

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



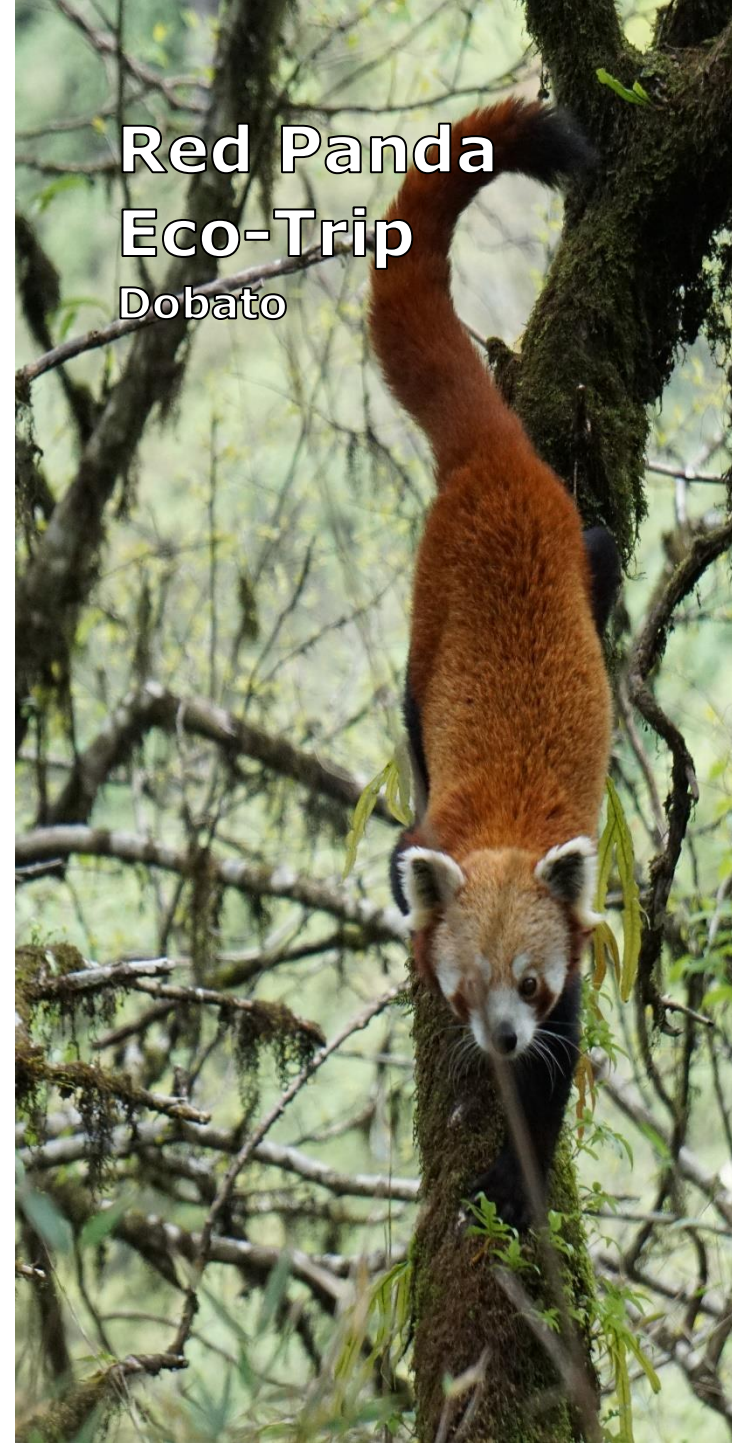
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Red Panda Eco-Trip Dobato



Dobato Eco-Trip Itinerary Overview

Day 1

Arrival in Kathmandu (1400m) and transfer to hotel accommodations. Explore the historic cultural and religious sites of Kathmandu, 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 hotel stay in Ilam (1250m).

Day 3

Bird watching during 4-5 hour Jeep drive on mountain trail roads through the broadleaf forests of the Himalayan foothills. Light hike in the evening in Dobato (2660m). Homestay with local Sherpa family.

Day 4-6

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.

Day 7

5 hour trek up Sandakphur (3636m) for views of Kumbhakarna and Kangchenjunga, the world's third highest peak (5hrs), overnight stay on mountain.

Day 8

Early morning hike down to Dobato, drive back to Ilam and overnight stay in a hotel amidst tea garden.

Day 9

Depart Ilam for flight to Kathmandu or your own destination.

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

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?

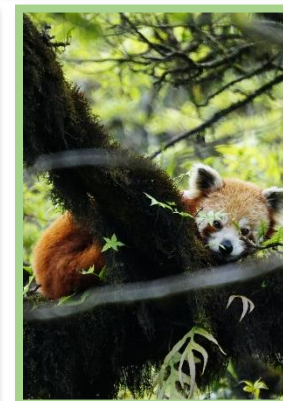
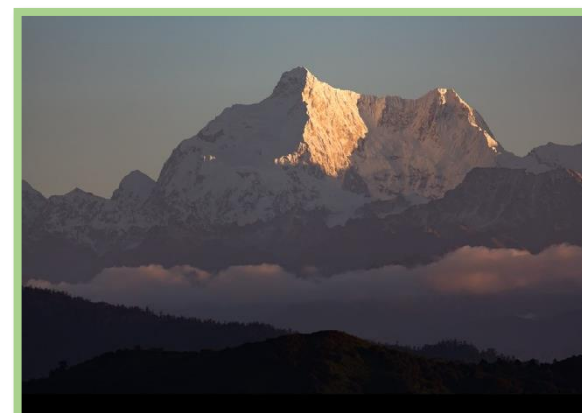
- International airfare to Nepal and visa fees
- Bottled and alcoholic beverages
- Personal expenses

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.



Photographs taken during previous ecotrips: Alpenglow on Jannu or Kumbhakarna (top), participants day hiking for red panda spotting (left), red panda spotted outside of Dobato (right), UNESCO World Heritage site Boudhanath Stupa in Kathmandu (bottom).