

PUREBIKETOURS



Ladakh

A land of magic and mystique all rolled into one!

Welcome to the home of the elusive snow leopard and just like its native inhabitant, Ladakh lends itself to being just as mystifying. Barren - isolated and sitting high on top of the world, it is amazing how civilisations survived this astonishing region over thousands of years. This motorcycling adventure takes in some of the most spectacular views in the world and challenges - beginning in the foothills of the Himalayas, ascending to high altitude plateaus where nomadic people greet you with cups of hot butter chai. Definitely a land of mystery and magic...



HIGHLIGHTS

- Awesome views of Himalayas from your flight seat
- Supreme off-road riding
- Infamous Rohtang Pass
- High altitude camping
- Road Passes over 5000m
- Ancient cultures
- En-route high altitude acclimatisation
- The Khardung La, highest road pass in the world

ROUTE INFORMATION:

Distance: 1500km approx

Days: 15 days - 11 days riding

Accommodation: 2x High Altitude Camps - 1 x Monastery
Rest Hotels

Riding Conditions: Moderate to Tough

Meals: All Breakfasts - Evening Dinners

Altitude: 1500m/5603m

Hazards: Cows, general traffic, horse-n-carts, donkeys, landslides,
rock blasting, melting glaciers, freezing water and deep wet mud



Day 1 Arrive New Delhi and Welcome to India...

On your arrival at Delhi airport you are greeted by a member of our team and transferred to your hotel, where you unpack, refresh and relax while enjoying a proper cup of tea. In the evening meet the rest of your group members.



Day 2 Delhi - Parwanoo

Morning train departure to Parwanoo and the foothills of the Himalayas -also time to reminisce on your first two days in the land that never sleeps with a gentle glimpse into India as you pass by. Arriving in Parwanoo, we transfer you to your hotel, where you meet your support team and your Royal Enfield Bullet, later taking a short ride to familiarise yourself with your motorcycle.

Day 3 Parwanoo – Mandi

A good day's ride on some good tarmac roads, giving you chance to get used to your Royal Enfield and the views around you will give you a 'taste of things to come', with the camera at the ready. We head towards the mountainside town of Mandi and our hotel stay is in an old colonial style hotel.

Day 4 Mandi – Manali

Today we climb slowly into the Kullu Valley, where the landscapes take form of steep gorges and rampant flowing rivers. Further down the track we travel alongside the Beas River which gets life from the Himalayas and ride under rock canopies and tarmac roads clinging to the mountainside. Today we have good roads, bar for some traffic.



Day 5 Manali Rest Day

A haven for everything 'outdoors' – here anything is possible from gentle walks alongside mountainous paths to week long trekking and mountain climbing on high peaks over 6000m. Staying in Old Manali, you are positioned favourably for local shops and eateries. And if the weather is kind, you can view your first high pass, the "Rohtang La" 3980m (Rohtang meaning 'Pile of Corpses' - people having perished exposed to the cold).

Day 6 Manali – Kyelang Rohtang 3980m

It's an early morning start to your first real ascent - a test of your character will be measured by you alone and on reaching the top, sipping sweet hot tea at 3500m. You will have achieved something other riders dare not tackle. Rohtang Pass is no pushover and we know tour operators who do not bring their clients here. Today is a tough day...



Day 7 Kyelang – Sarchu Baralacha La 4890m

From Kyelang you get the real taste of the Himalayas. As the peaks around you get higher and higher, your own riding climbs higher reaching 4000m with your second pass the Baralacha La 4883m. Sarchu is campsite stay surrounded by incredible landscapes and is your first high altitude acclimatisation stop. Hard ride with road surfaces consisting of tarmac, broken tarmac, rocks and gravel.

Day 8 Sarchu – Tsokar Lachalung La 5060m

The air starts to get thinner as we ride higher and also the scenery changes before your eyes and here you encounter the 'Gata Loops' a series of 21 sharp hairpins taking upwards and onwards. Tsokar sits around 4200m and is your second high altitude acclimatisation stop. Today is a tough day, riding broken tarmac, potholes, sand, gravel and body shaking corrugated sections. This is raw nature with the best off-road riding in the world.



Day 9 Tsokar – Leh Tanglang La 5360m

Heading in the direction of the ancient capital of Ladakh, Leh. You first ascend the long and twisting road to Tanglang La, with the pass at 5360m, the same height as the Everest Base Camp. Last time out someone actually stole the cooking stove, so we couldn't get tea at 17582ft. Tough days ride, on this part of the journey and the roads are tarmac, potholes, sand and gravel.

Welcome to the High Himalayas.

Day 10 Leh Rest Day & Acclimatisation

Leh Palace, once the world's highest building, has commanding views over the town. Construction of the palace was started in the 16th century by the Buddhist Kings of Ladakh. Today gives you the chance to recharge your batteries and catch up on a little gift shopping. The Tibetan Markets offer objects such as "Singing Bowls" and traditional jewellery. This area has Buddhist influence with a mix of Islam and Hindu cultures. Eating houses serve local dish of momo a dough based envelope either steamed or fried and restaurants serving western cuisines.

Day 11 Leh Khardung La 5603m

It just gets better and better. After a leisurely breakfast awaits one of the crowning glories of your expedition - riding to the highest pass in the World, the Khardung La at 5603m, higher than Mt Everest's Base Camps by nearly 250m. It has been said that you are not a true motorcyclist until you have been to Nordkapp in Norway – but this ride knocks Nordkapp into touch.

Welcome to the Top of the World.



Day 12 Leh - Lamayuru

The journey today could be described as going into the unknown, into a world of wonder and mystique - the road to Lamayuru, a small outpost built in a rock-face which reminds you of something out of 'Star Wars' set. The thousand year old Monastery sits above Lamayuru village amongst corrugated columns of rock structures and your stay here is in the monastery itself. En-route to Lamayuru a visit to the ancient monastery of Alchi is unmissable. Good tarmac and gravel tracks lay in our path.



Day 13 Lamayuru - Leh

A wonderful steady ride back to Leh, letting you take in the high altitude air, while retracing the tracks of your adventures.

Day 14 Leh - Delhi

Morning flight to Delhi allowing you to do some last minute shopping and farewell evening dinner with your group members.

Day 15 Flight home

A pleasant and safe journey and we hope you might join us on one of our other adventures...

Cost

Rider £1,675

Pillion £995

Single Supp £250

Dates 2012

Delhi - Leh 10th Aug - 24th Aug

Further Information...

INCLUDED IN THE EXPEDITION:

- Domestic Flight. Delhi - Leh
- All accommodation
- All breakfasts - Evening dinners
- Expedition leader
- Royal Enfield Bullet
- Royal Enfield mechanic & spare parts
- Fuel
- Medic/First aider
- Handy pocket-size guide and route map including sights
- Support vehicle for luggage

Visa:

An Indian visa for foreign nationals is necessary for entry into the country and to apply – you can now apply online or you can contact the Indian Embassy/High Commission in your country who will help with your application. UK residence, please contact www.in.vfsglobal.co.uk or Travcour 020 7223 5295 www.travcour.com for further help and assistance.

Money Exchange:

As the Indian Rupee is a protected currency, it can only be gotten hold of once in the country. With a number of outlets offering different rates on arrival, if you ask at your hotel reception, they will offer you favourable exchange rates.

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO):

The FCO website is a Governmental travel advice unit that highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad. We make the safety and security of our clients our first priority, and therefore, given the nature of some of the destinations offered by Purebiketours. Some of our itineraries will contravene some of the advice offered by the FCO, and we recommend that clients do check the advice offered before booking and contact us if they have any queries or concerns.

Further reading:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ladakh>

<http://www.royalenfield.com>