



COMMUNITY ACTION TREKS LTD

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Royal Enfield ride in the Eastern Himalayas of Darjeeling & Sikkim

Duration: 15 days land-only

Maximum altitude: 2284m

For dates and prices, please refer to our dates and prices list.



We offer the opportunity to ride the classic 500cc Royal Enfield Bullet amongst the world's highest mountains.

For those amongst you with a passion for biking who want the ultimate challenge, both long distance tarmac and off-road adventure, this is hard to beat.



The trips are exclusive and the riders are provided with classic 500cc Royal Enfield motorcycles, fuel for the entire trip, accommodation in hotels & meals. A road captain leads the group, which is followed by mechanics with a support vehicle with spares. The only thing required to bring is your riding gear and a sense of adventure.

If your heart longs to ride and explore trails on classic motorbikes, then contact us to make your ultimate adventure dreams come alive.

• Land-only prices:

The costs of international flights are less predictable than they used to be. Airlines now request full payment upfront. As a result, we will quote you a land-only cost, and quote separately for the cheapest flights we can find at the time of your booking. We will, however, require full payment for the flights prior to booking them. If you prefer to search for alternative flights yourself, we can sell you the trek at the land-only price.

• Important note – minimum numbers:

Before booking flights, please note that this trip requires a minimum of 4 participants before we can guarantee the departure at the advertised price. Please note that should you decide to book your own flights, it is essential that you check with the Community Action Treks office to ensure that the departure is guaranteed before committing financially to any flights or travel arrangements.

OUTLINE ITINERARY

Walking and journey times are approximate

Day 1: Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival in Delhi, you will be met and transferred to the hotel. There will be a short briefing about the tour with welcome drinks in the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 2: Bagdogra – Siliguri (10 km)

On arrival at Bagdogra airport we meet our escort and then drive to Siliguri which takes around thirty minutes, check in to the hotel.

Siliguri is one of the major metropolitan city of North Bengal at an elevation of 118m. It is the gateway to North East India and also a major hub of transportation to all the major cities of India as it is well connected to almost all the parts of India by road, air and train routes. After a good rest and a hearty lunch, it's time for bike familiarization, so we go for a short ride up to Coronation Bridge and back to Siliguri for the night, and make our final preparations for the trip.

In the evening there will be a briefing by the tour leader for the biking trip and introduced to all the backup team. Motorcycles will be allocated and a short introductory and familiarization ride will be arranged.

Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 3: Ride from Siliguri to Darjeeling (85km)

Early morning after a good breakfast, we get ready for the journey ahead towards the Queen of Hills. Leaving the vast concrete jungle of the plain and the scorching heat behind we ride on national highway 51, the first few kilometres we will be riding on a broad plain road till Sukna, then we enter the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary where you can feel a sudden change in climate and the concrete jungle changes into lovely mixed forest. While you are on the road a small two meters gauge railway track follow you all the way to Darjeeling and you should be careful on these lines as it criss crosses on the winding road, sometime causing two wheelers to slide. On our way to Darjeeling we stop at Kurseong for a tea break. Kurseong is a sub-district of Darjeeling at an altitude of 1458m in the heart of tea-estate country. After a rest we hit the road. From here it's only a 35km ride through beautifully landscaped tea estates and through small roadside settlements. After around 3 hours we will arrive at Darjeeling.

Situated at an altitude of 2134m, Darjeeling has been a popular hill station ever since the British established it as a rest and recreation centre for their troops over 150 years ago. Blessed with a cool climate, it has, perhaps, the most stunning view of the Kanchenjunga range. With about 100,000 inhabitants, it has a

mixed population of various races and religion living in perfect harmony. This is vividly reflected at the shrine on Observatory Hill where Hindus and Buddhists pray together. Gorkhas, Tibetan, Lepchas and migrants from the plains have made Darjeeling their home. Though Gorkhali, Hindi and Bengali are widely spoken, almost everyone understands English. Upon arrival, check into the hotel.

In the afternoon, we take a ride to the Tukvar Tea Estate, one of the pioneer tea estates in Darjeeling. Darjeeling is famous for its world quality tea production, so we stop here to visit the tea factory and to have a glimpse of how the quality tea leaves are produced. The whole process seems enchanting. Traditional methods that have been practiced for centuries are still used. After the visit we ride back to Darjeeling. The rest of the evening is free to explore the town.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 4: Full day sightseeing in and around Darjeeling

In the early morning we drive the motorcycles to Tiger Hill for the sunrise. The trip to the summit of the hill is through Ghoom, the highest railway station on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway at the elevation of 7407 feet, while the altitude of the top of this hill exceeds that of Ghoom by 1100 feet.

Apart from the sunrise, Tiger Hill also offers a magnificent view of the Himalayan range including Everest, Makalu, Lhotse and Chomolhari in the Bhutan Himalayas, and also the impressive Kangchenjunga massif.

After the sunrise and the views of the great eastern Himalayas, we then return to Darjeeling. On our way back we stop at the beautiful Yiga Chholing Monastery near Ghoom, which was founded in the year 1850 by a Mongolian Monk, Lama Sherab Gyatsho. This monastery has a 15 foot image of Jameyang (Maitreya); the Buddha of the future.

We ride back to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we drive to Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. This mountaineering school was first established in Darjeeling by late Prime Minister Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru in November 1954. Tenzing Norgay Sherpa was H.M.I.'s first Director of Field Training.

The institute is comprised of museum on mountain lore, a well equipped school for mountaineers, a hostel for students and Swiss style houses for the Sherpa trainers. A separate Everest Museum tells the story of expeditions to the world's highest peaks.

The area also houses the Himalayan Zoological Park which is home to wildlife rarely seen elsewhere. The park was established in 1958 to study and conserve Himalayan fauna

After visiting the park we then ride to Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre, established in 1959 to house refugees from Tibet, which now provides shelter to the aged in addition to housing an orphanage, a school, a hospital, and monastery which have been built for the needs of the community. Various arts and crafts such as wood carving, leather products, wool cradling and authentic Tibetan carpet weaving products are manufactured in workshops. There is also a showroom where Tibetan antiques and the finished products from the centre are sold. In this way these people sustain their livelihood, a small purchase can be a good helping hand for the community. We return to the hotel for lunch.

After a good lunch and some rest, we board the awaiting vehicle and drive to the Darjeeling Railway Station for a ride in this famous train. The "Toy Train" (officially known as the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway) continues to enliven the town and captured the visitor's imagination, as it has since it first steamed into Darjeeling Station in 1881. The DHR has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1999 – a journey on it is an experience of a life time. The train takes the visitors from Darjeeling to Ghoom and back, which takes around an hour. There is a museum of the history of this little train at Ghoom railway station.

Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Day 5: Ride Darjeeling to Rimbick via Manebhanjang (85km)

Early morning after breakfast we set out on a scenic, mountainous drive. Leaving the maddening crowd behind, and experiencing the lovely countryside of the Himalayas, we journey towards Ghoom where the road splits into two. We take the road on the right to Sukhiapokhari, (25km). Again here the road splits into two, we take the right side and follow the road till we stop at Manebhanjang. This is the Indo-Nepal border so you will need your passports to hand as we complete the usual entry formalities at the first army check post. Manebhanjang is also the trail head for one of the Singalila Ridge Trek – the most popular trek in the region. After completing the formalities we hit the road once again through the southern side of the Singalila ridge. The ride is through beautiful dense coniferous, magnolia, and alnus trees and we expect very light traffic. Weather permitting there should be views of the Khanchenjunga massif all day. We finally arrive at Rimbick.

Facing the towering Himalayas and surrounded by high green hills full of coniferous trees, Rimbick appears to be perched on the roof of the world at an altitude of 2286m. This small town is a major trade centre for the local people, as the cash crops

like potatoes, ginger, and cardamom grow abundantly here. Upon arrival, check into lodge. The evening is free to explore the town or can relax at the lodge. Dinner and overnight at lodge.

Day 6: Ride Rimbick-Pelling via Naya Bazaar (93Km)

Today will be a long ride through a typical country side of the Himalayas and through small hamlets, terraced rice and paddy fields and tea gardens. The ride immediately starts with a descent on a metalled road for 8km to reach Lodhama. From here we follow the Rammam river, which separates the two states of West Bengal and Sikkim. The ride will then be on a rough road for another 10km till Jupi through the local villages and terraced farmlands. From Jupi it is 2km easy uphill to Kajale, then from here its easy 6km all the way down to Bijanbari on a metalled road.

Bijanbari at an elevation of 768m, is a small town which will be swelteringly hot during day. We continue our ride off road till we arrive at Nayabazar. We will be entering Sikkim from this point, so we do the usual entry formalities and then ride further to arrive at Jorhang for lunch. After a good lunch and a brief rest, we take the left road to head for Legship which is around 26km flat ride running just on top of River Rangeet, passing through terraced farmland and lush sub tropical vegetation. The roads in Sikkim are in very good condition except in a few remote areas where the roads are rough, but manageable to ride. From Legship our next destination will be Pelling, which is 26 km gentle ascent all the way till we stop at Pelling. The real challenge begins as we leave the valley behind and start the ride with a gentle ascent through the winding roads and the terrace farm land. Occasionally we will be taking breaks en-route. Passing through villages, small towns, evergreen beautiful forest and mountain streams and cascades can be a life time experience in the eastern Himalayas.

On arrival at Pelling check into the hotel, evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 7: Sightseeing in Pelling and ride to Yuksom via Khecheopalri (41Km)

After breakfast we will explore the vicinity around Pelling by motorcycles.

Pelling, the gateway to the Western Sikkim is as enchanting as other parts of Sikkim, situated at an altitude of 2085m, is the second oldest capital of the kingdom of Sikkim. We get panoramic views of the Himalayan range from Pelling. Enroute to Yuksom we will visit the Pemayangtse Monastery, which literary means the "Perfect Sublime Lotus", one of the oldest and most important monasteries of the Nyingmapa order of Buddhism, and was constructed during the late 17th century by Lama Latsun Chembo. Every year, "Chaam" (mask dance) is organized here which attracts people from all parts of Sikkim to Pemayangtse.

After visiting Pemayangtse monastery we ride down to the Rabdentse Palace ruins which is hidden from the main road by the forest and is another interesting place to visit. This fort was established by the second Chogyal of Sikkim late Tensung Namgyal in the seventeenth century in order to protect its people and kingdom from the enemies. The ruins are now preserved by the Archaeological Survey of India and have been declared a national monument.

After visiting the Rabdentse Palace ruins we can also visit the Sangagcholing monastery at the top of hill, which is only a 3km ride, for the views of the surrounding area.

After exploring the area we ride back to hotel for lunch. Today's journey will be an interesting one. As we leave the town behind, the trail immediately descends gently through the cluster of wayside hotels and then through the meandering lush green hills, mountain streams, terraced rice and paddy fields, waterfalls and picturesque Sikkim villages. We first arrive at Darap a small village also a trail head for the famous Dzongri trek, pass the village down to Rimbi, another small village which boasts a hydro electric project. From here rough road begins. We continue the ride till the road splits into two we take the left split and follow the road till we stop at Khecheopalari lake, one of the holiest lakes in Sikkim. The local people believes that your wishes are fulfilled if you pray with a sincere heart. We ride back the same way, on our way we can have the glimpse of the real country side and the slow but steady life of the local people, mostly engaged in agriculture. We continue our ride up towards Yuksam, which is roughly about 13km. Yuksam all alone in solitude at an altitude of 1780m. Time permitting we visit the ancient coronation throne of the kingdom of Sikkim. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 8: Ride Yuksam to Ravangla via Tashiding (74Km)

(Note: There is an option to go for a walk to the Dubdi Monastery in Yuksom. After an early breakfast at hotel walk to Dubdi Monastery (1800m), which is located on top of a hill above the village of Yuksom, through a forested area. The walk to the monastery is a fairly steep climb through forested area and the trail is on paved stoned road though vehicles cannot ply on it. After spending some time return back to the hotel and ride to Ravangla).

OR After a leisurely breakfast, we all get ready for the journey ahead. Today our destiny will be Ravangla which is roughly 74km. The first half of the ride till Legship for 49km is mostly downhill on a tarred road and then the second half of the ride is 26km of gentle ascent on a winding route till our stop at Ravangla for the night.

Leaving the village behind, the trail gradually descends on a rough road through the clusters of wayside restaurant and hotels, then through the beautiful backdrops of the surrounding hills and the terraced paddy, rice field, small mountain streams and beautiful cascades. On our way we stop at Tashiding 20km from Yuksam to visit one of the famous monasteries of Sikkim. Tashiding monastery takes roughly about forty-five minutes walk up hill, but is now accessible by motor cycle.

Tashiding monastery, Ningmpa order of Buddhism is constructed on the top of a heart-shaped hill that looms up between the Rathong River and Rangeet River with the backdrop of Khanchenjunga. According to the Buddhist scriptures, Guru Padmasambhava blessed the land of Sikkim from this very spot on which the monastery stands. The monastery however was built in 1717 by Lama Ngada Sempa Chemo during the reign of the third Chogyal Chakdor Namgya. The monastery is also famous for the most holy chorten "Thong-Wa-Rang-to" which literally signifies "saviours by mere sight" It is believed by the Sikkim people that the mere act of beholding the chorten washes away the entire sin of a person. Beside this there are various other chorten dedicated to various religious personalities and some Chogyal.

After our visit to the monastery, we come down then continue our ride through the winding forest road and pass through small villages. Arrive at the junction a few meters above Legship, we take the left road. From here, the road gradually ascends all the way till Kewzing through cardamom groves and monasteries and en-route we also come across the one and only "Bon" monastery where we make a brief stop as it is very close to the road. We take a lunch break before or after arriving at the small town of Kewzing. From Kewzing it is 10km easy ride on the ridge. Views from this side are also spectacular.

On arrival at Ravangla, we check into hotel. Ravangla at an elevation of 2080m lies on the ridge and is fast becoming a popular tourist destination for its serene natural beauty. Evening at leisure. Dinner and overnight at resort.

Day 9: Ride Ravangla to Gangtok (65Km)

Leaving the sleepy town behind today's trail immediately descends all the way to Tharku 20km through beautiful lush green valleys, small hamlets, vast terraced farmland, small mountain streams and lush green tea gardens. Arriving at Tarku we continue further 6km on a gradual trail across the Teesta river to arrive at Singtam, one of the small towns of Sikkim where we cross the National Highway 31. When riding on this highway we should be extra careful as the taxi drivers from Sikkim are known for their speed and drive really fast on these winding roads. From Singtam it is only 29km to reach Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. Upon arrival check into the hotel.

Gangtok is situated at an altitude of about 1780m and with a population of approximately 50,000 people is the tiny Capital city of Sikkim. Gangtok means "hill top" and this little capital of Sikkim is perched high on ridge of the valley. Gangtok is full of brightly coloured houses and is happy bustling place where one will meet Nepalese, Bhutanese, Lepchas, Tibetan and even Bengalis from the plains especially during the tourist season.

Evening free to explore the town.
Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 10: Half day sightseeing in and around Gangtok (on bike)

Since Gangtok is a small town we can visit the monastery and other places of interest by bike. Early morning after a leisurely breakfast we set out to explore the surrounding area, first we will be visiting the Tashi view point, a vantage point to see the majestic Kanchenjunga, but this time from a different perspective. We continue our ride to another view point at Ganesh tok, to have a bird's eye view of the Gangtok city. After a short break at the view point we continue our ride. En-route we stop at one of the famous monasteries of Sikkim, the Enchey monastery which is situated adjoining the Siniolchu Tourist Lodge, 3km from Gangtok town. This monastery is an important seat of the Nyingmapa order of Buddhism, the Enchey Monastery is built on the site blessed by Lama Druptob Karpo, a tantric master known for his power of flying. This 200 years old monastery has in its premises images of gods and goddesses and other religious objects. Every year, around January, the religious mask dance "Chaam" is performed with great fanfare for two days.

After visiting the monastery we continue our ride. We visit the famous Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology (SRIT). Situated at Deorali, It was formally known as the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology after a the late Chogyal of Sikkim, Palden Thondup Namgyal whose brain child it was, the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, has since become one of the most prestigious depositories of Tibetan literature, rare manuscripts, fresco paintings, thankas, statues and other works of art and history.

This institute was established to promote research on the language and traditions of Tibet as well as the Mahayana sect of Buddhism. There are about 30,000 volumes, mostly xylograph (xylograph are documents that are printed using wooden slabs that have the matter embossed on them in the reverse) translation of the original teachings of the Lord Buddha, and treatises by distinguished Buddhist scholars from different part of the world. The museum at the institute consists of rare collection of antiques like statues, coins, and thankas. This institute is a premier institute in the world that conducts research in the language and culture of Tibet. It has on its faculty eminent scholars. The foundation stone of the institute was laid in February 1957 by

the Dalai Lama and it was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in October.

After visiting the SRIT, we ride back to hotel for lunch, after lunch free to explore the town and perhaps to go shopping. Meanwhile all the bikes will undergo a thorough check up, as maintenance is very important on a long tour for your safety and convenience.
Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 11: Ride Gangtok – Kalimpong via Rumtek (80Km)

Early morning after a leisurely breakfast, we once again get ready for the journey ahead. Today we will be again entering into West Bengal (India), so keep your passport handy. You also need to produce your passport while entering the Rumtek monastery. En-route we visit one of the most famous monasteries in Sikkim, the Rumtek Monastery which is about 45 minutes ride on the hill opposite Gangtok. It is the Dharma Chakra Centre and the seat of His Holiness the Gyalwa Karmapa who is the head of Kagyupa order of Buddhism.

His Holiness Dusum Kyenpa, the first Gyalwa Karmapa, founded the Karma Kagyu sub sect in the 12th century AD. He was known for his great accomplishment and was popularly called the knower of three times. He founded the Tsurpu monastery in Tibet, which is the seat of all the Gyalwa Karmapas. And so the legacy of the Gyalwa Karmapa began.

In 1961, along with a number of monks, spiritual leaders and followers from Tibet, the secretary to the Gyalwa Karmapa commenced work. Special pujas were held for months before the foundation stone of the Dharma Centre was laid where the Gyalwa Karmapa sanctified the near by areas as the Mandala of the Chakra Sambara. Actual work began in 1962. It took six year to complete the construction of the Dharma Chakra Centre.

After visiting the monastery, we continue our ride through the lush green hills, mountain streams and terraced farms and passing through the country side on a winding road can be life time experience. Once we reach Rangpo, we do the usual check out formalities at the check post. Then we continue our ride on national highway 31 running just on top of River Teesta, till we finally arrive at Kalimpong.

Kalimpong at an elevation of 1250m is a quiet hill town which caters to the needs of the hill people who inhabit this mountain world. It is the centre of a small scale industry area specializing in the requirements of the Buddhist faith - thanka scroll, prayer flags, and ceremonial scarves. These products are then supplied all over the Buddhist region of the north east Himalayas, including Sikkim and Bhutan. Somehow, the quilted carpet tea estate landscape, so common in the west part of Darjeeling district, rarely makes its appearance in Kalimpong. As a result, more fruits and vegetables are grown, making this area relatively self sufficient. Kalimpong is also

famous for flowers nurseries specializing in orchid, cacti, anthuriums and gladioli etc.

Upon arrival we check into hotel where we have lunch. After lunch we ride to Durpin Dara a vantage point, to have a bird eye view of the town, adjacent to the view point is the famous Zong-Dog Palri Fo-Brang Monastery, this time will be the best as we may have a chance to see the evening prayer performed by monks. Then we ride back to hotel and rest of the evening is free to explore the town. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 12: Ride Kalimpong-Algarah-Lava (32 Km)

Today, we just cover a short distance of 32km to have a break from the regular ride.

After a leisurely breakfast, once again we get ready for the ride towards Lava a total distance of 32km on a gradual road, but soon as we leave the town behind the trail slowly ascends through the lush green hills, bamboo grooves and small towns to Algarha 20km from the starting point. From here the trail immediately descends gradually through the army area, the ride is interesting as you will be passing through beautiful forest area with very light traffic, passing through some of the most interesting ethnic groups of Lepcha people and their villages. We can stop to explore the vicinity as these people were the indigenous people of Sikkim and its surrounding area. We continue our ride till we finally arrive at Lava.

Lava, situated at an elevation of 2181m, is another small hamlet, fast becoming a major tourist destination due to its close proximity to Neora Valley National Park. This place is a paradise for naturalists, botanists and ornithologists. Lava stands hidden behind the hills; its beauty lies in its solitude tranquillity and serene environment. It is still not commercialized by large numbers of tourists. It is home to many indigenous plants and trees, and a wide variety of birds. The evening is free to explore the village.

Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 13: Ride Lava to Garubathan –Damdim-Bagrakot-Sevok-Siliguri(96 km)

Early morning wake up with the chirping of birds. Today we will be riding around 96km towards our last destination Siliguri.

Today we will be leaving the hill station behind and will be going down to the plains. So there

might be a huge change in the weather pattern. Once we hit the road we will be passing through some of the most pristine and beautiful forest in the region. The ride will be easy as most of the steep climbing will be behind us. We journey through the forest and tiny settlements until we finally arrive at the foothills of the Himalayas, at Garubathan.

Garubathan a small hill station north east of Kalimpong is at an elevation of 416m, at the foot of the Himalayas on the east bank of Neora River. Among the local the place is also known as Sombare, the name has its origin in the weekly village market, which is organized here every Monday. We will be stopping for lunch at a suitable point where we can relax and enjoy our lunch.

We hit the Indian roads through the tropical forest and the lush green valleys towards our last destination - Siliguri. We continue to ride on a gradual metalled road till we meet the NH31 at Damdim which is 10km from Garubathan. We then follow on the NH31 for another 10km to reach Bagrakot, and continue for another 15km crossing the coronation bridge to reach Sivoke. We stop at Mongpong, a nice picnic spot by the river where we can have our lunch. After lunch we continue through the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary. Once we are through the forest area, civilization slowly comes in sight, the traffic might be frustrating so we need to be extra careful. On arrival at Siliguri we check in to the hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

In the evening we will have our last dinner with the back up team and kitchen staff and bid farewell to all those helping hands that has made your trip a success.

Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Day 14: Drive Siliguri to Bagdogra (10Km) and fly to Delhi

After breakfast we make the final adjustment to pack up the bikes, board the awaiting vehicle then drive about 35 minutes toward Bagdogra, 10km from Siliguri. We fly to Delhi and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 15: Depart India

Transfer to the international airport to catch the flight back home.

Important Note: Whilst we expect that the tour will run as per the itinerary, participants should accept that there is a possibility of changes being necessary subject to local conditions.

The cost includes:

- Return transfer between international airport in Delhi to the hotel
- Return transfer between hotel in Delhi to the domestic airport for the flight between Delhi and Bagdogra
- Airfare for the sector Delhi / Bagdogra / Delhi (Airfare subject to change)
- Transfer from Bagdogra airport to Siliguri in a non a/c vehicle accompanied by an English speaking representative.
- Hire of Royal Enfield motorcycles for the ride for 18 days
- Cost of fuel for motorcycles for the entire trip
- 1 road captain and mechanic for the entire trip
- Support of non a/c vehicles for the rides from Siliguri to Bagdogra.
- Hotel accommodation throughout the trip on a shared room basis as itemised in the itinerary
- All meals

The cost excludes:

- India entry visa fee.
- Personal insurance.
- Items of a personal nature such as bar bills, alcoholic beverages, bottled drinks and mineral water, extra mileage etc.
- Personal gratuities such as tips to guides, riders, drivers and hotel staff
- Cost incurred due to damage / breakdown of motorcycle on en-route.
- Costs incurred due to natural calamities, strikes, break-downs beyond the control of the agent and its associates.

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