



Until the seventies, Pokhara was a small bazaar town known by the rare traveller for its charming people and as the start point for treks into the Annapurna Himal which dominates the skyline. The area along Fewa Tal, the largest lake in the valley, became first a camping ground for trekkers and gradually developed into the tourist hub of this rapidly growing city. The long road skirting the lake at its eastern end is home to a variety of restaurants, bars and shops. There are banks and ATMs here too. Most of the places listed below are in the Lakeside area.

Eating Out

Krishna's Kitchen

Khapaundi Cove (Maya Devi) – some 4km away from the main lakeside, a lovely setting overlooking the NW end of the lake. Head past Hallan Chowk taking the road northwest along the lake shore. Pre-booking is essential.

This restaurant serves authentic Thai food in a beautifully landscaped setting with fine views of the lake. Staff are trained under Thai master Chef Chadhil Monkong. Rent a bicycle for a pleasant ride. The restaurant is next to the paragliding landing site.

Café Concerto

Lakeside – near the former royal lodge

A small restaurant with seating inside and outside, Café Concerto's claim to local fame is its pizza and its home-made ice creams in authentic Italian style.

Pokhara Thakali Kitchen

Lakeside – near the Royal Lodge

This restaurant serves authentic Thakali food. The Thakalis come from high in the mountains north of Pokhara in the region of Thak Khola (river) from which they take their name. Itinerant traders traditionally in salt, wool and medicinal herbs, they have a tradition of hospitality and running wayside restaurants and bars.

Moondance

Lakeside – Pipal Bot

Well established restaurant in central Lakeside serving a range of cuisines. Hygienic and an ideal meeting point. Owned by Dorje Lama, doyen of the lakeside restaurateurs.

Things to Do

Om Family Yoga Meditation Temple

Swami Dhyan Sagar offers courses in yoga, mediation, holistic living for beginners and more advanced courses for those with more time. He is also an expert masseur specialising in Japanese Reiki, Shiatsu & Hara massage.

For both simple yoga sessions for beginners and massage, Sunil can be booked to visit Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge. Just speak to our Guest Relations staff.

Frontiers Paragliding

Lakeside

Frontiers Paragliding operates both tandem flights to introduce the excitement of paragliding and also courses for those who wish to “go solo”. Professionally run and monitored by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, paragliding is a dramatic adventure and novel way to see the Pokhara Valley and mountains. Gliding up on thermals, often eagles will join you in flight.

Avia Club

Airport, Pokhara

Another aeronautical adventure available in Pokhara; Avia Club runs micro-light mountain flights to see the famous “Fish Tail” or Machhapuchhare peak and others in the Annapurna Range. As with Sunrise Paragliding, this service is professionally run and supervised by the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. Flights of 30 minutes and 1 hour are available. The company provides flying suits, briefing and all requirements; just bring your camera.

Boating Stations

Barahi

Along the edge of the former king’s residence is the main boating station where ferries take people to the Bhindubhasini temple on an island in the lake. Paddle boats can be hired, with or without a ferryman, for periods from an hour to a whole day.

Mike’s Breakfast Hotel Boat Station

As at Barahi, paddle boats are available beside Mike’s Breakfast where pedalos and sailing dinghies are also available.

Note that in the spring the wind gets up in the afternoon and it can be a hard paddle against the wind back to the boat stations.

Japanese World Peace Stupa

Raniban – on ridge above lake

Clearly seen on the ridge to the southwest of Fewa Tal is the Japanese World Peace Stupa. A ride across the lake and a steady but steep hike through the Raniban (Royal Forest) for an hour or more brings you onto the ridge and the stupa itself. The forest is a good place for birdwatchers. By arrangement with Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge, a vehicle can pick you up on the ridge or you can walk back down, emerging by the dam at the south end of Fewa Tal – a good half-day's expedition.

International Mountain Museum

Ratopairo – 10 minutes' walk from Shangri-La hotel

Opened in February 2004, this is Pokhara's newest and largest museum. Set in 14 acres of landscaped grounds, the dramatic building echoes the towering peaks of the Himalaya. Inside, there are a range of geological, anthropological, and mountaineering expedition displays.

In the grounds, long-time Nepal resident, Brian Whyte, has created a mini-village restaurant showing traditional homes and life.

Annapurna Museum

Prithivi Narayan Campus – 30 minutes in a taxi
Pokhara Bazaar

A museum established by an early Peace Corps volunteer-turned-resident, the late Dorothy Mierow, this museum has the area's best collection of butterflies and moths. These were collected by long-term resident and leading expert on Nepal's butterflies, Colin Smith. For those with a technical interest in Lepidoptera, this museum is well worth a visit. Upstairs, the museum has displays explaining the Annapurna Conservation Area Project. This is a major undertaking to provide conservation and development initiatives in the Annapurna Area.

British Gurkhas Museum

Tallo Deep
Pokhara Bazaar – 15 minutes in taxi from lakeside

A small but interesting collection of Gurkha militaria including a copy of the famous "Nishani Mai", a silver truncheon originally the Regimental Colour of 2nd King Edward VII Own Goorkhas and now adopted as the colour of the Royal Gurkha Rifles – merged from 2nd, 6th, 7th and 10th Gurkhas. For military history enthusiasts, there is a wealth of information about Britain's oldest allies in Asia. These formidable soldiers still serve with dedicated professionalism in the British Army.

Shopping

Exclusive Textiles

Devi's Falls

Exclusive Textiles is a business owned by a Sikh family. It has a colourful range of both traditional and modern designs for clothing, table, and bed linen. These are quality products and make good gifts to take home for friends and family.

We have a selection of their products available in our shop at Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge.

Nepali Hand-made Paper

Lakeside

There are several shops dotted along the lakeside with a selection of Nepali paper products. Colourful and made from sustainable resources, Nepali paper makes good gifts. Choose from a range of papers, notebooks, picture frames, and photograph albums.

Hiking & Camping Equipment

Lakeside

Along the lakeside boulevard, there are a plethora of shops selling jackets, sleeping bags, ponchos and similar equipment. Do not be fooled by the "North Face" logos: it is strictly made in Nepal! However, that notwithstanding, the products are of good quality and excellent value for money compared to Europe or USA. Many of the producers in Nepal are suppliers on contract to major outlets in the West. While we do not recommend any particular shop, do look around and bargain for the best prices.

For best quality products and a true Nepal success story, go to **Sherpa Adventure Gear** on the first floor at Barahi Chowk. Tashi Sherpa established his in his business in USA and made a great success before repatriate all to Nepal. This is the place for the best Nepal-made original trek clothing and similar.

Tibetan curios

Lakeside

As with the trekking gear, there are several Tibetan handicraft and curio shops along the lakeside. With the Chinese invasion of Tibet, many refugees settled in Nepal, both in Kathmandu and Pokhara. These shops sell a range of artefacts – some may be genuine antiques – bargain hard as Tibetans are the world's natural traders!