



GREAT INDIAN RIDES

Bhutan Happiness Motorcycle Tour

Ride the tiny kingdom of the Himalayas

DURATION

8 days / 7 nights

DISTANCE

TBC

ROUTE

Bagdogra - Bagdogra

DIFFICULTY

Moderate

MAX ALTITUDE

~3988 m

FROM

INR 49,999

Eight days from Bagdogra into Bhutan - Phuentsholing, Paro and Tiger's Nest, Chele La, Thimphu, Dochula, Punakha and the Phobjikha valley.

OVERVIEW

Bhutan Happiness Tour - 7 nights and 8 days, for a maximum of 10 riders.

Motorcycles: Royal Enfield Himalayan 411cc BS6, or Himalayan 450cc (limited to 8 bikes).

Riders are briefed by the guide and road captain on safe riding and the most important road-safety rules of Bhutan; motorcycle formalities are completed with the RSTA before the ride begins.

Important: this trip includes a few long stages. First aid and transfer to the nearest medical centre are provided by our support vehicle, as helicopters and ambulances are rarely available. Phone coverage is limited and satellite phones are restricted, so contacting emergency services can be difficult. As on any mountain route, road quality and difficulty depend heavily on current and recent weather.

Who is it for: Riders comfortable on mountain highways; a seat in the car is available for non-riders.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Tiger's Nest (Taktsang): Hike to the monastery perched about 600 m up a sheer cliff above the Paro valley.
- Chele La pass: At 3,988 m, one of the highest motorable passes in Bhutan, with views of Jomolhari and Jichu Drake.
- Dochula pass: Chortens, prayer flags and - on clear days - a panorama of the high Himalaya.
- Punakha Dzong: The "Palace of Great Happiness" at the meeting of the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers.
- Phobjikha valley: The winter home of the rare black-necked cranes.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Bagdogra / Siliguri to Phuentsholing

Bagdogra - Phuentsholing | 155 km | Overnight: Phuentsholing

On arrival at Bagdogra airport, our team or driver will greet you and drive you to the Jaigaon-Bhutan border. Phuentsholing, the gateway for travellers entering Bhutan by road, is a thriving commercial centre at the foot of the Himalayas - a fascinating mix of Indian and Bhutanese cultures. Our guide completes the walk-in entry and immigration formalities with you, then we drive to the hotel.

Day 2 - Phuentsholing to Paro

Phuentsholing - Paro | 165 km | ~2280 m | Overnight: Paro

After breakfast, the guide and road captain brief you on safe riding and Bhutan's road-safety rules. Once the bike formalities are done at the RSTA you get a test ride - and the trip begins. Ride the Phuentsholing-Thimphu highway (built in 1961), stopping at Gedu for photos and for tea near Chukha, then on to Paro. After check-in, visit Ta Dzong, the former watchtower that now houses the National Museum, and stroll through the local market in the evening.

Day 3 - Tiger's Nest hike and hot stone bath

40 km | Overnight: Paro

After an early breakfast, hike to Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) monastery, perched about 600 m up a sheer cliff above the valley, where Guru Padmasambhava is said to have flown from Tibet on the back of a tiger. It is about 1½ hours to the teahouse, with the option of about another hour uphill to the monastery. Lunch is served at the teahouse with views of Taktsang above and the Paro valley below. In the evening, try a traditional hot stone bath with natural herbs, and, time permitting, browse Paro's handicraft shops.

Day 4 - Chele La pass excursion, on to Thimphu

Paro - Thimphu | 120 km | ~3988 m | Overnight: Thimphu

Ride about an hour up a thickly forested road to Chele La (3,988 m), one of the highest motorable passes in Bhutan - a botanical paradise with views of the sacred Jomolhari and Jichu Drake, marked by hundreds of prayer flags. Return to the Paro valley and ride on to Thimphu, the capital and still perhaps the world's only capital without a traffic light. In the evening visit Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang), with its 51.5 m bronze-and-gold Buddha and views over the valley, and the Takin Preserve at Motithang. Sightseeing in Thimphu also includes Simply Bhutan (the living museum), the Institute for Zorig Chusum (the painting school) and the Tashichho Dzong viewpoint.

Day 5 - Thimphu to Punakha

Thimphu - Punakha | 110 km | Overnight: Punakha / Wangdue

Ride the Thimphu-Punakha highway up to Dochula pass (3,088 m) with its chortens, mani wall and prayer flags; on clear days the view takes in a long line of high Himalayan peaks up to Gangkar Puensum (7,497 m), Bhutan's highest. In the afternoon visit Punakha Dzong, the "Palace of Great Happiness", built in 1637 at the meeting of the Pho Chhu and Mo Chhu rivers. Then a short 10-15 minute walk through Sobsokha village and paddy fields to Chimi Lhakhang, the temple associated with Lama Drukpa Kunley, the "Divine Madman".

Day 6 - Punakha - Phobjikha valley - Punakha

160 km | Overnight: Punakha / Wangdue

Right after breakfast, ride about two hours to the Phobjikha valley, one of the most beautiful valleys in Bhutan and winter home of the rare black-necked cranes. Bhutan celebrates the crane festival every year on 11 November in the courtyard of Gangtey monastery to raise awareness of these endangered birds. After a photo session, ride back to the Punakha valley.

Day 7 - Punakha to Phuentsholing

Punakha - Phuentsholing | 235 km | Overnight: Phuentsholing

Ride towards Phuentsholing, with a short photo stop at Dochula pass. If you'd like more time or more kilometres, your guide and road captain can customise the sightseeing. Check into the hotel in Phuentsholing.

Day 8 - Phuentsholing to Bagdogra airport

Phuentsholing - Bagdogra | 155 km

After an early breakfast our team helps with immigration check-out, and an Indian driver takes you to Bagdogra as per your schedule. The happy tour ends in the kingdom of happiness - safe journey!

PRICES (PER PERSON)

Solo rider - Himalayan 411cc BS6: INR 59,999

Dual rider - Himalayan 411cc BS6: INR 53,999

Solo rider - Himalayan 450cc: INR 74,999

Dual rider - Himalayan 450cc: INR 69,999

Seat in car: INR 49,999

Single occupancy supplement: INR 15,000

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- + All permit assistance
- + Bottled water - 1 litre every day
- + Rooms and meals as per the itinerary - MAPAI (breakfast, dinner and room)
- + Professional driver and guide for all sightseeing in Bhutan
- + Pick-up and drop from Bagdogra airport / Siliguri by Innova or Tempo Traveller
- + Whole Bhutan tour on Royal Enfield Himalayan motorcycles with fuel
- + Back-up van during the biking tour in Bhutan
- + Road captain and mechanic charges
- + SDF charges of INR 1,200 per night
- + Welcome expenses

Not included

- All entry or monument fees during sightseeing
- Travel insurance
- Lunch
- Motorcycle deposit of INR 5,000
- Any other expenses not listed in the inclusions

CONTACT

<https://greatindianrides.com/motorcycle-tours/bhutan-happiness-motorcycle-tour>

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