

MOTORCYCLE TOUR INDIA OVER HIMALAYA

14 NIGHTS/ 15 DAYS



Route: Delhi - Kalka – Shimla – Sarahan -Sangla- Kalpa – Tabo – Kaza –Chandertal – Jispa Sarchu–Rumtse- Khardungla - Leh – Delhi – Agra – Delhi Departure

Day 01: Arrival Delhi

On arrival at Delhi International airport, you will be met by a member of our team at the airport along with car and chauffeur and transferred to your hotel for overnight stay. Rest of the day free. Overnight at hotel in Delhi. (Normal check-in time of hotel 1400 hours)

Day 02: visit Delhi

Breakfast. Full day sightseeing of Delhi with guide. You could include some of the following: Old Delhi, Red Fort from outside, the Jama Masjid Mosque, with a rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk visiting the Spice, Wedding and Silver Markets and then the Birla Temple, Parliament Buildings of Sir Edwin Lutyens, India Gate and Humayun's Tomb.

Start the morning with a visit to Old Delhi. Built in the first half of the 17th Century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan this old city is still a dense network of overcrowded homes, markets and endless alleyways dominated by the enormous **Red Fort**. Go by **cycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk** (closed on a Sunday) a bustling thoroughfare of shops, craftsmen's workshops, mosques and temples. Continue onto **Jama Masjid** the largest mosque in India and then to the Red Fort (closed on a Monday) with its imposing appearance and towering entrance. Also visit **Rajghat**, the cremation place of Mahatma Gandhi. Continue to visit the **Qutub Minar** complex housing an impressive 13th Century 72m victory tower.

In the afternoon drive south to New Delhi designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in a combination of western and eastern styles. Proceed up to **Rashtrapati Bhavan** once the Viceroy's abode but now the official residence of the President of India and then across to the eastern end of the Rajpath to the imposing **India Gate**. This war memorial, designed by Lutyens, commemorates the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War, on the Northwest Frontier and in the Afghan War of 1919 and, most recently, in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971. **Overnight stay in Delhi.**

Day 03: Train to Kalka. From Kalka by road to Shimla

In time transfer to Delhi train station (0740-1145h) for Kalka, on the foothill of Himalaya. On arrival at Kalka train station you will be transfer by road to Shimla. Night at Hotel.

The British discovered Shimla in the form of a little village in 1819 and in 1864; Shimla was declared the summer capital of India. After the independence of India, Shimla became the capital of Punjab until 1966, when it came under Himachal Pradesh.

IN THE EVENING OUR ESCORT WILL BRIEF YOU ABOUT THE MOTORBIKE (ENFIELD BULLET) AND YOUR TOUR.



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Day 04: Shimla – Narkanda - Sarahan (1920m) 180 kms / 7hrs drive

After breakfast, depart to Sarahan by motorbike via Narkanda. Night at Hotel

Evening visit **The Bhimakali temple** is built in Indo-Tibetan architectural style, it is one of the finest examples of Himachali architecture and is dedicated to Lord Narsingha and Lord Raghunath. This temple is the main attraction of the region and is decorated silver. Apart from the main deities, this temple has images of various Hindu and Buddhist Gods. It is also one of the last few surviving temples made entirely of timber.

Lanka Vir Temple situated next door to the Bhimakali temple, this was where human sacrifices were made long ago to please Goddess Bhimakali. The bodies were apparently thrown into the well nearby. Once in Sarahan, one beholds a range of the snow-capped Himalayan peaks and one of them is the

Shrikhand Peak. The rather peculiar thing about this peak is that it is only one, whose tip remains uncovered with snow. In the evening, sunrays adorn the peaks and the sight is simply stupendous.

Day 05: Sarahan – Sangla / kalpa (2960m) 155 kms / 6hrs drive

Morning drive to Kalpa. In route Drive to Sangla (Kinnaur) through the Baspa Valley. Night at Hotel

Kinnaur is a border district, located in the southeastern part of the northern state of Himachal Pradesh. It is about 250 km from the capital Shimla and is situated on National Highway No. 22, which is also called the Hindustan-Tibet Road. Kinnaur holds three of world's grandest mountain ranges-the Zaskar, the Greater Himalaya, and the Dhauladhar-and the famous 4,573-meter-high Kinner Kailash Mountain by whose side is the seventy-nine foot vertical rock formation that resembles a Shivalinga and changes color as the day passes.

Karchham (1,899 m), located at the confluence of the Sutlej and Baspar rivers, is the start of the picturesque Baspar Valley of which Sangla is the largest settlement. Baspa Valley is the prettiest Valley in the Himalayas. The beautiful valley along Bhaba River is an important tourist spot. It is a link road to the valley, which originates at Wangtu. It has a reservoir lake and alpine meadows and is famous for the trek route to Pin Valley in Spiti.

Sangla is 18 km from Karchham and is perched at a height of 2880 meters. A link road that goes off the National Highway into the Baspar valley offers an enchanting spot at every curve. There are saffron fields, orchards, and higher up, as the road climbs the steep, there are lush green alpine meadows. There are about 77 villages in the Kinnaur district and Kalpa is one of the biggest of them, once a favorite haunt of Lord Dalhousie. In front of Kalpa is an impressive view of the Raldang Kailash massif directly across the Sutlej river. There are almost no urban centers. Rechong Peo is the headquarters of the Kinnaur district. It is placed at an altitude of 2670 meters and offers a fine view of the Kinner Kailash. At 3 km from Rechong Peo, Kothi has a temple dedicated to the Goddess.



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Day 06: kalpa – Sumdo – Tabo (3050m) 180 kms / 7hrs drive

After breakfast, drive to Tabo. Evening visit Tabo Monastery. Tabo the largest district in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, Lahaul and Spiti, is a vast area of high mountains and low valleys. It is bounded by Ladakh to the north, Tibet to the east, and the Kullu valley to the south. The district is named after its two subdivisions, which are distinct and separate regions, despite of their topographical and cultural similarities. The altitude varies from over 6,500 m in the high peaks to 2,740 m, where the Chenab River makes its exit from the region. The Lahaul region is at an altitude of 3000-3900 m, the air is much rarified and there are heavy snowstorms between September and May. Nevertheless, since the rains here are very scanty, it is an ideal place for trekkers, especially in the months between June and September. The Spiti valley is connected to Lahaul through the 4500-m

Kunzam pass. Beyond the reach of the monsoon, the valley sees little rain in summer, when the sun is strong, and the nights cool. It is the seat one of the most famous Buddhist monasteries regarded next to the Tholong Gompa in Tibet. The monastery contains large number of scriptures and pieces of art, wall painting and Stucco. It is also known as Ajanta of Himalayas

Tabo Monastery: It is situated at village Tabo at a height of 3050m lying in the Spiti valley near the Tibetan (Chinese) border just north of the Satluj River. The Tabo Gompa is the largest monastery complex of Buddhist religion. This has been declared as a protected monument. It was built in A.D. 996 by Ringchen Zangpo and has been declared as the place where the current Dalai Lama will retire. Its sculptures, stucco images and wall paintings are like the Ajanta-Ellora paintings. Night at Hotel

Day 07: Tabo - Kaza (3600m) 60 kms / 3hrs drive

Drive to Kaza on the way visit Dhankar Monastery. and after non visit Ki and Kibber. Kaza is the sub-divisional headquarters of Spiti, situated on the left bank of river Spiti on National Highway. This is the main market in the Spiti valley. It has all modern facilities and is connected by road with Manali & Shimla except in the winter months. Night at Hotel in Kaza.

Dhankar Monastery is 7km from the turn-off at Schichling on the Tabo -Kaza highway situated at a height of 3370m. The Dhankar Gompa was built nearly 1000 years ago and has seen many upheavals in its history, from being the capital of Spiti to that of a jail... Around 1 km away is a new monastery, which is worth a visit in the local parlance a "Dhankhar" is a fort and that is why this monastery once was a fort. Perched high over the valley, it is a superb example of Spiti's traditional architectural skills. It was once the castle of the ruler of spiti, the Nono and today it is a repository of Buddhist scriptures in the Bhoti script. After an hour-long drive the valley opens a little for the rich pastures of Lhalung town, consisting of barley and the yellow rape that adds another beautiful colours to the reduced palette of Spiti.

Ki Monastery: Situated in Spiti about 11 kms from Kaza was founded by Dromton (1008-64 A.D), the founder of the Ge-lug-pa sect in the 11th century. On the left bank of the Spiti River the Ki Gompa (4116) is regarded as the largest and the oldest monastery in the sub-division. Thousands of devotees from all over the world here attended the Kalachakra ceremony which was performed in August 2000 by His Holiness Dalai Lama.

Kibber: Kibber is 11 km from Ki Gompa and is the highest settlement in the world (4205 meters) with a motorable road and electricity. The Ladarcha festival held here each July attracts Buddhists from all over the world. The Pin Valley, south of the Dhankar gompa, has been declared as a national park, where one might see the snow leopard. The 600-year-old Kungri Gompa here is worth a visit.



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Day 08: Kaza – Losar – Kunzum Pass - Chanderttal – Chotadara (4551m) 106kms / 4hrs drive

Drive to Chandertal over the Kunzum Pass, a mountain pass at an attitude of 4551 meters, with a temple of Kunzam Devi. One can also trek from here to the famous and beautiful moon lake Chandratal (4070 m). Asia's biggest glaciers, Bada and Chotta Sigri, can be seen from here. Drive further to Chotadara in Lahul Valley. The name Lahaul comes from Lho-yul meaning the south country. It is also a fascinating area for Buddhist art and culture. The people of the area are religious, charming and friendly. Lahaul is nourished by the Chandra and Bhaga rivers and it is surrounded by high mountains on all sides. Night at Camp.

Day 09: Chotadara – Keylong – Jispa (3400m) 112kms / 4hrs drive

Drive to Jispa in Lahul Valley. The valley commands excellent views of the mountains and enjoy the panoramic view of the confluence point of Chandra-Bhaga Rivers at Tandi before Keylong. Night at hotel.

Day 10: Jispa - Sarchu (4273m) 85kms / 4hrs drive

Drive to Sarchu. The road moves flat till Darcha, from Darcha the road again begins a steady climb to the Baralacha Pass (4830 Mt). A steep climb to a spur on the hillside brings you face to face with picturesquely situated Darcha- Sumdo village, across the Bhaga River. At the top of Baralacha La, there are lakes and ponds, where migratory Siberian birds alight on way to and from sanctuaries in India. The landscape changes dramatically from green mountain slopes to bear mountainsides, beige and brown. Night at Camp.

Day 11: Sarchu – Tanglang La - Rumtse (4100m) 175kms / 7-8hrs drive

Early morning drive to Rumtse gives you a feeling of being in the high Tibetan Plateau. One climbs a series of Galta loops consisting of 32 hairpin bends on the way up from Sarchu and come out in Pang valley. You can visit the huge high-altitude lakes of Tsokar and Tsomoriri. Cross to the other side of the Pang, Tzanspo River to continue drive up to yet another plateau for a long traverse on the legendary Moore plains. The highest of the Tibetan Plateau at 4200 Mts. Continue driving Tanglang La (5360 Mts.) the second highest motorable pass in the world that commands breath taking views of the Zanskar range. A pleasant drive about 20 Kms brings you to the Ladakhi hamlet. Reach Rumtse. Night at Camp.

Day 12: Rumtse - Leh (3505m) 76 kms / 3 hrs drive

Drive to Leh/ Ladakh on the way visit Hemis and Thiksey Gompa. The mountain of Leh/ Ladakh is spectacular. As even the valleys are at an altitude of 3,500 m. the summits are only 3,000 m. higher. Because it is desert there is little snow on them and they look like big brown hills. They are dry and dusty, with clusters of willows and desert roses along the streams, yet Ladakh is a completely magical palace, remote with delightful, gentle, un-grasping people. Four mountain ranges cross Ladakh – Gt. Himalaya Zanskar, Ladakh and Karakoram – as do the Indus and its tributaries, Zanskar, Shingo and Shyok. Ladakh also has the world's largest glaciers outside the Polar Regions.

Hemis - the position of Hemis monastery lying in a small isolated valley south of the Indus, belies its importance. As headquarters of the Drukpa (Old Buddhist) order, it administers monasteries throughout the whole Ladakh - from the Indus to the Zanskar valley and from the Markha to the Sumdah valley. Hemis was established at the behest of Senge Namgyal in the early 17th century and since then has enjoyed the patronage of the royal family of Ladakh. It provides monks as caretaker for royal monasteries at the Basgo, Leh and Shey palaces.

Thiksey - one of the most imposing monasteries in the Indus valley, Thiksey was part of the original Delgupta order in the 15th century. The monk's quarter's stretch right the way along the hillside beneath the main assembly hall. The library at Thiksey is supposedly one of the finest in Ladakh and a multi - denominations Gompa has recently been constructed - proof indeed of the continuing vitality of Buddhism in Ladakh. Night at hotel.



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Day 13: Leh – Khardung La – Leh (90 kms / 5-6 hrs drive)

Full day Khardung La pass Excursion. Night at hotel.

Khardung La a means pass in Tibetan, is a mountain pass in the Leh district of the Indian union territory of Ladakh. The local pronunciation is "Khardong La" or "Khardzong La" but, as with most names in Ladakh, the Romanized spelling varies. The pass on the Ladakh Range is north of Leh and is the gateway to the Shyok and Nubra valleys. The Siachen Glacier lies part way up the latter valley. Built in 1976, it was opened to public motor vehicles in 1988. Maintained by the Border Roads Organization, the pass is strategically important to India as it is used to carry supplies to the Siachen Glacier. The elevation of Khardung La is 5,359 m (17,582 ft).[1] Local summit signs and dozens of stores selling shirts in Leh incorrectly claim that its elevation is in the vicinity of 5,602 m (18,379 ft) and that it is the world's highest motorable pass. Khardong La is historically important as it lies on the major caravan route from Leh to Kashgar in Central Asia. About 10,000 horses and camels used to take the route annually, and a small population of Bactrian camels can still be seen at Hunder, in the area north of the pass. During World War II there was an attempt to transfer war material to China through this route.

Day 14: fly back to Delhi and drive to Agra (approx. 4h)

Drop the motorbike in Leh. Transfer to Leh airport and board your flight to Delhi.

On arrival at Delhi airport, you will be met by a member of our team along with car and chauffeur and transfer by road to Agra (200 kms /4 hrs) Arrive and check-in at Hotel. Rest of the day Free. Night in Agra.

Day 15: Agra – Delhi – Departure

Morning visit Taj Mahal & Agra Fort. Later drive back to Delhi and transfer to International airport in time to connect flight back home

END OF OUR SERVICES...

Please Note:

1. Tour can be modified as per your wish / requirements.
2. From July – September is the best time of this tour.
3. We can accommodate max 15 riders on the trip.
4. The accommodation is very basic except in Delhi & Agra.
5. The riders must bring their own Motorcycle riding gear, /kit, such as Helmets, Jackets, gloves, boots & pants including crash injury protection and deflecting sun.
6. The programme is subject to change for any forced circumstances and weather condition.