

Four Things to Confirm Before a Late Arrival in Kathmandu

An arrival plan that still works when your flight is late, the hotel is asleep or your phone has no data.

FOUR LINKS THAT MUST ALL WORK

01 ENTRY

Documents



02 ROOM

Late check-in



03 RIDE

Meeting point



04 CONTACT

Offline backup

If one link is unconfirmed, improve that part before departure.

You do not need to solve your entire Nepal trip on the flight. For a late arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) in Kathmandu, you need four decisions that fit together: **your entry documents, a confirmed place to sleep, a specific ride to that place and a way to communicate if your plan changes.**

A long list of things to pack is less useful than a short chain of decisions that has no missing link. A room reservation does not prove there will be someone to let you in after midnight. A driver booking does not tell you where the driver will meet you. And a map pin stored only inside an app cannot help much if you lose your data connection.

This guide walks you through the four decisions, with reusable messages, a sample arrival card and three realistic situations. It applies to an international arrival at **Kathmandu's Tribhuvan International Airport**, not to Nepal's other airports or land borders. The examples are illustrative: they are not statements that a particular hotel, driver or service has been verified.

1. Is your entry plan correct for your passport and purpose?

Before discussing taxis or SIM cards, check whether you can enter Nepal on the documents you plan to carry. Tourist visa eligibility is not the same for every nationality or travel-document type. Some travelers can seek a tourist visa on arrival; others must secure permission before traveling. Travelers with a residence card from one country but a passport from another should check the requirements for their **actual passport and travel document**, not simply their home address.

The Nepal Tourism Board describes the tourist-visa process and links to the Department of Immigration. The Tribhuvan airport immigration office operates a separate official portal and has warned about fraudulent visa websites and unauthorized online fee payments. Start from those official sources rather than from advertisements or lookalike payment pages. [S1–S3]

What to check before leaving for the airport at home:

- Your passport or travel document and the entry category applicable to you; include validity rules and any airline checks for boarding.
- Whether you are entitled to apply on arrival, already hold a valid visa or must obtain permission before traveling. Do not assume a companion has the same eligibility.
- Which information and documents the current official application asks you to carry. If you complete a permitted form online, save the confirmation or reference in a form you can access without mobile data.
- Your first lodging address and phone number as you have confirmed them with the lodging provider; these may also be useful to answer entry questions.

Avoid a common false shortcut: a message saying that you can 'pay the Nepal visa online now' is not itself proof that the page is authorized. Use government links you reached independently, and check the airport immigration office's warning. Specific fees, nationalities, permitted payment methods and forms can change; do not use a price or eligibility rule copied

from someone else's old trip. [S1–S3]

If you are denied boarding or discover before departure that your documents do not meet the rules, do not treat an airport pickup reservation as a solution. Resolve the entry question with the airline and Nepal's official immigration or diplomatic authorities before traveling.

2. Will someone actually let you into your room at your arrival time?

The time shown on your flight booking is not the time you will stand at your lodging door. After landing, you still need to leave the aircraft, complete entry formalities, collect checked luggage and travel through the city. Allow enough uncertainty that you are not relying on a narrowly timed hotel handoff.

The most useful accommodation confirmation is more precise than 'room booked.' Ask these questions:

1. **Do you accept check-in after my likely arrival at the property?** A hotel may have a staffed night desk; a guesthouse or apartment may require prior arrangements. Do not infer either from the booking platform.
2. **If my flight is delayed and I arrive after midnight, will my room still be held?** Ask which *calendar date* the reservation and check-in refer to. Arriving at 00:30 may be the following date even if you began traveling the evening before.
3. **How do I reach the actual door?** Request the full written address, neighborhood or recognizable landmark, property telephone/WhatsApp number if used, map link and a photo of the entrance or sign if the building is hard to recognize.
4. **Who should I contact if the driver or the door is unavailable?** Confirm a contact that will actually be monitored during your arrival window and whether the person can communicate in a language you share.

Here is a short message you can send without requiring the property to read a long travel history:

Hello. My flight is scheduled to land at Kathmandu airport on **[date]** at **[local time]**. I may reach your property after **[time]**, possibly on **[following date]** if delayed. Please confirm that someone can check me in then, that the room will be held, and the exact entrance/address and late-night contact number. Thank you.

The brackets are placeholders. Send the completed message to the property through its verified channel, not to an unverified number from a random search result.

Decision: If the property cannot confirm night access, change the arrangement *before* traveling. Spending less on a room is not helpful if you cannot reliably enter it when exhausted.

3. What exactly is the ride from the arrival area to the door?

ARRIVAL RIDE: A PLAN AND A FALLBACK

PLAN A: VERIFIED PICKUP

Named provider + exact meeting point

PLAN B: OFFICIAL TAXI

Check posted current procedure and fare

Never depend on one unverified app or an unconfirmed driver.

Kathmandu airport identifies a **prepaid taxi service** among its official passenger facilities. Its public information says that passengers can pay before the journey and that rates are displayed. The airport also describes taxi, private car and city-bus connections to the city. That does not establish the cost of your particular trip, the availability of every mode at a particular late hour or a universal meeting point; verify the live signage and staff directions when you arrive. [S4–S5]

Choose a first transport route **before** collecting your luggage:

A prearranged pickup from the lodging provider or a service you have independently verified. This can reduce decisions at night if the driver, timing and meeting instructions have truly been confirmed. Ask who is driving, the vehicle description or registration details if available, the waiting or delay policy, where the driver will stand, and how the price is

handled. A booking receipt with no meeting procedure is not a complete pickup plan.

Airport prepaid taxi. If you prefer not to depend on a specific driver, locate the official prepaid service after reaching the arrival area. Check the posted rate and payment conditions before committing, keep the receipt and give the driver both the written property address and an offline map pin. Official locations and procedures can change, so follow current airport signs or ask official airport staff. [S4]

An independently arranged alternative. Ride apps, street taxis and public transportation may be discussed in third-party guides, but their access rules, pickup locations, late-night availability and foreign-number requirements may change. Do not make one of them your sole fallback without confirming that it works with your phone, luggage and arrival time. If an unfamiliar meeting route would require wandering outside at night, prefer a clearly identified official or verified option.

Before accepting a ride, check the **destination**, the agreed fare or official receipt as applicable, and the vehicle/driver information you were given. Keep your passport and important valuables with you; avoid sharing unneeded passport images with an unverified driver.

Your **simplest arrival transport card** can be saved as a phone screenshot and as a small paper note:

Field	Write your own verified detail
Property name	[exact name on booking]
Full address	[street/neighborhood, Kathmandu]
Entrance clue	[sign, building, gate or nearby landmark]
Offline map	[saved map pin or coordinates]
Property contact	[phone, including country code]
Primary ride	[pickup provider/driver or airport prepaid taxi]
Meeting point	[current confirmed arrival-area location]
If pickup fails	[airport official service or agreed contingency]

Do not put sensitive travel-document numbers into a card you will show to a taxi driver.

4. If something changes, can you still reach the right person?

Plan for an imperfect arrival: your flight may move, luggage may be delayed, an international roaming package may not activate or a driver may be elsewhere. What matters is not owning every app; it is maintaining one communication path and one fallback.

Before takeoff:

- Save the property's verified phone number and booking confirmation, your flight number and your primary pickup confirmation for offline use.
- Download an offline map with both the airport and the lodging marked. Put the full address in text, not just a pin link.
- Decide how you will contact the accommodation if your own phone has no data: international roaming or other prearranged connectivity, airport Wi-Fi where functioning, or help from an official airport counter.
- If you depend on a particular local SIM/eSIM, check eligibility, device compatibility, identity-document requirements and activation conditions with the actual provider. Do not assume that data service will work immediately upon landing.
- Share your planned arrival and accommodation with one trusted contact, if appropriate. You do not need to broadcast your detailed itinerary publicly.

At the airport: connect only to a network you can identify as legitimate, use official counters for service questions and avoid entering credentials in suspicious captive portals or links. If your communications fail, move toward a staffed official information/help point instead of following strangers to an unverified location.

If your flight is delayed: send this message as soon as it is practical:

Flight [number] is delayed. The new estimated landing time is [time, Kathmandu local time]. Please confirm whether the pickup can still meet me at [meeting point], or advise me to use the airport's official taxi option. Please also confirm that late check-in is still possible.

A delayed pickup and a delayed hotel check-in are two different problems. Confirm both.

Three realistic ways to use the four checks

Scenario A – Solo arrival just before midnight

Maya has one suitcase and a hotel booking. Her flight is due before midnight but could land the next calendar day. She verifies her entry eligibility before departure, gets a written confirmation of *after-midnight* check-in, saves a contact number and arranges a pickup that identifies an actual meeting point. She keeps the official airport prepaid-taxi option as her fallback. Her offline card contains the address and entrance clue. She is not dependent on a single app or on finding the hotel by name alone.

The key lesson is not that everyone should book a driver. It is that **hotel access, arrival date and pickup instructions must agree.**

Scenario B – Two travelers with different travel documents

A couple is flying together but holds passports issued by different countries. They confirm each person's entry requirements separately. Their room and ride are already agreed, so the main risk is one traveler assuming that the other's visa-on-arrival conditions apply. They also carry their booking details separately in case one phone loses battery.

The key lesson is that **traveling together does not make two passports legally interchangeable.**

Scenario C – The confirmed driver cannot be found

Anika reaches arrivals and does not see the agreed driver at the recorded meeting point. Instead of accepting an unsolicited offer, she calls the verified provider number, waits at an identifiable staffed location and allows a short, preagreed time for a clear response. If the driver is unavailable, she uses the airport's official prepaid-taxi arrangement, confirms the destination and informs her property that her arrival time has changed.

The key lesson is that **a fallback should be chosen before you need it.**

A five-minute arrival readiness check

You can finish this before the trip. If one answer is unknown, fix that link rather than compiling another general packing list.

The question	Your answer
Is my entry plan valid for my actual passport, document and purpose?	Yes / Need official confirmation
Is night check-in explicitly confirmed for my likely arrival <i>date and time</i> ?	Yes / Not yet
Do I know the full property address, the correct entrance and who will be there?	Yes / Not yet

The question	Your answer
Is the primary airport-to-property ride identified, with a real meeting procedure?	Yes / Not yet
Do I have an official or verified backup ride, and a way to contact the property without relying on one app?	Yes / Not yet

You do not need perfect certainty about travel. You need a chain in which one late flight or one disconnected phone does not break every link.

Safety, disruptions and help remain free information

Advisory check – 25 October 2026: The Government of Canada's Nepal travel advice (site last updated **15 October 2026**) still says **exercise a high degree of caution** across Nepal and **avoid non-essential travel** specifically to Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts due to severe flood and mudslide damage and ongoing risks. This is a dated snapshot, **not a promise that warnings will remain unchanged**. Check your own government's latest advisory and local airport and road conditions immediately before travel; other countries may issue different advice. [S6]

Emergency contacts checked 25 October 2026: The Nepal Tourism Board lists **1144** for Tourist Police and **100** for Nepal Police; Canada's Nepal advisory lists **102** for medical assistance and **101** for fire. These are official listings as of this check, not individually test-called connections; numbers and disaster-response routes may change. Save them offline and verify current local guidance when you travel. [S6–S7]

If travel is disrupted by a protest, road closure, weather event or an official warning, follow local authority directions. Do not venture out to locate a driver or detour at night merely to rescue a prepaid booking. Ask airport personnel, your accommodation or the provider for a lawful, sensible alternative.

Official starting points and source check (25 October 2026)

[S1] Nepal Tourism Board, Tourist Visa. National tourism authority's English explanation of visa-on-arrival, differences among visitor classes, official application channel and practical entry reminders: ntb.gov.np [open]. An official general page, **not** a guarantee of eligibility for every reader.

[S2] Department of Immigration, Tribhuvan International Airport Office. Current government portal and visa/application links: tia.immigration.gov.np [open]. Specific forms and working payment methods must be checked on the actual official page at time of travel.

[S3] Tribhuvan Airport Immigration Office, notice of 7 June 2026, "Notice Regarding Fraudulent Websites and Unauthorized Online Visa Fee Payments." tia.immigration.gov.np [open]. The notice's existence was checked; this draft does not reproduce or speculate about its PDF details.

[S4] Tribhuvan International Airport, passenger facilities and prepaid taxi service. www.tiaairport.com.np [open]; www.tiaairport.com.np [open]. Search-indexed official airport text describes airport taxis and prepaid service, but direct page fetching returned 403 in this editorial check. Thus precise physical counter location, hours, current fares and methods are **not verified** here; follow current signage/staff.

[S5] Tribhuvan International Airport, passenger terminal FAQ. www.tiaairport.com.np [open]. Official searchable information describes taxi, private-car and city-bus connections; the reader is not instructed to depend on a late-night city bus.

[S6] Government of Canada, Nepal Travel Advice and Advisories. travel.gc.ca [open]. Opened and rechecked 25 October 2026; site's stated update 15 October 2026. Countrywide and district-specific advice may change; the guide does not apply Canadian travel categories as if they were Nepal's entry rules.

[S7] Nepal Tourism Board, Tourist Police. ntb.gov.np [open]. Official English-language tourism authority page; both prefixed and unprefixed URLs resolved on 25 October 2026. Hotline listings rechecked 25 October 2026.