Machhapuchhre Model Trek: Khumai Danda and Korchon under the Fishtail

Before you go · last checked on 31 October 2026

At a glance

Days	5 days, Pokhara to Pokhara
Highest point	3,682 m (Korchon)
Grade	Moderate
Starts	Pokhara
Ends	Pokhara
Best season	Spring and Autumn
Sleeping	Simple community lodges and homestays

Is this walk for you?

It suits you if:

- You want close views of Machhapuchhre in a few days.
- You found Mardi Himal or Poon Hill too busy.
- You can walk 5 to 6 hours, mostly uphill.
- You are happy with simple lodges.

Think twice if:

- You want comfortable lodges.
- You want a busy trail with many tea stops.
- You have heart or lung problems at altitude; please ask me first.

The honest downsides

- Few and simple lodges; some may be closed outside the seasons.
- A fast climb in two days from about 1,250 m to over 3,200 m.
- The ridges are exposed to wind, and cold at night.
- Clouds often hide the mountains by mid-morning; the views are at dawn.

When to walk it

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Good	Good	Best	Best	Good	Wet	Wet	Wet	Wet	Best	Best	Good

In winter the ridge can have snow and some lodges close; in the monsoon the trail is muddy and the view mostly hidden.

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Conditions change. Latest version: https://rujans.com/trekking/adventure-treks/machhapuchhre-model-trek/

Permits and papers

The Annapurna Conservation Area permit is needed, at the official price. I arrange it with you before we leave Pokhara. Carry your passport and two photos.

- [ ] Passport, valid for at least six months, and a copy
- [ ] Your Nepal visa
- [ ] Passport photos for the permits
- [ ] Travel insurance that covers trekking at this altitude and helicopter rescue

For your budget

My guide fee for this walk is about $ 35 a day, the same for 1 to 5 people.

A porter, if you hire one: about the same as a guide's day rate. Permits, transport, rooms and meals are paid separately, at cost.

What	Paid to	About	Note
Guide (me)	Rujan Neupane	My day rate × 5 days	One rate for 1 to 5 people
Annapurna Conservation Area permit	The conservation area (ACAP)	Official price	Paid at cost
Jeep Pokhara–Ghachok, and from the road end back	The jeep owners	Agreed before the trek	Paid at cost
Porter, if you want one	The porter	His day rate	Paid to him
Lodges, homestays and meals	Families on the trail	What they charge	You pay them directly; I never add anything

What to pack

MODERATE GRADE PACKING LIST

For multi-day mountain treks reaching up to about 5,500 m with gradual elevation gain.

General

- [ ] Daypack: 30L–35L capacity
- [ ] Duffel bag: 60L–70L waterproof duffel bag
- [ ] Sleeping bag: 3-Season bag rated to 0°C / -5°C
- [ ] Trekking poles: Adjustable aluminum/carbon poles
- [ ] Headlamp: 200+ lumen headlamp with extra batteries
- [ ] Hydration: 2x 1L water bottles or hydration bladder
- [ ] Water treatment: Purification tablets or portable filter

Head & Face

- [ ] Sun hat & Warm beanie: Both sun cap and fleece beanie
- [ ] Sunglasses: UV400 protective sunglasses
- [ ] Buff / Scarf: Neck gaiter for wind and dust protection
- [ ] Sunscreen & Lip balm: SPF 50+ sunscreen and SPF lip balm

Upper Body

- [ ] Base layers: 2–3x Long-sleeve thermal/merino tops
- [ ] Mid-layer: Fleece jacket or lightweight synthetic down

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- [ ] Down jacket: Medium-weight down jacket
- [ ] Outer shell: Waterproof/windproof hard shell jacket

Hand & Lower Body

- [ ] Gloves: Lightweight windproof fleece gloves
- [ ] Base layer bottoms: 1x Thermal tights
- [ ] Trekking pants: 2x Quick-dry softshell trekking pants
- [ ] Shell pants: Lightweight waterproof overpants

Footwear

- [ ] Footwear: Mid-cut waterproof trekking boots (broken-in)
- [ ] Camp shoes: Light sandals or trail sneakers
- [ ] Socks: 4x Merino wool trekking socks

Backpack, Electronics & Care

- [ ] Gear org: Rain cover and waterproof dry bags
- [ ] Docs & Cash: Permits, insurance, & local cash
- [ ] Electronics: Phone, camera, & 10,000–20,000 mAh power bank
- [ ] Toiletries: Travel kit, quick-dry towel, & sanitizing wipes
- [ ] Medical: First-aid kit, blister plasters, & altitude consult meds

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