

A suspension bridge on Nepal's Annapurna Circuit. Remnants of a statue (bottom) in Kathmandu



ADVENTURE

HIGH TIME FOR NEPAL

The Himalayan nation is ready for travelers to return



If the devastating April 2015 earthquake dashed your dreams of visiting Nepal, think again. This mountainous country is welcoming tourists back, hoping to climb to its pre-quake number of 800,000 annual visitors. From shrines to summits, here's where to go on the top of the world.

SOAK UP CULTURE The Kathmandu Valley, home to the ancient cities of Kathmandu, Patan, and Bhaktapur, features seven UNESCO World Heritage sites squeezed into an area smaller than Manhattan. The Nepali capital is a colorful jumble of ornate temples, carved wooden Newari (native Kathmandu) architecture, and chaotic streets. Some monuments are still under repair, but their rich histories remain.

GO ON SAFARI The subtropics of southern Nepal cradle Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site with 68 mammal species, 544 birds, and 56 reptiles and amphibians. Track tigers and rhinos through the forest and canoe rivers in search of gharials, the second largest crocodiles in the world.

TREK THE HIMALAYA Nepal contains eight of the globe's 14 tallest peaks, and the trekking areas around the Everest region and the Annapurna Circuit are open again. To escape the hiking crowds, fly to the tiny outpost of Jomsom, north of Pokhara, and explore the Upper Mustang, a dry, rocky region that borders Tibet. —AVERY STONICH

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