Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour

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

DURATION	**11 Days**
DIFFICULTY	**Basic**
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 Kali Gandaki Motorbike Tour is a signature Himalayan motorcycle expedition that follows the legendary Kali Gandaki River corridor—one of the world's deepest and most geologically dramatic valleys. This journey offers a continuous riding experience through Nepal's most diverse landscapes, connecting cultural hill towns, high Himalayan deserts, river valleys, and tropical lowlands in a single expedition.

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 iconic pilgrimage destination of Muktinath (3,800m), and continues through the scenic city of Pokhara (822m) before entering the wildlife-rich plains of Chitwan (415m). The journey then returns to Kathmandu via the peaceful Kulekhani reservoir region.

This carefully designed expedition blends adventure riding, cultural immersion, extreme altitude variation, and natural diversity, making it one of Nepal's most complete and rewarding motorcycle journeys.

Geography and Landscape

The Kali Gandaki Valley forms the world's deepest gorge, situated between the towering Annapurna (8,091m) and Dhaulagiri (8,167m) Himalayan ranges. The route passes through multiple ecological and climatic zones within a relatively short distance, creating one of the most visually dynamic riding corridors in Nepal.

From the Kathmandu Valley, the journey moves through terraced farmlands, forested ridges, and river valleys toward Bandipur. The landscape then drops into the dramatic Kali Gandaki basin, where deep gorges, winding river roads, and traditional settlements define the terrain.

Beyond Tatopani, the route ascends into the trans-Himalayan region, where arid landscapes, strong winds, and rugged mountain roads lead toward Muktinath. From here, the descent into Pokhara reveals lush forests, lakes, and fertile valleys, before transitioning into the tropical plains of Chitwan and the subtropical mid-hills of Kulekhani.

This continuous transformation of altitude, climate, and geography makes the Kali Gandaki corridor one of the most diverse motorcycle routes in the Himalayas.

Climate and Best Time to Ride

The tour is accessible throughout much of the year, with seasonal variations influencing visibility, temperature, and road conditions.

Spring (March – May)

- Blooming rhododendron forests and vibrant landscapes
- Pleasant riding temperatures across all regions
- Excellent Himalayan visibility

Autumn (September – November)

- Best overall season for motorcycle touring
- Stable weather and dry road conditions
- Crystal-clear mountain views

Winter (December – February)

- Cold temperatures at higher elevations (especially Muktinath)
- Excellent visibility and fewer road crowds
- Suitable for well-prepared and experienced riders

Monsoon (June – August)

- Heavy rainfall in lower and mid-hill regions
- Slippery and challenging road conditions
- Recommended only for experienced adventure riders

People and Culture

The route passes through a rich cultural mosaic of Nepal's ethnic communities, including Gurung, Magar, Thakali, Newar, and Tharu populations, each contributing unique traditions, architecture, and lifestyles.

Bandipur showcases 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 Nepal's most sacred pilgrimage sites.

In contrast, Chitwan introduces the indigenous Tharu culture, known for its distinct architecture, traditional lifestyle, and strong connection to the jungle ecosystem.

Throughout the journey, riders experience rural farming communities, ancient trade routes, monasteries, temples, local festivals, and genuine Himalayan hospitality.

Highlights

- Ride through the legendary Kali Gandaki River Valley
- Explore Bandipur, a beautifully preserved Newari hill town
- Experience natural hot springs at Tatopani
- Visit the sacred Muktinath Temple (3,800m)
- Traverse the world's deepest gorge between Annapurna & Dhaulagiri
- Ride through dramatic trans-Himalayan desert landscapes of Mustang

- Explore Pokhara, the lakeside city beneath the Annapurna range
- Jungle safari experience in Chitwan National Park (415m)
- Scenic ride through the Kulekhani reservoir region
- Experience extreme altitude variation from 415m to 3,800m
- Transition through mountains, valleys, deserts, and jungles in one journey
- One of Nepal's most geographically diverse motorcycle expeditions
- Fully guided professional Himalayan motorcycle tour with support team

Day-by-day itinerary

Day 1 : Arrival in Kathmandu (1400 m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Dinner

Arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Meet your tour team and transfer to the hotel. Rest of the day is free for relaxation or independent exploration of Kathmandu Valley.

Day 2 : Briefing and Motorcycle Preparation (1,400m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast

Full expedition briefing, motorcycle allocation, documentation, and safety orientation. Riders will complete a short test ride around Kathmandu Valley to become familiar with their bikes and group riding formation.

Day 3 : Kathmandu (1,400m) – Bandipur (1,030m)

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

Riding: 5–6 hrs

Scenic ride along the Prithvi Highway through river valleys and rolling hills to reach Bandipur, a preserved Newari hill town known for its cultural charm and Himalayan views.

Day 4 : Bandipur (1,030m) – Pokhara (822m)

Distance: ~80 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Riding: 3–4 hrs

A short scenic ride to Pokhara through lush hills and countryside landscapes. Arrival at the lakeside city with views of the Annapurna range.

Day 5 : Pokhara (822m) – Local Exploration Ride (822m)

Stay: Hotel · Visit: Annapurna Region · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Full-day exploration rides around Pokhara Valley including Sarangkot viewpoint, World Peace Pagoda, Begnas Lake, and rural hillside villages.

Day 6 : Pokhara (822m) – Tansen (1,350m)

Distance: ~135 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Riding: 5–6 hrs

Ride through mid-hill roads and river valleys to reach Tansen, a historic hill town known for architecture, culture, and Himalayan views.

Day 7 : Tansen (1,350m) – Chitwan (415m)

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

Riding: 5–6 hrs

Descend into the tropical Terai lowlands and arrive at Chitwan National Park, a UNESCO-listed wildlife reserve.

Day 8 : Chitwan Jungle Activities (415m)

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

Full-day jungle safari activities including jeep safari, canoe ride, birdwatching, and Tharu village visit.

Day 9 : Chitwan (415m) – Kulekhani (1,520m)

Distance: 160 km · Stay: Hotel · Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast Lunch Dinner

Riding: 6–7 hrs

Ride through rural highways and forested mid-hills to reach Indra Sarovar Kulekhani, a peaceful reservoir surrounded by hills.

Day 10 : Kulekhani (1,520m) – Kathmandu (1,400m)

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

Riding: 2–3 hrs

Short scenic ride back to Kathmandu via winding hill roads. Motorcycle return and farewell dinner with the team.

Day 11 : Departure (1,400m)

Visit: Nepal · Meals: Breakfast

Transfer to Tribhuvan International Airport for onward flight. Tour concludes with memories of Nepal's landscapes, culture, and heritage.

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 25°C / night 9°C
- Day 2 · Briefing and Motorcycle Preparation · 1,400 m · day 25°C / night 9°C
- Day 3 · Kathmandu – Bandipur · 1,400 m · day 25°C / night 9°C
- Day 4 · Bandipur – Pokhara · 1,030 m · day 27°C / night 11°C
- Day 5 · Pokhara – Local Exploration Ride · 822 m · day 28°C / night 12°C
- Day 6 · Pokhara – Tansen · 822 m · day 28°C / night 12°C
- Day 7 · Tansen – Chitwan · 1,350 m · day 25°C / night 9°C
- Day 8 · Chitwan Jungle Activities · 415 m · day 30°C / night 15°C
- Day 9 · Chitwan – Kulekhani · 415 m · day 30°C / night 15°C
- Day 10 · Kulekhani – Kathmandu · 1,520 m · day 24°C / night 8°C
- Day 11 · Departure · 1,400 m · day 25°C / night 9°C

What’s included

Accommodation

- Kathmandu (Arrival & Departure): 3-star or boutique hotel with private bathrooms, hot showers, Wi-Fi, and twin-sharing rooms
- Bandipur: Heritage-style boutique hotel or scenic hilltop lodge with Himalayan views and Newari architecture
- Pokhara & Chitwan: Tourist-standard hotels and jungle resorts with modern amenities, air-conditioning (lowlands), and quality hospitality
- Kaligandaki Valley (Tatopani / Muktinath / Jomsom region where 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 expedition briefing
- Farewell dinner in Kathmandu after tour completion
- Full-board meals (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner) in remote Himalayan sections where applicable
- Typical foods: Dal Bhat, Thakali sets, Tibetan soups, noodles, momos, fried rice, pasta, chapati, eggs, porridge, seasonal vegetables, and light continental dishes
- Tea, coffee, hot lemon, and herbal drinks available throughout the journey

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 route 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 repair tools (tubes, cables, chains, kits)
- Daily motorcycle inspection, tire pressure, oil checks, and technical monitoring

Permits & Administration

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

- Route coordination and logistics management

Safety & Assistance

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

Not included

International & Domestic Travel

- International airfare to and from Nepal
- Nepal entry visa fees (available on arrival)
- 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, and snacks
- Personal shopping, souvenirs, laundry, and phone calls
- Extra meals not mentioned in the itinerary

Motorcycle & Liability Costs

- Damage caused by rider negligence, accident, or misuse
- Traffic fines, penalties, or legal violations
- Refundable security deposit (as per company policy)
- Optional motorcycle upgrades (premium or higher CC models)
- Fuel used outside the planned itinerary or personal detours

Personal Riding Gear

- Certified motorcycle helmet (full-face or adventure type)
- Riding jacket and pants with armor protection
- Riding gloves and protective boots
- Waterproof rain gear and outer shell
- Personal trekking/riding clothing
- Sunglasses, thermal layers, and accessories
- Personal electronics (camera, drone, GoPro, chargers)

Optional Services

- Single room accommodation supplement
- Extra hotel nights in Kathmandu, Pokhara, or en route destinations
- Private motorcycle guide or VIP support upgrade
- Additional sightseeing 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, road conditions, or local regulations may affect itinerary
- Emergency evacuation and medical treatment are not included
- Any deviation from planned route is chargeable separately
- Fuel availability may vary in remote Mustang and high Himalayan regions
- Riders must carry a valid motorcycle 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: February–April and October–November. The Kathmandu Valley can be visited all year. October–November and March–April are pleasant and clear; December–February are sunny with cold mornings, and the monsoon brings afternoon showers but green, uncrowded heritage sites.

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 mountain guesthouses throughout the route.

In Kathmandu, Pokhara, and Chitwan, riders stay in well-established tourist-standard hotels with modern facilities, including private bathrooms, hot showers, Wi-Fi access, and comfortable twin-sharing rooms.

In Bandipur and Kulekhani, accommodation is arranged in boutique heritage properties and hillside resorts offering panoramic Himalayan and valley views.

Along the Kali Gandaki Valley—including Tatopani, Jomsom, and Muktinath—accommodation becomes progressively more basic due to altitude and remoteness. These are typically locally run mountain lodges offering 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 across diverse terrain.

Typical food options include:

- Traditional Nepali Dal Bhat set meals
- Thakali cuisine (signature of the Kali Gandaki region)

- Tibetan and Himalayan dishes such as momos, thukpa, and noodle soups
- Fried rice, pasta, noodles, and light continental dishes
- Eggs, bread, pancakes, porridge, and seasonal vegetables
- Tea, coffee, hot lemon, and herbal drinks

Food quality is excellent in cities and simple 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 on average)
- High-altitude riding up to 3,800 meters (Muktinath)
- Steep ascents, descents, and winding mountain roads
- Gravel, rocky, and uneven Himalayan terrain
- Rapid weather and temperature changes across regions

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.)
- Tourism and expedition registration documentation

Transportation & Access

The expedition begins and ends in Kathmandu and follows a fully motorable loop through Nepal’s diverse landscapes.

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 designated 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
- On-route mechanical support and basic roadside repairs
- First-aid assistance and emergency coordination
- Communication support in remote areas where available

Riders are expected to follow safety instructions and maintain 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, technical support, safety management, and cultural interpretation throughout the journey.

Cultural & Natural Highlights

This tour offers one of Nepal's most diverse motorcycle experiences, including:

- Kali Gandaki Gorge – the world's deepest river canyon
- Bandipur – preserved Newari heritage hill town
- Muktinath Temple (3,800m) – sacred Hindu-Buddhist pilgrimage site
- Trans-Himalayan Mustang landscapes
- Pokhara Lakeside with Annapurna Himalayan views
- Chitwan National Park jungle safari
- Kulekhani reservoir and mid-hill forest scenery
- Dramatic transition from Himalayan highlands 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 network 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 Himalayan 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 across Nepal's most diverse landscapes
- Ride through mountains, river valleys, deserts, lakes, and jungle ecosystems
- Experience the legendary Kali Gandaki corridor and world's deepest gorge
- Visit iconic destinations including Bandipur, Muktinath, Pokhara, and Chitwan
- Extreme altitude variation from 415m to 3,800m in one journey
- A rare combination of culture, nature, and adventure riding in Nepal
- One of the most complete and rewarding motorcycle expeditions in the Himalayas

Frequently asked questions

How difficult is the Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour?

The Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour 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 Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour?

For the Kathmandu Valley & mid-hills region the best months are February–April and October–November. The Kathmandu Valley can be visited all year. October–November and March–April are pleasant and clear; December–February are sunny with cold mornings, and the monsoon brings afternoon showers but green, uncrowded heritage sites.

What permits do I need for the Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour?

You need entry tickets for the heritage sites you visit. 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 Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour?

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 Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour 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 Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour?

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 Nepal Heritage Motorbike Tour?

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/nepal-heritage-motorbike-tour/

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