



Pokhara

061 / POP 250,000 / ELEV 884M

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Best Places to Eat

- » Krishna's Kitchen (p207)
- » Moondance Restaurant (p205)
- » Caffè Concerto (p206)
- » Koto (p206)
- » China Town (p205)

Best Places to Stay

- » Temple Tree Resort & Spa (p200)
- » Hotel Travel Inn (p199)
- » Fish Tail Lodge (p202)
- » Chhetri Sisters Guest House (p203)
- » Maya Devi Village (p204)

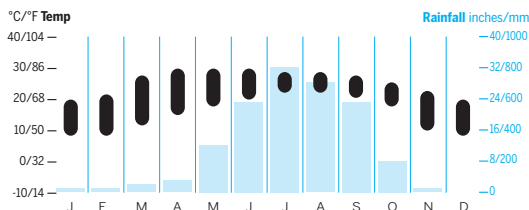
Why Go?

Peaceful Pokhara has a prime position beside a deep green lake, nestling among forested hills with a picture-postcard backdrop of gleaming Himalayan peaks. But Pokhara has two personalities. Behind Lakeside Pokhara, the one most tourists see, is a sprawling trade centre bustling with all the trappings of modern commerce but with pockets of old Newari architecture. Meanwhile, back at Lakeside Pokhara, the scene is a chilled-out version of Thamel where traffic fumes have been swapped for fresh mountain air and the racing motorbikes for paddle boats.

Lakeside Pokhara provides rest and recreation for many a weary traveller. Whether you've just returned from a three-week trek or endured a bus trip from hell, Lakeside is the perfect place to recharge the batteries. Yet there's much more to it than a laid-back charm. It also has a booming adventure sports industry, and is arguably the best paragliding venue on the globe. And, of course, it's the gateway to the world-famous Annapurna treks.

When to Go

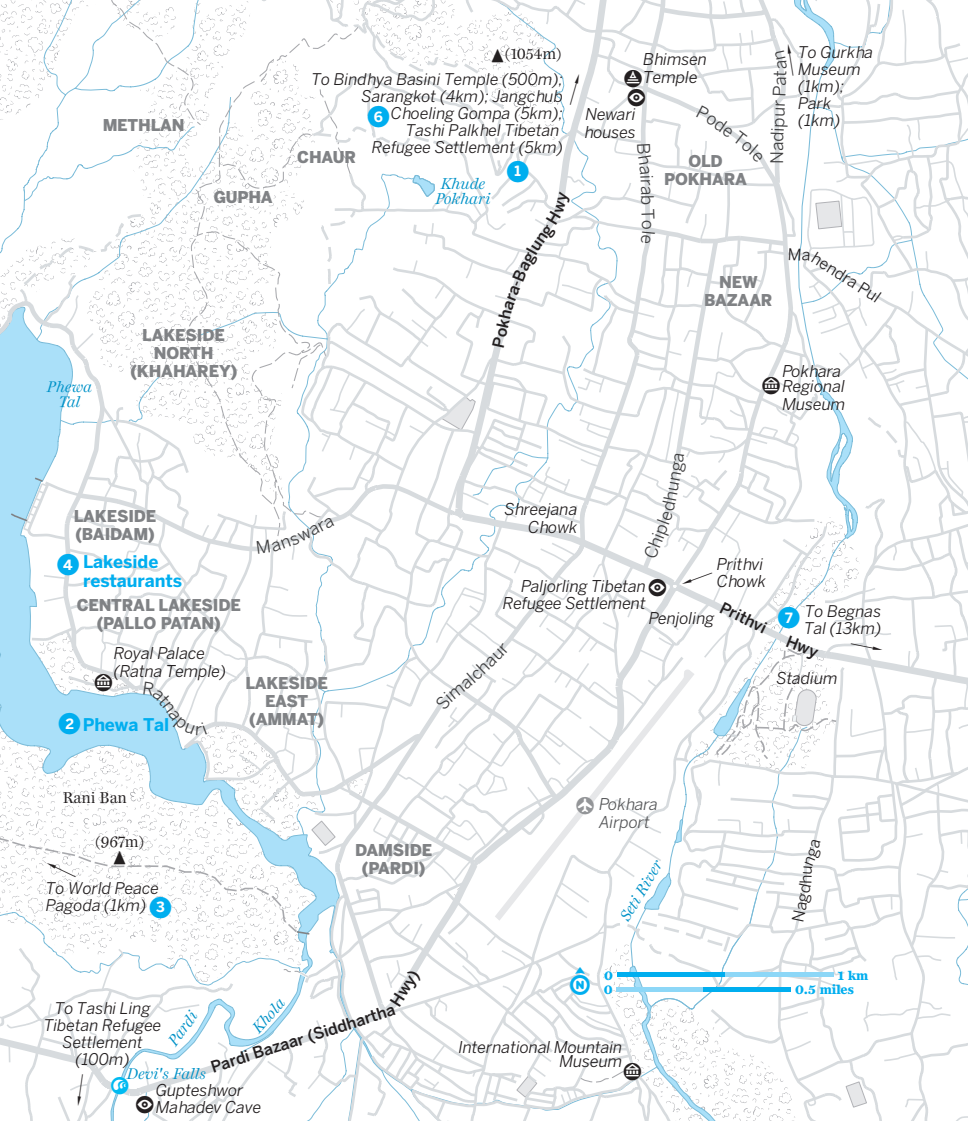
Pokhara



Oct–Mar Ideal time to visit, when the mountains (mostly) reveal their grandeur.

28 Dec–1 Jan Enjoy food and cultural shows at the Pokhara Street festival.

Apr Tourists and locals alike celebrate the Nepali New Year in Pokhara.



Pokhara Highlights

- 1 Witness from **Sarangkot** (p212) the awakening of the mountain gods as the rising sun illuminates the Himalayan peaks
- 2 Paddle a colourful boat out to the middle of **Phewa Tal** to capture an unbelievable reflection of the Annapurna Range
- 3 Stroll through a verdant forest up to the dazzling white **World Peace Pagoda** (p205) to capture a bird's-eye view of Pokhara with its magnificent mountain backdrop
- 4 Celebrate your trekking triumph with a delicious meal and a cold beer at one of Lakeside's **restaurants** (p205)
- 5 Soar like an eagle as you follow the thermals while tandem **paragliding** (p198)
- 6 Learn the survival story of Tibetan refugees and listen to chanting monks at **Jangchub Choeling Gumpa** (p195)
- 7 Escape the Lakeside crowds and explore the quiet shores of **Begnas Tal** (p213)