

# Seti Karnali River Rafting and Fishing

URL: <https://www.nepalriverrunner.com/river/seti-karnali-river-rafting-fishing/>

<b>Starting Point</b> Dipayal Bridge	<b>Duration</b> 12 Days	<b>Difficulty</b> Moderately difficult
<b>Distance</b> 172KM	<b>Best Seasons</b> Mar-June, Sep-Nov	<b>Activity</b> White water rafting
<b>Group Size</b> Minimum 1, Maximum 14	<b>Maximum Altitude</b> 784 meters	<b>Ending Point</b> Chisapani

## Highlights of the Seti Karnali River Rafting and Fishing

- **Exploration of remote waterbodies:** The Seti Karnali trip lets you raft and fish in the most popular rivers, allowing you to explore them more deeply.
- **Scenic route for camping:** Though a bit distant, the view of the mountains, forests, and villages makes for a sight as you enjoy peaceful days of adventure with your friends and family.
- **Wide range of opportunities for fishers:** As a fisher, you will have a wide range of opportunities to find different fish species.
- **Chance to witness local traditions:** Seti Karnali fishing and rafting expedition lets you witness local traditions.

## Seti Karnali River Rafting and Fishing Overview

The **12-day Seti Karnali River Rafting and Fishing expedition** is a remote wilderness journey through one of the least explored river corridors in western Nepal. Flowing through isolated valleys before joining the powerful **Karnali River**, the Seti Karnali offers an extended rafting experience combined with responsible angling opportunities in a naturally preserved environment.

Access to the expedition region is primarily through regular commercial flights to **Nepalgunj** or **Dhangadhi**, followed by an overland drive to the river put-in point **Dipayal Bridge**.

The river corridor is known for its wide sandy beaches suitable for riverside camping, scenic canyon landscapes, and occasional views of prominent Himalayan peaks such as **Api Himal** and **Saipal** on clear weather days. The surrounding environment supports diverse wildlife and maintains the wilderness

character that defines this expedition.

Beginning with a relatively steeper gradient in its upper reaches, the river gradually becomes broader and more moderate as it approaches the lower basin. This natural transition creates a balanced rafting experience with active river sections in the early days and more relaxed travel toward the end of the journey. The expedition concludes at **Chisapani**, a standard take-out location for multi-day rafting trips in the Karnali region.

In addition to rafting, the Seti Karnali river system is also recognized for freshwater fishing opportunities, with species such as **Golden Mahseer**, **Goonch**, and **Asala** found in suitable river habitats depending on season and water conditions.

Overall, the Seti Karnali expedition offers a combination of sustained river travel, wilderness camping, and remote river scenery, making it one of the longer and more adventurous **rafting and fishing** journeys in western Nepal.

## 12 Days Seti Karnali River Rafting and Fishing Itinerary

### Day 01: Fly to Nepalgunj or Dhangadhi – Drive to Dipayal Bridge (Put-in Point)

Your expedition begins with a domestic flight from Kathmandu to Nepalgunj or Dhangadhi. From either gateway town, a scenic overland drive of approximately **5-7 hours** leads to **Dipayal Bridge**, the official starting point of the rafting and fishing expedition.

Upon arrival, the crew prepares river equipment and conducts a full safety and trip briefing. Guests rest and prepare for the river journey ahead.

**Overnight:** Riverside Camp at Dipayal

**Activities:** Travel, expedition briefing, preparation

### Day 02: Raft from Dipayal to Naridang Village – Initial Fishing Opportunities

After breakfast, the expedition launches onto the river and begins navigating the first section of the Seti Karnali. This stretch features moderate current, open riverbanks, and accessible shoreline areas suitable for introductory fishing attempts depending on seasonal water conditions.

Camp is established near **Naridang Village**, where anglers may explore nearby pools and calm eddies during the late afternoon.

**Overnight:** Riverside Camp near Naridang

**Activities:** Rafting, exploratory fishing

## **Day 03: Raft to Budhi Ganga Confluence – Productive Fishing Zone**

Today's journey progresses toward the confluence of the Budhi Ganga and Seti Karnali rivers. River confluence zones typically create deeper channels, mixed currents, and natural holding areas for fish species.

### **Angling here may focus on:**

- deeper pool sections
- current seams near confluence zones
- slow-moving eddies
- structure-based casting along rocky banks

### **Species that may be encountered in this river system include:**

- Golden Mahseer
- Goonch
- Asala (snow trout)

**Overnight:** Budhi Ganga Confluence Camp

**Activities:** Rafting, guided fishing

## **Day 04: Full Fishing Day at Budhi Ganga Confluence**

This day is dedicated to extended fishing time within the confluence area. Guides monitor water clarity, current strength, and temperature conditions to identify suitable fishing windows.

### **Fishing sessions are conducted responsibly, with emphasis on:**

- habitat awareness
- seasonal fish movement
- catch-and-release practices where appropriate

The relaxed schedule allows anglers to maximize time on productive water without daily river travel.

**Overnight:** Same Confluence Camp

**Activities:** Full-day fishing

## **Day 05: Raft Along Remote River Corridor – Camp Near Shanti Khola and Gala Gad**

The expedition continues along a quieter and more remote section of the river. After passing the small tributaries **Shanti Khola** and **Gala Gad**, the team selects a natural sandy beach location for camp.

### **This section is known for:**

- wide sandbanks
- stable camping terrain
- calm shoreline access

Fishing opportunities may occur along deeper channels or slow-moving sections depending on river flow and season.

**Overnight:** Sandy Beach Camp

**Activities:** Rafting, optional evening fishing

## **Day 06: Raft to Scorpion Beach – Remote River Section**

After several hours of rafting, the expedition reaches a remote riverside location commonly referred to as **Scorpion Beach**. This section features broad sandbanks and steady current flow suitable for rest and continued river travel.

Guides assess nearby river conditions and identify potential fishing locations based on water depth and current patterns.

**Overnight:** Riverside Camp at Scorpion Beach

**Activities:** Rafting, river assessment

## **Day 07: Fishing and Rest Day at Scorpion Beach**

A scheduled rest day allows additional time to explore nearby fishing areas without daily river movement. This pause supports recovery, equipment checks, and environmental observation.

Anglers may fish along selected shoreline locations under guide supervision while others relax or explore the surrounding river environment.

**Overnight:** Scorpion Beach Camp

**Activities:** Fishing, rest

## **Day 08: Continue Rafting – Upper Stretch of Seti Karnali**

The expedition resumes rafting along the extended upper stretch of the river corridor. This section offers steady current and scenic wilderness surroundings with limited settlement along the banks.

The team maintains a consistent travel pace while observing river conditions and identifying suitable stopping locations.

**Overnight:** Riverside Camp

**Activities:** Rafting

## **Day 09: Final Stretch of Seti Karnali River Section**

Today's journey continues along the remaining section of the Seti Karnali before approaching the larger Karnali river system. River volume gradually increases, and the surrounding landscape begins to open into wider valleys.

Fishing may be attempted in deeper pools or slower current zones when conditions allow.

**Overnight:** Riverside Camp

**Activities:** Rafting, optional fishing

## **Day 10: Raft Toward Jamuna Village — Relaxed River Section**

The river gradient gradually decreases, resulting in a calmer rafting day with fewer technical rapids. This portion of the expedition emphasizes scenic travel and relaxation after several days in remote terrain.

Camp is established near **Jamuna Village**, where the riverbanks provide stable landing areas and comfortable camping space.

**Overnight:** Jamuna Area Camp

**Activities:** Rafting, relaxation

## **Day 11: Raft Along the Karnali River — Approach Bheri Confluence**

The expedition continues along the main channel of the Karnali River. This final wilderness stretch features steady downstream flow and expansive river scenery.

The last overnight camp is set upstream of the Bheri River confluence, marking the final night on the river.

**Overnight:** Final Riverside Camp

**Activities:** Rafting

## **Day 12: Raft to Chisapani — Transfer to Nepalgunj — Departure**

On the final day, the expedition completes the last rafting section and reaches **Chisapani**, the official take-out point.

After packing equipment and concluding the river journey, guests transfer by vehicle to Nepalgunj for onward travel arrangements.

### **Travel options include:**

- Flight back to Kathmandu
- Continued travel within western Nepal

***This marks the completion of the 12-day Seti Karnali rafting and fishing expedition.***

**Activities:** Final rafting, transfer, departure

## **Day Farewell: Share Experiences with the Expedition Team**

Following the expedition, guests are invited to meet the rafting and support crew at the office for an

informal farewell gathering.

**This session provides an opportunity to:**

- share trip experiences
- provide feedback and reviews
- discuss highlights from the journey
- reflect on one of Nepal's longest wilderness rafting and fishing expeditions

***The farewell interaction helps strengthen the relationship between guests and the expedition team while supporting continuous service improvement.***

## **Optional Extension – Kathmandu Valley Cultural Sightseeing**

If time permits after returning to Kathmandu, we recommend a **half-day or full-day sightseeing program** within the **Kathmandu Valley** to conclude the expedition with cultural exploration.

**Popular sightseeing locations may include:**

- historic temples and monuments
- traditional marketplaces
- heritage squares
- local cultural landmarks

This optional visit allows travelers to end their river journey with a deeper understanding of Nepalese culture and history before international departure.

## **Keynotes of available fish in the Seti Karnali River**

### **Copper Mahseer (Locally known as “Katile” ):**

- **Habitat:** Indigenous region of the Seti Karnali river
- **Altitude Range:** 76,784 meters above sea level
- **Ecological Importance:** Considered a predator within the ecosystem and faces threats due to dam construction and other environmental and habitat threats to the aquatic animals
- **Angling Thrill:** Popular for its strength when placed on a hook
- **Preferred Habitat:** Found in fast-flowing rivers and prefers rocky bottoms of the water body

### **Putitor Mahseer (Also known as Golden Mahseer or Himalayan Salmon):**

- **Habitat:** Mainstream of Seti Karnali, preferring pool/run areas and swift gorges
- **Altitude Range:** 135- 1,650 meters above sea level
- **Ecological Importance:** Considered a vulnerable species and at risk of extinction due to dam construction and pollution, such as in the Sunkoshi River
- **Angling Thrill:** Famous for its fighting spirit when caught, providing an exhilarating battle for

anglers of all levels

- **Preferred Habitat:** Found in fast-moving waters, particularly rocky and stony substrates in highland streams

## **Goonch (Bagarid Catfish):**

- **Previous Habitat:** Previously widespread in the Sunkoshi River before the construction of dams
- **Habitat Preference:** Found in fast currents, especially in deeper pools near faster currents (not found in small streams)

## **Snowtrout (Locally known as Asala) and Indian Carplet (Commonly called Dhawai)**

- **Habitat:** Indigenous fish species to the Himalayan aquatic group.
- **Altitude Range:** 300 to 3,323 meters above sea level
- **Ecological Importance:** Known for creating the perfect balance in high-altitude freshwater ecosystems, but endangered due to pollution and competition with brown trout species.
- **Angling Thrill:** Challenging to catch, but becomes a prized catch when you've succeeded.
- **Preferred Habitat:** Found among aquatic plants and algae.

## **What to Bring**

- Shorts / ½ pant
- Sport Sandals
- Shirts that will dry quickly
- Swim suit
- Warm layers (fleece, trousers)
- Towel
- Toiletries
- Sunscreen
- Sunglasses
- Camera and batteries/chargers
- Water Bottles
- Flashlight
- A little cash

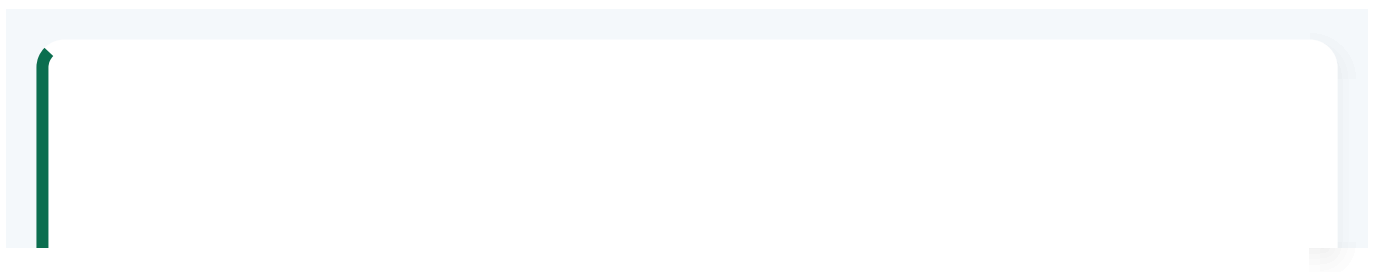
## **What's Included**

- Professional English speaking licensed guides highly trained and safety certified to international standards in Whitewater River Guiding, Swift Water Rescue, and Wilderness First Aid
- Professionally trained and certified safety kayakers.
- Gear raft support

- Quality rafting and kayaking equipment, including boats, kayaks, helmets, paddles, PFDs, dry bags and Pelican boxes.
- Accommodation in a camp and all necessary facilities including two man tents, shelters, simple mattress and sleeping bag, toilet tents, etc.
- Treated drinking water
- Two-way transportation (private bus or option to fly from Nepalgunj <-> Kathmandu)
- River permits.
- Industry standard first aid kits
- Team photos (photos videos by our team)
- Included meals
  - Day 1 = Lunch & Dinner
  - Day 2-11 = Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
  - Day 12 = Breakfast, Lunch &
- **Types of food provided:** Throughout our expedition, we provide treated stream water for drinking. We employ crews with great culinary ability and provide breakfast, lunch and dinner during the expedition in a buffet style. So, yes you have the freedom to choose what you like. If you have special dietary needs, please let us know about it at the time of booking, so that we can arrange accordingly. Sample menu for the expedition
- Breakfast: Tea, Coffee, White chocolate, Muesli and Cornflakes, Yogurt. Eggs, Toast, Hashed potatoes, Pancakes, Porridge etc.
- Lunch : Bread, Cheese, Salami, Tuna, Sardines, Baked beans, Salads, Fresh fruits and Biscuits
- Dinner: Pasta, French fries, Curries, Steamed or Fried vegetables. We may provide Nepali Dal, Bhat in rotation for longer trips.

## What's Not Included

- Fishing equipment rental is very limited and generally low quality in the area, so we recommend guests bring their own suitable travel rods, as our available rods are not adequate for the Seti-Karnali fishing-cum-rafting expedition.
- Visas, flights, other taxes etc.
- Personal items like toiletries, clothing, camera etc.
- Alcohol and other packed food.
- Insurance policy: paddlers need to have their own insurance since we only provide insurance to our crew.
- Tips for guides - we pay our guides and porters fairly but if you want you can tip them personally



## Important Expedition Note — Flexible Camping and Fishing Schedule

Camping locations during the Seti Karnali expedition are determined by real-time river and environmental conditions to ensure safety, operational efficiency, and responsible river use.

---

Certain river sections may be:

- Repeated
- Shortened
- Skipped

Depending on operational conditions such as:

- Fish activity and seasonal movement
- River level and current strength
- Weather and safety conditions
- Expedition timing and daylight availability

While adjustments may occur within daily travel sections, the overall expedition duration and total trip length will remain consistent as outlined in the itinerary.

All necessary decisions will be discussed and confirmed on-site by the experienced river guide and expedition team leader to ensure safety, efficiency, and responsible river management throughout the expedition.

## Recommended Fishing Gear Specifications for Seti Karnali River

## Equipment Guide for Beginner and Experienced Anglers

Fishing in the remote Seti Karnali River requires dependable equipment capable of handling strong currents, rocky riverbeds, and powerful freshwater species such as **Golden Mahseer** and **Goonch catfish**. Because the expedition takes place in wilderness areas where replacement gear is unavailable, selecting the correct specifications is essential for safety, reliability, and successful angling.

The following table outlines the recommended gear standards used by professional river guides and sport anglers operating in Himalayan river systems.

### Seti Karnali Fishing Gear Specification Table

Gear Category	Recommended Specification	Ideal For	Why This Matters in Seti Karnali
Rod Type	Medium to Heavy Spinning Rod	All anglers	Provides strength to control large fish in strong river currents
Rod Length	7-9 feet	Beginner & Experienced	Allows longer casting distance in wide river channels
Rod Power	Medium-Heavy to Heavy	Experienced anglers	Handles powerful fish like Mahseer and Goonch
Reel Type	Spinning Reel (4000-6000 size)	All anglers	Offers reliable drag system for strong fish runs
Drag Strength	Minimum 8-12 kg	Experienced anglers	Prevents line snapping during aggressive fish fights

Gear Category	Recommended Specification	Ideal For	Why This Matters in Seti Karnali
Main Line	20-40 lb braided line	All anglers	Provides strength and sensitivity in fast-flowing water
Leader Line	30-50 lb monofilament or fluorocarbon	All anglers	Protects against abrasion from rocks and fish movement
Hook Size	Size 1/0 to 4/0	Mahseer fishing	Suitable for large river fish species
Lure Type	Spinners, Spoons, Crankbaits	All anglers	Proven effectiveness in Himalayan rivers
Lure Weight	10-40 grams	All anglers	Ensures proper casting and stability in strong current
Sinker Weight	15-60 grams	Experienced anglers	Helps maintain depth in deep pools and fast water
Landing Net	Large, reinforced frame	All anglers	Allows safe handling of large fish
Backup Equipment	Spare rod and reel	All anglers	Critical in remote expedition environments

## Beginner vs Experienced Angler Gear Guide

### Beginner Anglers — Recommended Setup

This setup prioritizes ease of use, reliability, and versatility.

- **Rod:** Medium spinning rod (7-8 ft)
- **Reel:** 4000-5000 size spinning reel

- **Line:** 20–25 lb braided line

#### **Lures:**

- Medium spinners
- Small to medium spoons
- Shallow crankbaits

#### **Why This Setup Works**

- Easy to handle
- Suitable for most fishing conditions
- Reduces equipment complexity
- Ideal for first-time river anglers

## Experienced Anglers — Recommended Setup

This setup is designed for targeting large fish and handling demanding river conditions.

- **Rod:** Heavy spinning rod (8–9 ft)
- **Reel:** 5000–6000 size spinning reel
- **Line:** 30–40 lb braided line
- **Leader:** 40–50 lb monofilament or fluorocarbon

#### **Lures:**

- Heavy spoons
- Large spinners
- Deep-diving crankbaits

#### **Why This Setup Works**

- Designed for large Mahseer and Goonch
- Handles strong river currents
- Provides better control during long fish fights
- Suitable for expedition-level fishing

## Recommended Personal Fishing Accessories for Seti Karnali

These items significantly improve safety, comfort, and fishing success during multi-day river expeditions.

### Essential Accessories

- Polarized sunglasses
- Fishing pliers or multi-tool

- Waterproof tackle box
- Headlamp or flashlight
- Sun protection (hat and sunscreen)
- Quick-dry clothing
- Waterproof dry bag
- Gloves for fish handling

## Important Note for International Anglers

Due to the remote wilderness nature of the Seti Karnali River expedition, access to specialized fishing equipment is limited along the route.

### Therefore:

Guests are strongly recommended to bring their own fishing gear suitable for expedition-style river fishing.

### This ensures:

- Equipment reliability
- Better fishing performance
- Trip continuity
- Safety in remote environments

## Why combine Seti River Fishing and Rafting?

- **Exceptional rafting experience:** Seti River rafting is a standout element of your trip. The best part about this journey is that you can easily access it from Kathmandu and Pokhara.
- **More exploration in a limited time:** You will have more time to explore the remote rivers and locations of the region during the Seti River fishing and rafting journey.
- **Experience traditional fishing:** While you may have explored different fishing locations, Karnali fishing spots are truly exceptional.
- **Suitability for families:** Seti River fishing and rafting are suitable for families. Even if you're traveling with children and people of older ages, you won't have to compromise on experiences.

## FAQs About Seti Karnali River Rafting and Fishing

## **What is the best season for the Seti Karnali fishing and rafting expedition?**

Autumn is the best season, and spring is another excellent choice for this journey. The sky is clear, the water is mild and timid, and the scenery is fantastic. There is also no threat of heavy rainfall. Hence, no landslides! Also, you don't always have to worry about the temperature going too low when you engage in outdoor activities or camp. And, it's not too hot either.

## **What should be considered during the Seti Karnali fishing and rafting trip?**

During the Seti Karnali fishing and rafting trip, you need to consider a few facts. These include taking good care of your health and safety, food habits, the season to travel, and the correct operator to choose. Also, be sure not to physically stress yourself or overwork your body a day before your rafting trip.

## **Is the Seti Karnali rafting trip a mainline raft trip?**

The Seti Karnali rafting trip cannot be considered a mainline raft trip. You won't find an excessive crowd here, as you do in a destination like the Trishuli River. Also, unlike other thrilling and challenging whitewater rafting trips, the Seti Karnali rafting's Class III rapid may not serve the purpose for adrenaline junkies.

## **Is the Seti Karnali rafting and fishing trip suitable for children?**

The Seti Karnali rafting and fishing trip is suitable for children above 8. It is not suitable for children younger than that age group as they need to spend several days on the journey, which children below that age group cannot do in a healthy manner, both physically and mentally.

## **Should I prebook the Seti Karnali fishing and rafting packages?**

Yes, you can choose to prebook the Seti Karnali fishing and rafting packages with us beforehand. While many keen adventurers tend to get in touch with us two or three days before their journey, contacting our representative at least a week or two in advance can be helpful.

## **Address**

**5th Floor, DRS Bhawan, Paknajol-16 Thamel**

P.O Box 19505

Kathmandu, Nepal