

A detailed report on the Revival of Tourism Prospects in Nepal after 25th April 2015 Earthquake – Updated on 28 May 2015



Normal life is started in Kathmandu..

After a deadly earthquake of 7.6 Richter scale at 11:56 AM on Saturday, 25 April 2015 followed by another big aftershock measuring 7.3 Richter scale at 12:50 PM on Tuesday, 12 May 2015 in central region of Nepal, it was reported in various media that Kathmandu Valley and surrounding areas are completely in ruins, which is certainly not the case. Several countries have issued negative travel advisory warnings to their citizens to visit Nepal and as a result tourists around the world are hesitating to travel to Nepal.

We would like to inform you that Nepal Government has formed a high level **Tourism Recovery Committee** on 7th May for the purpose of restoring tourism infrastructure and cultural heritage sites across the country. Tourism Recovery Committee comprises the relevant bodies including Department of Tourism, Nepal Tourism Board, Department of Archeology, Home Ministry and all the private associations of stake holders. TRC took stock of the earthquake effect on tourism – Financial and Physical. It is estimated as per Rashtra Bank (State Bank) figures that a tourist spends US\$ 46.00 per person per day on average and the loss is estimated to hit 100 Million US\$. Physical loss of heritage sites and the trekking routes are also being evaluated.

Recovery Plan is underway by cleaning the debris created by the damaged or destroyed buildings in all the heritage sites. Among those expected to open by mid-June for tourists are Bhaktapur, Patan and Swoyambhunath. Government has contracted Miyamoto International, a global engineering, construction management and project management company that provides critical services that sustain industries and safeguard communities, to carry out survey in the Annapurna and Everest trekking routes to assess the damage to current trails and ensure the coming season safe for trekkers. Around 140,000 trekking permits are issued annually. Work will start from 5th June. Another survey will be carried out post-monsoon in early September. In the second phase survey of Langtang, Manaslu and other areas will be carried out.

TRC has had a round of meeting with foreign ambassadors regarding the negative travel advisory warnings put by the main tourist generating countries. Most have said that warnings will be lifted after reviewing the action on the ground and ascertaining how safe it is for tourists to come and go on tours and treks. China has put a restriction on travel to Nepal currently until 31 May for review. Due to the clearing and restoration work we are witnessing, we are confident that unrestricted travel to Nepal will be allowed in the coming months.

We implore all our friends and stake holders in the travel fraternity worldwide to assist Nepal in this time of dire need. It is now even more vital in these challenging times that we protect this industry and we so beseech all our friends and well-wishers to help Nepal by not cancelling the tours booked for this autumn.

Spot check of the heritage sites of Kathmandu Valley was carried out by Malla Travel again on 26 May and here is the update. Most affected areas are in the foothills surrounding the valley where the soil is loose and not in the city centers.

Current Condition of Tourist Destinations before and after the Earthquake

Pokhara

Pokhara is a second most popular tourist destination in Nepal. There is no major effect of earthquake in Pokhara. All the hotels, restaurants and other touristic activities are in operation as usual. Roads to and from Pokhara are perfectly Ok. Pokhara airport is normally operating all schedule flights to various destinations.

Annapurna Treks

Soft tea house treks in the lower Annapurna region have not been affected by the quake. The gateway to the trek is Pokhara and all roads from Pokhara to trek starting points are normal. The entire route of the most popular Ghorepani – Poonhill – Ghandruk trek is normal and all the hotels in this route is running condition. As a safety measure government is contracting Miyamoto International to survey the routes and work begins on 06 June 2015.

Chitwan

The effect of earthquake is not recorded at Chitwan. All the required facilities and activities are operating smoothly. All the link roads to and from Chitwan are normal and in running condition. Bharatpur airport is also operating regularly it's all schedule flights as usual.

Lumbini

No effect of earthquake in the birthplace of Lord Buddha. All facilities and activities are running as usual. All the access roads to and from Lumbini are perfectly Ok and in running condition. Gautam Buddha Airport, Bhairahawa is in operation for the schedule flights.

Nagarkot

Initially many hotels were closed and still most of hotels we are using remain closed, hence we shall not offer Nagarkot in the itinerary until Autumn Season.

Dhulikhel

This place is in earthquake affected area but luckily no touristic locations including hotels are damaged. All the hotels are operating. Roads to and from Dhulikhel are normal and in running condition. Sightseeing spots are also Ok.

Dakshinkali

This popular Hindu Kali Temple is perfectly Ok and open for worshipers and tourists.

Bungmati/ Khokana

This ancient heritage site is more damaged than previously assessed and it will take a longer time to clear up the rubbles and welcome tourists. We do not recommend this site for sightseeing for the time being.

Changunarayan

Changunarayan is also badly affected due to the earthquake. The main building is standing with some cracks but the entrance and surrounding areas of the temple are much damaged so currently we do not recommend this site for sightseeing.

Kodari, Tibet order

Due to multiple landslides triggered by the quakes, the Arniko Highway to Tibet is blocked and Chinese military personnel are actively clearing the highway. Tibet tours by air is perfectly OK.

Hotels:

Government is having their experts inspect all the building including hotels and giving Green Stickers to those that are sound, Yellow Stickers to those that need reinforcing and Red Stickers to those where structural damage has taken place.

Some of the hotels in Kathmandu valley closed just after the earthquake due to shortage of manpower, non-delivery of essential services and to check structural damage. However, barring a few, almost all hotels - especially the ones we are using - are functioning smoothly. The following hotels are closed for a longer term following government inspection:

- Shankar Hotel, Lazimpat – Reported to close till September 2015
- Royal Singi Hotel, Durbar Marg – Reported to close till September 2015
- Everest Hotel – Closed till further notice due to structural damage and government gave it a Red Sticker
- Kathmandu Guest House - Heritage wing is fully damaged and rest is in operation
- Gokarna Forest Resort - 'Hunters Lodge' building is fully damaged but rest of the new buildings are fine and resort is in operation
- Godavari Village Resort – Closed till further notice due to structural damage
- The Fort Resort, Nagarkot – Reported to close till September 2015
- Club Himalaya, Nagarkot – Reported to close till end of June 2015
- Chautari Paradise, Nagarkot – Closed till September 2015
- Himalayan Horizon, Dhulikhel – Operating with 16 rooms only

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[Kathmandu Durbar Square](#)



Normal life and business started in Kathmandu Durbar Square



Maintenance of minor damage in the temples started



Debris from Kasthanadap which is completely destroyed



Cleaning of the rubbles in Kathmandu Durbar Square is going on



Kumari Temple is standing The surrounding areas need to be cleaned up



Big bell is ok

Bhaktapur Durbar Square



Cleaning of the rubbles in Bhaktapur is almost completed



Bhaktapur Durbar Square will be ready to welcome by mid of June 2015



Nyatapola temple is standing at it was



Golden Gate and 55 Windows Palace at Bhaktapur is perfectly ok



Bhairab Temple at Bhaktapur near Nyatapola, Taumadhi Square



Clearing of rubbles at Bhaktapur Durbar Square is in final stage

Patan Durbar Square



Patan Durbar Square after removing rubbles



Patan Durbar Square today



Almost all rubbles are removed and cleaned at Patan Durbar Sqaure



Final cleaning at Patan Durbar Square



Minor maintenance on temples also going on



Patan Durbar Square on 28 May 2015....

Swayambhunath



The main stupa at Swayambhunath is not damaged



Another view of Swoyambhunath



Swayambhunath is trying to welcome tourists by mid of June 2015