



NEPAL ARCHITECTURE & CULTURAL TOUR

Overview & themes to be covered (5N6D)

Theme 1 - Newari & Pagoda Architecture

Nepal's Newari architecture represents centuries of craftsmanship — intricate woodcarvings, tiered pagoda temples, and brick courtyards that define the Kathmandu Valley's UNESCO-listed heritage sites.

Tour Highlights:

- **Kathmandu Durbar Square (Newari Palace Complex & Temples)**
- **Bhaktapur Durbar Square (55-Window Palace & Nyatapola Temple)**
- **Patan Durbar Square (Krishna Mandir & Golden Temple)**
- **Changu Narayan Temple (Oldest Pagoda in Nepal)**

Theme 2 - Stupa & Monastic Architecture

Nepal's Buddhist stupas and monasteries showcase a unique fusion of Hindu and Buddhist spatial traditions — from massive hemispherical domes to intimate meditation courtyards surrounded by prayer wheels.

Tour Highlights:

- **Boudhanath Stupa (UNESCO - One of the Largest Stupas in the World)**
- **Swayambhunath (Ancient Hilltop Stupa Complex)**
- **Kopan Monastery (Tibetan Buddhist Monastic Design)**
- **Lumbini Sacred Garden (Birthplace of Buddha - Kenzo Tange Master Plan)**

Theme 3 - Contemporary & Vernacular Revival

Contemporary Nepali architecture draws on vernacular materials — rammed earth, brick, and timber — while responding to seismic resilience, sustainability, and community-driven design after the 2015 earthquake.

Tour Highlights:

- **Nepal Pavilion, Venice (Patankar & Associates - Post-Earthquake Response)**
- **Hostel in the Forest, Pokhara (Sustainable Bamboo & Stone Design)**
- **Kasthamandap Reconstruction (Traditional Timber Engineering Revival)**
- **Panauti Community Heritage Settlement (Living Vernacular Urbanism)**

Culmination & Capstone Project

Participants synthesise their observations into a final design proposal, research paper, or presentation. Projects should reflect on the interplay between Newari craftsmanship, sacred Buddhist spatial design, and contemporary vernacular revival, demonstrating critical analysis of spatial, material, and cultural strategies encountered during the tour.