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Nepal – with Strong India Connection [By Priom Arya](#)

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Nepal – a country deeply build on Hindu ethos has a strong India connection. The erstwhile Hindu kingdom beckons with its geographical diversity, beautiful landscape, diverse vegetation, sacred lakes, snow capped mountain peaks and places of historical significance. Indian citizens can visit Nepal without passport or visa.

Nepal is a landlocked country in Southern Asia, located between Tibet autonomous region of China and India.

Nepalese are descendants of three major migrations – one from India, another from Tibet and third from North Burma and Yunan via Assam. Although the Indian migration happened later, they dominate the country not only numerically but also politically, economically and socially. The indigenous people of the Kathmandu valley are called Newars. They are classified into forty cultural groups but all speak a common language called Nepal bhasa. They follow both Hinduism and Buddhism. The ethnic groups in various terrains of Nepal are grouped as Janajati.

Nepal travel packages take you to a country with diverse linguistic heritage. This heritage is evolved from the language groups of Indo –Aryan, Tibeto – Burman, Mongolian and various indigenous languages. The majority has as mother tongue Nepali. Maithili, Bhojpuri, taru, Tamang, Newari or Nepal Bhasa, Magar, Rai, Awadhi, Limbu and Bajika also exist as mother tongues of various people. Nepali is the official national language and is derived from Sanskrit. Devanagari script is used to write Nepali. Local dialects in Terai and hills are in unwritten form.

The vast majority of Nepalese population follows Hinduism. Shiva is regarded as the guardian deity of the country. Nepal homes the world famous Lord Shiva temple, the Pashupatinath Temple. It is a holy pilgrimage centre for Hindus the world over.

Lumbini is included in many Nepal Tour Packages. Located in district of Kapilavasthu , Lumbini is a pilgrimage site for Buddhists. It is the place for lord Buddha was born. It is also declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The Nepal topography is divided into three regions – Terai or the plains , Pahad or hills and Parbhat or mountain regions. Terai in south bordering India is part of northern rim of the Indo-Gangetic plains. They are formed and fed by three major Himalayan rivers Kosi, Narayani and Karnali. Pahad is adjacent to Mountains and varies in altitude. It homes sub tropical to alpine climate zones. The Parbat region makes up the northern part of Nepal. It home the great Himalayan range. Including the highest peak of the world Mount Everest with eight thousand eight hundred and forty eight meters height, seven other eight thousand meter peaks are in Nepal or on its border with China. They are Lhotse, Makalu, Cho Oyu, Kanchenjunga, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna and Manaslu.

Due to the large number of peaks, Nepal is ideal for Mountaineering. Trekking in Nepal is also encouraged. There are various trekking trails in the country which are enthralling and interesting. The concept of –Tea-House Trekking– is the easiest way to trek as there is no need of back pack the is tents, food, water or beer. Tea –houses are now developed into full-scale tourist lodges with hot showers, pizza, pasta and beer. The hikes are normally through lodge filled settlements or villages from where everything can be purchased. But one shortcoming is that facilities available in remote areas are not extensive as in more popular areas.

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