

Kori and Sikles Trek: An Off-the-Beaten-Path Himalayan Adventure in Nepal

Overview:

The Kori and Sikles Trek is a beautiful off-the-beaten-path trekking adventure in the Annapurna region of Nepal, combining stunning Himalayan scenery, rich Gurung culture, and peaceful mountain landscapes. This trek takes us from the traditional Gurung village of Sikles to the spectacular Kori Danda (3,800 m), offering breathtaking views of some of Nepal's most iconic peaks, including Annapurna II, Annapurna III, Lamjung Himal, and Machhapuchhre (Fishtail).

Starting from Pokhara, the gateway to the Annapurna region, we travel through scenic countryside, terraced farmlands, and charming villages before reaching Sikles, one of the largest and most culturally significant Gurung settlements in Nepal. From Sikles, the trail gradually climbs through beautiful oak, pine, and rhododendron forests, remote mountain pastures, and alpine landscapes, providing a peaceful trekking experience away from the busy trails.

The highlight of the journey is reaching Kori Danda (3,800 m), a stunning ridge viewpoint surrounded by panoramic Himalayan views. The peaceful environment, wide-open landscapes, and traditional grazing areas make Kori Danda a memorable destination for nature lovers and photographers.

Throughout the trek, we will experience authentic mountain hospitality, stay in local teahouse lodges, and discover the unique lifestyle, traditions, and culture of the Gurung communities. The combination of natural beauty, cultural experiences, and less-crowded trails makes the Kori and Sikles Trek an ideal choice for trekkers seeking an authentic Himalayan adventure.

Quick facts:

Cost: USD per Person

Destinations: Kathmandu / Pokhara / Sikles / Hugu Goth / Notha / Kori Danda

Duration: 11 Days

Trek starting point: Sikles

Trek ending point: Sikles

Grade: Moderate

Transportation: Tourist coach / local jeep / private vehicle

Accommodation: tea house, tourist standard hotel in Kathmandu

Max altitude: 3,800 m

Activities: Hiking & trekking, cultural tour, sightseeing

Best seasons: March, April, May, October, September and November

Please do not forget to carry the following items with you:

- Passport size Photos
- Torchlight / Headlight
- Warm cap
- Sunglass and sun-cream
- Sleeping bag (light weight)
- Trekking sticks
- Dry fruits and chocolates
- Down jacket
- Backpack (No luggage or hand carry)
- Trekking trousers
- Trekking shoes (No any converse and Vans shoes)

PROGRAM ITINERARY

□ **Day 1: Arrival at Kathmandu / Meet and Greet**

Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport. Our Staff member meets you and transfers you to the hotel. Overnight stay at a hotel.

□ **Day 2: Kathmandu Sightseeing and preparation for trekking**

Morning wake-up and breakfast in the hotel

Our guide will meet you at your hotel and brief you about the upcoming trek. He will guide you through all the formalities and necessary paperwork required for the trek.

After that, we then do a sightseeing tour in Kathmandu Valley of famous UNESCO world heritage sites like Boudhanath, one of the largest Stupas in the world and Swayambhunath, a famous monkey temple.

Apart from Sightseeing, we also get a TIMS card and permits for our trekking on this day. In the evening, we do initial preparation for the trek.

Overnight stay at a hotel.

□ **Day 3: Drive from Kathmandu to Pokhara (825 m): 7 – 8 hours drive**

Our Kori and Sikles Trek begins with an early breakfast before departing from Kathmandu (1,400 m) for Pokhara (822 m) by comfortable tourist bus. The journey of approximately 200 km along the scenic Prithvi Highway takes around 7–8 hours, following the Trishuli and Marsyangdi rivers through picturesque valleys, terraced farmlands, traditional villages, and lush green hills. We will stop at a selected highway restaurant for lunch before continuing towards Pokhara, the gateway to the Annapurna region.

Upon arrival in Pokhara, we will transfer to our hotel and have time to relax or take a leisurely walk along the tranquil shores of Phewa Lake. With the Annapurna and Machhapuchhre (Fishtail) ranges rising above the valley, Pokhara offers the perfect introduction to the adventure ahead. In the evening, our trekking guide will conduct a comprehensive trek briefing, check the necessary equipment, and make the final preparations before we begin our journey into the beautiful Kori and Sikles trekking region the following day. Overnight at the hotel in Pokhara (822 m).

□ **Day 4: Drive from Pokhara to Sikles (1,980m): Distance : 50 – 55 km | 4 – 5 hours drive**

We will begin our Kori and Sikles Trek after breakfast in Pokhara and drive by private vehicle to Kaunkhola. From here, we will continue on an exciting 4WD jeep ride to the beautiful Gurung village of Sikles. The off-road journey takes approximately 4–5 hours, passing through rolling hills, lush forests, rivers, and scenic terraced farmlands while offering spectacular views of the surrounding landscapes.

Upon arrival in Sikles, we will receive a warm welcome from the local community. As one of Nepal's largest and most traditional Gurung villages, Sikles is renowned for its rich cultural heritage, traditional stone houses, and breathtaking mountain scenery. We will have time to explore the village, experience the unique Gurung way of life, and visit the historic Chili Kohinbo Temple, which is associated with the Bon Po spiritual tradition.

After exploring the village, we will spend our first night at a comfortable teahouse lodge in Sikles after covering approximately 50 – 55 km by private vehicle and 4WD jeep from Pokhara.

▣ **Day 5: Trek from Sikles to Hugu Goth (2,016 m): Walking Distance | 7 – 8 km | 5 – 6 hours**

After breakfast in Sikles, we will begin our trek towards Hugu Goth, continuing deeper into the beautiful landscapes of the Kori and Sikles Trek. The trail gradually leaves the traditional Gurung village behind and enters peaceful oak and rhododendron forests. As we ascend through the quieter Himalayan wilderness, the path becomes narrower and steeper in some sections, offering a true mountain trekking experience.

Along the way, we will enjoy stunning views of the surrounding valleys and some of the region's most impressive peaks, including Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Lamjung Himal, Annapurna II, and Annapurna III. The trail also passes through traditional grazing areas used by local communities for raising goats and buffalo, providing insight into the simple and sustainable lifestyle of the mountain people.

After approximately 5–6 hours of walking, we will reach Hugu Goth (2,016 m), a peaceful highland settlement surrounded by natural beauty. We will spend the night at a comfortable teahouse lodge, enjoying the quiet atmosphere and mountain surroundings.

▣ **Day 6: Trek from Hugu Goth to Nohtha (3,000 m): Walking distance | 8 km | 5 – 6 hours**

After breakfast at Hugu Goth, we will continue our journey towards Nohtha, following a peaceful trail deeper into the highlands of the Kori and Sikles Trek. The route gradually climbs through beautiful forests of oak, pine, and rhododendron, with occasional open sections revealing magnificent views of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna II, and Lamjung Himal.

As we gain elevation, the landscape begins to change, with the forest gradually giving way to alpine terrain and wide mountain pastures. Along the way, we will cross small streams and pass through traditional grazing areas used by local communities during the warmer months. The trail becomes narrower and more rugged in some sections, adding to the adventure of trekking through this remote part of the Annapurna region.

After approximately 5–6 hours of walking, we will reach Nohtha (3,000 m), where we will rest and enjoy the peaceful surroundings of the mountains. Overnight at a comfortable teahouse lodge.

▣ **Day 7: Trek from Notha to Kori Danda (3,800 m): Walking distance | 6 – 7 km | 3 – 4 hours**

Following breakfast at Nohtha, we will continue our journey towards Kori Danda (3,800 m), one of the most scenic sections of the Kori and Sikles Trek. The trail gradually climbs along an open ridge, providing increasingly impressive views of the surrounding Himalayan peaks and deep mountain valleys. As we gain altitude, the landscape changes from forested areas into alpine meadows and wide grazing pastures traditionally used by local yak herders.

The gradual ascent offers plenty of opportunities to enjoy the peaceful mountain environment and admire panoramic views of the Annapurna range, Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Lamjung Himal, and the surrounding peaks. Although the walking distance is shorter compared to previous days, the increasing elevation makes this section a rewarding and memorable part of the trek.

After approximately 3–4 hours of walking, we will reach Kori Danda (3,800 m), where we can relax and enjoy the tranquil atmosphere of the high Himalayas. We will spend the night at a comfortable teahouse lodge surrounded by breathtaking mountain scenery.

▣ **Day 8: Trek from Kori Danda to Sikles (1,980 m): Walking distance | 12 – 14 km | 7 – 8 hours**

After enjoying the beautiful sunrise views from Kori Danda, we will begin our long descent back towards Sikles (1,980 m), the traditional Gurung village where our trek began. The trail gradually drops through alpine meadows and high-altitude grazing areas before entering peaceful forests of rhododendron and oak.

As we continue descending, the landscape changes with warmer temperatures, greener surroundings, terraced farmlands, and occasional views of traditional mountain settlements. The trail offers a wonderful contrast to the higher landscapes of Kori Danda, allowing us to experience the diverse scenery and natural beauty of the Annapurna region.

After approximately 7–8 hours of trekking, we will arrive back in Sikles, where we can relax and celebrate the completion of our Kori and Sikles Trek. We will spend the night at a comfortable teahouse lodge in Sikles.

▣ **Day 9: Drive from Sikles to Pokhara (822 m) | 40 – 45 km | 3 – 4 hours**

Leaving the beautiful village of Sikles behind, we will begin our scenic drive back to Pokhara (822 m), marking the final stage of our Kori and Sikles Trek. The journey follows a winding mountain road through the hills, passing traditional Gurung villages, terraced farmlands, lush green landscapes, and rivers flowing through the valleys below.

As we gradually descend towards the lakeside city of Pokhara, we will enjoy changing views of rural Nepal and a final glimpse of the peaceful Himalayan countryside. The drive offers a relaxing transition from the remote trekking trails back to the comfort of the city. Depending on road conditions, the journey will take approximately 3–4 hours.

Upon arrival in Pokhara, we will transfer to our hotel and conclude our memorable Kori and Sikles Trek with wonderful memories of the mountains, landscapes, and local culture.

▣ **Day 10: Drive from Pokhara to Kathmandu (1,400 m) | 200 km | 7 to 8 hours**

Completing our Kori and Sikles Trek, we will begin our return journey from Pokhara to Kathmandu (1,400 m) by comfortable tourist vehicle. The scenic drive follows the Prithvi Highway, winding alongside the Trishuli and Marsyangdi rivers while passing through terraced hillsides, traditional villages, lush forests, and charming roadside settlements.

As we leave the Annapurna region behind, the journey provides a final opportunity to enjoy Nepal's diverse landscapes and observe the everyday life of local communities along the highway. Depending on traffic and road conditions, the drive will take approximately 7–8 hours.

Upon arrival in Kathmandu, we will transfer to our hotel, marking the successful completion of our unforgettable Kori and Sikles Trek.

▯ **Day 11: Farewell and Departure**

After completing our unforgettable Kori and Sikles Trek, we will arrange your airport transfer from Kathmandu according to your flight schedule. Our team will ensure a smooth and comfortable departure, assisting you with your journey to the airport.

As we say goodbye, we hope you take home wonderful memories of the Himalayan landscapes, traditional Gurung culture, warm hospitality, and the unforgettable experiences shared along the trekking trails. We look forward to welcoming you again for another adventure in the Himalayas.

Alternative: YOU CAN ALSO TAKE A DOMESTIC FLIGHT FROM POKHARA TO KATHMANDU. THE DURATION OF THE FLIGHT IS ABOUT 30 MINUTES. ONE-WAY FLIGHT COSTS AROUND 125 USD PER PERSON. WE CAN MAKE A FLIGHT RESERVATION FOR YOU. PLEASE LET US KNOW.

What's Included:

- ☒ Airport Pick-up and drop Service
- ☒ Hotel Accommodation in Kathmandu (twin sharing basis) with breakfast
- ☒ Guided Tour of Kathmandu valley with an experienced tour guide
- ☒ Hotel accommodation in Pokhara (twin sharing basis) with breakfast
- ☒ Sightseeing charges and Entry fees
- ☒ Accommodation during the trek (teahouse / guesthouse / homestay)
- ☒ All meals during trek (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- ☒ Transportation (tourist coach / local jeep / private vehicle)
- ☒ Experienced licensed English-speaking trekking guide
- ☒ Local government Entry Permit of Rs. 2000 (started in 2018)
- ☒ Insurance of the Guide and Porter
- ☒ Annapurna Conservation Area Permit
- ☒ TIMS (Trekking Information Management System) Trekking Permit Card
- ☒ Medical kits carried by the guide
- ☒ All necessary paper works, office service charge and all Government Taxes

Optional Add-Ons:

- ☒ Porter (cost: 20 USD per day, carries 15 – 20 kg load. Porter's accommodation, transport and meal is paid by the company)
- ☒ Down jacket, all-season sleeping bag, duffel bag and trekking map (in case you don't have your own. Down jacket, sleeping bag and duffel bag must be returned after completion of the trip).

What's Excluded:

- ☒ Travel insurance (Mandatory: Should include emergency evacuation coverage while trekking up to 5500+ m)
- ☒ International airfare and Visa costs (you can get Visa upon arrival at the airport)
- ☒ Domestic flight from PKR to KTM
- ☒ Personal interest items or gears
- ☒ Tips to guide / driver / porter
- ☒ Lunch and dinner in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- ☒ Extra night accommodation in Kathmandu and Pokhara in case of early arrival, late departure, and early return from the mountain (due to any reason) than the scheduled itinerary
- ☒ Beverage and Drink Items / Other Extra facilities like hot shower during trek
- ☒ Any other expenses which are not mentioned in "What's Included" section

Important note:

This note represents the most current information for this itinerary and may supersede any information in the current brochure, including but not limited to the itinerary and price. The itinerary should be seen as a guide only. This itinerary may change at any time due to inclement weather, forces of nature and other circumstances beyond our control. We do our best to provide you the best available services but at the same time ask for your understanding to be flexible, in case of unpredictable conditions.

Thank you for choosing Trekadvise, Nepal as your travel partner. We wish you a very pleasant stay in Nepal.