Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture

Trip information · Nord Extreme Himalaya Pvt. Ltd. · delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com · Updated 22 November 2026

DURATION	1 Days
DIFFICULTY	Easy
MAX ALTITUDE	1400m
GROUP SIZE	10 People
BEST SEASON	ALL THE YEAR
START / END	Kathmandu / Kathmandu
PRICE FROM	USD 1,000 per person

Trip overview

Among the three ancient royal cities in the Kathmandu Valley—Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Patan—Patan stands out as the most artistically stunning. Known locally as Lalitpur, meaning “City of Beauty,” Patan is a haven of exquisite temples, hand-carved windows, stone sculptures, and bronze artistry. A Patan City Tour is not just a sightseeing journey; it’s a step into the heart of Nepal’s artistic and spiritual soul.

Introduction and History

Patan lies just across the Bagmati River, south of Kathmandu, and though it feels like a suburb today, it is an independent city with a unique identity and history. As one of the oldest cities in the Kathmandu Valley, Patan has been inhabited since ancient times and flourished during the Malla period (12th to 18th century).

Historically, it was a royal kingdom with its own kings and dynasties and was a hub for Newar Buddhist and Hindu culture, which shaped its distinctive architecture and way of life. Today, it is renowned worldwide for its preservation of metalwork, woodcarving, and stone sculpture.

Top Attractions on a Patan City Tour

1. Patan Durbar Square

The heart of the city, Patan Durbar Square, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most beautiful royal palace complexes in Nepal. Unlike the Durbar Squares in Kathmandu or Bhaktapur, Patan’s square boasts a unique blend of Hindu and Buddhist monuments in close proximity.

Key highlights include:

- Krishna Mandir – A 17th-century stone temple dedicated to Lord Krishna,built entirely of stone in Shikhara style, with intricate carvings depicting scenes from the Mahabharata and Ramayana.
- Hiranya Varna Mahavihar (Golden Temple) – A Buddhist monastery adorned with bronze statues, golden roofs, and sacred shrines.
- Taleju Bhawani Temple – Dedicated to the royal goddess of the Malla kings.

- Bhimsen Temple – Revered for its unique three-story design and woodcarvings.
- Patan Museum – Housed within the old royal palace, the museum showcases ancient bronzes, religious icons, and traditional art, and is regarded as one of the finest museums in South Asia.

2. Mahabouddha Temple

This temple, also known as the Temple of a Thousand Buddhas, is a Buddhist monument built of terracotta bricks, each bearing an image of the Buddha. It reflects both the Theravada and Mahayana traditions and is a peaceful site tucked away in a quiet courtyard.

3. Rudra Varna Mahavihar

Another ancient Buddhist monastery, this is one of the oldest and most revered in Patan, with a rich collection of metal and stone icons.

4. Local Artisan Workshops

Patan is famous for its artisans who create hand-crafted bronze statues, thangka paintings, and jewelry. A visit to these workshops lets you witness centuries-old techniques in action, and you can even take part in short courses or buy souvenirs.

Highlights

Why Take a Patan City Tour?

- Art and Architecture – The finest examples of Newar craftsmanship and temple architecture
- Living Heritage – A city where ancient traditions, rituals, and artisan skills are still alive
- Less Crowded – Compared to Kathmandu's Durbar Square, Patan offers a quieter, more peaceful experience
- Cultural Depth – A unique blend of Hindu and Buddhist sites in close harmony
- Ideal for Day Trips – Easily reachable and perfect for a half-day or full-day cultural immersion

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 : Patan Tour

Morning:- Drive or walk from Kathmandu to Patan (20–30 minutes)- Start the tour at Patan Durbar Square- Visit Krishna Mandir, Golden Temple, and Patan MuseumMidday:- Enjoy lunch at a rooftop café with views of the squareAfternoon:- Walk to Mahabouddha Temple and nearby viharas- Visit local art galleries and metalwork shops- Stroll through traditional neighborhoods like Bhandarkhal Garden or Kumbeshwar Temple- Return to Kathmandu or explore more at your own pace

What's included

- Professional English-speaking guide
- Entry permits
- Local transport if arranged through a travel agency

Not included

- Meals and drinks
- Souvenirs and donations
- Tips

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: February–April and October–November. The Kathmandu Valley can be visited all year. October–November and March–April are pleasant and clear; December–February are sunny with cold mornings, and the monsoon brings afternoon showers but green, uncrowded heritage sites.

What to bring — packing checklist

Clothing

- [ ] Moisture-wicking base layers (top and bottom)
- [ ] Fleece or light insulated mid-layer
- [ ] Down jacket (–10 °C rated for high trails)
- [ ] Waterproof, breathable shell jacket and trousers
- [ ] 2–3 trekking shirts and 2 pairs of trekking trousers
- [ ] Warm hat, sun hat or cap and buff
- [ ] Light liner gloves and warm insulated gloves
- [ ] Underwear and sports bras

Footwear

- [ ] Broken-in waterproof trekking boots with ankle support
- [ ] Camp shoes or sandals for teahouse evenings
- [ ] Hiking socks (4–5 pairs) and warm wool socks for nights

Equipment

- [ ] Daypack 30–35 L with rain cover
- [ ] Sleeping bag rated to –10 °C (we can provide one)
- [ ] Trekking poles
- [ ] Sunglasses with UV protection
- [ ] Duffel bag for the porter (provided by Nord Extreme)

Health & personal

- [ ] Personal medication and a small first-aid kit
- [ ] Altitude medicine (Diamox) after consulting your doctor
- [ ] Water bottles or a 2–3 L hydration bladder, purification tablets or filter
- [ ] Sunscreen SPF 50, lip balm with SPF
- [ ] Hand sanitiser, wet wipes, quick-dry towel
- [ ] Headlamp with spare batteries, power bank

Documents & money

- [ ] Passport valid for 6+ months, plus copies
- [ ] Travel insurance policy (covering helicopter evacuation)
- [ ] 4 passport photos for permits
- [ ] Cash in USD / Nepali rupees for tips, snacks and extras
- [ ] Credit or debit card

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

Essential information

Entry Fees and Guided Tour Costs

- Entrance to Patan Durbar Square: NPR 1,000 (approx. $7–8 USD)
- Patan Museum Entry: Often included in square fee
- Golden Temple and Mahabouddha: Small donation or entry fee (optional)

Guided Tour Prices:

- Group tours: $25–$40 USD per person
- Private tours: $50–$100 USD (including transportation, guide, and fees)

Additional information

Extra Info

How to Get to Patan

Patan is very accessible from Kathmandu:

- By Taxi or Private Car: 20–30 minutes from Thamel or central Kathmandu
- By Local Bus: Buses leave from Ratna Park or Lagankhel bus park
- By Walking or Cycling: From central Kathmandu, it’s possible to walk or bike for a more immersive journey through urban neighborhoods

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Frequently asked questions

How difficult is the Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture?

The Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture is graded Moderate — suitable for most active travellers. Expect 5–7 hours of walking on most days on mountain trails with plenty of ascents and descents. Regular cardio training — hiking, running, cycling or stair climbing — for 6–8 weeks before departure makes the trip far more enjoyable.

What is the best time for the Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture?

For the Kathmandu Valley & mid-hills region the best months are February–April and October–November. The Kathmandu Valley can be visited all year. October–November and March–April are pleasant and clear; December–February are sunny with cold mornings, and the monsoon brings afternoon showers but green, uncrowded heritage sites.

What permits do I need for the Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture?

You need entry tickets for the heritage sites you visit. 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 Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture?

In Kathmandu you stay in a comfortable hotel; on the trail we use the best available family-run teahouses and lodges with twin-share rooms, shared or attached bathrooms and a warm dining room. Upgrades to luxury lodges are possible on popular routes such as Everest and Annapurna.

Can I book the Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture 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.

Do I need travel insurance for the Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture?

Yes, travel insurance is compulsory. It must cover medical treatment and emergency helicopter evacuation up to the trip's highest altitude, plus trip cancellation. Please send us your policy details before departure.

What should I pack for the Patan City Tour in Nepal: The Timeless City of Art and Architecture?

See the "What to bring" checklist on this page for the full list. The essentials are broken-in boots, warm layers, a down jacket, a waterproof shell, sun protection and a daypack. Down jackets and sleeping bags can be rented cheaply in Kathmandu, and a porter carries your main bag (up to 10–12 kg).

Ready to book or have a question?

Trip page:
https://delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com/holiday/package/patan-city-tour-in-nepal-the-timeless-city-of-art-and

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