

A PILGRIMAGE TO THE ROOTS: A DAY TRIP TO GORKHA

THE CALL OF ANCESTRY

DATE: AUGUST,2025

For me, Gorkha was never just a name on a map. It is the place where my story began generations ago. This wasn't just a trip; it was a pilgrimage to my ancestral home. Our trusted family Scorpio was the chosen vessel for this journey of heritage and pride, carrying us from the bustling capital to the serene, historic hills that cradle the origins of modern Nepal. And our first stop would be to seek the blessings of the divine.

Seeking Blessings First: The Cable Car to Manakamana

We left Kathmandu at the crack of dawn, our Scorpio eating up the miles on the Prithvi Highway. Instead of driving straight to Gorkha, we took a detour to **Kurintar**, the base station for the **Manakamana Cable Car**. We believed it was essential to start this ancestral journey by seeking the blessings of the wish-fulfilling goddess, Manakamana Devi.

The cable car ride itself was breathtaking, floating silently over the Trishuli River and up the steep, forested hillside. The serene ascent built a sense of anticipation and peace. At the top, we offered our prayers at the sacred temple, asking for a safe and meaningful journey ahead. It was the perfect,

spiritual prelude to the historical immersion that awaited us.

The Drive to the Homeland: From Kurintar to Gorkha

Descending from Manakamana, we got back into our Scorpio and continued our drive west. The road now felt even more significant. We were on the historic route to Gorkha, the very land from which the great King Prithvi Narayan Shah launched his campaign to unify Nepal. With the goddess's blessings upon us, every turn in the road felt like a step back in time, closer to my roots.

The Heart of History: Gorkha Durbar & Gorakhkali Temple

We reached Gorkha by midday. Our first stop was the magnificent **Gorkha Durbar**, a sprawling palace complex perched majestically on a hilltop like an eagle's nest. Though we did not enter the main palace precincts, viewing its formidable facade was awe-inspiring. This was the strategic heart and the seat of power for my ancestors.

A short but steep walk away stands the revered **Gorakhkali Temple**. The climb felt like a pilgrimage in itself. The temple, dedicated to the fierce goddess Kali, is one of the most important Shakti Peeths in Nepal. Offering prayers here, in the land of my forefathers, felt profoundly significant—a direct connection to the divine power they worshipped.

A Lesson in Pride: The Gorkha Museum

To truly understand the weight of history around us, we visited the **Gorkha Museum**. Housed in the old Tallo Durbar (Lower Palace), its collection of artifacts, traditional costumes, weaponry, and photographs vividly narrated the story of the Gorkha kingdom and the brave Gorkhali warriors. For me, it was more than a history lesson; it was a family album. Seeing the personal belongings of the kings and the tools of the warriors filled me with an immense and personal sense of pride for my heritage.

Conclusion: Returning Home, Transformed

The drive back to Kathmandu was quiet, filled with reflection. The city's lights eventually welcomed us back, but a part of my heart remained in those hills.

This one-day journey was far more than a sightseeing tour. It was a profound connection to my identity. We had started with divine blessings at Manakamana, walked the land my ancestors walked, and learned the history that is my own. I returned not just with photographs, but with a renewed sense of self and a deep, enduring pride in my roots. The Scorpio had not just taken me to Gorkha; it had helped bring me home.



Figure: Manakamana Temple.



Figure: Manakamana Cable Car.

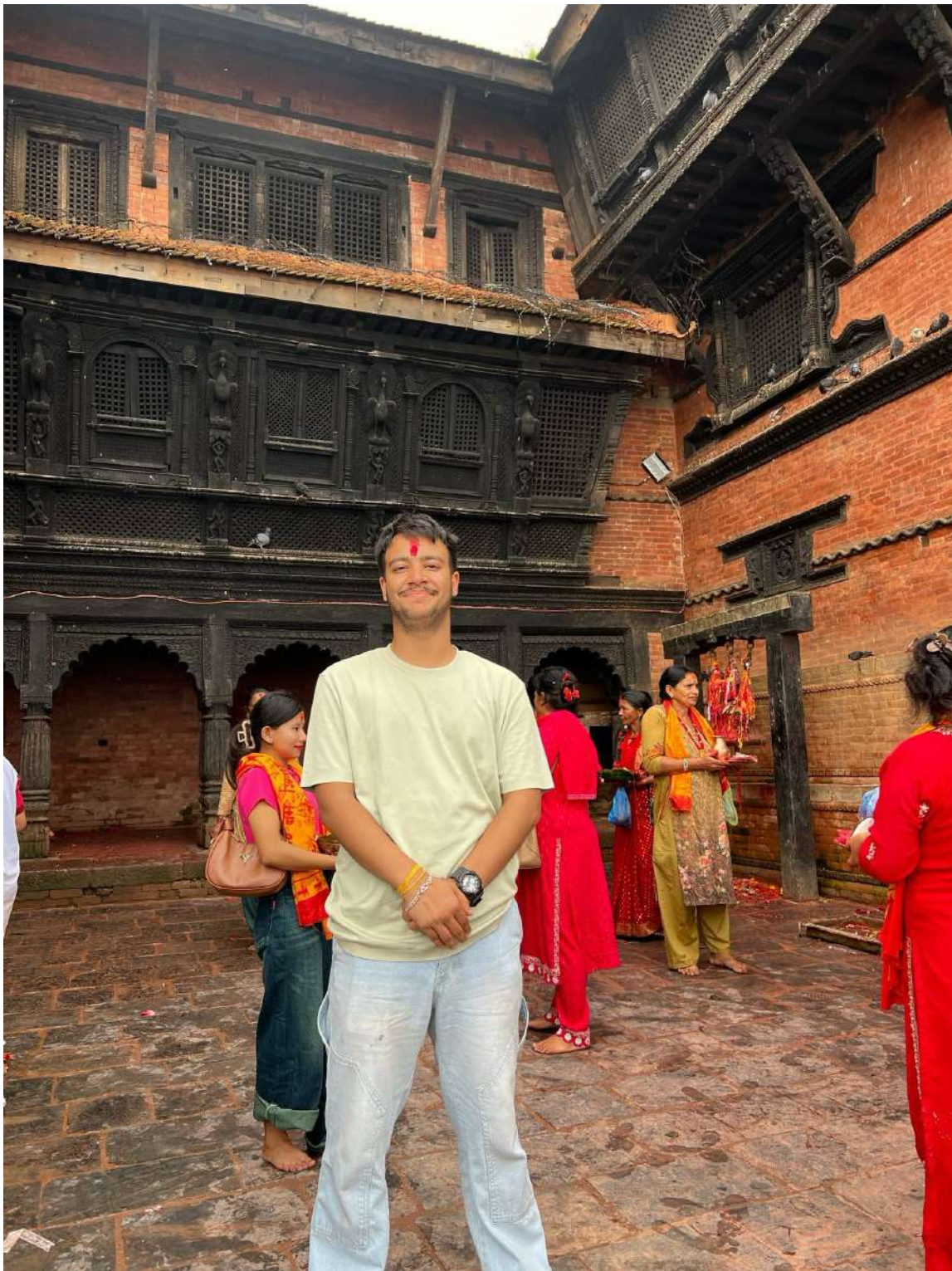


Figure: At Gorakhhali Temple Premises.



Figure: At Gorkha Durbar.



Figure: Gorkha Durbar Behind Me.



Figure: At the center of the Gorkha.



Figure: At Gorakhnath Temple.