The Roads of Kathmandu, Nepal

11 Days – Including 8 days of riding
Best time: October to December
Half-board

HIGHLIGHTS
- Wonderfully preserved nature and very rich cultural heritage,
- Riding the legendary Royal Enfield 500cc motorcycle,
- An average of 90kms per day to more appreciate the riding and better experience the surrounding beauty of Nepal,
- A timeless adventure in the heart of the Himalayas

TRAVEL DIFFICULTY:
AVERAGE

For experienced riders who are physically fit. We will ride on beautiful asphalt roads for the majority of the time, as well as taking some trails.

ROYAL ENFIELD 500CC
Royal Enfield Classic EFI, latest model. 5 Gears. The bikes have a European style gear shifting system (left side, first gear down) to ensure the comfort and safety for our riders.
LOGISTICS AND ORGANISATION

Your tour leader is a very experienced rider who speaks English and is familiar with the area you will visit. He is in charge of coordinating the support team (mechanic, driver, helpers…) and makes sure that the group travels safely. The tour leader is not a local guide, so, for your convenience, we advise you to bring a pocket guide with you.

The entourage comprises of a tour leader and a well experienced mechanic. For groups of more than three, a support vehicle will be provided to carry the luggage and the mechanical equipment. The van can also accommodate participants (who must be registered with a pilot) if they choose to enjoy the ride in the comfort of a van.

To guarantee a safe and pleasant tour, we recommend a maximum of 12 participants, including riders and pillions.

We can easily welcome more participants in our “A la Carte” and “tailor-made” options. In that case, for your own comfort and safety, the content of the program and the logistics might change (itinerary, number of accompanying persons and support vehicle…). For more information, please ask your travel advisor
AT A GLANCE

On the legendary Royal Enfields, you ride over 600 kilometres on beautiful roads. You discover the Kathmandu Valley, Chitwan National Park, and the beautiful city of Pokhara.

The trip has of numerous visits and strolls (by foot) in the cities and in the countryside, which are always optional.

Nepal, a fresh oasis, transports you into the heart of green landscapes, incredible encounters with the locals, which makes this country, one of the most welcoming countries of South Asia.

From Kathmandu, your itinerary successively leads you toward the discovery of the wonderful Newar temples, the impressive Chitwan Park for an unforgettable day with the fauna and the flora, and of course, to the unrestricted views of the Himalayan ranges.

You first head East, across the Kathmandu Valley. On the way, you visit historical and atypical temples, but also traditional Newar villages. Red brick walls and wooden carved windows make these traditional houses irresistibly charming.

You leave to Pokhara and discover its impressive lake, where the view of the Shaulagiri Mount and Annapurna range will leave you speechless. On the way, you stop at Bandipur, discovering Nepal, where you come across their traditions, their strong historical past, and are given a warm welcome by the locals.

The tour then finishes with a relaxing retreat to the Chitwan national park, renowned for its unforgettable flora and fauna.

The stages of your travel are punctuated of beautiful roads where you meet large rice field, impressive gorges, pine forests, and green mountain roads.
YOUR ITINERARY ON A MAP
ITINERARY
(Subject to change)

Day 1: Arrival at Kathmandu (Patan) (1300m)
Pick up at the airport, in the afternoon, and transfer to the hotel (room available after 12pm). Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 2: Katmandu – Bhaktapur (1400m) [20 KM - 1H ride]
First day of riding. With your Royal Enfield, you head East, to the heart of Kathmandu Valley and start by visiting the wonderful temple of Changu Narayan, a UNESCO heritage site. You then continue towards Bhaktapur. A small traditional city, where traffic is forbidden in the centre, it gives you the opportunity to appreciate the architectural wonders of this province. Overnight stay at the hotel.

One of the few medieval cities of the valley, Bhaktapur is very well preserved. The city has three squares that are surrounded by temples; this wonderful sight is the most beautiful part of the country. We can enjoy these splendours in a rural atmosphere: we can see harvests on the streets drying under the sun, and the farmers winnowing the rice and the wheat with wicker baskets and fans.

Day 3: Bhaktapur- Patan (1330m) [20 KM - 1H ride]
You will visit the peaceful village of Panauti and see its small temple. You can stroll about in the narrow streets and meet the locals. You then return to Patan, and visit the imposing Durbar Square, and the main square with its different temples and museums. You enjoy a walk in the narrow streets of this “the city of beauty” as the locals call it, to discover this green valley. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Located in Kathmandu, Patan, also called Lalipur (“the city of beauty”), has a long Buddhist history, and in the 4 corners of the city there are numerous stupas from all times. Just like Kathmandu, the ancient Royal Palace of Patan faces the central square. The numerous temples decorating Durbar Square constitute, without any doubt, the most remarkable Newar architecture of Nepal.
Day 4: Patan – Bandipur (1000m) [210 KM - 7H ride]

You head west on a beautiful road, riding along the Trisuli river. On your way, you enjoy the local sights (women carrying heavy baskets full of harvest, fruits sellers, stalls...), in a breath-taking landscape made of rice fields, pine forests, and imposing gorges.

Arrival at the gorgeous village of Bandipur.

All the bazaars are witnesses of a legacy of commerce on the road from Tibet to India. Temples and houses border the narrow cobbled alleys. The construction of the highway and the eradication of malaria in Terai condemned Bandipur to oblivion for the last 40 years, preserving its traditional Newari life habits. On this territory, almost devoid of tourists, saved from urbanization and from a consumerist society, children give a warm welcome to the visitors with the popular “Namaste”. Tour of the city. Overnight stay at the hotel. Note: Rooms don’t have private bathrooms.

Day 5: Bandipur – Pokhara (1000m) [126 KM - 4H ride]

Beautiful ascent to Pokhara on zigzag roads. However, watch out when you arrive near Pokhara; the road is hilly. We take a boat to the small island located in the centre of the lake, where the Varahi temple is. Afterwards, you enjoy a nice stroll around the lake and are free at the end of the day. Overnight stay at the hotel.
Day 6: Pokhara (1000m)

Free day in Pokhara. Overnight stay at the hotel.

If Himalaya is the top of the world, then Pokhara is door to it. Calmer than Kathmandu’s Thamel, the city has an exceptional atmosphere, where fresh mountain air replaces the smell of exhaust pipes! There are actually two different Pokharas.

The first one on the lakeside, along the waters of the gorgeous Phewa Tal Lake is a very touristic spot. The area offers a refuge where many travellers, exhausted after a long trek, relax in nice restaurants and animated bars.

Next, comes the ‘Old Pokhara’, where you can see how the country was before the hippies discovered Nepal with those charming newar architecture enclaves and the vitality of local colors.

Day 7: Pokhara – Tansen (1300m) [125 KM - 3H ride]

We leave the mountains and head towards Tansen, further south. Visit of the small, peaceful town and overnight stay at the hotel.
Day 8: Tansen – Chitwan (230m)
[170 KM - 4H ride]
You take the main road riding towards Chitwan National Park. In the afternoon, a little stroll guided by a local naturalist in the jungle of the park, where the contrast between the flora and fauna and the mountainous landscapes of the Himalayas is a treat for the eyes. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 9: Chitwan (230m)
On this morning, nothing is better than going riding an elephant to see the lush vegetation. On this guided safari, you will have the opportunity to see rhinoceros, monkeys, crocodiles, and if you are very lucky, you will live an unforgettable moment with a Bengal tiger, a leopard or even a bear. In the afternoon, go deeper into the hostile jungle to see Asian crocodiles, and then on a boat on the Narayani River to observe them in their natural environment. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Part of UNESCO world heritage site since 1984, Chitwan National Park is one of the most important touristic destinations of Nepal. The natural sanctuary protects 932 km² of sal forests (trees from south Asia), swamps and meadows. With the snowy peak of the Himalayas as landscapes, it is not a surprise that this area is really appreciated by its visitors. Known as “Heart of the Jungle”, Chitwan is known to be the main national park in Asia for observing the wild fauna.
Day 10: Chitwan – Kathmandu (1300m) [230 KM – 6/7H ride]
You wake up very early to go on a bird walk. Bird lovers can observe 450 species and butterfly amateurs will discover at least 67 species, including some as big as a hand. After a good breakfast, you hit the road for the last day of the trip. You will end the loop on a very beautiful note.

You first ride across the plains towards Hetauda, and you finish with a series of zigzags before reaching Kathmandu for a good night’s sleep. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 11: Kathmandu (1300m)
Free day in the city. Opportunity for you to discover the Nepalese capital and to do some shopping. Overnight stay at the hotel.

For many travellers, the arrival to Kathmandu creates a real shock. The sights, smells, and sounds of the city overwhelm you, when we take the rickshaw in the old city. Every moment is an adventure, in front of the breath-taking sanctuaries of Durbar Square, or when we try to escape from the shopkeepers and peddlers of Thamel. Every single thing contributes to a real, exceptional, and genuine experience. A stroll in the small streets will make you discover an extraordinary cultural and artistic heritage, some hidden temples decorated with garlands, some places where pepper and rice are drying, and those tiny stalls and shops.

NB: Schedules of the stages are given as a rough guide. The itinerary is subject to change from one year to the next depending on the natural state of the roads.
**PRICES AND SERVICES***

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<th>Season 2015</th>
<th>Season 2016</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Departure</strong></td>
<td><strong>A la Carte formula</strong></td>
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<td>12/10/2015 - 22/10/2015</td>
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<td>2740 €/rider</td>
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<td>Be 4 or more to book: 2670 €</td>
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Prices valid for all tours between 1st November 2014 and 31st October 2015

* Supplément chambre single : 440 €

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**PRICES INCLUDE**

- A Royal Enfield 500cc motorcycle is provided with full mechanical assistance and all spare parts;
- Domestic transportation as appearing in the program, by private vehicle;
- An English speaking Tour Leader (from day 2 to day 11);
- Fuel expenses
- An expert mechanic of Royal Enfield motorcycles
- A support vehicle with driver for groups with more than 4 participants; side luggage carrier for groups of less than 5 participants.
- Lodging: in comfort hotels, in double bed rooms on a twin-sharing basis. If you wish to stay in a single room (extra), please inform your travel advisor at the time of registration.
- Meals: Half board (breakfast and lunch, except during days of transfer, D1, D11)
- Activities at Chitwan national park, as mentioned in the program.
- Third party motorcycle insurance.

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**PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE**

- Compulsory insurances, which include repatriation costs in case of an accident and legal assistance.
- International Flights and airport taxes
- Visa fees
- A refundable security deposit of 400 € for the motorcycles.
- Dinners and lunch during days of transfers (day 1, day 11)
- Admission fees to various monuments, temples etc.
- Drinks and personal expenses
- Tips
My checklist

Appropriate equipment is a component of a successful journey!
Travel lightly, **TRY TO STAY UNDER 45LBS (20 KGS)**

**BAGS:**
- A sailor bag would be perfect, a walker’s bag too (without steel bar). You can close it with a padlock if you want to (Don’t forget to tag it before leaving with your address. Also with the address of Vintage Rides in India)
- A small backpack of 20 liters is advised for daily necessities such as camera, sunscreen lotion…

**CLOTHES AND PERSONAL EQUIPMENT:**
- 2 light pants
- 4 shirts (including some with long sleeves, to protect yourself from the sun)
- A swimsuit
- Hot sweater or jacket for cold nights
- Sun glasses
- Hat
- Light sport shoes
- Flip flops
- 1 liter canteen (flask) and a flashlight (don’t forget the batteries)
- Some sweats and cereal bars

**SPECIAL MOTORCYCLE CLOTHES:**
- Motorcycle boots are strongly advised or trekking shoes (waterproof)
- Light motorbike jacket (leather or synthetic)
- A rain suit (just in case!)
- Gloves
- Helmet

**PERSONAL MEDICINE:**
- Sun screen lotion
- Lip balm
- Broad-spectrum antibiotic
- Paracetamol
- Anti-diarrhoea
- Elastoplast
- Skin disinfectant
- Bandages and special blisters bandage

Any further question?
Please contact us: info@vintagerides.com