

Join us for a journey-of-a-lifetime to visit red pandas in the wild! This trip will take you into the cloud forests and communities of the Himalayas. You will see breathtaking views of Mount Kangchenjunga and Mount Everest and will be exploring one of the most biologically diverse areas in the world.

You will experience the gentle hospitality of these villages family homestays and tea houses, which are far removed from mass tourism. You'll see first hand our community-based conservation work, and how your stay benefits directly our most important conservation partners: the rural communities who need alternatives to forest exploitation.

All trip lodging and food, porters, nature guides, local travel, and supplies is provided by local sources which supports ecotourism, as well as sustainable employment opportunities for the people of these communities. Your trip payment also directly supports our community-based conservation initiatives including our Forest Guardian program, which employs local people as professional forest stewards.



"The eco-trip allowed us to view unique places and see rare wildlife. The team ran the tour in a responsible, conscious way, we felt we were benefiting, rather than taking away from, the social and conservation efforts Nepal is working so hard to achieve."

- Mei-Ling, writer, travel guidebook author, advocacy journalist and international development worker



Contact Us

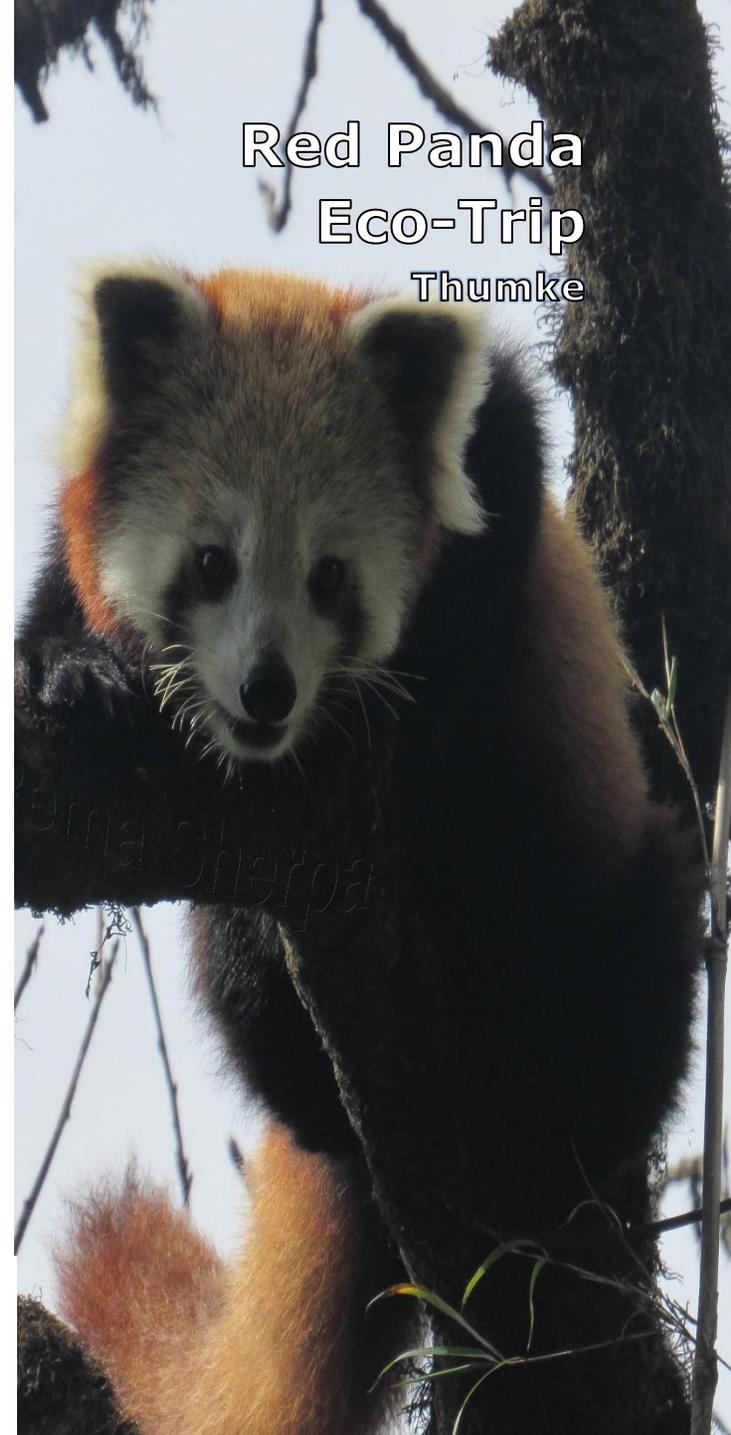
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Red Panda Eco-Trip Thumke



Thumke Eco-Trip Itinerary

Day 1

Arrival in Kathmandu (1400m) and transfer to hotel accommodations. Explore the historic cultural and religious sites and meet with the RPN team for dinner and trip briefing

Day 2

45 minute scenic flight to Bhadrapur (90m) with possible views of Mount Everest and the Mahalangur Range, 3-4 hour drive through beautiful tea gardens and rural villages, and overnight hotel stay in Ilam (1250m).

Day 2

6 hour jeep ride to Gorkhe (1936m) along mountain trail roads through rural villages and the broadleaf forests of the Himalayan foothills. Opportunities for bird watching along the way. Meet with Forest Guardians and tour fodder nursey. Overnight homestay with local Nepali family.

Day 3-5

Moderate hiking for red panda tracking in community forests with chances of spotting other wildlife and many beautiful birds including clouded leopard, yellow-throated marten, kalij pheasant, satyr tragopan. Spending the evenings learning about the local customs and cooking.

Day 6

Jeep ride to Jaubari (2877m) with spectacular views of Kumbhakarna and Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. Explore our forest restoration plantation site. Overnight stay at teahouse.

Day 7

Trek to Hangetham (2200m) via Gairibas along the Indian/Nepali border. Guided walk through community medicinal and aromatic plant farms. Overnight homestay with local Nepali family.

Day 8

Early morning bird watching followed by short hike and jeep ride back to Ilam for overnight stay at hotel.

Day 9

Depart Ilam for flight to Kathmandu or your own destination.

What's included?

- All airport transfers, meals and lodgings, domestic (in-country) flight, car and jeep transport, guides and porters in Kathmandu and the field.
- Lodgings are in rustic teahouses and homestays. Hotel accommodation in Kathmandu and Ilam.
- We cater for most dietary restrictions

What's not included?

- Your international airfare to Nepal and visa fees
- Bottled and alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses

What fitness level do participants need to be and will altitude sickness be an issue during the trip?

We require a medium fitness level of our ecotrip participants. While we travel and hike in a wide range of temperatures, altitudes and terrains for up to 5 hours, our team is very good about accommodating individuals from various backgrounds and physical abilities and limitations.

Because we do trek to higher elevations than what many ecotrip participants are used to, there is always a possibility that someone may experience altitude sickness. Our trip leaders do everything they can to avoid altitude sickness for the group (slow elevation climb that allows time for acclimation, making sure everyone is hydrated and rested).

Ecotours occur March to May and October to December to avoid breeding and parturition seasons.



If you've been wanting to see red pandas in their natural habitat, this is your chance – our success rate is over 90%!



Photographs taken during previous ecotrips: Nepali homestay hostess (top), participants day hiking for red panda spotting (left), views of Kangchenjunga (bottom)