

# **A FIRST GLIMPSE OF PARADISE: A TWO-DAY POKHARA SOJOURN**

**THE DREAM BECOME  
REALITY**

**DATE: AUGUST,2021**

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For as long as I could remember, Pokhara had been a postcard-perfect dream—a name synonymous with serene lakes and majestic mountain views. Finally, the dream was turning into reality. We packed our trusted Mahindra Scorpio for a family road trip, the excitement buzzing within the car as we left the hustle of the city behind. This was my first time, and I was ready to absorb every bit of its famed beauty.

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## Day 1: Lakes, Caves, and Falls

### The Drive and First Sight of Phewa Tal

The drive from Kathmandu is a journey of transformation. The winding roads gradually unveiled glimpses of the Annapurna range, building anticipation with every turn. As we descended into the Pokhara Valley, the air felt lighter, warmer, and carried a sense of calm. Our first stop was the iconic **Phewa Tal**. Seeing it in person was breathtaking. The vast expanse of still water perfectly mirrored the mighty Machhapuchhre (Fishtail) mountain. We spent the morning on a quiet boat ride, gliding across the crystal-clear water towards the peaceful **Tal Barahi Temple** situated in its center. It was a moment of pure, tranquil magic.

## **The Spiritual and The Subterranean**

In the afternoon, we drove to the old part of the city to visit the revered **Bindhyabasini Temple**. The ancient pagoda-style temple, dedicated to Goddess Bhagwati, was bustling with devotees. The air was thick with the scent of incense and the sound of temple bells, offering a deep sense of cultural immersion.

From divinity, we descended into the depths of the earth at **Gupteshwor Mahadev Cave**. The cave was a fascinating, mysterious world of stalactites and stalagmites. The dimly lit pathways led us deeper until we heard the thunderous roar of water. At the cave's end, through a grille, we glimpsed the powerful **David Falls** (Devi's Fall) from below, crashing into a deep, cavernous gorge. It was a dramatic and powerful sight, showcasing nature's raw force.

### **A Fitting Finale: Davis Falls**

We then went to see the falls from the top at the **Davis Falls viewpoint**. Watching the water of the Pardi Khola vanish violently into a deep, narrow tunnel was both mesmerizing and humbling. The story of a tourist named David who tragically swept away here added a poignant layer to the experience.

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## Day 2: Sunrise from the Gods and A Quieter Lake

### The Sarangkot Sunrise

We woke up in the pre-dawn darkness, a mix of sleepiness and excitement. Our Scorpio navigated the steep, winding road up to **Sarangkot** in the dark. The effort was worth it a thousand times over. We joined a crowd of hushed spectators on the viewing tower, all facing the Himalayas. As the first rays of the sun touched the peaks of the Annapurna range and Machhapuchhre, they glowed in a spectacular hue of golden orange. It wasn't just a sunrise; it was a celestial performance, a moment of awe that left everyone speechless.

### The Serenity of Begnas Tal

After the high of Sarangkot, we sought quieter shores. We drove to **Begnas Tal**, the second largest lake in Pokhara. The atmosphere here was completely different from Phewa Tal—tranquil, less crowded, and surrounded by lush green hills. We rented a paddleboat and spent a lazy afternoon on its placid waters, simply soaking in the peace and the beautiful scenery. It was the perfect, relaxing counterpoint to the morning's exhilarating spectacle.

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## **Epilogue: A Farewell etched in Beauty**

As we began our drive back to Kathmandu in our trusty Scorpio, I was quiet, replaying the memories. Pokhara had been everything I had hoped for and more. It was a perfect blend of natural serenity, spiritual energy, and pure adventure. From the mirror-like lakes to the majestic mountain sunrise and the powerful falls, my first trip to this paradise was a masterpiece of experiences, leaving me with a single, certain thought: I will be back.



Figure: Fewa Taal.



Figure: Begnas Tal.





Figure: View From Sarangkot..



