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Annapurna Circuit Biking Tour

URL: https://himalaya-discovery.com/trip/annapurna-circuit-biking-tour/

Trip Code
WTE-305

Destination
Nepal

Activity
Nepal Tour

Duration
19

Region
Annapurna

Trip Overview

Annapurna Circuit Biking Tour is an extraordinary trip that takes you to some of the most amazing and exotic biking routes in Nepal. Annapurna Circuit biking tour follows the same trail as Annapurna Circuit trekking.

The trail passes through a variety of different landscapes, from lush subtropical rainforest, deep valleys and cultivated fields, to wooded alpine and high deserts.

We visit many different villages, meeting the local hill tribes and enjoying frequent spectacular views of massive Himalayan peaks, including the Annapurnas and Manaslu.

We reach the lowland villages, dense oak forests, deep gorges and lovely isolated hamlets to the lap of the mighty high mountains and the Tilicho lake – one of the highest altitude freshwater lakes.

To top it all, the crossing of the Thorong La pass (5,416m) is a challenging ascend, surrounded by some of the most magnificent mountain sceneries in the world. We begin our mountain biking trip after a day of sightseeing in Kathmandu. First we reach Besisahar via ground transportation, from where we begin biking anti-clockwise around the Annapurna massif.

The Annapurna Circuit biking tour trail climbs gradually, allowing us to acclimatize to the high altitude, as we travel along the Marsyangdi Valley. After the crossing of the Thorong La, we descend to Muktinath, one of the most important Hindus and buddhist pilgrimage sites.

We descend down the valley reaching the Kali Gandaki River, with its panoramic views of Machhapuchhre (the “Fishtail”mountain) and Tatopani (hot spring). We finally return to Kathmandu on private transportation to celebrate our achievement.

Itinerary

Day 01: Arrive in Kathmandu.

Upon your arrival in the Kathmandu airport after completing your custom formalities Visa, etc. pick up your luggage and look for our airport representative from Himalaya Discovery, who will display your name on the board at the arrival gate.

You will be greeted by our representative and transferred to your hotel by private tourist vehicle.

Highest Altitude:
1400m

Day 02: Free in Kathmandu for sightseeing and pre trip briefing and gear check.

Today is free for sightseeing in Kathmandu. You may wish to visit Durbar Square in the heart of the old city where the old Royal Palace, with its intricate woodcarving is located. The whole area is a maze of temples and images. Leading away from the square in all directions are narrow alleys, full of the most amazing variety of shops and stalls.

Some of these landmarks are considered World Heritage Sites including the historic Bhaktapur Durbar Square, the famous ‘Monkey Temple’ Swayambhunath and Buddhists shrine Buddhanath which is one of the largest Stupas in the world.

There will also be a full trip briefing today with gear check. In case you need to hire or buy equipment locally there will be time to do this today.

Day 03: Ride from Kathmandu to Nagarkot via Bhaktaur.

Today, you check the bikes and equipments, after which we ride due east to the medieval town of Bhaktapur, an ancient city full of Newari culture.

There are many temples and squares here that we will have time to explore. From here we head north-east to the beautiful Nagarkot hilltop on an excellent and quiet tarmac road.

Nagarkot is the best destination to acclimatize and warm up before the Annapurna Circuit biking trip.

Trek Distance:
38 km

Highest Altitude:
2175m

Accomodations:
Hotel

Day 04: Ride back from Nagarkot to Kathmandu via Shanku.

We descent on Jeep tracks through the ancient village of Shanku where we will have lunch and then ride back to Thamel, Kathmandu. We lose elevation on the down hill tracks, which at some points require technical skills.

You will find yourself amidst massive stretches of farms. In fact, a considerable amount of rice and vegetables supplied to Kathmandu comes from Sankhu.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:
34 km	1300m

Day 05: Drive from Kathmandu to Besisahar.

Early in the morning, we set off to Besisahar, which is the starting point of our biking trip. We prepare for the tour, arrange porters, equipments, and so on. Optional warm-up ride in Besisahar.

Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
760m	Guest house

Day 06: Besisahar to Jagat.

The trail soon turns to rough jeep track, and follows the course of the Marshyangdi River along the right side of the valley. We ascend steeply, gaining 800m in elevation.

The first day is the perfect prelude to more thrilling riding in the days to follow.

Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
1360m	Guest house

Day 07: Jafat to Tal.

After some 7km the jeep track runs out and whence it is 11km of mainly push and carrying the bike up the steep rocky trails with a final 1km descent into the flat valley surrounding Tal.

We are welcomed by marvelous sites and the remoteness of the region.

Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
1700m	Guest house

Day 08: Tal to Chame.

Leaving Tal, there is a mani wall (dry stone wall inlaid with Buddhist prayer slates) in the middle of the path. These should always be passed on the left going clockwise. After going through green corn, barley and potatoes field, the valley becomes narrow again.

From Tal to Danaqu it will involve a large percent of push / carry with a very steep hard climb out of Danaqu. From here though it becomes more rideable with closer views of snow-capped peaks and a wide flowing trail to the finish.

After a hard day's work to reach Chame, bikers can relax by the hot spring on the other side of the Marshyangdi River, enjoy baked bakery product, or even e-mail home from an internet café.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
21 km	2620m	Guest house

Day 09: Chame to Pisang.

Ascend through pine forests as the trail open into a fertile agricultural valley. Rice fields and cow pastures mark a rather more hospitable stretch of terrain.

The dirt trail leads you through villages and settlements, and you get the opportunity to meet with friendly locals and snotty children.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
17 km	3230m	Guest house

Day 10: Pisang to Manag.

The route goes through a dense forest in a steep, narrow valley and crosses the river via two bridges, one at 2,910m and the other at 3,030m. The trail continues along the river to Pisang, where the altitude is enough to bring on the first symptoms of altitude sickness or AMS.

From Pisang, the route follows through a wide valley that opens up ahead of us. Bikers will pass through Humde (the highest commercial airport in the world) and Braga with its monastery rooted in Tibetan religion.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
19 km	3540m	Guest house

Day 11: Acclimatization and Rest day at Manang.

It is necessary to spend a rest day here to acclimatize. Ascending too rapidly could have potentially fatal

consequences.

There are many short excursions possible from Manang and remaining active is encouraged to aid acclimatization.

Accomodations:
Guest house

Day 12: Manang to Yak Kharka.

Today we leave Manang through narrow, medieval-looking streets and then climb steadily up to Khusang.

Although the trail is more rideable above Khusang (3,900m), the altitude now takes effect and pedalling becomes a very hard work.

It is advised to go slowly enjoying the scenery and culture of this region.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
15 km	4010m	Guest house

Day 13: Yak Kharka to Thorong Phedi.

We continue to ascend to higher altitude, and thus make our ride more strenuous as we reach Thorung Phedi.

It is important to remain physically and mentally prepared for the highest climb of the following day.

Take it easy and enjoy the scenery as we forsake distance for altitude. The scenery of the mighty hills surrounding you is sure to impress.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:
12 km	4450m

Day 14: Thorong Phedi to Kagbeni via Thorung-La pass.

A 4am start is necessary to cross the Thorong-La Pass: the trail can get windy later making it difficult to cross the pass. It will take approximately 4 hours to reach the top (approx 3km) and will be 100% carry for bikers. The effects of altitude can now be fully felt.

Once at the top, the trail descends rapidly on a very steep slope (technical riding) for approximately 45 minutes to Muktinath (3,800m) and then on a less extreme gradient on fast, wide flowing trails to the valley floor, where we will be greeted by the medieval village of Kagbeni, last stop before entering Mustang.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
22 km	5416m	Guest house

Day 15: Kagbeni to Tatopani.

Today we will descend from snow capped peaks to tropical lowlands. Leaving Kagbeni the trail follows a wide and flat river bed leading into the cobbled streets of Jomsom, with its bustling markets and airport.

The trail then follows rough and rocky jeep tracks, descending through villages such as Marpha, and Khopang.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
42 km	1190m	Guest house

Day 16: Tatopani to Beni and drive to Pokhara.

As we descend the temperature increases and the trail becomes less rocky. From Beni the final 15km is a long an undulating track that follows the course of the river and passes through paddy fields, lined with banana plants.

Once at Khaniya Ghat we will rejoin the paved road, where a bus will be waiting for us to transfer to Pokhara.

Trek Distance:	Highest Altitude:	Accomodations:
35 km	830m	Hotel

Day 17: Free day in Pokhara.

We back to civilization, the place for hot showers, cold beers and great food. Pokhara is the chill out town of Nepal, strolling around the shops or perhaps some adventure is more to your liking, half day rafting trips, paragliding or sightseeing Pokahara valley, are other options to fill in your day.

Accomodations:

Hotel

Day 18: Drive back to Kathmandu.

We depart at approximately 7.30 am for Kathmandu by tourist bus. We arrive back in Kathmandu at around 2-3.00 pm.

Highest Altitude:
1400m

Day 19: Free day / Fly to home.

Today is rest and relax throughout the day. If you get interested to take some gifts from Nepal for friends and relatives, visit to some nearby shops or go out in Thamel for typical Nepalese goods.

In the evening we will have a farewell dinner in a traditional Nepalese restaurant with cultural performances.

Day 20: Fly to home.

The trip concludes, our airport representative will drop you to the airport for your flight departure from Nepal.

Price Includes

- Airport pickup and drop by private car / van / bus.
- 2-nights hotel accommodation in Pokhara with breakfast.
- Three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner) during the trip.
- Hot drinks. (tea, coffee, hot milk, hot chocolate) three times a day.
- All accommodation during the trip.
- All necessary paperwork for the Annapurna conservation permit .
- Trekking information management system (TIMS) permit.
- From Pokhara – Kathmandu by deluxe tourist bus.
- English speaking, trained government license holder biking guide.
- Porters to carry your luggage during the trip. (1 porter for 2 people).
- 1 guide for up to 4 pax
- 1 guide and 1 assistant guide for 7 to 12 pax
- 2 guides for 10 to 20 pax
- 2 guides and 1 assistant guide for 15 and above
- Mountain bike for the number of days riding. The brands include Cube, Trek and Giant hard tail or full-suspension bikes, depending on your choice.
- Accommodation / salary / food / drinks / insurance / equipment / medicine and transport for staff.
- Sleeping bag (if it is required).
- All government taxes.
- Farewell dinner with culture show.

Price Excludes

- International airfare and Nepal visa
- Travel insurance which covers emergency Rescue and Evacuation.
- Biking attire and other personal gears.
- Tips for biking staff and driver (tipping is expected).
- Others expenses not mentioned on the Price Include section.

Address

Nagarjun 5, Swayambhu
Kathmandu, Nepal