

Machhapuchhre Model Trek – Into the Quiet Ridgelines of Annapurna

Overview:

The Machhapuchhre Model Trek is a rewarding journey through the peaceful mid-hills and high ridgelines of the Annapurna region, offering a less crowded and more authentic Himalayan trekking experience. Starting from the surroundings of Pokhara, the trail gradually ascends through terraced farmland, traditional Gurung villages, and dense rhododendron forests, providing a steady introduction to both the cultural richness and natural beauty of the region.

As the route gains elevation, the landscape opens into broad ridgelines and alpine pastures with increasingly wide views of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna South, Hiunchuli, and Lamjung Himal. The trek passes through quieter sections of the Annapurna Conservation Area, where the environment remains largely untouched, allowing for a peaceful and immersive walking experience away from the busier trails.

Higher up, ridge camps such as Korcho (3,682 m) offer some of the most striking sunrise and sunset panoramas of the entire journey, with uninterrupted Himalayan views stretching across the Annapurna range. From there, the trail descends gradually through forested paths and hillside settlements, eventually returning to the lower mid-hills before concluding with a drive back to Pokhara.

Blending ridge walking, cultural encounters, and continuous mountain scenery, the Machhapuchhre Model Trek is ideal for trekkers seeking a quieter, more natural exploration of the Annapurna region.

Quick facts:

Cost: USD per Person

Destinations: Pokhara / Mardi Pool / Chichimle Kharka / Korcho / Saitighatta

Duration: 12 Days

Trek starting point: Mardi Pool

Trek ending point: Saitighatta

Grade: Easy

Transportation: tourist coach / private vehicle

Accommodation: tea house, tourist standard hotel in Kathmandu

Max altitude: 3,682 m

Activities: Hiking, trekking, & 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; Swayambhunath, a famous monkey temple; and Pashupatinath, a sacred Hindu temple complex. 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 (822 m) | 6 – 8 hours drive**

After an early breakfast, we depart from Kathmandu and begin our scenic drive to Pokhara, Nepal's beautiful lakeside city nestled beneath the Annapurna range. The journey follows the winding Prithvi Highway alongside the Trishuli and Marshyangdi Rivers, offering ever-changing views of terraced hillsides, rural settlements, lush forests, and river valleys. Along the way, we pass through bustling market towns and picturesque countryside, providing a glimpse into everyday life in rural Nepal. Lunch will be served at a local restaurant en route. As we approach Pokhara, the landscape opens up to reveal stunning views of the surrounding mountains, including the Annapurna and Machhapuchhre (Fishtail) peaks on clear days. Upon arrival in Pokhara (822m) in the late afternoon, you can relax by the tranquil Phewa Lake and enjoy the peaceful atmosphere of this charming city.

Overnight stay at a hotel.

▮ **Day 4: Drive to Mardi Pool and Trek to Ribhan Village (1,790 m) via Lachok (1,430 m): Walking Distance | 8 – 10 km | 4 – 5 hours**

After breakfast, we leave Pokhara and follow the scenic Seti River valley on a short drive to Mardi Pool via Milanchowk. From here, the trek begins, gradually leaving the bustle of the city behind as we enter a landscape of terraced fields, traditional villages, and forested hillsides. The trail passes through Lahachowk, a prominent Gurung settlement known for its rich culture and sweeping views of the surrounding countryside.

Continuing along the Mardi River, we enter the Annapurna Conservation Area, where the route winds through lush woodland and peaceful rural terrain. Along the way, glimpses of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna South, and the rolling green hills provide a spectacular backdrop to the day's walk. Crossing small streams and passing scattered farmsteads, we eventually reach the charming village of Ribhan (1,790 m), beautifully perched on a hillside overlooking the valleys below. The village offers a warm local welcome, stunning mountain scenery, and a tranquil setting to unwind after the day's journey. Overnight stay at a teahouse.

▮ **Day 5: Trek from Ribhan to Chichimle Kharka (2,645 m): Walking Distance | 10 – 12 km | 5 – 6 hours**

After breakfast, we continue deeper into the Annapurna Conservation Area, gradually leaving the last permanent settlements behind as the trail enters a quiet stretch of rhododendron, oak, and mixed Himalayan forest. The path climbs steadily with gentle ups and downs, offering a relaxed yet immersive walk through one of the region's most untouched woodland environments. Passing Lalka, where simple herders' shelters reflect the seasonal grazing traditions of the area, we continue the ascent towards Odane Hill. As the trail gains height, occasional clearings open up to reveal sweeping views of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna South, and the layered hills stretching far into the distance. The route follows the ridgeline across Odane Hill before descending gradually through dense forest to Chichimle Kharka, a traditional high pasture used by local communities during the summer months.

Covering approximately 10 – 12 km in 5 – 6 hours of walking, today's route offers a rewarding blend of ridge walking, forest trails, and open alpine scenery. Chichimle Kharka rewards the effort with a peaceful, remote setting surrounded by wilderness and panoramic Himalayan views.

▮ **Day 6: Trek from Chichimle Kharka to Khumal Danda (3,245 m): Walking Distance | 9 – 11 km | 5 – 7 hours**

Following breakfast, we resume our climb deeper into the Annapurna Conservation Area, leaving Chichimle Kharka behind as the trail steadily ascends through dense rhododendron and mixed alpine forest. The route follows a natural ridgeline, gradually gaining elevation through quiet woodland rich in Himalayan flora and birdlife.

We continue towards Samsur Deurali, where the forest slowly opens and wider views of the surrounding valleys and distant snow-capped peaks begin to appear. From here, the trail becomes noticeably steeper, following narrow mountain paths with occasional stream crossings and the constant sound of flowing water cutting through the hillsides.

The final section leads us up to Khumal Danda (3,245 m), a scenic ridge-top viewpoint offering sweeping panoramas of the Annapurna range, Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), and the surrounding high ridgelines. Covering approximately 9 – 11 km in 5 – 7 hours of trekking, today's route offers a steady and rewarding ascent through forested ridges and alpine landscapes. Overnight stay at a teahouse .

▮ **Day 7: Trek from Khumal Danda to Korcho (3,682 m): Walking Distance | 5 – 7 km | 4 – 5 hours**

Leaving Khumal Danda (3,245 m), the trail follows a high ridgeline that immediately opens up to sweeping Himalayan views. The route gradually ascends through open alpine terrain and scattered rhododendron patches, with continuous vistas of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna South, and the surrounding high ridges.

As we gain elevation, the trail becomes more remote and atmospheric, passing through quiet grazing areas and natural viewpoints along the ridge. The sense of altitude increases steadily, with the landscape shifting into a more rugged alpine environment and wide horizons dominating the scenery.

The final ascent leads to Korchon (3,682 m), a peaceful high-altitude campsite surrounded by open wilderness and uninterrupted mountain views. Covering approximately 5 – 7 km in 4 – 5 hours of trekking, today's journey is shorter in distance but rewarding in elevation gain and dramatic Himalayan scenery. Overnight stay at teahouse.

▮ **Day 8: Rest day / Exploration Day at Korchon**

A well-earned rest and acclimatization day at Korchon (3,682 m) begins early with a sunrise excursion to a nearby ridgeline. As the first light breaks over the horizon, the Annapurna range gradually comes alive, with Machhapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna South, and surrounding peaks glowing in soft shades of gold and pink. The stillness of the high camp and the wide alpine setting make this one of the most memorable moments of the trek.

After sunrise, the day continues at a relaxed pace with optional short hikes around the surrounding ridges and viewpoints. These gentle walks are ideal for acclimatization, offering uninterrupted Himalayan panoramas without significant elevation gain while allowing time to explore the high-altitude landscape.

The remainder of the day is spent at camp resting and enjoying the peaceful isolation of Korchon. As the day progresses, shifting light and drifting clouds over the valleys below create a constantly changing mountain atmosphere, making it a perfect place to pause and prepare for the higher sections ahead. Overnight stay at a teahouse.

▮ **Day 9: Trek to Korchon to Takru (1,450 m): Walking Distance | 14 – 16 km | 7 – 9 hours**

From Korchon (3,650 m), the trail begins a steady and sustained descent as we leave the open alpine ridgelines behind. The route initially offers wide Himalayan views of Machhapuchhre (Fishtail) and the Annapurna range before gradually entering quieter, more sheltered terrain with patches of rhododendron and mixed forest.

The path continues downhill with a combination of gentle forest sections and steeper natural drops, passing through increasingly greener landscapes as we lose elevation. This long descent offers a completely different perspective of the region, moving from high alpine wilderness into mid-hill vegetation zones and scattered rural trails.

After approximately 7–9 hours of trekking and covering around 14–16 km, we arrive at Takru (approx. 1,450 m), a lower hillside settlement surrounded by forest and farmland. The warmer climate and lush surroundings mark a clear transition from the high mountains to the mid-hills of the Annapurna region. Overnight stay at a teahouse.

▮ **Day 10: Trek from Takru to Saitighatta and Drive to Pokhara**

From Takru, the trail makes a gentle descent through terraced hillsides, rural settlements, and cultivated farmland as we gradually move away from the quieter forested sections into more inhabited mid-hill landscapes. It is a pleasant final walking stretch, offering a last glimpse of traditional village life in the Annapurna foothills.

After approximately 3 – 4 hours of trekking, we reach Saitighatta, where the walking section of the journey comes to an end. From here, we continue by vehicle, driving back to Pokhara through scenic countryside, river valleys, and rolling foothills, with the familiar landscapes of the region accompanying us on the return. The drive takes around 2 – 3 hours, marking the conclusion of the trekking adventure upon arrival in Pokhara. Overnight stay at a hotel.

▮ **Day 11: Drive from Pokhara to Kathmandu (1,440 m) | 6 – 8 hours**

After breakfast in Pokhara, we begin our journey back to Kathmandu as we leave the lakeside city and drive eastward along the Prithvi Highway. The route follows the Marsyangdi and Trishuli river valleys, offering a scenic drive through terraced hillsides, rural settlements, and winding mountain roads that showcase the diverse landscapes of central Nepal. Along the way, there are views of river gorges, traditional villages, and distant Himalayan foothills, making the journey an enjoyable transition from the mountains back to the capital. The drive typically takes around 6 – 8 hours, depending on road and traffic conditions, before reaching Kathmandu (1,440 m), marking the conclusion of the Annapurna trekking journey.

Alternatively: You can take a domestic flight from Pokhara to Kathmandu, which takes approximately 30 minutes. The one way flight costs around USD per person. We can also assist in arranging and reserving the flight for you. Please let us know if you would like us to proceed.

▮ **Day 12: Farewell and Final Departure**

After breakfast, depending on your flight schedule, we will transfer you to Tribhuvan International Airport for your final departure. Our team will assist with your departure arrangements, ensuring a smooth and comfortable transfer. This marks the end of your journey in Nepal, with memories of the Himalayas, warm local hospitality, and an unforgettable trekking experience to take home.

We sincerely thank you for traveling with us and hope to welcome you again for another unforgettable adventure in the Himalayas.

What's Included:

- ☒ Airport Pick-up and drop Service
- ☒ Hotel Accommodation in Kathmandu (twin sharing basis) with breakfast
- ☒ Hotel Accommodation in Pokhara (twin sharing basis) with breakfast
- ☒ Guided Tour of Kathmandu valley with an experienced tour guide
- ☒ Sightseeing charges and Entry fees
- ☒ Accommodation during the trek (teahouse / guesthouse / homestay)
- ☒ All meals during the trek (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)
- ☒ Transportation (tourist coach / local bus / 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 POK – 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 Trekadviser, Nepal as your travel partner. We wish you a very pleasant stay in Nepal.