**The Mystical Kathmandu**

**Duration: 06 Nights / 07 Days**

**Places Covered: Kathmandu – Nagarkot & Pokhara**

**Day 01: Arrive Kathmandu**

Reception at airport upon arrival by our representative with fresh flower garland.

Kathmandu is the capital of Nepal and the Kathmandu Valley is the political and cultural heart of the Kingdom. Founded in the 8th century AD by King Unakamadeva at the join of the Bagmati and Bishnumati rivers the founding point is the Kashta (wood) Mandap (temple), built where two old trade routes crossed and now the oldest building in the city. The Europhile first minster of Kathmandu in the 19th century, Jung Bahadur Rana, built many classical looking buildings and palaces in the city, in contrast to those of Newari style that existed before. The urban sprawl that makes up modern Kathmandu is in fact two cities, Patan and Kathmandu. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 02: In Kathamndu**

Morning you will enjoy a guided tour covering Kathmandu’s Durbar Square, which is one of three durbar (royal palace) squares in the Kathmandu Valley. It is the site of the Hanuman Dhoka Palace Complex, which was the royal Nepalese residence until the 9th century and where important ceremonies, such as the coronation of the Nepalese monarch, still take place today. You will then visit one of the most curious attractions in Nepal, the Kumari Chowk. This gilded cage contains the Raj Kumari, a young girl chosen through an ancient and mystical selection process to become the human incarnation of the Hindu mother goddess, Durga. She is worshipped during religious festivals and makes public appearances at other times for a fee paid to her guards. You will next continue to visit Swayambhunath the golden spire of the 5th century Swayambhu stupa is adorned with a colorful fluttering of prayer flags; it crowns a hill overlooking the Kathmandu Valley and offers fantastic views over the city of Kathmandu. Swayambhunath is one of the most recognizable symbols in Nepal and the painted eyes of Buddha watch all who ascend the worn stone steps. This afternoon your guided tour will take you for a visit of the Hindu culture in Nepal, Pashupatinath. This is the place where holy sadhus pray and cremations on the Bagmati River are carried out. While you are not allowed into the temple if you are not a Hindu, the grounds surrounding the temple usually have a fascinating crowd of the faithful. We then continue to the holiest shrine for the Buddhist culture in Nepal, bouddhanath, with its large stupa, this is the place where all devout Buddhists come for a pilgrimage. It is not unusual to see very old devotees circumnavigate the shrine hundreds of times falling to their knees and rising again for a few steps only to go back down again to their knees. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 03: Kathmandu / Nagarkot**

Morning, you will proceed visit Bhadgoan, also known as Bhaktapur. The Durbar Square is a conglomeration of pagoda and shikhara style temples grouped around a fifty five window palace of brick and wood. The square is one of the most charming architectural showpieces of the Valley as it highlihts the ancient arts of Nepal. The golden effigies of kings perched on the top of stone monoliths, the guardian deities looking out from their sancturaries, the wood carvings in every place struts, lintels, uprights, tympanums, gateways and windows, all seem to form a well orchestrated symphony. You will visit the The Golden Gate – which is said to be the most beautiful and richly moulded specimen of its kind in the entire world. the door is surmounted by a figure of the goddess Kali and Garuda (the mythical man bird) and attended by two heavenly nymphs. It is placed like a jewel, flashing innumerable facets in the handsome setting of its surroundings. You will next visit the The Palace of Fifty five Windows. This magnificent palace was built during the reign of King Yakshya Malla in A.D. 1427 and was subsequently remodelled by King Bhupatindra Malla in the seventeenth century. Among the brick walls with their gracious setting and sculptural design, is a balcony with Fifty Five Windows, considered to be a unique masterpiece of woodcarving.

From Bhaktapur you will proceed to Nagarkot and check in at the hotel where you will be reserved to stay for a night. The tiny settlement of Nagarkot clings to a hilltop 36 kms. Cast of Kathmandu at an altitude of 2,099 m. It is one of the best vantage point to view the peaks – from the Annapurnas to Everest (weather condition permiting), the peaks seem no more than a day’s walk away. Enjoy sunset view in the evening. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 04: Kathmandu / Pokhara**

Drive to Pokhara. Pokhara is 210 km. and is a 6 hours drive from Kathmandu. From Pokhara town (2,352 feet) the 25,000+ peaks of the Annapurna and Dhaulagiri ranges rise a scant 20 miles away with no intervening ridges to spoil the view. pokhara offers the best mountain scenery in Nepal without undertaking a trek. In good weather there are splendid views right from the hotel. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 05: In Pokhra**

This morning you will go for a excursion trip to Sarangkot. The village of Sarangkot (1590 m) is situated on the top of a hillock just north of Phewa Lake. One gets to see beautiful views of sunrise and sunset from Sarangkot as the sun splashes hues of red on the Himalayan range. On a clear day, the panoramic ranges of Annapurna, Dhaulagiri, Machhapuchhre and Ganesh Himal can be observed from here.

This afternoon you will visit Bindebasini Temple. This is one of the oldest temples in Pokhara was a part of Kaski Kingdom, the main deity of the temple. Goddess Durga, was brought from india. Apart from the peace and tranquility that can be felt in this region, the premises of the temple offers a good view of the Himalaya on a clar day. The temple is in the area of the bazaqar, hence a journey of the old bazaar can be combined with a visit to the temple. Sightseeing to Devi’s fall, also known as Patale Chango is an awesome waterfall lying 2 km. southwest of Pokhara. During summer and rainy season, the waterfall takes its real form with gushing water splashing and making its way through the rocks. Just opposite of Devi’s fall, on the other side of the road, there is Gupteshwor Cave. This cave is popular for the different natural forms made from limestone deposits. Photography is strictly prohibited inside the cave. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 06: Pokhara / Kathmandu**

Drive back to Kathmandu and transfer to hotel. Day free for independent activities. Overnight at hotel.

**Day 07: Kathamndu**

Morning will be comparatively free and closer to the time of your flight, you will be transferred to the airport in time to board your flight for onward journey.