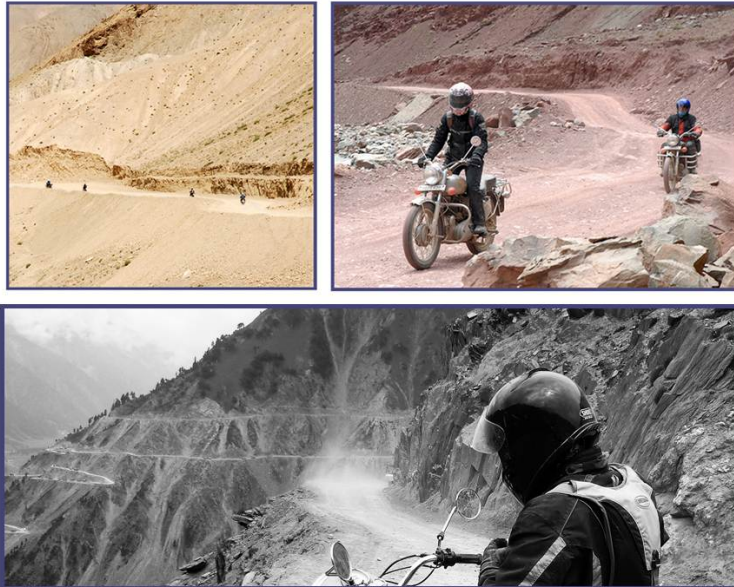


# PUREBIKETOURS



## Trans Himalayas

### Epic Beauty beyond Conflict Kashmir - Ladakh - Western Himalayas

This is one tough motorcycle adventure with some of the best off-road terrain in the world. Besides crossing one of the most dangerous roads on the planet, you will travel through regions that have been shunned for decades by western travellers due to extremist activities and border conflicts - here we truly ride roads where others fear to follow. Challenging track conditions, broken tarmac roads, unmarked potholes and gravel tracks and on this expedition our nemesis the infamous Rohtang Pass with its landslides and knee deep mud trenches will test you to breaking-point. Riding at altitudes over 4500 meters, this expedition is not for the faint-hearted.



PUREBIKETOURS Motorcycle Adventures T: +44 (0) 1623 401046 M: +44 (0) 794 342 6719

E: [info@purebiketours.com](mailto:info@purebiketours.com) W: [www.purebiketours.com](http://www.purebiketours.com)

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Iconic Taj Mahal
- Infamous Rohtang Pass
- Supreme off-road riding
- High altitude camping
- Road Passes over 5000m
- Ancient cultures
- The Khardung La, the highest road pass in the world
- Spectacular Kashmir and the world famous Dal Lake
- Tackling one of the most dangerous roads on the planet &
- Riding the highest ski lift in the world at Gulmarg

## ROUTE INFORMATION:

- Distance:** 2300km approx  
**Days:** 23 days - 19 days riding  
**Accommodation:** 2x High Altitude Camps –  
1 x Monastery - 1x Lake Houseboat - Rest Hotels  
**Riding Conditions:** Moderate to Tough  
**Meals:** All Breakfast - 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 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: New Delhi - Agra

An early morning departure from Delhi, you ride the highway towards Agra and the world famous Taj Mahal, and for those romantics amongst us, taking out a little time out to ponder around the monument. After a mouth-watering lunch, it's a leisurely drive back to Delhi.

### Day 3: 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 4: Parwanoo – Mandi

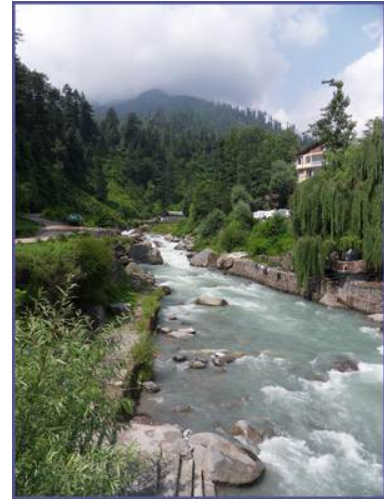
With your head still spinning of your experiences of the past two days visiting a world famous landmark, getting a glimpse of India from your train seat and your senses intoxicated with sights and sounds and aromas of exotic spices. Today you start your Himalayan adventure journey in earnest and ahead good roads giving you a relaxed day to get used to riding your Bullet, with views giving you a taste of things to come. We travel to Mandi for our overnight stay in an old colonial styled hotel.

### Day 5: 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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 9: 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 10: 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 11: 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 12: 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 13: 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 14: Lamayuru – Kargil

A memorable journey to Kargil, cruising eyelevel with snow capped peaks in the distance, your ride today takes you through an area which has seen fighting between India and Pakistan. This land is stark, but beautiful - it is absolutely breathtaking. Moderate to hard days riding on tarmac and broken paving.



### Day 15: Kargil – Srinagar

Riding on broken paved roads, we leave early catching breakfast en-route and with more yet to come. You will traverse a narrow cliff track-way, restricted to one-way traffic perched high in the Himalayas, with no barriers between you and the abyss. You are about to cross one of the most dangerous roads in the world, the "Zoji Pass". We ride with our hearts pounding with excitement as well as trepidation. But when you look back up from where you came. You can tell us over dinner. We also meet Kashmiri nomad tribesman living in makeshift camp refuges high in the dense lush green mountains and your stay is complimented in an exotic houseboat on Nageen Lake.

### Day 16: Srinagar Rest day

Rest or explore Kashmir's Capital City, Srinagar. Check out the rustic Islamic influence which spreads across the region. The early morning visit to the floating vegetable market is wonderfully charming, with the occasional tomfoolery amongst the vegetable sellers. If you have enough energy, bargains are everywhere and you will be spoilt for things to buy and of course Kashmiri carpets. We also have a fantastic treat in store for you, a ride on the highest ski lift in the world at Gulmarg.

### Day 17: Srinagar – Patnitop

An early start to get you out of the bustling city avoiding traffic jams, horse-n-carts and army trucks. A good day's ride with a straight forward route to Patnitop, riding on some good road surfaces. The scenery is wide open green farmlands with deep valleys in the distance. On reaching Patnitop, you find a more relaxed atmosphere amongst the meadows and pine trees of this hill station.



### Day 18: Patnitop – Mcleodganj

An early morning ride through lush greenery and you are greeted by long stretch of roads. The winding roads leading towards Dharamsala and exile home of his holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet.

### Day 19: Mcleodganj Rest Day

In Mcleodganj you will find a cosmopolitan place, where travellers from all over the world gather to get a glimpse or even meet the Dalai Lama. We're no Richard Gere's, but even our humble paths have crossed. A visit to the nearby main Monastery gives a small insight into how Tibetan refugees manage their day to day lives and showcasing paintings of local artists. Mcleodganj is where you can contemplate reliving your journey and experiences you've encountered so far.

### Day 20: Mcleodganj – Mandi

From this mountain retreat, on tarmac roads through villages and hillsides you start descending to the foothills of the Himalayas and nearer to where your journey began nearly three weeks ago. Staying in the old colonial styled hotel, sitting in the garden, sipping fresh tea (could even be a glass of beer); you'll chat away the wee hours with your new found friends about your adventures.



**Day 21: Mandi – Parwanoo**

You ride this last leg of your journey, with realisation setting of your incredibly adverse trials and tribulations, which unbelievable - will be hard to explain to your riding buddies. Riding the last remaining roads in a daze with thoughts of the journey and tracks you have left behind you. You will never be the same person again.

**Day 22: Parwanoo – New Delhi**

Boarding the morning train to Delhi, relax and unwind. This is your moment.

**Day 23 Homeward flight**

The past 22 action-packed days will have stimulated you in doing another adventure and we want to thank you for allowing us to have played a small part in this one. Safe riding...

**Cost**

**Main Rider:** £2,425

**Pillion:** £1,415

**Single Supp:** £350

**Dates 2012**

29th June – 21st July

24th Aug – 15th Sept

**Further Information...****INCLUDED IN THE EXPEDITION:**

- Internal transfers
- All accommodation - 2x High altitude camps - 1x Monastery - 1x Lake houseboat – Rest hotels
- All Breakfasts and Evening Dinners
- Expedition Guide/Team Leader
- Royal Enfield 500cc 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](http://www.in.vfsglobal.co.uk) or Travcour 020 7223 5295 [www.travcour.com](http://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 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/Kashmir>

<http://www.royalenfield.com>