Across Kali Gandaki

Trip information · Nord Extreme Himalaya Pvt. Ltd. · delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com · Updated 22 November 2026

DURATION	**11 Days**
DIFFICULTY	**Moderate**
MAX ALTITUDE	**3800m**
GROUP SIZE	**17 People**
BEST SEASON	**September–November and March–May**
START / END	**Kathmandu / Kathmandu**
PRICE FROM	**USD 1,000 per person**

Trip overview

The Across the Kaligandaki Motorbike Tour is a signature Himalayan motorcycle expedition that follows the legendary Kali Gandaki River corridor—one of the most dramatic and geologically significant valleys in the world. This journey connects Nepal's diverse landscapes in a single continuous riding experience, from mid-hill cultural towns to high Himalayan deserts and tropical jungle plains.

Beginning in Kathmandu (1,400m), the route passes through the historic hill town of Bandipur, descends into the sacred valley of Tatopani, ascends to the pilgrimage destination of Muktinath (3,800m), and continues through Pokhara (822m) before entering the wildlife-rich lowlands of Chitwan (415m). The expedition returns to Kathmandu via the scenic Kulekhani reservoir region.

This carefully designed journey combines adventure riding, cultural immersion, altitude variation, and ecological diversity, making it one of Nepal's most complete motorcycle expeditions.

Geography and Landscape

The Kali Gandaki Valley forms the world's deepest gorge, situated between the Annapurna (8,091m) and Dhaulagiri (8,167m) mountain ranges. The route traverses multiple ecological zones within a short distance, creating one of the most diverse riding environments in Nepal.

The journey begins in Kathmandu Valley and transitions through terraced hills, river valleys, and forested ridges toward Bandipur. The landscape then descends into the Kali Gandaki basin, where dramatic cliffs, river gorges, and traditional settlements dominate the terrain.

Beyond Tatopani, the route ascends into the trans-Himalayan region, where dry alpine landscapes, strong winds, and rugged terrain define the approach to Muktinath. From here, the descent toward Pokhara introduces lush greenery, lakes, and subtropical forests, eventually transitioning into the flat Terai plains of Chitwan.

This continuous transformation of altitude and environment makes the Kaligandaki corridor one of the most visually dynamic routes in the Himalayas.

Climate and Best Time to Ride

The tour is suitable throughout most of the year, with seasonal variations affecting visibility and road conditions.

Spring (March – May)

- Blooming rhododendrons and clear skies
- Pleasant temperatures for riding
- Excellent mountain visibility

Autumn (September – November)

- Best overall riding season
- Stable weather and dry roads
- Crystal-clear Himalayan views

Winter (December – February)

- Cold mornings at Muktinath and upper regions
- Excellent visibility and quiet roads
- Suitable for well-prepared riders

Monsoon (June – August)

- Heavy rainfall in lower regions
- Slippery mountain roads
- Recommended only for experienced adventure riders

People and Culture

The route passes through a rich blend of ethnic communities including Gurung, Magar, Thakali, and Tharu populations, each contributing unique cultural identity to the journey.

Bandipur reflects preserved Newari heritage with traditional architecture and cultural harmony. The Kali Gandaki region is deeply influenced by Tibetan Buddhist and Hindu traditions, especially around Muktinath, one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites in Nepal.

Lower regions such as Chitwan showcase the indigenous Tharu culture, known for its distinct lifestyle, architecture, and relationship with the jungle environment.

Throughout the journey, riders experience authentic rural life, traditional farming systems, local festivals, and warm Himalayan hospitality.

Highlights

- Ride through the legendary Kali Gandaki River Valley
- Explore Bandipur, a preserved Newari hill town
- Experience natural hot springs at Tatopani
- Visit sacred Muktinath Temple (3,800m)
- Cross the world’s deepest gorge (Annapurna–Dhaulagiri)
- Ride through Mustang-style Himalayan desert landscapes
- Explore Pokhara Lakeside city (822m)
- Jungle safari in Chitwan National Park (415m)
- Scenic ride through Kulekhani reservoir region (1,520m)
- Experience extreme altitude variation from 415m to 3,800m

- Transition through mountains, valleys, and jungle ecosystems
- Ride one of Nepal's most geographically diverse motorcycle routes
- Professional guided Himalayan expedition with full support

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 : Arrival in Kathmandu (1,400m)

Altitude: 1,400m

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Dinner

Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Meet and greet by expedition team and transfer to hotel. Rest of the day is free for recovery and acclimatization.

Kathmandu is a UNESCO World Heritage capital surrounded by hills and ancient temples.

Day 2 : Briefing & Motorcycle Setup (1,400m)

Altitude: 1,400m

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast

Ride Duration: 4–6 hrs preparation + test ride

Full technical briefing covering route, safety, altitude awareness, and emergency procedures. Motorcycle allocation, inspection, and short test ride in Kathmandu Valley. Evening welcome dinner.

Day 3 : Kathmandu – Bandipur (1,030m)

Altitude: 1,400m - 1,030m

Distance: ~140 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 5–6 hrs

Ride along Prithvi Highway through river valleys, terraced hills, and rural settlements. Arrival in Bandipur, a preserved Newari hill town with Himalayan views of Manaslu and Annapurna ranges.

Day 4 : Bandipur – Tatopani (1,190m)

Altitude: 1,030m - 1,190m

Distance: ~160 km · Stay: Tea House · Visit: Annapurna Region · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 6–7 hrs

Descend into Kali Gandaki basin through dramatic gorges and winding roads. Tatopani is known for natural hot springs and riverside relaxation.

Day 5 : Tatopani – Muktinath (3,800m)

Altitude: 1,190m - 3,800m

Distance: ~110 km · Stay: Tea House · Visit: Annapurna Region · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 6–7 hrs

Major ascent into trans-Himalayan region through Kali Gandaki Gorge. Pass through Jomsom (2,720m) before reaching sacred Muktinath Temple at 3,800m.

Day 6 : Muktinath – Pokhara (822m)

Altitude: 3,800m - 822m

Distance: ~175 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 7–8 hrs

Long descent through Kagbeni, Marpha, and Jomsom. Landscape shifts from Himalayan desert to lush valleys. Arrival in Pokhara.

Day 7 : Pokhara – Chitwan (415m)

Altitude: 822m - 415m

Distance: ~150 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 5–6 hrs

Ride into tropical lowlands. Arrival at Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO-listed wildlife reserve. Evening Tharu cultural program.

Day 8 : Chitwan Jungle Safari (415m)

Altitude: 415m - 415m

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: Full-day activities

Jeep safari, canoe ride, birdwatching, and Tharu village tour. Wildlife includes rhinos, crocodiles, deer, and Bengal tigers.

Day 9 : Chitwan – Kulekhani (1,520m)

Altitude: 415m - 1,520m

Distance: ~160 km · Stay: Tea House · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 6–7 hrs

Ride through rural highways and forested hills toward Indra Sarovar Kulekhani, a peaceful reservoir surrounded by green hills.

Day 10 : Kulekhani – Kathmandu (1,400m)

Altitude: 1,520m - 1,400m

Distance: ~45 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Ride Duration: 2–3 hrs

Short scenic ride back to Kathmandu. Motorcycle return, expedition completion, and free time for rest or shopping.

Day 11 : Departure

Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast

Transfer to Tribhuvan International Airport for international departure.

Altitude & temperature

Typical daytime / night temperature at each overnight stop in the best travel months. Temperatures can change with the weather.

- Day 1 · Arrival in Kathmandu · 1,400 m · day 21°C / night 10°C
- Day 2 · Briefing & Motorcycle Setup · 1,400 m · day 21°C / night 10°C
- Day 3 · Kathmandu – Bandipur · 1,400 m · day 21°C / night 10°C
- Day 4 · Bandipur – Tatopani · 1,030 m · day 23°C / night 13°C

- Day 5 · Tatopani – Muktinath · 1,190 m · day 22°C / night 12°C
- Day 6 · Muktinath – Pokhara · 3,800 m · day 9°C / night -5°C
- Day 7 · Pokhara – Chitwan · 822 m · day 24°C / night 14°C
- Day 8 · Chitwan Jungle Safari · 415 m · day 26°C / night 17°C
- Day 9 · Chitwan – Kulekhani · 415 m · day 26°C / night 17°C
- Day 10 · Kulekhani – Kathmandu · 1,520 m · day 20°C / night 10°C

What’s included

Accommodation

- Kathmandu (Arrival & Departure): 3-star standard or boutique hotel with private bathrooms, hot showers, Wi-Fi, and twin-sharing rooms
- Bandipur: Heritage-style boutique hotel or hill-top lodge with Himalayan views and cultural ambiance
- Pokhara & Chitwan: Tourist-standard hotels or jungle resorts with modern facilities and quality service
- High Himalayan Region (Tatopani, Muktinath area if applicable): Locally run mountain lodges or guesthouses with basic clean rooms and warm bedding
- Standard arrangement: Twin-sharing accommodation throughout the expedition

Meals

- Daily breakfast included throughout the entire journey
- Welcome dinner in Kathmandu with briefing session
- Farewell dinner in Kathmandu after expedition completion
- Full-board meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) in remote Himalayan sections where applicable
- Typical foods include Dal Bhat, Thakali sets, Tibetan soups, noodles, momos, fried rice, pasta, chapati, eggs, porridge, and seasonal vegetables
- Tea, coffee, hot lemon, and herbal drinks available throughout the trip

Transportation

- Airport pick-up and drop-off in Kathmandu
- Fully guided motorcycle expedition (Kathmandu to Kathmandu loop)
- Support vehicle for luggage, spare parts, and emergency evacuation (based on group size)
- Fuel for motorcycles during guided itinerary sections (as per package agreement)
- Highway tolls and local road logistics where applicable

Motorcycle & Technical Support

- Adventure motorcycle rental (Royal Enfield Himalayan / KTM / Honda CRF or equivalent)
- Professional English-speaking ride leader / expedition captain
- Experienced motorcycle mechanic throughout the expedition
- Basic spare parts and tools (chains, cables, tubes, repair kits)
- Daily motorcycle inspection, tire pressure, oil checks, and safety maintenance

Permits & Administration

- Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP)
- Chitwan National Park entry permit
- Local government permits (Bandipur, Mustang, etc.)
- Tourism and expedition registration documentation
- All government taxes and service charges
- Route authorization and logistics coordination

Safety & Assistance

- Pre-ride safety briefing in Kathmandu
- High-altitude riding awareness training
- Group riding discipline and spacing control
- Emergency communication support (mobile/satellite where applicable)
- First-aid medical kit carried by support crew
- Altitude sickness awareness and monitoring
- 24/7 support from expedition leader and ground team
- Emergency coordination with rescue services if required

Not included

International & Domestic Travel

- International airfare to and from Nepal
- Nepal entry visa fees (available on arrival at airport)
- Domestic flights (if any optional upgrades are requested)

Personal Expenses

- Lunch and dinner in Kathmandu, Pokhara, Bandipur, and Chitwan (except included meals)
- Alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, spirits)
- Soft drinks, bottled water, energy drinks, snacks
- Personal shopping, souvenirs, laundry, phone calls
- Extra meals not mentioned in itinerary

Motorcycle & Liability Costs

- Damage caused by rider negligence, accident, or misuse
- Traffic fines, penalties, or legal violations
- Security deposit (refundable according to company policy)
- Optional motorcycle upgrades (higher CC models or premium bikes)
- Fuel used outside the planned itinerary or personal detours

Personal Riding Gear

- Motorcycle helmet (certified full-face or adventure helmet)
- Riding jacket and pants with armor protection

- Riding gloves and protective boots
- Waterproof riding suit or rain protection gear
- Personal trekking/riding clothing
- Sunglasses, thermal wear, and accessories
- Personal electronics (camera, drone, GoPro, chargers)

Optional Services

- Single room accommodation supplement
- Extra hotel nights in Kathmandu, Pokhara, or en route locations
- Private motorcycle guide or VIP support upgrade
- Additional sightseeing tours or activities not included in itinerary
- Helicopter evacuation (covered by insurance, not operator)
- Tips for guide, mechanic, driver, and support crew

Additional Notes

- Pricing is based on standard group participation; private or luxury tours may vary
- Weather conditions, road closures, or political changes may affect itinerary
- Any emergency evacuation or hospital treatment is not included
- Any deviation from planned route or itinerary is chargeable separately
- Fuel availability may vary in remote Mustang and high Himalayan regions
- Riders must carry valid license and international riding permit if required

Dates & prices

- 02 Mar 2027 – 12 Mar 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 16 Mar 2027 – 26 Mar 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 06 Apr 2027 – 16 Apr 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 20 Apr 2027 – 30 Apr 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available
- 04 May 2027 – 14 May 2027 · USD 1,000 · Available

Best time to visit

Best months: March–April and October–November. October and November offer crystal-clear views of Annapurna and Machhapuchhre; March to May is warm with blooming rhododendron forests. Lower Annapurna treks such as Poon Hill are possible in winter, while Thorong La and high passes may close after heavy snow.

What to bring — packing checklist

Clothing

- [ ] Moisture-wicking base layers (top and bottom)
- [ ] Fleece or light insulated mid-layer
- [ ] Down jacket (–10 °C rated for high trails)
- [ ] Waterproof, breathable shell jacket and trousers

- [ ] 2–3 trekking shirts and 2 pairs of trekking trousers
- [ ] Warm hat, sun hat or cap and buff
- [ ] Light liner gloves and warm insulated gloves
- [ ] Underwear and sports bras

Footwear

- [ ] Broken-in waterproof trekking boots with ankle support
- [ ] Camp shoes or sandals for teahouse evenings
- [ ] Hiking socks (4–5 pairs) and warm wool socks for nights

Equipment

- [ ] Daypack 30–35 L with rain cover
- [ ] Sleeping bag rated to –10 °C (we can provide one)
- [ ] Trekking poles
- [ ] Sunglasses with UV protection
- [ ] Duffel bag for the porter (provided by Nord Extreme)

Health & personal

- [ ] Personal medication and a small first-aid kit
- [ ] Altitude medicine (Diamox) after consulting your doctor
- [ ] Water bottles or a 2–3 L hydration bladder, purification tablets or filter
- [ ] Sunscreen SPF 50, lip balm with SPF
- [ ] Hand sanitiser, wet wipes, quick-dry towel
- [ ] Headlamp with spare batteries, power bank

Documents & money

- [ ] Passport valid for 6+ months, plus copies
- [ ] Travel insurance policy (covering helicopter evacuation)
- [ ] 4 passport photos for permits
- [ ] Cash in USD / Nepali rupees for tips, snacks and extras
- [ ] Credit or debit card

Down jackets and sleeping bags can also be rented in Kathmandu.

Essential information

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided in a carefully selected combination of comfortable city hotels, boutique lodges, scenic hill resorts, and locally run guesthouses throughout the route.

In Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitwan, riders stay in well-established tourist-standard hotels with modern facilities. In Bandipur and Kulekhani, accommodation is provided in boutique properties and scenic hillside lodges with panoramic views.

Along the Kali Gandaki Valley, Tatopani, and Muktinath regions, accommodation becomes progressively more basic due to altitude and remoteness, consisting of mountain lodges and local guesthouses. These provide clean twin-sharing rooms, warm bedding, simple amenities, and authentic Himalayan hospitality.

Meals

A daily breakfast plan is included throughout the tour, with full-board meals provided in remote Himalayan sections where food availability is limited.

Meals are freshly prepared and combine Nepali and international cuisine to support long riding days. Typical food options include:

- Traditional Nepali Dal Bhat set meals
- Thakali cuisine (local specialty of the Kali Gandaki region)
- Tibetan and Himalayan dishes such as momos, thukpa, and noodle soups
- Fried rice, pasta, noodles, and light continental meals
- Eggs, bread, pancakes, porridge, and seasonal vegetables
- Tea, coffee, hot lemon, and herbal drinks

Food variety is excellent in cities and simpler but sufficient in high Himalayan regions.

Difficulty & Riding Requirements

The Across the Kali Gandaki Motorbike Tour is classified as a moderate to challenging Himalayan motorcycle expedition.

The route is suitable for riders with prior experience in long-distance touring and mixed terrain riding.

Riders should be prepared for:

- Long riding days (5–8 hours average)
- High-altitude riding up to 3,800 meters (Muktinath)
- Steep ascents, descents, and winding mountain roads
- Gravel, rocky, and uneven Himalayan sections
- Rapid weather and temperature changes

No extreme technical off-road riding is required, but good control, endurance, and confidence are essential.

Permits

All necessary permits are arranged in advance by the organizing company, including:

- Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP)
- Chitwan National Park Entry Permit
- Local municipality and rural government permits (Bandipur, Mustang region, etc.)
- Relevant tourism and expedition documentation

Transportation & Access

The expedition begins and ends in Kathmandu and follows a fully motorable loop covering highways, mid-hill roads, and Himalayan routes.

Services include:

- Airport pick-up and drop-off in Kathmandu
- Fully guided motorcycle expedition support
- Support vehicle for luggage, tools, and emergency assistance
- Fuel coordination in major towns and refueling points
- Backup logistics and recovery support when required

Safety & Riding Support

Safety is a top priority throughout the expedition.

The tour is led by experienced Himalayan motorcycle expedition leaders with strong knowledge of terrain, altitude, and road conditions.

Support includes:

- Pre-ride safety briefing and motorcycle orientation
- Daily route planning and group riding management
- Mechanical support and basic roadside repairs
- First-aid support and emergency coordination
- Communication assistance in remote areas when available

Riders are expected to follow safety instructions and group discipline at all times.

Additional information

Guide & Support Crew

The expedition is supported by a professional team including a lead ride captain, assistant guides, mechanics, and support drivers.

The team ensures smooth logistics, safety management, technical support, and cultural interpretation throughout the journey.

Cultural & Natural Highlights

This tour offers one of Nepal’s most diverse riding experiences, including:

- Kali Gandaki Gorge – the world’s deepest river canyon
- Bandipur – preserved Newari hill heritage town
- Muktinath Temple (3,800m) – sacred Hindu-Buddhist pilgrimage site
- Mustang trans-Himalayan desert landscapes
- Pokhara Lakeside and Annapurna Himalayan views
- Chitwan National Park jungle safari
- Kulekhani reservoir and mid-hill forest scenery
- Dramatic transition from Himalayas to tropical plains

Essential Equipment

Recommended riding gear includes:

- Certified adventure motorcycle helmet
- Protective riding jacket with armor
- Riding pants with knee protection
- Gloves and sturdy riding boots
- Waterproof outer shell (jacket & pants)
- Thermal layers for high-altitude sections
- Sunglasses and sun protection

- Small day backpack and personal essentials

Proper riding gear is mandatory for safety and comfort.

Communication & Connectivity

Mobile coverage is available in cities and lower valleys such as Kathmandu, Pokhara, Bandipur, and Chitwan.

Connectivity becomes limited in upper Kali Gandaki and Mustang regions, especially near Tatopani and Muktinath. Wi-Fi is available in cities and selected lodges but should not be relied upon in remote sections.

Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance is mandatory and must cover:

- Motorcycle touring and adventure riding
- Medical treatment and hospitalization
- High-altitude emergency evacuation (including helicopter rescue)
- Personal accident coverage
- Trip cancellation and interruption

Why Choose This Tour?

- A signature Himalayan motorcycle expedition combining diverse landscapes in one continuous journey
- Ride through mountains, river valleys, high Himalayan desert, and tropical jungles
- Experience Nepal’s most iconic route along the legendary Kali Gandaki corridor
- Visit cultural and spiritual landmarks including Bandipur, Muktinath, Pokhara, and Chitwan
- Dramatic altitude variation from 415m lowlands to 3,800m Himalayan terrain
- A rare opportunity to experience Nepal’s complete geographical and cultural diversity in one ride
- One of the most rewarding and well-rounded motorcycle adventures in Nepal

Frequently asked questions

How difficult is the Across Kali Gandaki?

The Across Kali Gandaki is graded Moderate — suitable for most active travellers. Expect 5–7 hours of walking on most days on mountain trails with plenty of ascents and descents. Regular cardio training — hiking, running, cycling or stair climbing — for 6–8 weeks before departure makes the trip far more enjoyable.

What is the best time for the Across Kali Gandaki?

For the Annapurna region the best months are March–April and October–November. October and November offer crystal-clear views of Annapurna and Machhapuchhre; March to May is warm with blooming rhododendron forests. Lower Annapurna treks such as Poon Hill are possible in winter, while Thorong La and high passes may close after heavy snow.

What permits do I need for the Across Kali Gandaki?

You need the Annapurna Conservation Area Permit (ACAP) and the trekkers’ TIMS card. Nord Extreme arranges every permit for you before the trip starts — check the "Includes" section above for exactly what is covered in the price. Just bring your passport and a few passport-size photos.

What is the accommodation like on the Across Kali Gandaki?

In Kathmandu you stay in a comfortable hotel; on the trail we use the best available family-run teahouses and lodges with twin-share rooms, shared or attached bathrooms and a warm dining room. Upgrades to luxury lodges are possible on popular routes such as Everest and Annapurna.

Can I book the Across Kali Gandaki as a private trip or join a group?

Both. You can join one of the fixed departures listed under "Dates & Prices", or book a private trip for just you, your family or friends on any date. Solo travellers are welcome — you will always have your own licensed guide.

Do I need travel insurance for the Across Kali Gandaki?

Yes, travel insurance is compulsory. It must cover medical treatment and emergency helicopter evacuation up to the trip’s highest altitude, plus trip cancellation. Please send us your policy details before departure.

What should I pack for the Across Kali Gandaki?

See the "What to bring" checklist on this page for the full list. The essentials are broken-in boots, warm layers, a down jacket, a waterproof shell, sun protection and a daypack. Down jackets and sleeping bags can be rented cheaply in Kathmandu, and a porter carries your main bag (up to 10–12 kg).

Ready to book or have a question?

Trip page: https://delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com/holiday/package/across-kali-gandaki/

Contact our team in Kathmandu: sonam@nordextreme.com · +977 9851078748 · delightful-orange-chimpanzee.tarevirjungleresort.com