

THE RED MOUNTAINS

UPPER MUSTANG TRIP



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Welcome to Ride Nepal Tours!

The Red Mountains Tour will take you to Upper Mustang, one of the most well-preserved regions in the world. Travel back in time to a place that is not impacted by the advent of technology; a place that had its own king until not so long ago. The region was a restricted and militarised area until 1992 and opened its doors to non-Nepali people in 1997. Even today, getting to Upper Mustang requires special trekking permits from the Nepalese government. So, you can see that not many people have been to this place, let alone go on this total off-road ride. But travelling with us to the region makes it not as difficult as it sounds.

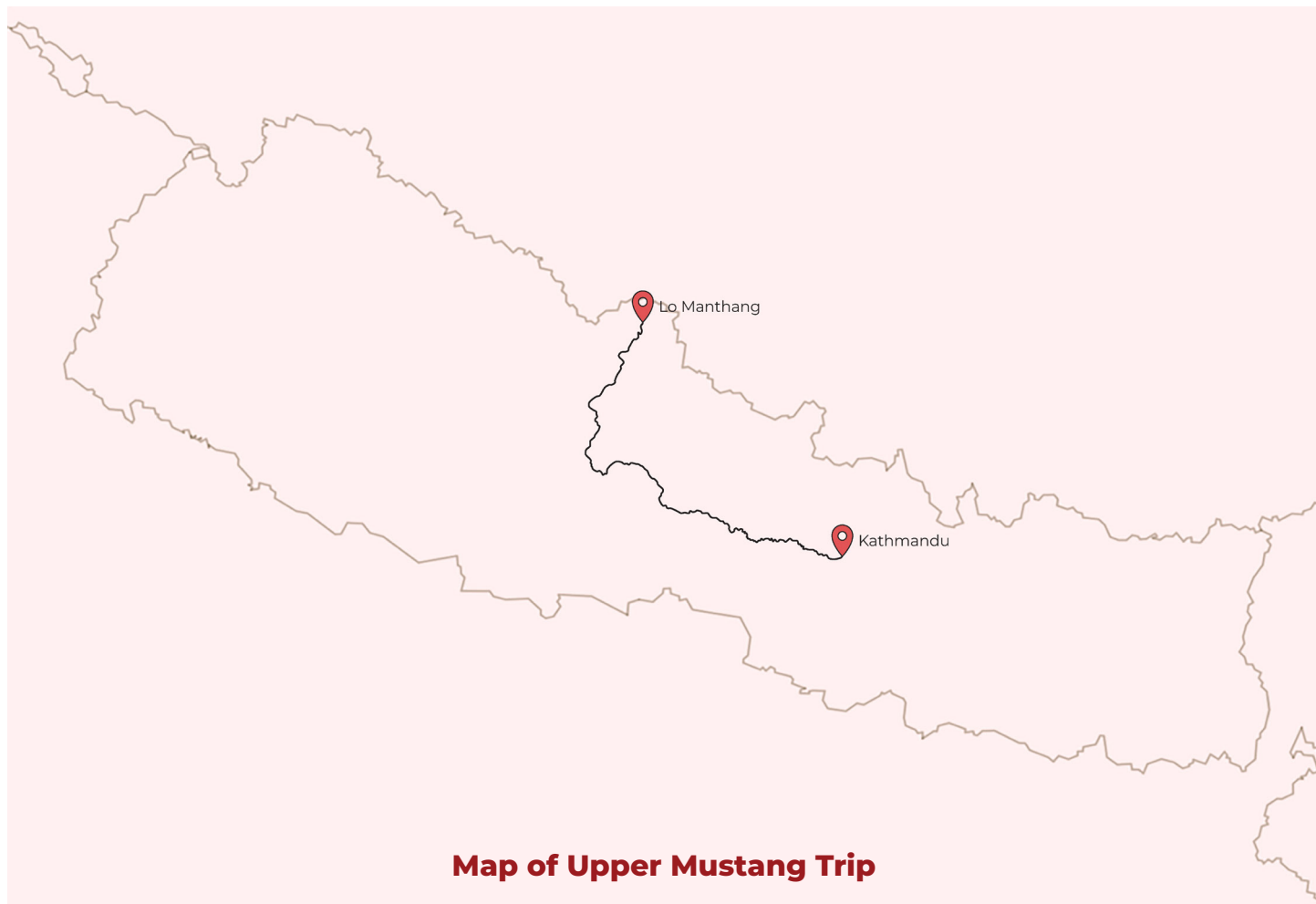
Ride beyond the Himalayas of Nepal. The rocky mountainous roads will keep thrilling you!

THE PLAN

Day	From	To	Altitude at Destination	Ride Distance (approx.)
1	Flight to	Kathmandu	1400 m	-
2	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	1400 m	-
3	Kathmandu	Pokhara	827 m	201 km
4	Pokhara	Lete	2700 m	121 km
5	Lete	Samar	1544 m	60 km
6	Samar	Lo-manthang	3800 m	60 km
7	Lo-manthang	Korala Border	4600 m	15 km
8	Lo-manthang	Kagbeni	2800 m	75 km
9	Kagbeni	Tatopani	1300 m	60 km
10	Tatopani	Bandipur	1100 m	176 km
11	Bandipur	Kathmandu	1400 m	147 km
12	Kathmandu	Kathmandu	1400 m	-
13	Kathmandu	Flight back	1400 m	-

Two weeks of absolute pleasure is awaiting you!





INDIVIDUAL DAY PLANS

Day 1: Arrival

Namaste and welcome to Kathmandu! Upon arrival, witness Nepali hospitality. You will be received from the airport and dropped off at the hotel. We will meet at the welcome dinner in the evening and together with the Nepali cuisine, you will get a briefing on the tour and clear guidelines regarding what to expect along the way!

Day 2: Kathmandu

We will make an recommended but optional visit to Brahmasthai Awareness Society (BAS), the NGO that provides shelter to the poor, helpless patients and children and adults with disability. Our profits supports this NGO as well. Later in the day, we will hold a small ceremony to worship the bikes to wish us luck for the trip. Meanwhile, you will be handed over the permit to Upper Mustang.

Day 3: Pokhara

Our adventure begins with a 6-7 hour ride to Pokhara, the city of lakes and mountains. We will stay in a cosy hotel on the lakeside and will explore the best of Pokhara, where one can witness majestic views of the Himalayas. The ride will also help in adapting to left-hand traffic for those coming from right-hand traffic systems.

Day 4: Lete

On a clear day, our early morning start will be accompanied by the views of Mt. Dhaulagiri and the surrounding mountains. We shall pass Nepal's longest suspension bridge in Kusma before we bid goodbye to the tarmac and welcome the dirt roads. A couple of hours riding along the Kali Gandaki river will take us to Lete, a village reminiscent of the Alps, where we will stay in a local guest house.

Day 5: Samar

On this day you will ride through 2520m deep Kali Gandaki gorge (which happens to be the deepest one on this planet, just so you know!). With Dhaulagiri (8167m) and Annapurna I (8091m) by your side, you will witness breathtaking views that cannot be witnessed anywhere else in the world. The terrain is moderate with occasional rides over rocky slopes. However, the waterfalls along the way are worth the rugged terrain. Our arrival in Jomsom will be followed by travel permit checks at Kagbeni, and then we're off to Upper Mustang! We will cross the Kali Gandaki River via a bridge or through the river itself depending on the conditions and will stay at a local guest house that offers beautiful views of the mountains from the terrace.

Day 6: Lo Manthang

As we ride deep into the Buddhist country, we will pass Nepal's longest Mani-wall north of Ghami and ride up to Ghar Gumba, an 8th century Buddhist monastery. As we climb up the last pass, things might get a bit dusty when we encounter some talk powder sand, but the sheer feeling of looking down the valley at the old capital of the forbidden kingdom, Lo Manthang itself, outweighs anything else!

INDIVIDUAL DAY PLANS

Day 7: Lo Manthang

On day 8, you can take short rides in the nearby areas that have loads to offer. Arguably the most iconic sight would be the Chosur Caves. Carved high into the cliffs, the Chosur Caves are a labyrinth of small rooms and tunnels that have upto 5 floors and 85 rooms. Talk about architecture! The rest of the day will be spent riding past several villages and monasteries in Lo Manthang, or you can choose to drive high up to the Tibet border (4660m).

Day 8: Kagbeni via Muktinath

Kagbeni, also thought to be one of the oldest villages in Himalayas, is a beautiful and important place for Hindu people. It is one of the famous religious sites where people perform the rituals in the name of their deceased family member to wish the soul rest in peace in heaven. Driving by this beautiful village with its typical houses of Tibetan feel and old monasteries with Himalayas in the closest background is quite an experience.

Day 9: Tatopani

The altitude drops steadily as we ride south from 3000m to 1200m. We stop at Tatopani, which means “hot water”. Have a taste of the local cold beer and take a dip in the natural hot water springs. After all, you’ve deserved it!

Day 10: Bandipur

On our way back to Kathmandu, we ride to Bandipur, a majestic Newari village on top of a mountain and an ancient trading hub. Famous amongst domestic tourists these days, the ambience of the village is simply unparalleled; with views of the very mountains, we passed through a few days ago. The nostalgia may start to kick in already!

Day 11, 12 and 13: Kathmandu

The traffic becomes thicker and we enter the bustling capital during mid-day of day 11. We stay at our hotel in the evening and maybe have a drink at a local pub. It’s the last night of your unforgettable trip.

Day 12 is the rest day before you fly back home. You might want to spend shopping for souvenirs for your friends and family.

On day 13, as you are seated on your flight back home, you are not just leaving with the luggage you brought with you, or even the camera full of photos, you leave with memories you will cherish for the rest of your life. You can now go home and proudly say that you rode through places not many have even dared to go.

OUR BIKES

Royal Enfield Classic 500cc

We have always used the Indian Royal Enfield Classic 500cc for our trips around the mountains in Nepal. These bikes are heavy, powerful for the uphill and offroads while at the same time gives a luxurious cruising vibes while riding the highways. Our former riders have bought Royal Enfields and shipped them back to Europe because they love it so much.



Royal Enfield Himalayan 411 cc

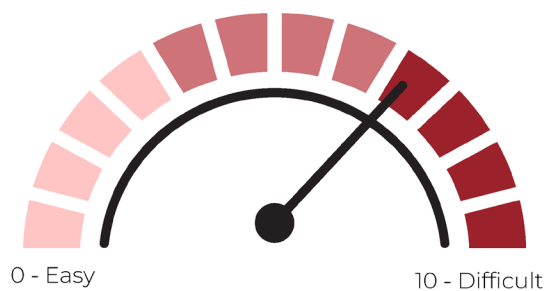
For those who prefer a slimmer bike with a bigger shock - we provide the Himalayan alternative. This is a bit more expensive (additional USD 110 for the whole trip). But some riders have preferred Himalayan as it allows 'standing while riding' a bit more easy.

Our main mode of transportation is on Royal Enfield motorcycles, but we also have a support vehicle (either a bus or jeep) available to carry participants' luggage. In case of difficulty or discomfort, participants can join the jeep as a passenger and resume biking the next day. The jeep can also accommodate non-riders who want to follow the trip. Rest assured, we have made provisions for everyone to enjoy the journey.



TOUR DIFFICULTY

7 / 10



This tour is recommended for riders with prior experience in tough gravel roads. The steep climbs through high passes and off-road riding make it necessary for you to have some experience so that you can enjoy your time with us to the fullest. And of course, we will help you when needed.

PACKAGE PRICES

Package Includes:

- ✓ Royal Enfield 500cc Motorcycle
- ✓ Petrol for Motorcycle
- ✓ Support 4WD Jeep for Luggage (Can carry 15 kgs per person)
- ✓ Special Permit to Upper Mustang (\$ 500)
- ✓ TIMS Permit
- ✓ ACAP Permit
- ✓ Accommodation for Twin-Sharing Basis
- ✓ All Breakfasts and Dinners
- ✓ All Government Taxes
- ✓ English Speaking Road Captain
- ✓ English Speaking Tour Guide
- ✓ Motorcycle Mechanic (in the follow-up vehicle)
- ✓ 3rd Party Motorbike Insurance
- ✓ Basic First-Aid Medical Kit

Package Excludes:

- ✗ International Flight Tickets and Visa for Nepal
- ✗ Travel and Medical Insurance (Mandatory)
- ✗ Drinks/Alcohol/Lunch
- ✗ Personal Expenses and additional adventures
- ✗ Tips for Local Guides

Notes:

- You will need complete MC gear with proper hard boots with you when you come for this trip.
- We will have an experienced mechanic and all the tools stand by in the jeep. So, you don't need to worry if your motorcycle breaks on the way.
- If you, at any point, feel uncomfortable riding, you can rest or even continue on the jeep and we will help you. It's a collaborative sport so we always help each other!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Make sure you:

- Bring your complete motorcycle gear (helmet, boots, gloves, etc.)
- Arrange your personal travel and medical insurance, passport, and visa.
- Have got a valid passport and motorcycle driver's license.
- Book your flight ticket.
- Follow the (local) traffic rules, laws, and regulations as well the tour leader's instructions.
- Take care of your own equipment and motorbike. We will assist you whenever needed, but will not be held responsible for loss or damage of materials due to reckless behavior.



In most destinations, we will savor Nepali cuisine, which is influenced by Indian and Tibetan flavors and tends to be spicy (although chefs can adjust the heat upon request). Make sure to try our signature dish, Daal Bhaat Tarkari (lentil soup, rice, and curry), as well as the various scrumptious variations of mo:mo - dumplings filled with different ingredients that are a local favorite.



While we will be staying in fine hotels in Kathmandu and Pokhara, our accommodation in the higher altitudes will be very basic and among the locals. It is recommended to bring a sleeping bag for the stay in Upper Mustang.



While we have a history of safe travels without major accidents, it's always best to exercise caution. In the rare event of unforeseen circumstances, we have the option of helicopter rescue. Therefore, it's advisable to ensure your travel insurance includes coverage for high-altitude rescue. We prioritize your safety and well-being, and taking precautions is always better than taking chances.

Things to carry with you:

- Motorcycle gear: jackets, pants, boots, gloves, helmets etc.
- Rain Jacket
- Toilet Paper (for emergencies)
- Torch Light (for emergencies)
- Personal medicines
- Snacks/energy bars
- Personal towel and bathroom amenities
- Glass, Sunglass and Masks

MEET YOUR HOSTS **‘THE KHAREL FAMILY’**



Ramesh and Rita Kharel

ABOUT BAS



Profits from one of our trips sponsored a three wheel scooter to a patient with spinal injury so that he can load his wheelchair and can move freely anywhere in the city.

Rita founded BAS in 2001 to help sick and poor patients from rural Nepal coming to hospitals in Kathmandu for treatment. She provided free food and accommodation (beds) in a small flat she rented. As the demand for beds was rising, the flat could not accommodate enough people. As such, many people got together and helped BAS in building its own shelter home through raising funds, selling spices, selling bags made by women at BAS etc.

One of the big and sustainable ideas pioneered by a Swedish rider (Bjorn Carlsson) was to run MC-Trips. Over the years it has been greatly successful and our family has grown exponentially.

**PARTS OF OUR PROFIT GOES TO THE
IMPORTANT WORK OF BAS**



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