



GREAT INDIAN RIDES

Nepal - Upper Mustang Motorcycle Ride

Ride to the Forbidden Kingdom of Lo Manthang

DURATION

12 days / 11 nights

DISTANCE

TBC

ROUTE

Gorakhpur - Gorakhpur

DIFFICULTY

Challenging

MAX ALTITUDE

~3730 m

FROM

INR 1,45,000

A 12-day ride from Gorakhpur through Kathmandu and Pokhara up the Kali Gandaki gorge to the walled city of Lo Manthang in Upper Mustang.

OVERVIEW

This ride is one of the classics: the rain-shadow, wind-swept desert landscape of the Himalayas, with views of implausible gorges, high passes and enormous vistas. The ride to Lo Manthang passes through authentic Tibetan villages, barren ridges, deep canyons, eroded cliffs and moraine valleys - a stupendous wilderness of pristine scenery, snow-capped peaks, spectacular 16th-century monasteries and caves.

The founder of Tibetan Buddhism, Padmasambhava, came here centuries ago to defend Buddhism against the forces trying to destroy it. To celebrate his successful battle he built the temple of Lo Gekhar, which still stands today, alongside a Tibetan culture that cannot be found elsewhere.

For political reasons, travel into Mustang was strictly forbidden and the region remained isolated from the modern world. In 1992 outsiders were allowed in on a very limited basis, and this isolation has helped maintain a way of life almost unchanged for centuries.

The Kingdom of Lo, or Mustang, at around 3,770 m, keeps allegiance with the democratic republic of

Nepal. Its people call themselves Lobas - people from Lo. The King's palace, an imposing four-storey building, stands in the centre of the walled city.

Maximum group of 12 riders. 5% GST applies.

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 with long days, mountain trails, river crossings and altitudes above 3,500 m.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Lo Manthang: The legendary walled city, its royal palace, monasteries and medieval streets.
- Kali Gandaki gorge: One of the world's deepest river gorges, into the Annapurna Conservation Area.
- Choser village & Sinja cave: Multi-storey cave dwellings carved into cliffs, near the Tibetan border.
- India-Nepal border crossing: Ride across at Sunauli and up into the Himalayan foothills.
- Marpha: Whitewashed houses, apple orchards and local apple products.

DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Arrival at Gorakhpur

Overnight: Gorakhpur

Arrive at Gorakhpur and transfer to your hotel. Meet the tour coordinator for a brief introduction and trip overview. Relax after your journey or explore the local markets if time permits, and prepare your riding gear and documents for the adventure ahead.

Day 2 - Gorakhpur - Sunauli border - Kathmandu

Gorakhpur - Kathmandu | 280 km | Overnight: Hotel Manaslu or similar, Kathmandu

Start early and ride to the India-Nepal border at Sunauli. Complete immigration and customs formalities, then continue through the Terai plains and gradually ascend into the Himalayan foothills, with river valleys and winding mountain roads before Kathmandu.

Day 3 - Permit processing & ride briefing

Overnight: Hotel Manaslu or similar

Complete the mandatory Upper Mustang Restricted Area Permit formalities. Motorcycle inspection and allocation for rental motorcycles, then a full ride briefing on the route, road conditions, altitude awareness, safety and riding technique. Free time to explore Kathmandu's streets, cafés and heritage sites.

Day 4 - Kathmandu to Pokhara

Kathmandu - Pokhara | 210 km | ~810 m | Overnight: Hotel Landmark or similar

Ride alongside the Trishuli river through valleys and mountain landscapes, past charming towns and terraced fields. Arrive in Pokhara by evening for views of the Annapurna range (weather permitting) and a relaxed evening by the lakeside.

Day 5 - Pokhara to Kalopani

Pokhara - Kalopani | 130 km | ~2530 m | Overnight: Hotel Black Horse or similar

Ride into the Annapurna Conservation Area, following the Kali Gandaki gorge - one of the world's deepest river gorges - as the landscape changes from lush forest to alpine terrain. Reach Kalopani, a peaceful mountain

village with spectacular Himalayan views.

Day 6 - Kalopani to Samar

Kalopani - Samar | 80 km | ~3660 m | Overnight: Hotel Karma Inn or similar

Continue through Kagbeni and officially enter restricted Upper Mustang. Ride across colourful cliffs, deep canyons and ancient Tibetan-style villages, ascending gradually to Samar, one of the first traditional settlements of Upper Mustang.

Day 7 - Samar to Lo Manthang

Samar - Lo Manthang | 56 km | ~3730 m | Overnight: Everest Guest House or similar

Ride through breathtaking high-altitude desert, crossing passes adorned with prayer flags, to the legendary walled city of Lo Manthang. In the afternoon, explore the ancient royal palace, monasteries and narrow medieval streets.

Day 8 - Excursion to Choser village & Sinja cave

47 km | Overnight: Everest Guest House or similar

An adventurous ride towards Choser village near the Tibetan border. Visit Sinja cave and the remarkable multi-storey cave dwellings carved into the cliffs centuries ago, and continue to the last accessible village of Nepal before returning to Lo Manthang.

Day 9 - Lo Manthang to Marpha

Lo Manthang - Marpha | 113 km | Overnight: Hotel De Maya or similar

Begin the return through Upper Mustang across rugged mountain trails, river crossings and dramatic valleys to Marpha, famous for its whitewashed houses, apple orchards and local apple products.

Day 10 - Marpha to Pokhara

Marpha - Pokhara | 150 km | ~827 m | Overnight: Hotel Landmark or similar

Descend from the high mountains into greener landscapes, riding through Jomsom, Tatopani and river valleys. Arrive in Pokhara and celebrate the successful completion of the Upper Mustang expedition.

Day 11 - Pokhara to Gorakhpur

Pokhara - Gorakhpur | 280 km | Overnight: Hotel in Gorakhpur

Ride back to the India-Nepal border, complete exit and re-entry formalities, and continue to Gorakhpur - the end of an unforgettable Himalayan motorcycle expedition.

Day 12 - Final departure

Breakfast at the hotel, then transfer to the airport or railway station for your onward journey.

PRICES (PER PERSON)

Solo rider - Himalayan 450cc: INR 1,68,000

Pillion rider - Himalayan 450cc: INR 1,45,000

Prices are subject to 5% GST.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- + Overnight stays as per the itinerary in the best available hotels, on breakfast and dinner basis, inclusive of all applicable taxes
- + Services of an experienced road captain and mechanic, including their allowance, accommodation and meals
- + Motorcycle and fuel for the road captain
- + 1 back-up 4x4 jeep (Hilux) to carry luggage, spare parts and mechanic

- + Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP) fee
- + TIMS card (Trekking Information Management System)
- + Special permit for Upper Mustang / Lo Manthang (restricted area) of USD 50 per person per day (subject to change without prior notice)
- + Comprehensive medical kit
- + Bhansar (customs duty) for the motorcycles
- + Hire of motorcycle (Himalayan 450cc)
- + Fuel for the motorcycle (as per the itinerary)

Not included

- Nepal entry visa fee (applicable for foreigners)
- Domestic and international airfare
- Airport transfers
- Personal insurance and evacuation charges
- Sightseeing tours in Kathmandu and Pokhara
- All expenses of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry etc.
- Insurance against accidents, loss of life, loss of goods etc.
- Costs due to natural calamities, strikes, breakdowns and anything beyond our control
- Anything not included in "The cost includes"
- Motorcycle security deposit of INR 10,000

CONTACT

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