

BARDIYA NATIONAL PARK



Bardiya National Park, located in the Bardiya District of the Far Western Terai region of Nepal, is one of the country's largest and most pristine protected areas. Spanning 968 square kilometers, it offers a remarkable combination of dense sal forests, open grasslands, and riverine habitats.

Bardiya is often described as Nepal's best-kept secret for wildlife lovers. Unlike the more famous Chitwan National Park, Bardiya receives fewer visitors, giving travelers a more peaceful and authentic jungle experience.

Situated about 376 km (233 miles) from Kathmandu, Bardiya can be reached by a scenic overland journey of 12–15 hours or by a short flight to Nepalgunj followed by a two-hour drive to the park's main entrance at Thakurdwara. Its location along the fertile Terai plains and near the Indian border contributes to its rich biodiversity.

Trek Highlights:

- Rich Wildlife Diversity – Home to Royal Bengal tigers, one-horned rhinoceroses, wild Asian elephants, leopards, swamp deer, and Gangetic dolphins.
- Birdwatcher's Paradise – Over 400 bird species, including rare Bengal floricans, Sarus cranes, and great hornbills.
- Untouched Wilderness– Less crowded than Chitwan, offering a peaceful, off-the-beaten-path safari experience.
- Varied Landscapes – Dense sal forests, open grasslands, and riverine ecosystems along the Karnali River.
- Adventure Activities – Jeep safaris, walking safaris, rafting, and cultural tours to Tharu villages.
- Ideal for Eco-Tourism– Supports conservation of endangered species and sustainable tourism practices.

Where is Bardiya National Park?

Bardiya National Park lies in the Far Western Terai of Nepal, roughly 376 km (233 miles) from Kathmandu. Set in Bardiya District, beside the Karnali River and close to the Indian border, it can be reached by a long drive or by flying to Nepalgunj and continuing with a short road journey.

Detailed Itinerary

Day 1: Kathmandu to Bardiya National Park

Begin your adventure with an early morning flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj, a gateway to the far-western region. Upon arrival, you will be transferred by jeep or private vehicle through scenic Terai landscapes to Bardiya National Park, approximately a 2–3 hour drive. After checking into your lodge near the park entrance, enjoy a welcome briefing and a short nature walk to familiarize yourself with the local flora and fauna. In the evening, relax and prepare for the wildlife safaris ahead.

Day 2: Full-Day jungle safari

Start early with a thrilling jeep safari deep inside Bardiya National Park. Keep your eyes peeled for majestic Royal Bengal tigers, one-horned rhinoceroses, wild elephants, and diverse birdlife. After returning to the lodge for lunch and some rest, you may opt for a guided walking safari to experience the jungle’s sights and sounds up close. Later, visit nearby Tharu villages to learn about the unique culture and traditions of this indigenous community. Enjoy an evening jeep safari or bird watching session before dinner.

Day 3: Wildlife Exploration and Karnali River Rafting

Spend your morning on another exciting safari or nature walk focusing on bird watching and spotting smaller mammals. Later, head to the Karnali River for a scenic rafting trip, where you can admire riverbank wildlife, including the rare Gangetic dolphin. Enjoy a picnic lunch beside the river then return to your lodge to unwind. The evening may include a cultural program featuring Tharu music and dance or leisure time to relax.

Day 4: Return to Kathmandu

After breakfast, check out from your lodge and drive back to Nepalgunj Airport. Catch your flight back to Kathmandu, where your journey concludes with a transfer to your hotel or onward destination.

Inclusions:

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- Domestic round-trip flights: Kathmandu – Nepalgunj
- Airport transfers in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj
- Transportation between Nepalgunj and Bardiya National Park by jeep/private vehicle
- Accommodation in lodges or hotels near Bardiya National Park (twin-sharing basis)
- All meals during the safari (breakfast, lunch, and dinner)
- Guided jeep safaris and walking safaris inside Bardiya National Park
- Entrance fees and permits for Bardiya National Park
- Services of experienced jungle guides and support staff
- Cultural visits to Tharu villages
- Basic first aid kit and emergency support during the safari



Exclusions:

- International airfare to/from Nepal
- Visa fees and processing charges
- Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- Personal expenses such as laundry, phone calls, and tips
- Meals in Kathmandu or during transit (unless specified)
- Optional activities not mentioned in the itinerary
- Equipment rental (binoculars, cameras, etc.)
- Emergency evacuation or medical expenses
- Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages unless included

Best time for the Bardiya National Park

The best time to visit Bardiya National Park is between October and April, when the weather is dry and comfortable, creating ideal conditions for wildlife viewing and outdoor activities. During this period, the park’s landscapes are vibrant, and animals are more easily spotted as they come out to graze and drink from water sources.



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