



There is good reason why many tourists have fond memories of Pokhara. It is the most popular tourist spot in the country, a place to view snow-capped mountains and to start off major trekking expeditions to the Himalayas. A valley like the capital, Pokhara is however, noticeably more laidback and less cramped.

Pokhara is the next destination after Kathmandu for many adventure and pleasure trips in and around it. It is often called the enchanting Himalayan valley with a heart of major actions and adventures. The best way to see Pokhara and surrounding village life in an honest light is to trek through it.



You could start giving those city legs some exercise by hiking up to the *Shanti stupa* situated on

the hillock that overlooks

Fewa

Lake. With ample greenery and far from the city, the site is a treat to urban dwellers. Cycling around the city in the mornings is a great way to see the local life.

Pokhara is also the gateway to many amazing trekking trails. Lace up and hit the trails for a short refreshing trek. There are many short treks from and around Pokhara. The *Dhampus* trek is a fantastic two day trek that starts from

Phedi

which is at a short driving distance from Pokhara. From

Phedi

, trekkers climb through beautiful forests for at least three hours and reach the hilltop named *Dhampus*

. The view from here includes that of the Annapurna south peaks of Annapurna range including Fishtail.

Dhampus

itself is quite and serene, a good place to unwind and spend time with friends. The sunrise and sunset from here are equally amazing. It is not just a scenic viewpoint but also a culturally rich ethnic village providing you with a great opportunity to observe the daily lives of the villagers. Accommodation is usually in a small family run lodge which offers clean continental and local dishes.

Likewise, the *Ghandruk* trek is a short and easy cultural trek providing some wonderful insight into the lives of the ethnic people whose villages are in the area. The trek offers great views of the Himalayas with mountains such as Fishtail visible clearly. The trail winds through scenic river valleys, rhododendron and orchid bushes and has some moderate ascents and descents.

Trekkers will have to leave Pokhara early in the morning to get to *Phedi*. The trail climbs steeply up the hill to our right towards

Dhampus

. Walking along this ridge gives great views of the Mount Annapurna and Manaslu. Through

Birethati

, the trail turns right after crossing the River

Modi

and reaches

Ghandruk

in about four to five hours. The trail here is quite steep.

Trekkers can spend time in neighboring villages or straight off move down to *Modi* River and climb up again to

Landruk

, walk through paddy fields and

move uphill to *Pothana* via *Durali* village. *Pothana*, situated on the ridge of a hill, offers scenic views of the Annapurna range. Trekkers will then descend to

Phedi

and get back to Pokhara.

Similarly, the trek to *Ghorepani-Poon* Hill, which is located in the Annapurna region, makes up one of the most scenic and fun trails in Nepal. The trek offers spectacular mountain views along with charming villages inhabited by the ethnics, dense rhododendron forests full of birds and deep sub tropical valleys, all set below the *Annapurnas*.

One of the highlights of this trip is

Poon

Hill. When the sun rises,

Poon

Hill seems to touch the snow capped Himalayan giants.



As with the *Ghandruk* trek, trekkers begin their trip at Pokhara's *Nayapul*, walk along the banks of the *Modi* River and get to *Biret hanti*

– a large village with many shops and teahouses. From there, the trail continues through the village, following the northern bank of the

Bhurungdi

river and then climbing steadily to

Hille

and then to

Tikhedhunga

. The next stop for trekkers is

Ulleri

, a large

Magar

village. The trail continues to ascent gently through oak and Rhododendron forests towards

Banthanti

,
Nangethanti

and finally to

Ghorepani

at 2775m. Trekkers will get to hike up to Poon Hill with superb sunrise and sunset views and panoramic views of the Himalayas. Coming back to

Ghorepani

, trekkers will then move to Tadapani from where a downhill trail through forests reaches

Ghandruk

. From

Ghandruk

, it's back to

Nayapul
and then to Pokhara.



Now, let us switch over from trekking to another identity of the city, Lakes. The very name of Pokhara is derived from the word *Pokhari*, which in Nepali means lake. There are about eight lakes in Pokhara and besides the the *Fewa* lake, the other two lakes known as

Begnas

and

Rupa

lake located about 15 km from Pokhara are ideal places for relaxation, boating and fishing.

Begnas

Lake from Pokhara can be reached by bus, taxi, or cycle. Visit

Begnas

market for a unique hillside market experience.

Apart from Begnas Lake, boating in *Fewa* Lake is the most popular activity here. The Lake is 1.5 kilometer long and the second largest lake in Nepal. It offers an excellent view of the mountains and their reflections on the lake. Many restaurants and hotels are located on the lakeside and one can easily find a place to sit back, relax and enjoy great meal while enjoying scenery here. You will also enjoy boating



Paragliding over Pokhara, Nepal. This is the largest lake in the region, and it is a popular spot for paragliding. The view is from the west side of the lake, looking towards the Annapurna range.

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{end-tooltip},{tooltip} **Annapurna 4** {end-texte}



{end-tooltip}, {tooltip} **Fishtail**{end-texte}

