)

Key features:

- Certified for extreme high-altitude operations
- Large panoramic windows for photography
- Strong performance in thin air conditions

## Difficulty & Physical Requirements

This is a very easy but extremely high-altitude experience, suitable for most travelers.

- No trekking required
- No physical fitness requirement
- Suitable for pilgrims, VIP travelers, and elderly clients

However, due to altitude (nearly 5,000m), passengers may experience:

- Shortness of breath during landing
- Cold and windy conditions
- Limited time outside helicopter for safety

## Best Season

- March–May: Best visibility and stable weather
- September–November: Ideal season with clear skies and mountain views
- December–February: Very cold, possible snow and restricted access
- June–August: Monsoon affects Nepal side; flights may be weather delayed

Morning departures are strongly recommended for safety and clarity.

## Safety & Operations

Due to extreme altitude, strict safety measures are applied:

Key points:

- Flights are fully weather dependent
- Very limited landing time at Damodar Kunda
- Oxygen support available onboard if required
- Experienced high-altitude Himalayan pilots

Strict weight and balance control due to thin air conditions

## Permits

Required permits include:

- Upper Mustang Restricted Area Permit
- Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP) if applicable via Pokhara route
- Special aviation and landing permissions
- Border region clearance (near Tibet frontier)

All permits are arranged by the tour operator in advance.

## Meals

- No standard meals included
- Bottled water may be provided onboard

- Optional breakfast in Kathmandu or Pokhara before departure

Due to extreme remoteness, no food facilities at landing site

## Additional information

### Landing Experience at Damodar Kunda

- Very short landing (10–25 minutes maximum)
- Holy lake darshan and spiritual rituals (limited time)
- Photography of sacred alpine lakes
- Strict adherence to altitude safety guidelines

### Guide & Crew Services

Each tour includes:

- Experienced Himalayan helicopter pilot
- Ground coordination team in Kathmandu/Pokhara
- Optional pilgrimage guide for spiritual groups and VIP clients

### Cultural & Spiritual Highlights

This is one of Nepal's most sacred and remote pilgrimage destinations:

- Damodar Kunda – holy source region of Kali Gandaki River
- Sacred Shaligram fossil origin (worshipped by Hindus)
- Upper Mustang Tibetan-influenced culture
- High-altitude desert landscapes of Mustang
- Views of Nilgiri, Annapurna, and Dhaulagiri ranges
- Ancient pilgrimage traditions linked to Lord Vishnu

### Essential Items to Carry

Recommended:

- Heavy warm jacket (essential due to extreme cold)
- Sunglasses (strong UV reflection at altitude)
- Gloves and hat
- Comfortable layered clothing
- Camera or smartphone
- Personal medication (especially for altitude sensitivity)

### Communication & Connectivity

- Full network in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- Very limited or no connectivity in Upper Mustang region
- No signal at Damodar Kunda landing site

### Why Choose Damodar Kunda Helicopter Tour?

This is one of the most exclusive and sacred helicopter pilgrimages in Nepal:

- Direct access to one of Nepal’s highest sacred lakes
- No trekking required in extreme Himalayan terrain
- Spiritual significance in Hindu mythology
- Rare access to remote Upper Mustang region
- Stunning aerial views of Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges
- Ideal for pilgrims, VIP travelers, and limited-time visitors
- One of the most remote helicopter experiences in Nepal

## Frequently asked questions

### How physically demanding is the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour?

Not at all — the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour is suitable for most ages and fitness levels. You fly between landing points and spend only short periods on the ground. Let us know about any medical conditions before you book.

### What is the best time for the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour?

For the Mustang & Dolpo (rain-shadow) region the best months are May–June and September–October. Mustang and Dolpo lie in the rain-shadow of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges, so they are one of the few regions you can trek during the summer monsoon. May–June and September–October are ideal; winters are harsh and many lodges close.

### What permits do I need for the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour?

You need the Annapurna Conservation Area Permit and, for Upper Mustang or Dolpo, the restricted area permit. Nord Extreme arranges every permit for you before the trip starts — check the "Includes" section above for exactly what is covered in the price. Just bring your passport and a few passport-size photos.

### What is the accommodation like on the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour?

A helicopter tour is usually a day trip from Kathmandu or Pokhara; we can add hotel nights before and after your flight.

### Can I book the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour as a private trip or join a group?

Both. You can join one of the fixed departures listed under "Dates & Prices", or book a private trip for just you, your family or friends on any date. Solo travellers are welcome — you will always have your own licensed guide.

### What should I pack for the Damodar Kunda Heli Tour?

See the "What to bring" checklist on this page for the full list. Wear a warm down jacket, hat and gloves — it can be well below freezing at the landing points — plus sunglasses and sunscreen.

## Ready to book or have a question?

Trip page: https://delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com/holiday/package/damodar-kunda-heli-tour/

Contact our team in Kathmandu: sonam@nordextreme.com · +977 9851078748 · delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com