

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

For Projects Abroad Nepal



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Sightseeing from the First Second

A Note from Jessica Vance, Projects Abroad Nepal Operations Manager

Mount Everest, the birthplace of Buddha, elephants. For a relatively small country, Nepal has a tremendous amount of attractions to entice tourists to visit. While the landscapes, wildlife and history are certainly worth making time for, the truth is that there are beautiful sights around almost every corner of Nepal. As fatigued as you may be from the journey to get to Nepal, keep your eyes open to take in the sights from the moment you leave the airport!

For example, just a couple of kilometers away from the airport is Pashupatinath: a World Heritage Site that is guaranteed to help you gain an understanding of Hindu rites and rituals concerning life, death, and reincarnation. When you reach Thamel, the area of Kathmandu where we give new volunteers their induction, you are also just a walk or short taxi ride away from seeing several incredible spots. My personal favorite is the Bouddhanath Temple: this large Buddhist stupa is breathtaking, and you're likely to observe Buddhists practicing as well.

Regardless of your budget or amount of time here, you are bound to see stunning monuments and observe memorable celebrations. My best advice would be to make time to explore the area you will be living in; there are many options for weekend excursions, but there's also ample opportunity to take in Nepal's unique sights once you're done with your work for the day. Try to take different routes to work every once in a while, and speak to your host family and work colleagues about what festivities are coming up. Thanks to the hundreds of Gods in the Hindu religion, there are countless statues and works of art around Nepal, with a celebration almost every week! If you come to Nepal with an open mind, you are guaranteed to leave with much more than a suitcase full of souvenirs.

This month, I'd like to share the photography of volunteers who have just completed their project in Nepal. Take a look at some of the photos that our international volunteers have taken across this majestic country. They have found beauty in its landscapes, villages, and warm-hearted people. These volunteers have shared their stunning work with Projects Abroad, and we are now taking the opportunity to share it with you. Get inspired by their quest to capture Nepal's magic, do the same, and enjoy!



Jessica Vance
Projects Abroad Nepal

Photos by Lucie Landeck, 20, Germany

This adorable girl is from Devghat. Devghat is a picturesque little village known for its peace and quiet. Mostly elderly people who don't have any family to take care of them live within this village and someone told me even the formal King of Nepal wished to die there, but I have no clue if this is true. A friend and I took a little walk to explore Devghat and ended up at the riverbank and there was this girl, always sneaking up behind us and playing with us, nonstop laughing. She had by far the biggest and loveliest smile I've ever seen. If you know Nepal during the monsoon season, you could guess what happened next. It started to pour! We rushed to a little temple situated nearby where we met her little sister. It was raining so heavily there was a waterfall on the stairs. The four of us then played at that temple for surely almost half an hour, always ringing the bells and giving or getting tikkas. In the end we were attacked by a really mad monkey but luckily we escaped with no more than a scare!



This pair of grandmother and grandson lives in Bandipur, my favorite village in Nepal. I suppose it to be the most beautiful spot on earth. A few friends and I were taking a walk when I spotted a little boy who played with my camera the day before. When I stopped to talk to him, an old lady with her little grandson on the back stepped out of the house. They both had a grumpy facial expression, so you can see that they're related! The grandmother tried to make the boy say "Namaste" as you can see in the picture, but he was apparently not a fan of that.





The girl in red was standing next to the grandmother and grandson. They might have been related but I don't think so.



This old woman is also from Bandipur. She seemed a little surprised, and at the same time flattered, when I asked her for a picture, and then she quickly struck a proud pose. The women around seemed amused by the situation, as you can see one of them laughing in the background.

Photos by Mark Xu, 16, China

I was participating in a two-week High-School-special" project focused on care and community in Nepal. This picture was taken at the Boudhanath Stupa on a cloudy afternoon in July 2014. Looking over Kathmandu, it shows an incredible combination of the urban houses and the mountains on the horizon.



The picture was taken in the Chitwan National Park, where one can always spot wildlife - such as elephants and rhinos. Six hours away from the capital Kathmandu, Chitwan shows the rural side of the beautiful country, as well as the wide variety of animals in Nepal.



Photos by Petra Fuglø, 32, Denmark

These are photos from my trip to Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. I enjoyed a beautiful journey to the city and found hospitality and smiles at every corner. From the landscapes, to the chef in a tiny restaurant we visited, every step was full of the wonderful spirit of Nepal.

