The Babai River.

An Autumn Fishing and Wildlife Experience

Late October – Mid November.

Golden Mahseer

Background.

The Babai is a non-glacial warm water river that originates in the Dang Valley and flows through lowland Nepal, until it reaches Chepang Ghat, where it enters the Bardia National Park. Once inside the National Park, the river is totally protected and poaching nonexistent. As a result, there are large populations of Mahseer ranging from 2-15lbs. It is totally undisturbed and very few people go there and rafting and fishing down the Babai is a truly wonderful experience, for all those who enjoy fishing and the wonderful wildlife that is all around you.

Once on the river and enter the National Park, we quickly start seeing animals and birds in this truly unspoiled riverine forest. What a majestic backdrop as you cast your fly or spinner.

Late October.

Day 1.

Depart UK. Options to be discussed but I suggest Air India via Delhi to Kathmandu.

October.

Day 2.

Arrive Kathmandu, met by our team and transferred to either Summit Hotel or Hotel Himalaya.
October.

Day 3.

After breakfast we take you on a morning tour of Kathmandu City with the afternoon free for shopping and preparation for the next part of the trip.

October.

Day 4.

Transfer to Kathmandu domestic terminal for the early morning flight to Nepalganj in West Nepal. The flight time is 1 hour. At Nepalganj we will be met by the forward team and transferred in comfortable Scorpio jeeps to Chepang Ghat about 3 hours due north of Nepalganj, where we meet up with the rafting team. We will be carrying a picnic lunch. While the kit is loaded and packed, we will set up the fishing rods and get prepared for our trip down river.

Chepang Ghat is the entrance to the Bardia National Park and as soon as we set off there is the chance of seeing game. We will camp at on a sandy beach approximately 2 hours downstream of the put in point, at a place we named as Nak Danda (Nose Hill). This is a big holding pool for Mahseer, Goonch and Indian Trout. It is also a good place to see both Mugger and Gharial crocodiles.

Great Hornbill

October/ November.

Day 5 – Day 9

Continue fishing and floating downstream on the Babai. The fish in the Babai include, Mahseer, Seuli (snake head), Indian trout and possibly Goonch catfish. The animals we might see include wild Asian Elephant, Greater Indian One Horned Rhinoceros, Sloth Bear, Sambar, Spotted, Barking and Hog Deer, Royal Bengal Tiger, leopard, 2 species of monkey, 2 species of crocodile, Blue Bull, several goat antelope species and more. The bird life too can be excellent, possibilities include several species of stork, Great Hornbills, fishing eagles, fish owls, osprey, parakeets, wildfowl, kingfishers, Black Headed Orioles, herons, egrets and much much more.
As we float down, we will stop at the most likely fishing spots and perhaps camp for 2 nights. Our camps are usually on soft sandy beaches with the river right beside us. The tents are comfortable and we provide everything you need. (See website for kit lists). You will bring your own fishing kit, both fly and spinner. I will advise on the detail.

For those who want a break from fishing we can take a morning or evening jungle walk to track some animals. For certain you will see and hear the great jungle sounds; you will also see the tracks of a huge number of animals all around our camps all the time.
If I can, I will arrange for an elephant to be available at one of our camps for those who want to go on an elephant safari to look for game. This, though easily possible might be affected by any religious festivals when the elephant drivers are away.

November.

Day 10.

Today we say goodbye to our team before we commence the final float down to our take out point at the Babai dam.

At the dam we will have a few minutes to walk across the barrage to see the huge Gharial and Mugger crocodiles, River Turtles, as well as large numbers of big Mahseer.

We will then drive the 2 hours to Nepalganj for the evening return flight back to Kathmandu. On arrival we will be met and transferred to our hotel.
November.

Depending on timings and peoples’ wishes, you can either depart for UK or continue for a few more days in Nepal, possibly visiting the town of Pokhara.