Nothing can ever be guaranteed in the Himalayas. This adventurous tented trek delves deep into Western Nepal – unexplored and untouched. It is perfect for wanderlust souls who are looking to lose themselves in the wilderness on a fully supported Mountain Travel trek. Spend the first half the trip trekking and camping your way to the spectacular turquoise blue Rara Lake, the largest lake in Nepal. Following streams, crossing canyons and passing through Tibetan style villages, the journey to Rara Lake offers a unique insight into life and nature in rural Nepal. After your trek, relax in comfort at Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge and spend some time with the elephants during an Elephant Encounter. You will have a day either side to experience the chaotic beauty of Kathmandu, offering a well rounded glimpse into Nepal.

DAY 1
Arrive at Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, where Tiger Tops staff will greet you and seamlessly arrange your transfer to Dwarikas Hotel - an exquisite 5 star oasis in the heart of the bustling city.

During the afternoon, Tiger Tops cars and guides will be on standby for those wanting to wander the city and discover the enthralling sights of the capital. Kathmandu is known for the great temples of Pashupatinath, Sambhunath and Boudhanath that offer an interesting blend of Hindu and Buddhist architecture and rituals. The main tourist district, Thamel, is a sensory feast of colours, sounds and people. After a spot of shopping settle down with a good coffee or beer at one of it’s many cafes and bars. Alternatively, relax at Dwarikas by the pool or treat yourself to a massage at the Himalayan Spa.

DAY 2
After a sumptuous buffet breakfast at Dwarikas, you will take a 50-minute morning flight to Jumla. Arriving in Jumla, you will begin the five nights and six days Rara Lake Trek.
**JUMLA TO UTHUGAON (2530M)**

Fly north from Nepalgunj crossing the middle hills of Nepal. If the weather is good one can see the views of snow-capped mountains to the east and west. Jumla town is in a delightful valley boasting some of the highest limits of paddy cultivation, growing red rice. The town is the administrative headquarters of the entire Karnali zone and Jumla district.

The trek begins by following the north bank of the Tila Khola River and then north along the Chaudhabise Khola River, passing through fields and pine forests. We will ascent up the Padmara Valley. Our trail follows the river until we arrive at the small village of Uthugaon, where we will have a good campsites close to the school on the opposite site of the river (4 hours).

Overnight camping.

**DAY 3**

Uthugaon to DanpheLagna (3500m)

After breakfast we will follow the trail through a narrow canyon to the village of Padmara at 2900m. The path then climbs to the Khali Lagna pass at 3550m through a deep forest of pines, spurches and firs. Shortly after, the trail descends gently through a mixed forest of spruces, birches and rhododendrons to arrive at our campsites at DanpheLagna. Here the colourful national bird of Nepal (the Himalayan monal, or impeyan peasant) has been spotted many times at the edge of our campsites (4 hours).

Overnight camping.
DAY 4

DanpheLagna to Chautha (2770m)

The trails descend gently alongside the stream to two bhattis (teashops) at Tharamara (3280m) before a more rugged decline through fir, birch, and walnut and bamboo forests. After crossing a bridge at 2680m, we follow the river downstream before starting a serious climb passing water-driven mills en route to Kabra. Kabra is home to a huge overhanging rock that is the source of silaji, a mineral that is believed to have “healing” properties. The steep climb continues for an hour or so, leveling out before Bhara (a classic Tibetan style village). After this village we then descend to the ChauroKhola River and settle at the village of Chautha for the evening (6 hours).

Overnight camping.

DAY 5

Chautha to Dhotu (2380m)

Our trail continues to follow the stream uphill to Bhulbule where the Rara National Park entrance station sits at 3130m. Our path continues climbing gently to GhurchiLagna pass (3450m), which is covered with an assortment of chortens (round stone Buddhist monuments) and prayer flags. From the pass the route first descends before dropping down precipitously through spruce forests. The path levels at about 2900m and continues more or less level to the small settlement of Dhotu, our camp for the day (5.5 hours).

Overnight camping.
DAY 6

Dhotu to Rara lake (2980m)

Day 6 is a short, pleasant trek with fine views to the north. From Dhotu, we traverse a steep north-facing slope and cross a series of fields down to a small stream. Crossing the bridge, we climb up to the Thakuri village of Jhyari (2630m). From Jhyari, we climb steadily up through a cedar forest to a huge meadow atop a 3050m ridge with great overhead views of Rara Lake. We will follow the trail along to the northern side of the Lake, where the park headquarters and camping ground are situated (4 hours).

Overnight camping.

DAY 7

Explore Rara Lake

After breakfast, it is a day of exploration at Rara Lake. This begins with boating in Rara Lake for 1 hour. The highlight of Rara National Park is the pristine Rara Lake, which sits at 2990m and spreads over 10.8 sq km. Also known as Mahendra Tal, Rara Lake is the largest in Nepal, and perhaps one of the country’s best-kept secrets. The turquoise blue lake is surrounded by rich forested hills. ChuchemaraDauda at an elevation of 4087m is the best vantage point for magnificent views of the deep blue clear lake and highly forested hillside as well as the snow-capped peaks around it.

Overnight camping.
DAY 8

End Trek

Transfer to Talcha airport and fly to Nepalgunj (by charter flight).

On arrival you are met, assisted and transferred to Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge by Tiger Tops representatives. This two-hour drive along the East West Highway offers a glimpse into life in the Terai, passing through towns, fields and forests. Close to the Lodge you will cross the Babai River, where Marsh Mugger Crocodiles may be warming in the midday sun.

Once at Karnali Lodge, a hot Nepali lunch will be served. If you are still feeling adventurous in the afternoon, head out on a dusk jeep safari to the National Park in search of elusive tigers and leopards. Tigers hunt in the cool of the day so dusk is a great time to catch a glimpse of the great cats patrolling their territories. The safari will last for two and a half hours. You will be accompanied by an experienced naturalist who will provide in depth knowledge of the local fauna and flora of Bardia National Park.

The evening will be spent with cocktails around an outdoor fireplace before moving into the GholGharr (Nepalese dining room) for dinner. A good setting for late night chats, the stocked bar remains open until the last person goes to bed.
**DAY 9-10**

On days nine and ten guests have the opportunity to partake in as many or as few activities available at Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge; they can be conducted at your leisure and pace. The most treasured experience of all Tiger Tops guests is our special elephant encounters –

**Elephant Encounters**

Spend a day with the mahouts, elephant keepers, and watch daily life at the elephant camp unfold. Help prepare the 150 kilograms of feed each elephant requires each day, head down to the river to watch the elephant bathing, and take an afternoon stroll through the villages and community forest. These intimate, once in a life time experiences will give you a deeper connection to the jungles of Nepal.

In addition to the elephant encounters, activities also include:

- Bird Watching
- A river safari to spot wildlife grazing at dawn or dusk,
- A jeep safari in the National Park in search of tigers, rhinos and leopards
- Village walks
- A tour of the organic farm to see how Tiger Tops grows its vegies, recycles grey water and generates heat through compost
- Afternoon tea by the river where deep crimson sunsets fall behind the forest canopy
DAY 11

Enjoy an early breakfast before a morning flight back to Kathmandu where you will spend another evening soaking up the beauty of Nepal at Dwarikas Hotel.

The day may be spent with a Tiger Tops tour operator to continue your exploration of Kathmandu. Visit the Palace Museum to gain insight into the royal massacre, or visit to Durbar Square to see the remnants of the old Nepalese kingdom.

Dinner can be arranged at the beautifully refurbished Royal Stables, home to boutique stores and the fine French restaurant, Chez Caroline.

DAY 12

International Departure.