



# Nepal



## SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND IMPACT TRIP 2018

### TRAVEL DATES

March 4 -10, 2018

<b>POPULATION:</b>	29 million	<b>OFFICIAL LANGUAGE:</b>	Nepali
<b>WEATHER &amp; CLIMATE:</b>	Sunny days and occasional showers with average temperature of 67°F		
<b>SEARCH PRESENCE:</b>	Active since February 2006 with approximately 40 staff members		
<b>AVERAGE FLIGHT TIME FROM NEW YORK:</b>	20 hours	<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST:</b>	\$5,000 - \$8,500

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

During the Civil War in Nepal (1996-2006), over 13,000 lives were lost and millions more were displaced. Search For Common Ground Nepal opened its doors shortly before the 2006 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord that marked the end of the civil war. For the past 11 years, we have been working with locals to foster an inclusive peace process. Because of the strength of our relationship with the Nepali people, we are delighted to extend the opportunity to join our President and CEO, Shamil Idriss, and Nepal Country Program Director, Bhola Prasad Dahal, for an unforgettable journey to see history rewritten by the local community in Nepal.

## WHY EXPERIENCE NEPAL WITH SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND?

In the words of Marcel Proust, **“The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes.”** Find this new perspective through a transformative seven-day journey to the breathtaking country of Nepal. **You will have the exclusive opportunity to see peacebuilding through new eyes, witness Search’s work from the ground-level, and immerse yourself in Nepal’s rich culture and history.** At the end of each day, you can reflect and recharge while taking in the calming sounds of chimes from a nearby Buddhist temple.

## LIFE-CHANGING OPPORTUNITIES MEMORIES TO CHERISH

- Meet with Speaker of Parliament, **Onsari Gharti Magar, and Gauri Malla**, the star of our hit TV show, **Madam Prime Minister**
- Visit with Search’s local leaders to **building lines of dialogue** with the Nepalese government
- Watch the sunset over the **Himalayas**
- Listen to the stories and **hopes of the next generation** during a visit with the *Youth Engage Project*
- Explore optional **outdoor adventures and treks through the stunning landscape**
- Take a Jeep safari or **river canoe to spot elephants, Bengal tigers, rhinos, and crocodiles**

(subject to change)

## PERSONAL IMPACT

- Understand the direct effect of Search’s work in Nepal
- Witness the peacebuilding process from the ground-level through Search’s programs and participants
- Gain valuable insight on how local leaders incorporate peacebuilding into their daily lives
- Participate in workshops for Nari Diwas (International Women’s Day) on March 8th

## SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND AND NEPAL: A PROGRESS UPDATE

- Search’s **Youth Engage Project** is a two-year project that aims to decrease youth involvement in organized crime and redirect them to focus on peacebuilding. Search implemented the project through a consortium of partners, each drawing upon their existing strengths and networks. Compared to when the project started in 2014, **these concerted efforts more than doubled the rate of youth involved in peacebuilding** nationwide.
- The **Peacebuilding Initiative (TPI)** is one of Search-Nepal’s community-based initiatives. It is comprised of **two main components: dialogue with key stakeholders; and radio programming** that provides listeners with peacebuilding information. Thus far, the TPI has contributed to a significant increase in the number of people who have faith in the media’s ability to contribute to peace in the community.
- **Over 4.79 million people in Nepal watched Madam Prime Minister**, which has transformed attitudes toward marginalized groups. Public surveys show that **83% now believe it’s important for people of all ethnic groups and both genders to play an active role in public decision-making**, an increase from **only 23% prior to the show**.



## KATHMANDU, NEPAL

The first steps of your unforgettable journey will begin in **Kathmandu, Nepal's vibrant and bustling capital city**. As the country's largest metropolitan center, Kathmandu offers a world of excitement and unparalleled access to unique, multicultural experiences. Become inspired as you learn about the city's rich, **two-thousand-year-old history** through visits to Buddhist pilgrimage sites, royal palaces, and ancient city squares.

In Kathmandu, you have the opportunity to meet with members of the **Nepalese Parliament, such as the Speaker of Parliament, Ms. Onsari Gharti Magar** (invited), to discuss the current and future state of peacebuilding in Nepal. Additionally, our guests will meet **Guari Malla** (invited) **the star of our hit TV show, Madam Prime Minister**, to discuss how the show is creating positive change throughout Nepal. *Madam Prime Minister* is a fictional political drama that **celebrates women's leadership** and highlights the challenges that Nepal's first female prime minister faces in her quest to establish a transparent, accountable, and collaborative system of governance in Nepal.

**Our trip is timed to coincide with Nari Diwas** (International Women's Day), so throughout the trip we will meet with leading female peacemakers who are setting examples within their respective fields. You will be able to attend a **workshop that we are conducting in partnership with UN Women**. The *Building Peace in Nepal: Ensuring a Participatory and Secure Transition* workshop promotes women's rights, protection, and participation in a post-conflict society. Search's work is designed to further the objectives of the UN Security Council's Resolutions in Nepal (UNSCR 1325 and 1820), which condemn the use of sexual violence as a crime against humanity when used as a wartime tool; addresses the inordinate impact of war on women; and emphasize the critical role women should play in conflict management and sustainable peacemaking.

Additionally, Search runs a project called **Hamro Sikhysya** ("Our Education"), which works to ensure transparency, citizen engagement, and accountability in public schools. You will tour a school and hear from our diverse partners of civil society organizations, school administrators, and governing bodies that are helping shape a modern education in Nepal. The project is led in consortium with the National Campaign for Education in Nepal and the Good Governance Foundation.

## CHITWAN NATIONAL PARK

After your time in Kathmandu, you will travel to **The Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site**, where you can reflect on your time in Nepal. Home to a rich variety of flora and fauna, Chitwan National Park is the perfect spot to take a Jeep safari or river canoe tour. You will have the chance to **explore the unparalleled natural beauty of Nepal, and even spot Bengal tigers, rhinos, elephants, and more**—all while resting in a breathtaking home nestled in the Nepali jungle.

## NAWALPARASI, NEPAL

Next you will visit **Nawalparasi** where you will learn from some of the most prominent budding peacemakers in the country. Start the day off by jumping into a drama or football (soccer) clinic with Search staff, partners, and locals. You will experience how it is more than just fun and games, but instead the perfect platform to create awareness of each participant's rights and responsibilities toward creating peace. Later that afternoon, you will be given the opportunity to receive an exclusive **behind-the-scenes tour and meet the participants from our hit Nepali TV show, Pahunch**. The reality show features solving fictional crimes with real police officers. By having citizens of diverse backgrounds work together with police officers, our show raises awareness of the challenges faced by the security forces and establishes a sense of **trust between police and communities**.

## NAGARKOT, NEPAL

For your final evening, you will return to Kathmandu where Search will host a **farewell dinner with the local Search staff**. After the meal, we will head to Nagarkot, a hill-top village that is **world-renowned for its sunrise and sunset views of the Himalayas**.

# SAMPLE ITINERARY

Schedule is subject to change.  
Guests are welcome to extend their stay to travel independently.  
Search staff can refer guests to local travel guides, if desired.

- DAY 1**  
4 MARCH 2018
- Arrive in Kathmandu and check-in at hotel
  - Group welcome dinner at a Nepalese restaurant
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- DAY 2**  
5 MARCH 2018
- Morning sightseeing tour of Kathmandu
  - Visit with local leaders involved in Search projects
  - Group dinner with the star of *Madam Prime Minister* and the Speaker of Parliament
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- DAY 3**  
6 MARCH 2018
- Travel to Chitwan National Park
  - Take a Jeep safari or river canoe tour to spot elephants, Bengal tigers, rhinos, and crocodiles
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- DAY 4**  
7 MARCH 2018
- Meet with *Youth Engage* participants
  - Attend a women's rights workshop, held in partnership with UN Women
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- DAY 5**  
8 MARCH 2018
- Visit Nawalparasi and receive behind-the-scenes access to the set of *Pahunch*
  - Join a wildlife tour down the Narayani River
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- DAY 6**  
9 MARCH 2018
- Meet participants from Search's local programs
  - Farewell dinner with SFCG Nepal staff and program participants
  - Watch the sunset over the Himalayas in the village of Nagarkot
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- DAY 7**  
10 MARCH 2018
- Enjoy leisure time for shopping, resting, journaling, or independent sightseeing
  - Depart from Kathmandu



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To reserve your spot on this inspiring journey, contact Kat Chapman, Senior Events Coordinator, at [kchapman@sfcg.org](mailto:kchapman@sfcg.org) or call (202) 777-2230

This trip is **limited to 25 travelers**, confirmed on a first-come, first served basis. If you are interested in joining, a **nonrefundable deposit of \$500** is required to reserve your space. **Fees to be paid in full by February 1, 2018.** Airfare to and from Kathmandu is not included in these fees, but a **portion will be tax deductible as a charity contribution.** Checks can be made out to Search for Common Ground.

### **\$5,000** BASIC PACKAGE

- Food
- Local transportation
- Hotel
- Activities

### **\$6,500** PREMIUM PACKAGE UPGRADE

- Basic Package plus...
- Welcome Gift: Custom Search L.L. Bean backpack
- Trekking Essentials Pack: Sunscreen, bug spray, band aids, etc.
- Alcohol inclusive
- Private briefing by Search Staff prior to trip
- Car service to and from Kathmandu airport

### **\$8,500** ADVENTURE PACKAGE UPGRADE

- Basic and Premium Package plus...
- Travel agent services for flights (service fee only, not including cost of flight)
- Private escort upon arrival in Kathmandu through customs to hotel
- 3 to 4-night trip extension to participate in Holi festival or tour with Sacred Journeys Nepal (more details upon request)
- Custom photo book of memories upon return home

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For any questions, please  
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