



EXTREME BIKE TOURS
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Bhutan Motorcycle Tour

Date: 14th April - 28th April 2018



The Bhutan Motorcycle Tour heads into the little known areas of Sikkim and then into the Buddhist Kingdom of Bhutan. Very few people have visited this kingdom as it has only opened its doors to tourists recently. A magical motorbike adventure for sure!

When you ride over Bhutan, you will become one of the few who have experienced the charm and magic of one of the world's most enigmatic countries - the 'last Shangri La' - and you'll be playing your part in this medieval kingdom's efforts to join the modern world, while steadfastly maintaining its distinct and remarkable cultural identity.



HIGHLIGHTS

- Tour on the Royal Enfield Classic Desert Storm
- Only 10 bikes on tour for an extremely personalised and hassle free riding experience
- Get up close and personal with Mt. Kangchenjunga
- Visit some of the worlds oldest monasteries and be immersed in the Indo-Tibetan culture of a rugged, charming and endearing mountain people
- A true off-the-beaten-track motorbike tour that very few get to experience
- Accommodation carefully chosen, in comfortable hotels and guest houses
- Fuel, meals, accommodation and transfers are all included in the cost



ITINERARY (Approx. 6-8 hours riding per day)

Day 1: Delhi

Transfers from Delhi airport to the hotel.

Day 2: Delhi to Bagdogra

We will fly from Delhi to Bagdogra and our crew will take you to a hotel in Siliguri. After lunch you will receive an introduction to your Royal Enfield Classic Desert Storm and immediately set off for a short ride to our hotel in the Dooars region of West Bengal.

Day 3: Dooars to Phuentsholing

After breakfast we'll head east, passing through tea gardens, countryside and bustling towns of the 'Dooars' - the strip of land along the foothills of the Himalayas. On arrival at Jaigaon, we will complete immigration formalities and enter Phuentsholing, a busy commercial centre bordering Bhutan.

Day 4: Phuentsholing to Paro

On the fourth day we ride to Paro which includes a dramatic ascent from the plains to 2,800m. During this 3-4 hour ride, there are dramatic changes in the flora, fauna and vegetation. We will cross some small towns and have fantastic panoramic views. When we reach Paro, you'll have the chance to explore Paro town or take a stroll to the Paro Dzong/Fortress.

Day 5: Paro to Thimphu

After breakfast we'll ride to the National Museum and Paro Ringpung Dzong before continuing to Drugyal Dzong, where we'll visit the ruins of the Dzong. After lunch, we'll ride to Thimphu the capital city of Bhutan. Later on you can explore the city with its many cafes, bars and curious shops.

Day 6: Thimphu to Punakha

After breakfast ride to the Big Buddha statue and the Sangaygang to get great views of the Thimphu valley. You will also have the option to ride north of Thimphu before we ride on to Punakha - the old winter capital of Bhutan - crossing the Dochula Pass. On a clear day the whole range of Eastern Himalayas can be seen from here, so fingers crossed! Then we'll descend down to the Punakha Valley on exhilarating roads with lots of sharp bends and breathtaking views of the mountains and valleys.

Day 7: Trongsa via Phobjikha Valley

The ride to Trongsa journeys through two major passes and the small town of Wangdue at 1,350m, where we'll visit the Dzong and then ride on to Nobding. From Nobding the road ascends sharply to Pelela Pass before descending through pastureland at Sephu where we reach the historical Chendebji Chorten. After a quick lunch at Chendebji, we'll ride to Trongsa.

Day 8: Trongsa to Bumthang/Jakar

After a visit to the historical Trongsa Dzong we head to Bumthang - a short and easy ride. On the way we pass through many interesting villages and cross the Yutongla Pass at 3,400m, before descending into the beautiful Bumthang Valley. Our hotel is in the trading town of Jakar and we'll arrive relatively early to give us all a chance to explore the town.

Day 9: Bumthang

We will have a chance to explore Bumthang town today. Visit the Jakar Dzong, the Kurgye Monastery, the Tamshing monastery and after lunch you can ride to Tang Mebartso or the burning lake or just explore the valley. There is a local brewery to explore and a cheese factory to indulge in. During the evening you can take a soak in a wormwood infused bath to ease those days in the saddle.

Day 10: Bumthang to Mongar

Today's ride takes us through some beautiful and varied terrain. The scenery is stunning and has been compared to that of the Alps. There is only one pass today, the Thrumshingla Pass, and weather permitting you may be able to see Mt. Gangkhar Phuenseum. At 7,541m, it is the highest unclimbed mountain in the world. After crossing the pass, we will officially be in 'Eastern Bhutan' and to celebrate, the road descends 2,800m within two hours! The roads here are dramatic with cliff-hanging scenes in many places. Mongar is a fertile area with tropical and lush green foliage.

Day 11: Mongar to Trashigang

Riding out of Mongar, the road climbs past the power station and Buddhist College at Kilikhar before it dives into rhododendron and blue pine forests. There is much to see on today's ride and many photo opportunities. After lunch at the hotel, we explore the town and have the chance to ride up a nearby valley to enjoy rural Bhutan with stunning views and a beautiful monastery. While few tourists get this far, the people are well-used to Westerners from years of contact with the many [mostly] Canadian teachers based here. To get a feel for the place you might like to read Jamie Zeppa's book, *Beyond the Sky and the Earth - A Journey into Bhutan*.

Day 12: Trashigang to Samdrup Jongkhar

Today, the last day in Bhutan, will be spent riding some very winding roads! The vegetation is lush and green with many pine, fir and chirpine forests along the way. If people feel like it we can stop at the Sherubtse College, the only centre for degree studies in Bhutan. You pass through the small town of Khaling and the villages of Wamrong and Deothang before finally reaching the foothills of Samdrup Jongkhar. At this point we will have ridden our bikes from west to east across the entire length of Highway One.

Day 13: Samdrup Jongkhar to Gauwhati

Back at sea level, the ride to Guwahati passes through lush countryside. Guwahati, the capital of the state of Assam, is the largest city and an important commercial centre in North East India. The bustling town lies on the side of the mighty Brahmaputra river which originates in Tibet as the "Zangpo". A late afternoon boat ride on the Brahmaputra will be the ideal finish to an amazing bike ride.

Day 14: Guwahati to Delhi

Flight to Delhi

Day 15: Delhi

Return flight or onward journey

Extreme Bike Tours can change the tour itinerary without notification if required to deal with any issues that may arise in the countries we operate in, very often due to adverse weather conditions. The itinerary will not change much but if we can make it better we always will.