



ADVENTURE
INTERNATIONAL



Annapurna Siklis Trek

Adventures for a Lifetime

Annapurna Siklis Trek

The views of the Annapurnas, Machapuchhare and Lamjung is one that will remain etched in one's mind forever as you make your way through the warm rice fields of Bhurjung Khola. Very quickly your steps lead you to the edge of the rhododendron forest as you trek through Brahmin, Gurung & Magar villages. In April this forest is ablaze with rhododendron and magnolia trees creating a wonderful foreground to the 180-degree panorama of the Himalayas. Beyond Tarahill, lying at the foot of Lamjung (it's ridge humped like that of a Gaur – Wild Buffalo) is the village of Siklis. From the villages of Parje and Siklis we climb even higher to sheep pastures where the silence of the mountains is occasionally broken by the thundering avalanches. The fun loving and friendly villagers, their proud and simple lifestyle, the never ending activity in the fields, the stone steps that connect these remote settlements to ever growing cities, all remind us how much we actually need and with how little they are content with. Through rice fields, fruit orchards and friendly villages you finally make your way to the quiet banks of the Begnas Lake. Your trek ends with a morning boat ride across the tranquil Begnas with its waters reflecting the mountains, a wonderful ending to a lasting journey.

In more detail...

Day 1 ~ Kathmandu

Upon arrival into Tribhuvan International Airport Kathmandu you are personally met and transferred to your hotel. There is a briefing and welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

*Overnight Dwarika's Hotel (D) **other options available***

Day 2 ~ Kathmandu / Pokhara

Morning guided tour of the biggest stupa in Nepal, Baudhanath. Then continue tour of the ancient palace squares of Patan. You enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon fly to Pokhara and you are transferred to your hotel for dinner and next day's preparations.

Overnight Temple Tree Resort (B,L,D)

Day 3 ~ Ghale Kharka

After breakfast we drive north towards the Annapurna Range and then past rice fields to the village of Bhurjung village meet the trek team. After handing over our main bags to the porters we start our trek as we slowly ascend through several Gurung villages making our way up to Ghalegaon, a big Gurung settlement. We show our permits at the Annapurna Conversation office and continue our final climb to our first camp at Ghale Kharka, perched right on the side of a hill on the edge of the Rhododendron and Magnolia Forest. We reach camp just in time for some hot tea and cookies and

Annapurna Siklis Trek

enjoy the view as the day comes to an end. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 4 ~ Tara Hill

Today we leave human settlements to continue our climb through wonderful Rhododendron and Giant Magnolia forests. In spring the forest is usually in full bloom bringing into life, all the birds and butterflies and Celogyne Orchids that adorn the tree trunks with rich white bloom. As we continue our way up the trail we are greeted with views of the Annapurna range and the stunning Fishtail mountain. We will stop at a meadow with excellent views of the range and enjoy a well deserved cup of coffee or tea before we reach a saddle with a travellers rest - A Chautara for a hot meal. It is only an hour to the top from this point and an amazing walk when the Rhododendron is in flower. Looking down the way you ascended you will witness the sea of bloom. The trek finally ends at the very top of this hill called Tara Hill – Star Hill. And what a Star this hill is when the mountains reveal themselves on a clear morning. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 5 ~ Siklis Kharka

An early morning wakeup call, with a hot cup of tea, will ensure that you don't miss watching the first rays of the sun hitting the majestic Himalayan range. On a clear day breakfast will be served outside, enjoying the breath taking panoramic view from Manaslu mountains in the east to Annapurna South in the West. The trek crew will break camp while you start walking along the ridge making your way through the Rhododendron and Magnolia Forest. This is a beautiful ridge walk that goes up and down for a while and then traverses on the south side of the ridge that continues from Tara Hill to pastures that look down the valley you will trek in the following days. Finally here we climb steadily to our awaiting camp on this near perfect camping meadow that looks straight at the looming Lamjung peak and above the sprawling village of Siklis that is so well known for its many generations of young men that served as the famous Gurkha soldiers of the Indian and British army. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 6 ~ High Camp

From the villages of Parje and Siklis we climb even higher to sheep pastures where the silence of the mountains is occasionally broken by the thundering avalanches and the mountains seem only a stone's thrown away. Today we start the day with a steep ascent first on stone steps, and then as we enter the rhododendron and deciduous forest, the trail starts to climb through the forest. These trails are used by the sheep-herders as they take their herds to graze higher up in the alpine pastures to fatten them and prepare them for the holy Dashain festival in October. During the day, clearings in the forest offer tantalizing glimpses of the peaks and also a time to take a quick break and rehydrate ourselves. During the spring season, parts of these forests are ablaze with rhododendron and magnolia trees. We finally reach a clearing right beside the main trail where we

Annapurna Siklis Trek

will be camping for the night. Camp at Siklis High Camp 9,000 ft. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 7 ~ High Camp / Siklis Gharka

You explore High Camp and hike up to a vantage point over 10,000 ft with breathtaking views of the Annapurna and Lamjung, at a very close range; close enough to even hear and see avalanches tumble down the mountain slopes. After the morning walk you will return to camp to enjoy your breakfast and then begin descending the same trail we came up yesterday, all the way back to the village of Siklis. You will then spend the rest of the day exploring the interesting village of Siklis. Like many of the villages of the region, the inhabitants of Siklis are Gurungs, a people of distant Tibeto-Burman origin, who live from sheep herding and cultivation of crops of maize, wheat, rice and millet. Many ex-Ghurkhas live in the village and enjoy meeting trekkers. Our guides will take you through the village explaining about the local architecture and lifestyle, visiting homes, the local daycare centre and the Conservation Area Office. You then return to camp and if time permits, our cook will demonstrate and give us some cooking lessons. You relax with a drink in your hand enjoying the sunset on the beautiful mountain peaks. Camp at Siklis Kharka 7,200 ft. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 8 ~ Sabi River

After breakfast in this amazing campsite you descend to the village of Siklis and then along traditional Gurung stone steps you descend to the warm Madi River valley. This section with superb views of the valley ahead is an excellent area to watch birds of prey such as Griffon Vultures, Lammergiars, Eagles, etc. Once at the bottom of the valley you cross a metal bridge and very soon stop for lunch beside a cool stream. After lunch the path weaves its way through a recent flood and landslide which has displaced villages, wildlife and vegetation in this area. You will pass villages with traditional beehives, fields and wayside teashops before reaching your camp close to the river near Sabi with Kapok trees. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 9 ~ Mardi River

The river valley is hot in the afternoon but cool in the mornings and evenings. This is a short half day walk first on a dirt road where some local jeeps and buses ply but very soon you trek through rice fields and then an undisturbed Sal forest to the campsite beside the Mardi River, below the Pipal and Banyan trees that have travellers resting places – Chautaras. Look out for huge Wild Bee Hives and Large Pied Kingfishers that like to nest in the banks on the other side of the camp. For those who wish to swim you should be able to find a small slow water pool in the river however the water might be a bit cold for swimming. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 10 ~ Thulokot

Leaving the campsite you come across the village of Bhaise through a valley very good for fruits

Annapurna Siklis Trek

and coffee. The trail then ascends up the hill through Chestnut forest to a saddle from where you are quite close to lunch. The views of Lamjung and the Annapurnas looking back are always a delight to gaze. After lunch it is less than an hour to camp at Thulokot, very close to the site where there was an old fort of the local Kings. The campsite commands a panoramic view of the Annapurnas and will also allow you to see most of your trekking route. From the site of the old fort you will also be able to see the Begnas Lake to the south. *Overnight Camp (B,L,D)*

Day 11 ~ Begnas Lake

After a lovely breakfast overlooking the Begnas lake and the mountains on the other side, you continue to descend down the other side of the valley going through numerous Brahmin and Chhetri villages. You will traverse and descend through rice fields watching the farming community toiling in the fields. Lunch will be near a water buffalo pool and you will arrive at your lovely camp which is situated right at the edge of the Begnas lake in good time. Once at camp you will have the option to explore the lake in local boats, birdwatching, showers and relaxing.

Overnight Camp (B,L,D)

Day 12 ~ Pokhara

Today is your final day and after breakfast, you will bid adieu to the trek team and take the boat across the Begnas Lake to meet your awaiting private vehicle on the other side of the lake. After checking and transferring your kit, you drive to the lovely Tiger Mountain Lodge situated on a high ridge 4,000 ft with stunning views of the Annapurna range and the valley below. Not to be missed is a dip in the full mountain view infinity pool. Tonight there is a celebration dinner!

Overnight Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge (B,L,D)

Day 13 ~ Kathmandu

You catch a flight from Pokhara to Kathmandu airport. Upon arrival you are transferred to your hotel. You have time to relax, explore, and have lunch on your own. In the evening there is a farewell dinner at Krishnapan restaurant. *Overnight Dwarika's Hotel (B,D)*

Day 14 ~ Depart

After breakfast you are transferred to Kathmandu airport for departures. (B)

END OF SERVICES

Annapurna Siklis Trek

*~ This is a sample itinerary that can be adjusted to suit your needs.
For more info about pricing, set departures, custom trips, etc ---
Please call +1 888 664 3865 or email us info@adventure-international.com ~*

