

# BAGH CHAL

nepal

Bagh Chal is an ancient board game, native to Nepal. Though its exact origins are difficult to trace, it is said to have been invented by locals about 1000 years ago. Originally, people would carve the board's 5x5 grid into sand or stone, and use pebbles as game pieces.

According to The Kathmandu Post, the game was often played in rural areas where shepherds used it to pass the time as their animals grazed in the pasturelands. The theme of the game mimicked the threat of tigers on the hunt for animals that strayed from the herd.

Bagh Chal has survived through word of mouth, but as Nepali cities become more urbanized, Bagh Chal is losing relevance. Veteran players and historians worry that it could disappear forever.

During our travels to Nepal, we fell in love with this game, and wanted to include it in the Ludos collection to help preserve it for generations to come.

Krisztina & Tamas, Lemery Games

In the lush pasturelands of the Kathmandu Valley, a shepherd wanders peacefully with a herd of goats. But tigers roam nearby, on the hunt for stray animals. The tigers are swift, but when the goats unite, they can overwhelm their predators.



Who will win in the fight for survival?



- Narrative based on the imagination of Lemery Games -

Bagh Chal ("Tiger Game") is a 2-player abstract strategy game from Nepal. One player controls a herd of 20 Goats. The other controls 4 Tigers.

## OBJECT OF THE GAME

- The Goat player wins if they trap all 4 Tigers (the Tigers have no possible moves).
- The Tiger player wins if they capture 5 Goats (by jumping over them).

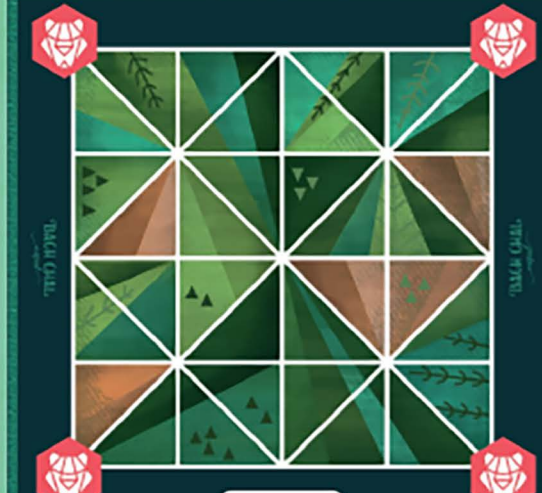
## GAME CONTENTS

- 1 travel bag
- 1 game mat
- 4 red Tiger pieces
- 20 blue Goat pieces
- 1 rulebook



## SETUP

1. Lay out the game mat
2. Decide player roles. Take 1 Tiger and 1 Goat. Hide 1 token in each hand. The other player chooses a hand. This reveals their role.
3. Place 1 Tiger on each corner of the board (Fig. 1).
4. Give the 20 Goats to the Goat player.



## HOW TO PLAY

Bagh Chal is played over 2 phases, described below.

### Phase I.

The Goat player goes first, placing 1 Goat onto an available space (1 of the 25 intersections) on the board. Then the Tiger player moves 1 Tiger. Continue alternating turns until there are no Goats left to be placed.

A Tiger may move

in 1 of 2 ways:

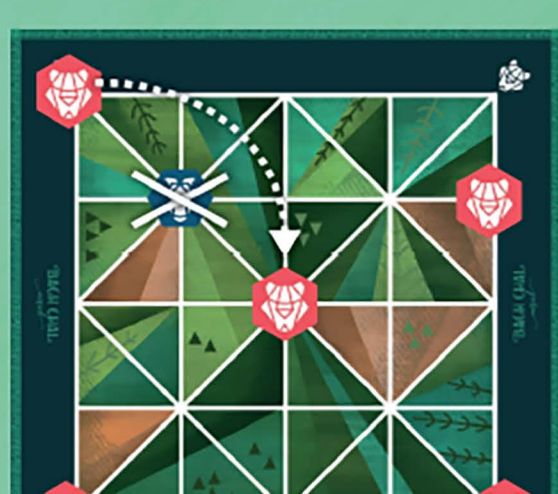
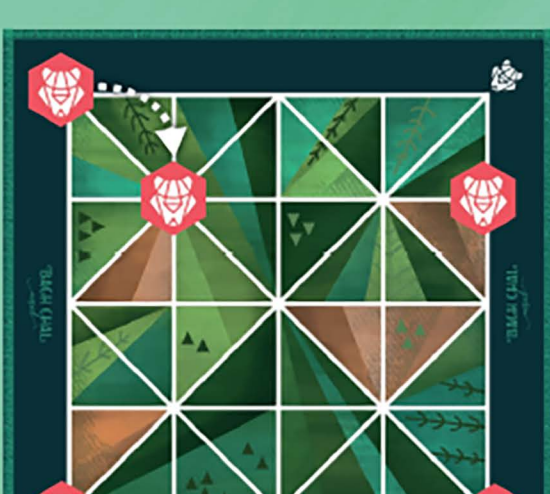
#### • Walk

Move to an adjacent space connected by a straight line.

(Fig. 2), OR

#### • Capture a goat

If the Tiger is adjacent to a Goat and there is an available space on the opposite side of that Goat, it may jump over the Goat (Fig. 3). If so, discard the Goat.

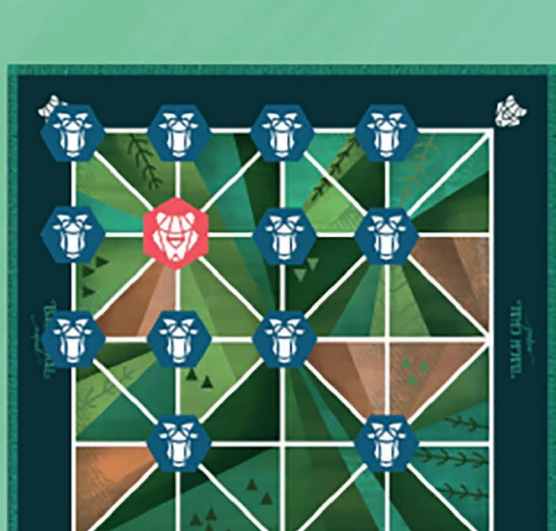


### Phase II.

After all Goats have been placed, Phase II begins. In this phase, Goats use each turn to walk (just like Tigers do). Goats may NOT jump over or capture other pieces. In addition, during Phase II, Tigers and Goats may not walk back and forth between the same 2 spaces during consecutive turns, unless they have no other option.

### Trapped Tigers

If a Tiger has no legal moves available, it is considered trapped (see Fig. 4). But if a legal move becomes available, it is no longer considered trapped.



## GAME END

The game ends immediately if:

- The Tigers capture 5 Goats. (Tiger player wins)
- All 4 Tigers are trapped at the same time. (Goat player wins)
- Players perform the same moves 3 times in a row—e.g., chasing each other in a triangular path. (The game is a draw.)

## PLAY A MATCH

Traditionally, in competitions, a Bagh Chal match includes 3 games—each player plays the Tigers once, and the Goats once. If one player wins both games, they win the match. Otherwise, players choose roles again and play a third game. The player who wins more games wins the match. (If all 3 games are draws, the match is a draw.)

## TIPS AND TRICKS



Goat player: Don't be afraid to sacrifice 1-2 Goats early in the game. This can help you force Tigers into unfavorable spaces.



Tiger player: Try to spread your Tigers out, so it becomes more difficult for Goats to trap each one.