Itinerary for Package: Mardi Himal Trek - The Hidden Gem of Annapurna

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- Why Mardi Himal Trek is popular for ?

  - Explore one of Nepal's **less-crowded trekking routes**, a hidden gem beside the famous Annapurna Base Camp trail.
  - Trek through **lush rhododendron and oak forests**, alive with birds and mountain views.
  - Witness the dramatic landscape shift from **dense forest to high alpine terrain** around 3,300 meters.
  - Enjoy **breathtaking close-up views** of Mardi Himal, Machapuchhre (Fishtail), Annapurna South, and Hiunchuli.
  - Hike from **High Camp (3,580 m)** to **Mardi Himal Base Camp (4,500 m)** for a stunning panorama of the entire Annapurna Range.
  - Experience authentic **local hospitality** in traditional teahouses along the route.
  - Ideal for trekkers seeking **a short, scenic, and peaceful Himalayan adventure** away from the crowds.

Package Duration: 11 days

Day 1: Arrive Kathmandu (1350m
Upon arrival in Katmandu, Tribhuvan International Airport, you will be welcomed by the representative from Rural Journeys and transferred to hotel by private vehicle. Although the fertile Kathmandu Valley has been inhabited for thousands of years, its rich and varied cultural legacy essentially began during the 14th century under the Malla Dynasty. Patronized by the nobility, Newar artisans constructed temples, monasteries and elaborate courtyards that constitute a fascinating architectural history. Rest of the day at leisure or stroll around the hotel Evening: Briefing about the prorgramme along with questions/answers session with tour/trek leader. Overnight at the hotel

Day 2: Kathmandu Sightseeing

Sightseeing tour of Kathmandu Durbar Square, which never fails to impress visitors with its ensemble of palaces, courtyards and temples built during the Malla period. The Durbar Square includes the Hanuman Dhoka Royal Palace - the historic seat of the royalty; the magnificent Taleju Temple towering more than 40 meters; Kumari Ghar - the residence of the Living Goddess, Kumari and Kal Bhairav - the God of Wrath. Thereafter visit Swoyambhunath Stupa, resting on a hillock 3km west of Kathmandu, it is one of the holiest Buddhist Chaityas in Nepal. It is said to have evolved spontaneously when the valley was created out of a primordial lake more than 2,000 years ago. This stupa is the oldest of its kind in Nepal and has numerous shrines and monasteries on its premises. Thereafter, visit Boudhanath, is one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in Kathmandu. The 36-meter-high stupa of Boudha is massive and dominates the skyline in the area. With countless monasteries around it, Boudha is the center of Tibetan Buddhism in Nepal. Take an early morning or evening stroll around the inspiring white dome buzzing with energy; observe the devout people circumambulating, light a butter lamp and say a little prayer, look around for souvenirs, or enjoy the view from a rooftop restaurant with a hot cup of coffee, Boudhanath is always full of life. Overnight at the hotel

Day 3: Kathmandu – Pokhara – Pitam Deurali (2100m) | 1hr drive/ 2-3hrs trek
Transfer to airport for flight to Pokhara, upon arrival meet the trekking crew and drive approx. 1 hour to Kande from where trek starts to Pitam Deurali. (option: drive to Pokhara 7-8hrs and stay overnight in Pokhara, this leads to need one more day of your holiday) Overnight at the lodge

Day 4: Trek to Forest Camp (2550m) | 4-5hrs trek
Today’s trail leads you through beautiful, dense rhododendron and oak forests, offering a peaceful walk surrounded by birdsong and mountain freshness. The path gradually ascends, providing occasional glimpses of the valleys below and distant snow-capped peaks. After about 4–5 hours of steady trekking, you’ll reach Forest Camp (2,550 m), a serene stop nestled amid the trees. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 5: Trek to Lower Camp (2990m) | 3-4hrs trek
Trek from Forest Camp to Lower Camp Continue your ascent through enchanting rhododendron and moss-covered forests, with the trees gradually thinning as you gain altitude. As you approach Lower Camp (2,970 m), the first clear views of Machapuchhre (Fishtail Mountain) begin to appear — a rewarding sight after a few hours of steady trekking. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 6: Trek o High Camp (3580m) | 3-4hrs
Trek from Lower Camp to High Camp The trail climbs steadily above the tree line, offering panoramic views of the Annapurna range and the striking Machapuchhre (Fishtail Peak). The landscape transforms into open ridges with sweeping vistas of the valleys below. After about 4–5 hours of trekking, you’ll reach High Camp (3,580 m), beautifully perched with close-up views of the surrounding peaks. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 7: Day excursion to Mardi Base Camp (4500m) | 6-7hrs trek
Day Hike to Mardi Himal Base Camp and Return to High Camp (3,580 m) An exciting day as you hike up along a narrow ridge toward Mardi Himal Base Camp (4,500 m). The trail offers breathtaking close-up views of Mardi Himal, Machapuchhre, Annapurna South, and Hiunchuli. After spending some time enjoying the spectacular Himalayan panorama, descend back to High Camp for the night. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 8: Trek to Sidhling (1850m) | 6-7hrs trek
Trek from High Camp to Siding (6 hrs) Descend along a different route, leaving the alpine terrain behind as you make your way through lush forests and traditional Gurung villages. The trail offers a

pleasant mix of mountain views and rural landscapes, providing a glimpse into the everyday life of local communities. After about six hours of walking, you'll arrive at Siding (1,750 m) — a peaceful village surrounded by terraced fields. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 9: Trek to Lumre and drive to Pokhara | 3-4hrs trek / 3hrs drive
Trek from Siding to Lumre and Drive to Pokhara (Approx. 3 hrs drive) Enjoy your final day on the trail as you descend gently from Siding to Lumre, passing through small farming villages and terraced fields. At Lumre, you'll be met by your vehicle for the drive back to Pokhara, a scenic journey of about three hours along the countryside roads. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and relax by the lakeside after your rewarding Himalayan adventure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 10: Pokhara - Kathmandu
Fly back to Kathmandu (30mins) or 6-7hrs drive backand check-in at hotel Rest of the day at leisure or explore Thamel which is known by its narrow alleys crowded with various shops and vendors. Commonly sold goods include food, fresh vegetables/fruits, pastries, trekking gear, walking gear, music, handicrafts, souvenirs, woolen items and clothes. Small grocery stores, budget hotels, restaurants, pubs and clubs also line the streets. Overnight at the hotel

Day 11: Departure
Free till departure transfer to international airport for onward flight