

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023
CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Re-exploring the epic hippie trail of India

“[India is] the One land that all men desire to see, and having seen once, by even a glimpse, would not give that glimpse for all the shows of all the rest of the globe combined.”

- Mark Twain -



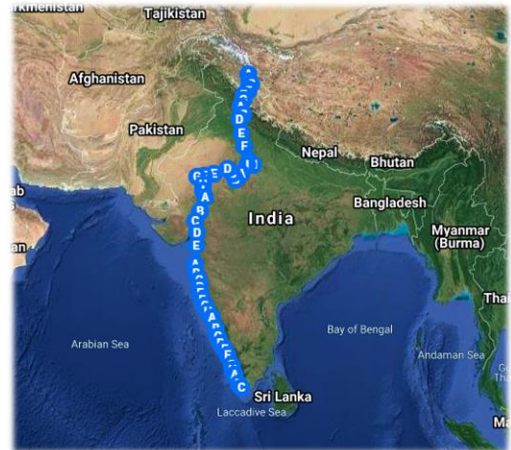
india

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AT A GLANCE

For the intrepid traveler who is looking for a lifetime cycling adventure, it's happening right here in India. The mega cycling expedition will scale the entire Indian sub-continent from North to South. Let go of the challenging terrain, noises, and chaos while we lead your way. Soak in the colors of Indian villages, the vibrant culture, festive people, breathtaking nature, historical monuments, heritage living, and aromatic cuisines.



We start from the Great Himalayan corridor - Leh, riding down the Zaskar and Pir Panjal Ranges towards the Indo Gangetic plain and further towards the capital state of New Delhi. Then, we ride the golden triangle route to witness the iconic Taj Mahal, the Tiger Capital Ranthambore, and the grand provinces of Rajasthan viz Jaipur, Pushkar, Jodhpur, and Udaipur. We will traverse across the rustic villages of Gujarat, the metropolis of Mumbai in Maharashtra, and head towards the Konkan coast. Further, we ride from sunny Goa to spiritual Gokarna and Mangalore. Then, we traverse across the Malabar Coast of Kerala - God's own country. We ride across the land of Zamorin alongside the forts and beaches, with the view of the myriad backwater rivers, mangroves, and coconut lagoons. We ride through the Ayurveda hub of Nattika towards the colonial city of Fort Kochi and embark on the traditional houseboat cruise across the Vembanad lake in Alleppey. We ride across the cliffside beach of Varkala towards the scenic Kovalam beach to end the epic ride. Here, we will have a grand celebration dinner at the beach resort to commemorate the Great India Cycling chapter. We will spend an additional day relaxing at the Kovalam beach before saying goodbye to the incredible friends made on the bicycle and packing our memories for the next adventure.

In addition, the trip follows a more fascinating course by closely knitting unique experiences like visiting the Buddhist Gompas of Ladakh, camping in the Himalayan foothills with the starlit sky, visiting the Mughal remains of Old Delhi, Chandini Chowk, and Agra, visiting the Rajput forts and staying in royal palaces of Rajasthan, introspection of the Dharavi slum in Mumbai, serene beaches of Goa and Gokarna, the unique seafood and culture of Malabar coast, sightseeing of colonial Fort Kochi, houseboat cruise in the backwaters and relaxing at the Varkala and Kovalam Beach.

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OUTLINE ITINERARY

Day	Date	Location	Hotels	Meal Plan	Itinerary / Activity	Cycling Distance (Kms)
Day 1	30-Aug-23	Leh	The Grand Dragon	D	Arrive and Briefing	
Day 2	31-Aug-23	Leh	The Grand Dragon	B L D	Cycle fixing and day out	
Day 3	01-Sep-23	Lato	Camping	B L D	Cycling	72
Day 4	02-Sep-23	Debring	Camping	B L D	Cycling	69
Day 5	03-Sep-23	Whisky Nallah	Camping	B L D	Cycling	70
Day 6	04-Sep-23	Sarchu	Camping	B L D	Cycling	55
Day 7	05-Sep-23	Jispa	Camping	B L D	Cycling	79
Day 8	06-Sep-23	Manali	Manuallaya	B L D	Cycling	100
Day 9	07-Sep-23	Manali	Manuallaya	B	Free day (optional Sightseeing)	
Day 10	08-Sep-23	Mandi	Visco Resorts or Rajmahal Palace	B L D	Cycling	110
Day 11	09-Sep-23	Arki	Baghal Valley Resort	B L D	Cycling	108
Day 12	10-Sep-23	Shimla	Snow Valley Resorts	B L D	Cycling	40
Day 13	11-Sep-23	Chandigarh	Velvet Clarks Exotica	B L D	Cycling	115
Day 14	12-Sep-23	Karnal	The Vivaan	B L D	Cycling	113
Day 15	13-Sep-23	Delhi	Radisson Blu or ITC Maurya	B L D	Cycling	155
Day 16	14-Sep-23	Delhi	Radisson Blu or ITC Maurya	B	Free day (optional Sightseeing)	
Day 17	15-Sep-23	Mathura	The Radha Ashok or Brijwasi Centrum	B L D	Cycling	140
Day 18	16-Sep-23	Agra	Clarks Shiraz or Taj Agra	B L D	Cycling	60
Day 19	17-Sep-23	Bharatpur	Udai Vilas Palace	B L D	Cycling	55
Day 20	18-Sep-23	Karauli	Bhanwar Vilas Palace	B L D	Cycling	125
Day 21	19-Sep-23	Ranthambore	Tiger Den	B L D	Cycling	100
Day 22	20-Sep-23	Talabgaon	Talabgaon Castle	B L D	Cycling	82
Day 23	21-Sep-23	Jaipur	Suryaa Villa	B L D	Cycling	90
Day 24	22-Sep-23	Jaipur	Suryaa Villa	B	Free day (optional Sightseeing)	
Day 25	23-Sep-23	Pushkar	Pushkar Fort Jagat Palace	B L D	Cycling	150
Day 26	24-Sep-23	Khejarla	Fort Khejarla	B L D	Cycling	120
Day 27	25-Sep-23	Jodhpur	Ratan Vilas	B L D	Cycling	90
Day 28	26-Sep-23	Dhamli	Fort Dhamli	B L D	Cycling	110
Day 29	27-Sep-23	Kumbal Garh	Kumbal Garh Forest Retreat	B L D	Cycling	90
Day 30	28-Sep-23	Udaipur	Udaikothi	B L D	Cycling	95
Day 31	29-Sep-23	Udaipur	Udaikothi	B	Free day (optional Sightseeing)	
Day 32	30-Sep-23	Modasa	Midas touch Resort	B L D	Cycling	160
Day 33	01-Oct-23	Nadiad	Hotel Cypress	B L D	Cycling	110

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Day 34	02-Oct-23	Bharuch	Regenta Central Harimangla	B L D	Cycling	145
Day 35	03-Oct-23	Valsad	Janki Resort	B L D	Cycling	145
Day 36	04-Oct-23	Mumbai	Taj or Trident	B L D	Cycling & Transfer	125
Day 37	05-Oct-23	Mumbai	Taj or Trident	B	Free day (optional Sightseeing)	
Day 38	06-Oct-23	Murud Janjeera	Gold Swan Beach Resort	B L D	Cycling	75
Day 39	07-Oct-23	Harihareshwar	Tranquil Beach Resort	B L D	Cycling	60
Day 40	08-Oct-23	Kurde Beach Dapoli	Lotus Eco Beach Resort	B L D	Cycling	60
Day 41	09-Oct-23	Ganpatipule	Blue Ocean resort	B L D	Cycling	100
Day 42	10-Oct-23	Ganpatipule	Blue Ocean resort	B	Free Day	
Day 43	11-Oct-23	Ambolgad Beach	Samindar Beach House	B L D	Cycling	83
Day 44	12-Oct-23	Malvan	The Windmill Resorts	B L D	Cycling	110
Day 45	13-Oct-23	Goa Anjuna	Casa Anjuna	B L D	Cycling	102
Day 46	14-Oct-23	Goa Anjuna	Casa Anjuna	B	Free day (optional Sightseeing)	
Day 47	15-Oct-23	South Goa Agonda	Agonda Paradise	B L D	Cycling	84
Day 48	16-Oct-23	Gokarna	Sanskriti Resort	B L D	Cycling	100
Day 49	17-Oct-23	Kundapura	Blue Waters	B L D	Cycling	106
Day 50	18-Oct-23	Mangalapuram	Golf Finch	B L D	Cycling	90
Day 51	19-Oct-23	Nileshwar	Kanan Beach Resort	B L D	Cycling	85
Day 52	20-Oct-23	Nileshwar	Kanan Beach Resort	B	Free Day & Sightseeing	
Day 53	21-Oct-23	Thalasserry	Pearl View Regency	B L D	Cycling	80
Day 54	22-Oct-23	Calicut	Taj	B L D	Cycling	80
Day 55	23-Oct-23	Nattika	Nattika Beach	B L D	Cycling	115
Day 56	24-Oct-23	Fort Cochin	Dutch Bungalow	B L D	Cycling	60
Day 57	25-Oct-23	Alleppey	Citrus	B L D	Cycling and Day Cruise	60
Day 58	26-Oct-23	Varkala	Deshadan Cliff Beach Resort	B L D	Cycling	110
Day 59	27-Oct-23	Kovalam	Uday Samudra Beach Resort	B L D	Cycling	54
Day 60	28-Oct-23	Kovalam	Uday Samudra Beach Resort	B D	Cycle packing and Celebration Dinner	
Day 61	29-Oct-23	Depart		B		

*Ctrl + Click on 'Hotel' links for more information on Accommodation on respective days.

*Booking is subject to availability of Accommodation.

*B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner.

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TOUR OVERVIEW

- Activity - Cycling Challenge
- Destination - India (Leh to Kovalam)
- Duration - 60 Nights, 61 Days
- Total Cycling Days - 50 Days
- Total Cycling Distance - 5000 Kilometers approx.
- Terrain - Varied, from Mountain to Hilly & Flat coastal
- Climate - Tropical
- Comfort Level - 4/5
- Activity Level - 4/5
- Fly in - to Delhi International Airport & further to Leh Airport
- Fly out - of Trivandrum International Airport
- Group Size - 02 - 24 riders
- Cost - USD 7500/- per person

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Witness and experience Incredible India all across
- Prime destinations, innate attractions and offbeat experiences
- Vibrant heritage, culture, people and cuisines
- Cycling through the Magical Himalayas
- Rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk Market Delhi
- Visit the Symbol of Love - Taj Mahal
- Jeep Safari at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve
- Witness the forts and palaces of Royal Rajasthan
- Cycling along the enchanting Konkan Sea Coast
- Cycling along the Malabar coast famous for its unique culture and seafood
- Houseboat Cruise at the Backwaters of Alleppey
- Select comfy and serene accommodation in varied properties
- And much more that we can mention in the trip highlights...



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CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM

INCLUSIONS

- Experienced & First aid trained Tour leaders and guides
- Service of expert Bike Mechanic
- Accommodation in twin room as per itinerary
- Most meals as per itinerary
- Grub: Refreshments & water in plenty
- All transport including support vehicle, taxis and coaches
- Cycling and local visits as per the itinerary
- Interstate Permit, Toll & Parking Charges
- Airport Transfers
- Government Taxes

EXCLUSIONS

- Travel insurance
- Flights
- Visa and entry clearing fees
- Liquors, beers and bottled beverages
- Gratitude to Guide and Driver
- Any shopping, Personal expenses, Laundry etc
- **Entrance fees to visit monuments, museums, forest etc (to be paid directly by the guest)**
- **Modern cycles (Cannondale Trail 6 / equivalent) are available on hire for a supplementary cost of USD 500/- for the entire tour.**
- **Essential bike spares & accessories are also available at supplementary cost (only the actual cost of the item will be charged)**

NOTES

- Accommodation will be provided in mentioned hotels or of the same category based on availability.
- Any additional expenses due to local strike, flight cancellation or any unforeseen circumstances will be in addition to the given cost.
- It is highly recommended to arrive a couple of days earlier from the start date of the tour for general acclimatization at the high-altitude Himalayan town of Leh.
- During the tour, considering the safety of our guests, we will be arranging transfers to the respective hotel before you enter busy cities like Delhi, Jaipur, Mumbai etc and also for some sections of reserve forest / restricted area where cycling is not allowed.

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Cycling along the magical air and Buddhist prayer flags of Leh

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1: LEH, LADAKH

Arrive at the Himalayan hamlet of Leh

We highly recommend you to arrive (own), a couple of days earlier for general acclimatization at the high-altitude Himalayan town of Leh. We will be happy to pick up; the rest of the group (on Day 1), from Leh airport and drive to the hotel nearby. Amazed by the bird's eye view of infinite Himalayan peaks from above the clouds, it feels different while you land at the barren cold desert town of Leh with thin air. It is unlikely that a major town would exist here at 3500 m above sea level. However, this ancient town was right there from being the seat to Ladakhi Kings and a major stopover in the Indo-Chinese Trade route during earlier times to this date. Upon reaching the quaint hotel with royal elegance, you can relax with the view of the distant snowcapped mountains and the rustic settlements nearby. Evening the group briefing on the epic cycling journey across India is scheduled followed by a customary dinner.

Accommodation	The Grand Dragon
Meals	Dinner
Activity	Pick up from Leh Domestic airport

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Winding roads to Khardung La Pass

DAY 2: LEH, LADAKH

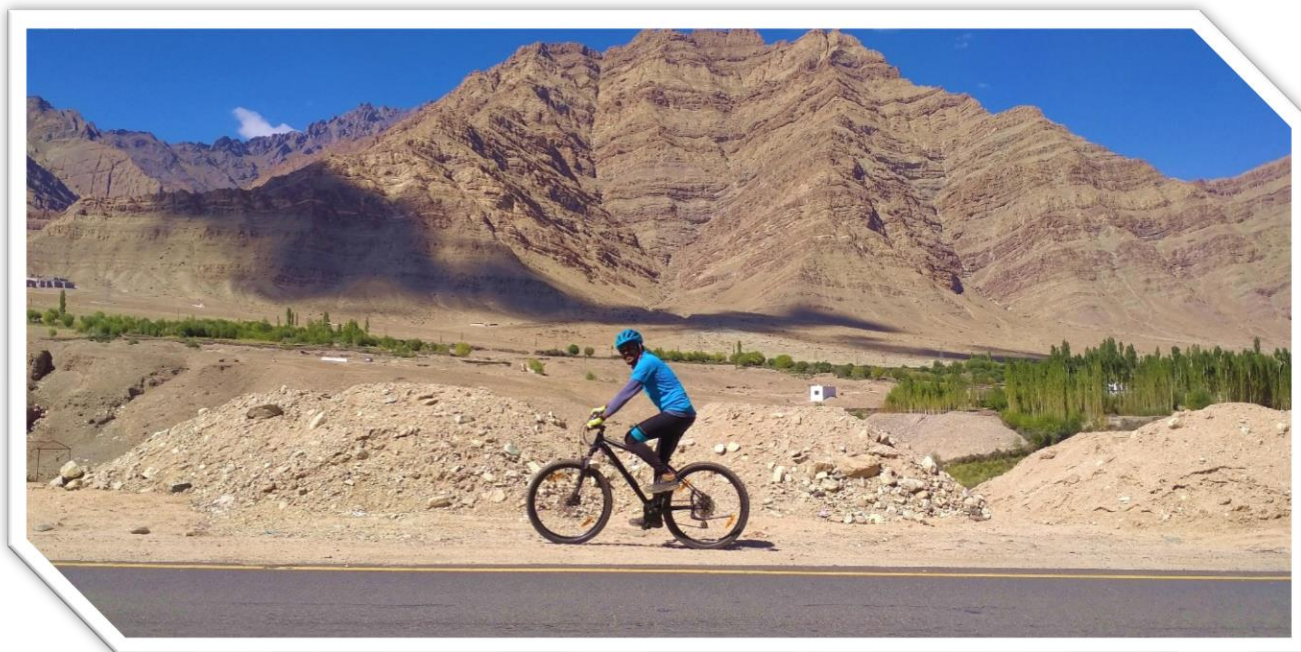
Cycle fitting and sightseeing of the cultural town

After breakfast, the Cycle fitting is scheduled. Once we are done with the bikes, it's time for sightseeing around Leh. This includes the Leh palace, ancient monastery, Buddhist temple and museum of the Indian Army. We can also go for an optional warm-up ride to Khardungla Pass, the world's highest motor-able pass – 5602 m above sea level. It is the gateway to Nubra valleys and the Siachen Glacier in the north and Shyock region in the east. These strategically important roads are maintained by Border Roads Organization, an infrastructure building wing of the Indian Armed Forces. We will transfer you for a day out, all the way uphill towards the pass while the oxygen and temperature level will drop gradually as we ascent. The narrow and winding road is smooth till South Pullu. Here we will stop for police clearance. Further, we drive on rough and bumpy roads (14 kms) with the rock-cut mountains on one side and deep valleys on the other side. Reaching on top of the Khardung La pass, we will be rewarded with the breathtaking view of the valley, and the snowcapped peaks of the Zaskar range. After spending comfortable time, we start our warm-up ride downhill back to Leh.

Accommodation	The Grand Dragon
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycle Fitting & Day Out, Downhill ride from Khardung La Pass (Elevation: 3500 m Cycling distance: 40 kms) Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads

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CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Arid mountains roads and settlements

DAY 3: LATO, LADAKH

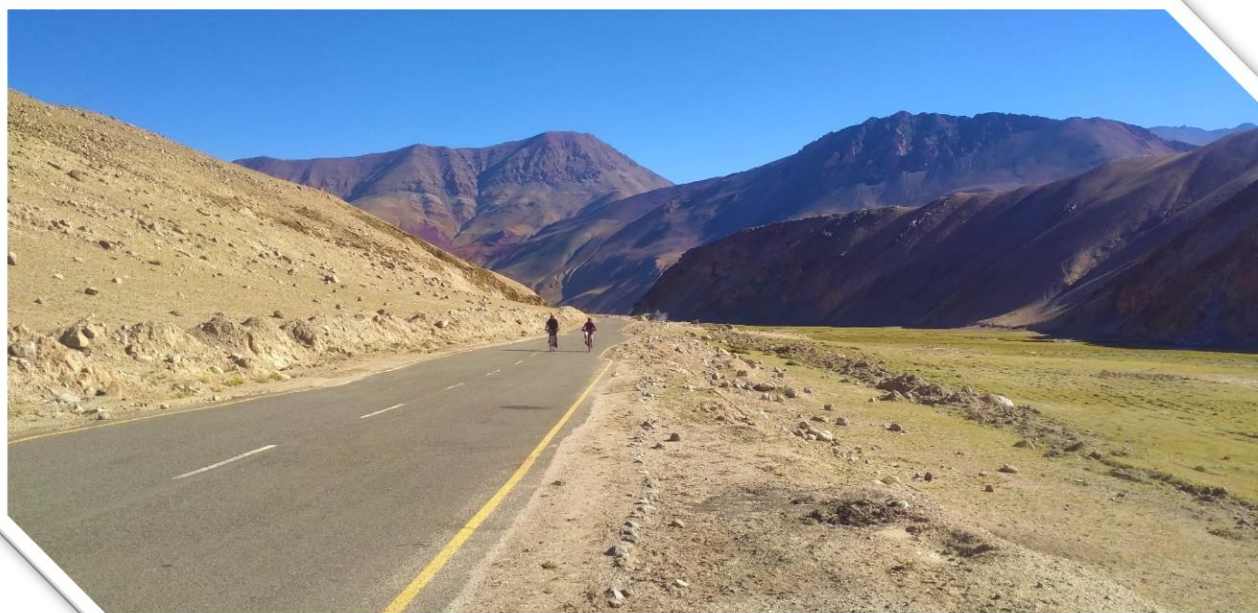
Cycling along the Buddhist Gompas and scenic valley

The morning after breakfast, we start the amazing cycling on the high-altitude Manali Leh Highway. We transverse on a combination of downhill and undulating mountain roads with less traffic. We ride alongside the winding Indus river and through its rustic valley. Our ride will progress with the view of Leh town, Leh golf course, Army camp, small settlements, snow mountains, scenic viewpoints and remote Gompas enroute. Important being the Shey Monastery or Gompa and the palace complex, noteworthy for its giant gold-gilded copper statue of the seated Shakyamuni Buddha. Further on the way, we visit the Thiksay Monastery or gompa towering on the hilltop which resembles the iconic Potala Palace in Lhasa (Tibet). We leave the Indus river at Upshi and cut across the craggy mountains and scenic valleys towards the quaint Himalayan village Lato. Here, we spend overnight at a makeshift camp with a beautiful view of the starry sky. The temperature will drop considerably at the night till morning.

Accommodation	Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 72 kms, Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads, Undulating

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The cold desert terrain of Ladakh

DAY 4: DEBRING, LADAKH

Cycling across the scenic high mountain pass of Taglang La

This morning we start cycling towards the high mountain pass of Taglang La (5328 m). We ride across Gya and Rumste villages, the last human settlement on the Leh Manali highway. You ride along arid plains, mountain villages, army camps and occasional pasture lands with a view of snowcapped mountains. The ride will be fascinating with scenic views and smooth roads. After 35 - 40 Kms ascending the numerous zig-zag stretches with small streams cutting across, we reach the spectacular Taglang La Pass. The high pass is blessed with a breathtaking view of the surrounding snow-capped peaks and valleys. Crossing the pass is quite thrilling, however, you will realize that the air is thin to breathe. Later, we will slowly start descending towards our stopover destination – Debring. We refresh, relax and spend overnight at the outdoor camp here.

Accommodation	Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 69 kms, Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads, Uphill and Undulating, downhill towards end

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The broken roads to Whisky Nallah

DAY 5: WHISKY NALLAH, LADAKH

Cycling to the craggy and arid backyard of Lachungla Pass, Ladakh

Today, we cycle along the distant Tso Kar Lake also known as 'White Lake' because of the salt deposits all over its shores. The local nomadic populations are guardians of the lake and its surrounding area. The region around the lake is rich in flora, wildlife and different species of birds. The most spotted mammal here is Kiang (Tibetan wild ass). Further, we start riding on a gradual climb for the first 60 kms. We ride through rough gravel roads with numerous hairpin bend towards the Pang village, crossing a network of streams on the typical Army-engineered iron bridges. Traversing the undulating mountain terrain roads for another 10 kms, we ride along the small villages and towns, with the view of scenic landscapes, Buddhist temples and Dhabas (local roadside eateries). The vast craggy and arid terrain with little vegetation appears strikingly in contrast with the bright blue sky and the ever-drifting puffy white clouds. Crossing the Lachulung La pass, we ride a few kilometers downhill on hairpin bend roads to reach Whisky Nallah. Here, we spend overnight at the remote camp surrounded by picturesque hillocks.

Accommodation	Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 70 kms, Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads with numerous hairpin bends, Uphill and undulating, downhill towards end

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Winding roads and high mountain passes

DAY 6: SARCHU, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Cycling along the stunning landscapes to Sarchu through Nakeela Pass

Today, we will ride on a combination of uphill, undulating mountain terrain roads. Initially, we ride a few kilometers to the Nakeela top before the exhilarating downhill ride through the Gata Loops (21 hairpin bends). The road conditions will not be ideal with gravel and occasional non-tarmac roads. Further, we traverse gradual uphill for approx. 40 kms along the course of the Tsarap river. Crossing many bridges, we enter the gateway to the mountain state of Himachal Pradesh. The ride further will be fascinating with views of mountains landscapes, scenic viewpoints, remote villages, Hindu temple, dhabas, till we reach the Camp at Sarchu. Here, we spend overnight under the starry sky. The place has one of the most beautiful views of different mountain ranges along the Leh Manali Highway.

Accommodation	Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 55 kms, Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads with numerous hairpin bends, Uphill and Undulating, downhill towards end

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

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Cycling along the mesmerizing Pir Panchal ranges

DAY 7: JISPA, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Cycling along verdant valleys, forested mountains of Baralachala pass

Today, we ride across the Baralachala Pass along the mesmerizing Suraj Tal lake and an army hospital. The first stretch of 25 Kms will be uphill and undulating mountain roads. Initially, ride past the local restaurants of the Zing Zing Bar, a favorite stopover for travelers. We traverse the scenic valleys with hairpin bends and enjoy the stunning view of the verdant forested Pir Pancha mountain range. The view of snowcapped mountains, scenic lakes, rustic villages Buddhist monasteries, local temples, and colorful campsites along the way will be rewarding. Crossing the Baralachala pass, we ride downhill along the Chandra river crossing the huge Barsi Bridge at Darcha. Following the course of the river, we reach our next destination Jispa. Here, we end today's ride at a peaceful campsite for an overnight stay.

Accommodation	Camping
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 79 kms, Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads with numerous hairpin bends, Uphill and Undulating, downhill towards end

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Valley view cycling towards Himachal along the river

DAY 8: MANALI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

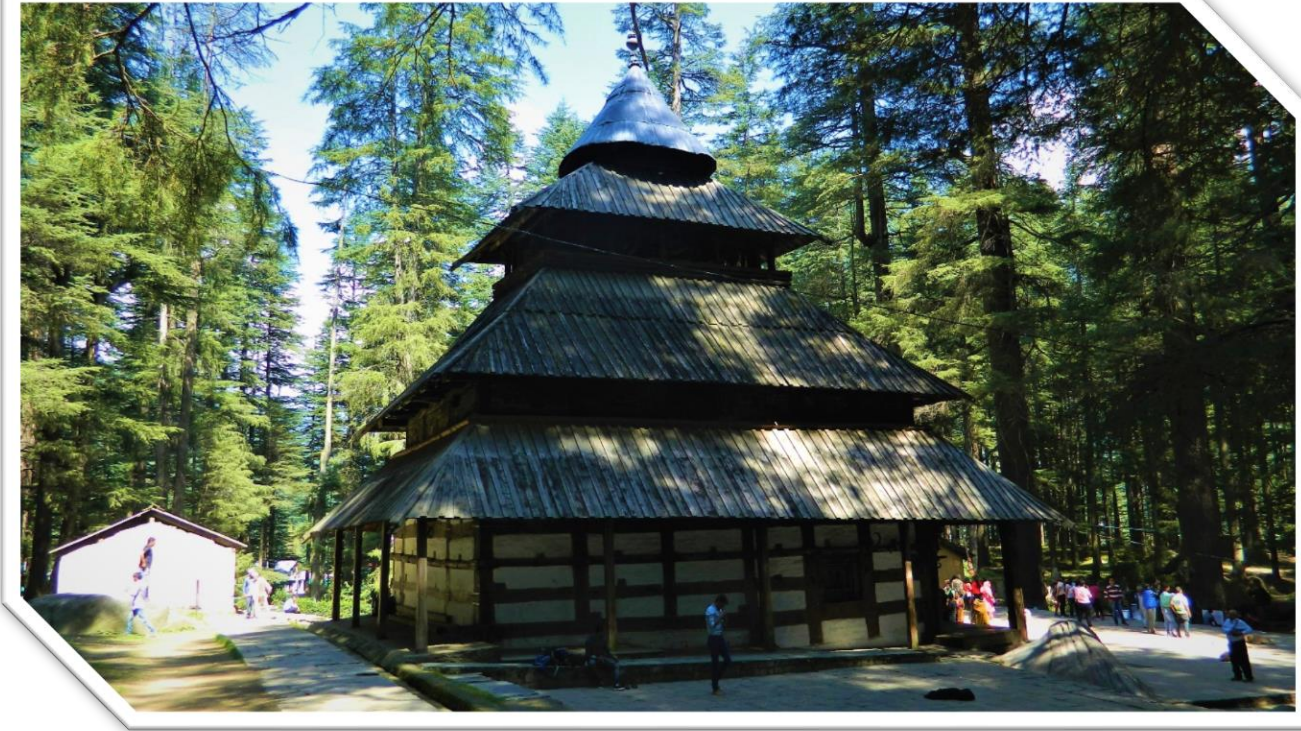
Cycling through the scenic mountain routes and Bhaga river valley

Morning, we ride across the mountain villages of Keylong and Tandi. Here, the Chandra River meets Bhaga River and makes Chandra-Bhaga River; when it enters Jammu and Kashmir it is known as Chenab River. Riding along the river across Tupchiling, Khangsar and Sissu, we reach the newly commissioned Atal Tunnel, the longest highway tunnel in the world. The 9 km tunnel will help us cross the Rohtang La (3979m), a high mountain pass in the region that remains closed for more than six months due to heavy snowfall. Crossing the tunnel, we reach the scenic Solang valley, a favorite destination for paragliding. The spectacular views of the snowcapped mountains perched with pine trees, picturesque valleys, and quaint Himalayan villages with vegetable fields, apple orchards are so surreal to reenergize any fatigued rider. We reach Manali towards the end of our ride. Here, we spend overnight at a comfy hotel.

Accommodation	Manuallaya
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 100 kms, Terrain: High Altitude Mountain roads with numerous hairpin bends, Undulating, downhill towards end

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The primeval Hadimba Devi temple, Manali

DAY 9: MANALI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Day out - Hadimba Temple visit and short trek to Jogini waterfall

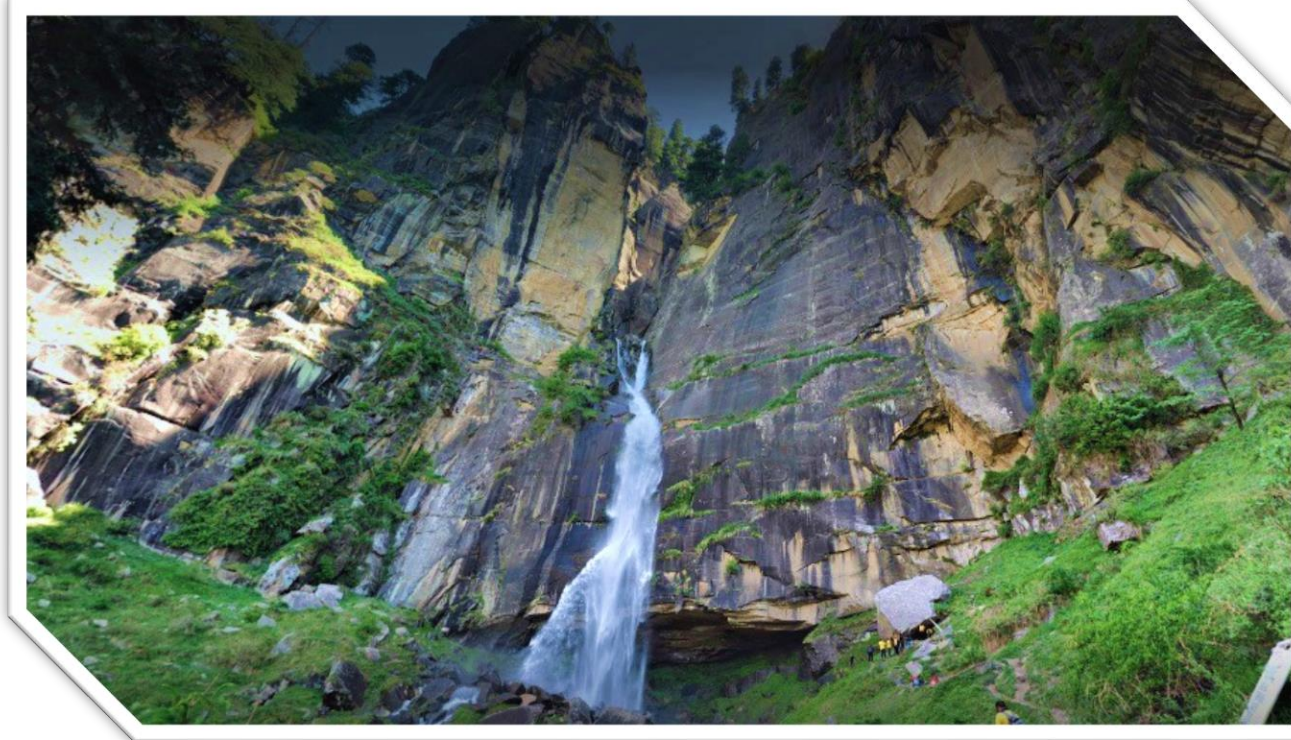
Today is a break day and sightseeing of Manali is scheduled.

Hadimba Temple: To start with, we will visit the Hadimba Temple. The 16th century-built temple is nestled amid a beautiful deodar forest on a hilltop. The temple is dedicated to the Goddess Hadimba who was also the wife of the strongest of the Pandava brothers, Bhima, according to the Hindu mythology Mahabharata. The temple holds great significance for locals and tourists alike. A vast number of pilgrims visit here to seek blessings from Goddess Hadimba.

Jogini falls: Jogini Falls is situated on the Northern edge of Vashisht Village and marks the village boundary. The waterfall cascades down from a height of around 150 feet through multiple levels. There is a small pool at the base formed by the fall and visitors can spend some time taking a plunge in the water. (Please note that the flow of the water is heavy in monsoons. Hence, it is suggested not to venture into the water during this time.) Jogini Mata temple is located at the base of the waterfall. It is an important sacred site for the surrounding villages. The locals bring their children for their first tonsure here.

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The picturesque Jogini Falls, Manali

The trek to Jogini Falls: This is one of the best short treks in Manali to enjoy scenic nature, village life and local culture in the lesser Himalayas. The trek route passes through a narrow lane adjacent to the Vashisht temple and goes through the apple orchards, tall pine trees and small water streams. On the way, a few local restaurants and guest houses can also be seen. A gentle walk for an hour will take you to the base of the waterfall and another 15 minutes towards the top of the waterfall. This easy yet exciting trek can be completed in 3 hours starting from Vashisht Temple. The whole trek route is abundant and scenic and takes you through the rustic villages aligned with the sprawling valleys.

Accommodation	Manuallaya
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Sightseeing

Continued/-

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

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Cycling to Mountain Village of Mandi

DAY 10: MANDI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Cycling to the cultural town of Himachal

We start riding through on a combination of both uphill and downhill terrain on the state highway and village roads. We pedal through the rustic villages and towns of Naggar, Kullu and Bhuntar with the view of picturesque mountains and valleys perched with apple orchards, deodar and pine tree forests. We ride along the Beas river, river camps, rafting spots, scenic viewpoints and local temples. We traverse mostly on the inclined terrain from Bajaura town up to Tihri for approx. 20 kms to reach Mandi. This picturesque hill retreat nestled on the bank of river Beas is the cultural capital of Himachal, often called Varanasi of hills. Mandi is also a trade center for agricultural produce and timber with its Hand-loom weaving and handicrafts being the primary cottage industry. Here, we spend overnight at a serene resort with a view of the narrow Suketi khad river from your window.

Accommodation	Visco Resorts or Rajmahal Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 110 kms, Terrain: Mountain roads, Undulating

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling to Arki along the river valley

DAY 11: ARKI, HIMACHAL PRADESH

The rocky mountains and deep caves of Arki

Today, we ride through a combination of undulating and downhill terrain. We ride on the highway and village roads further following the course of the Suketi river with the view of scenic mountain landscapes, local temples, viewpoints, lakes and forest vegetation. Leaving the Suketi river at Pungh village, we will cross the Sutlej river and ride to our next destination Arki in the Solan district. Arki enjoys good weather in summer, however, the winters are cold. The rocky mountains, deep valleys with caves and many cave temples, rich floral beauty and bird life make the place unique. Arki was the capital of the erstwhile princely state of Baghal. The place is also known for the Arki palace fort built in 1695 by the king of Baghal, the Lutru Mahadev cave temple built in 1621 and the Sair festival which marks the end of the harvest season. Bullfights in Arki are one of the major attractions organized during the festival.

Accommodation	Baghal Valley Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 108 kms, Terrain: Mountain roads, Undulating

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling to exotic hill station

DAY 12: SHIMLA, HIMACHAL PRADESH

Cycling to the Himalayan Foothill haven

Today, we ride towards Shimla, the capital of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, in the Himalayan foothills. The ride will be comparatively shorter through the winding roads with a view of majestic mountains and lush green valleys. Shimla - Once the summer capital of British India, it remains the terminus of the narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla Heritage Railway, completed in 1903. It's also known for the handicraft shops that line The Mall, a pedestrian avenue, as well as the Lakkar Bazaar, a market specializing in wooden toys and crafts. Here, we settle at a small yet comfy resort with the view of a misty valley perched with pine trees.

Accommodation	Snow Valley Resorts
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 40 kms, Terrain: Mountain roads, Uphill and undulating

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The ethnic Sikh sadhu

DAY 13: CHANDIGARH, HIMACHAL PRADESH **Cycling to the planned city of Chandigarh**

The morning after breakfast, we start our ride to traverse through a combination of flat, downhill and undulating terrain. We ride mostly on the highway through villages along the scenic mountain landscapes and many tourist homes. We will also witness the Kaushalya dam and the river at Pinjore as we progress our ride towards Chandigarh, located at the Shivalik foothills. This futuristic city was formerly designed by the Swiss-French modernist architect, Le Corbusier. Apart from the city's distinguished architecture and buildings like Capitol Complex, High Court, Secretariat, Legislative Assembly and giant Open Hand Monument, it is also famous for clean roads and greenery. Here, we spend overnight at a cozy business class hotel.

Accommodation	Velvet Clarks Exotica
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 115 kms, Terrain: Undulating hilly roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling through rustic villages

DAY 14: KARNAL, HARYANA **Cycling to the agrarian town of Karnal**

Today, we ride along the state borders of Punjab and cross into the state of Haryana. The terrain will be a combination of flat and undulating roads through villages and cities of Ambala and Kurukshetra. It is believed that the historic battle of Mahabharata befallen at Kurukshetra. We will witness friendly waving villagers, local temples, wayside shops, cultivated lands and the sacred Yamuna river along the way. We reach the bustling city of Karnal, also known as the 'Rice Bowl of India' for being the producer of Basmati rice of premium quality. Apart from its rice production Karnal also leads in the production of wheat and milk. We end today's ride at a gleaming luxury hotel by the highway for an overnight stay.

Accommodation	The Vivaan
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 113 kms, Terrain: Flat village roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling along the sacred river of Yamuna

DAY 15: NEW DELHI **Cycling to the capital state of India**

Today, we progress our ride again through a combination of flat and undulating terrain. We ride south, parallel to the course of the sacred Yamuna river, mostly on highway and village roads with moderate traffic. We traverse through the major towns of Panipat, Sonipat and small settlements along the agricultural lands, local temples, motels and dhaba (roadside restaurant). We will culminate our ride at Rai which is the Delhi Border. To avoid heavy traffic, we will board the transport for a 2-hour drive to the Capital state of New Delhi. Here, we spend overnight at a grand hotel with a whole round view of the city.

Accommodation	Radisson Blu or ITC Maurya
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 155 kms, Terrain: Flat suburb roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi

DAY 16: OLD DELHI

Sightseeing - Monuments and the old-world charm of Delhi

Morning, you will go for a guided sightseeing tour to witness the city life of the Capital state, explore its local market and witness the timeless monuments here. First, we drive to historic Old Delhi to visit Jama Masjid and walk through the Chandni Chowk Market. We can also try out a cycle rickshaw ride through the bustling market. Later, we will stop at the historic Kareem's Restaurant famous for its Mughal Cuisine and have lunch. After lunch, we will resume the sightseeing tour of New Delhi with a drive past the Presidential Palace, the National Parliament, the Jaipur Column, the India Gate, the prestigious Chanakyapuri Embassy District and more. We will further visit the Gandhi Museum, the Humayun's Tomb and the Lotus Temple. We will wind up for the day at a cozy city hotel.

Accommodation	Radisson Blu or ITC Maurya
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Sightseeing

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Rustic countryside roads to Mathura

DAY 17: MATHURA, UTTAR PRADESH

Cycling to the holy city and birthplace of Lord Krishna

Today morning, we will transfer you to the outskirts of the city to avoid the traffic. Then, we start cycling to the sacred city of Mathura, for an approx. 80 kms. The terrain will be a combination of slightly undulating and flat roads along the basin of river Yamuna. We will ride through villages with the view of wheat, barley and mustard. Mathura hailed as the birthplace of Lord Sree Krishna is one of the seven sacred cities in India and an important pilgrim center for Hindus. Here, we will visit Shri Krishna Janmasthan temple (birthplace of Lord Krishna). You can also try out the local delicacy, the Rabri. This famous food of Mathura is condensed milk served in an earthen pot with Kesar, spices and nuts. We will settle down at a comfy hotel in Mathura.

Accommodation	The Radha Ashok
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 140 kms Terrain: Slightly undulating and flat suburb roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The Mughal wonder of the world - Taj Mahal

DAY 18: AGRA, UTTAR PRADESH

Cycling to the marvelous marble wonder on earth

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel before we take on the road towards Agra. The terrain will be a combination of slightly undulating and flat roads further along the basin of river Yamuna. We will ride through villages and cultivated lands for approx. 60 kms to reach Agra. Agra is a small town renowned for its monuments, especially the Taj Mahal, one of the seven wonders of the world, and also for the exemplary marble stone works. We will visit the Taj Mahal in the evening or the next day morning depending on the day (as the monument is generally closed on Friday). Taj Mahal is undoubtedly one of the most awesome and extravagant monuments ever built. The mausoleum was constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife. Built between 1631-1653, the complex is magnificent and contains thousands of semi-precious inlaid stones. The day in Agra will also include a visit to the Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site that was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty until 1638. You can also try out the local delicacy – Petha, a sweet made from white pumpkin. We spend overnight at a Boutique hotel in the city.

Accommodation	Clarks Shiraz or Taj Agra
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 60 kms, Terrain: Flat suburb roads along the river, Taj Mahal Visit.

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling with school children

DAY 19: BHARATPUR, UTTAR PRADESH

The Birding hotspot of Bharatpur

We start cycling from Agra initially through suburban roads and further on backroads. The road will be mostly flat with a view of agricultural lands, women carrying fodder for cattle and water, heaps of sugarcane, local temples and shops. pass through many small villages. We reach Fatehpur Sikri, the red sandstone city built by Mughal Emperor Akbar in the 16th century. The ancient city is enclosed by an 11 km fortified wall and comprises architectural wonders like the imperial gate, the royal palace with different halls, separate sections for the empress, wind tower with garden, mosque and a tomb. Riding across small villages, we now enter the royal state of Rajasthan. We end today's cycling at the ancient city of Bharatpur and spend overnight at a comfy hotel here. Afternoon, we can cycle to the world heritage site of Keoladeo National Park. This birding destination is home to 350 species of birds and thousands of birds flock here during the hibernal season.

Accommodation	Udai Vilas Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 55 kms, Terrain: Flat countryside roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling through the rustic village roads

DAY 20: KARALI, RAJASTHAN

Cycling to the offbeat village of Karali

Leaving the avifauna-rich wetlands of Bharatpur, we ride through many rustic villages. We can see and experience the way of life around this region as we ride deeper into the state of Rajasthan. We ride on scenic backroads and state highways for approx. 80 kms passing through agricultural fields especially mustard, alongside small temples, herds of cattle and curious villagers. The route is free of traffic until we reach Masalpur after which we will be passing through the busy town. We end our ride at the erstwhile Palace of the rulers of Karali, presently converted into a heritage hotel. Here, we will be greeted traditionally with Tikka (marking on forehead) and Arti (waving of lighted lamp). We spend overnight for an unforgettable stay at the palace hotel. A cooking demo of traditional cuisine is also on the menu before the dinner.

Accommodation	Bhanwar Vilas Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 125 kms, Terrain: Slightly undulating suburb roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Wildlife safari at Ranthambore

DAY 21: RANTHAMBORE, RAJASTHAN

Cycling to the grand tiger capital of India

Today, we will continue cycling to Ranthambore National Park / Tiger Reserve. We ride on a combination of undulating and flat rural roads through villages and fields for approx. 100 kms. We reach the foothills of the Aravalli mountain range and ahead and atop of us lies the biodiverse Ranthambore forest reserve. It is one of the prime centers of Project Tiger's conservation efforts in Rajasthan & a favorite haunt of wildlife buffs & professional wildlife photographers from around the world. Here, you can opt for a Jeep Safari (optional) to spot wildlife especially the tigers, one of the most magnificent animals of India, which has long fascinated people with its awesome power and beautifully striped coat. There are also many other species to see including sambar deer, cheetah, wild boar, leopard, sloth bear, jackal and hyena among others. The scenic national park is known for its largest tiger population and also is one of the biggest national parks in India covering 1334sq kms. We spend overnight at a nature resort in the area.

Accommodation	Tiger Den
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 100 kms, Terrain: Undulating and flat backroads, Optional Jeep Safari

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Happy vibes with the local men

DAY 22: TALABGAON, RAJASTHAN **Ride through the vast agrarian countryside**

Today, we start our ride on undulating backroads through villages along the vast agricultural fields, local temples and settlements. You will realize that agriculture and cattle rearing are the major occupations of the residents here. The young and the old alike with the help of their cattle contribute to agriculture immensely. Modern farming with the aid of equipment is gradually replacing the traditional way of farming. We cross small rivers, irrigation canals and waterholes to reach the settlement of Lalsot under the Northern Aravalli mountain ranges. We further ride to the nearby rural village of Talabgaon, a city that inherited the rich culture of the Rajasthan region, reflecting the ancient Indian way of life. It is also known for its distinctive music and dance forms which have a major role in local traditions and celebrations. We will be staying overnight at a 200-year-old fort restored into a Heritage Resort.

Accommodation	Talabgaon Castle
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 82 Kms, Undulating and flat backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling across the cultivated lands

DAY 23: JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Cycling to the pink city of Jaipur

After breakfast, we will start cycling to Jaipur – the vibrant capital of Rajasthan, also popularly known as the ‘Pink City’. Our ride will progress on village roads and state highways with undulating and flat terrain. You will ride through the rustic countryside and scenic local villages with the view of marble quarries, temples and agricultural fields. After riding for approx. 100 kms, our driver will meet us in the evening and you will be transferred to the hotel in Jaipur. We will spend overnight at a heritage-style boutique hotel. The remarkable artwork, traditional interiors and modern facilities of the hotel will make your stay at Jaipur the utmost memorable.

Accommodation	Surya Villa
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 90 Kms, Slightly undulating and flat backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The grand Amber fort of Jaipur

DAY 24: JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Sightseeing - Palaces and fort of Jaipur

We begin the day by visiting the famous Amer Fort which combines both Mughal and Rajput architecture. The grand fort overlooking the Maota river is made out of red sandstone and marble. Next, you will visit Jantar Mantar, a collection of astronomical instruments also featuring the world's largest stone sundial. Here on, we will visit the Jaipur markets which showcase the rich colors and vibrancy of Rajasthan. Walk in the lanes and bazaars of old Jaipur to see artisan shops, temples and traditional houses. If time permits, we can also visit the Hawa Mahal – the most prominent and distinctive landmark of Jaipur.

Accommodation	Suryaa Villa
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Sightseeing

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling through the agrarian villages

DAY 25: PUSHKAR, RAJASTHAN **Cycling to the vibrant city of Pushkar**

The town of Pushkar is known for its vibrant history, the mix of Muslim architecture and Rajput building which makes it different from the rest of the places you see. Today's ride will take you on the backroads which wind through interesting rustic villages. We pass through Kishangarh famous for its marble quarries and ride the final stretch of lesser Aravalli hills valleys to reach the pilgrim city of Pushkar. Here, we go on a sunset walk around the sacred lake, an optional hike to the hilltop to visit one of the very few temples dedicated to Lord Brahma, explore rose farms by camel cart, or cycle to discover nearby shrines and holy places. Ajmer Sharif Dargah is the most sacred of all and pilgrims from all over the world visit the holy shrine. Pushkar is also known for the annual camel fair in the month of October or November and attracts a humongous number of buyers and spectators. We settle at a palace-style resort in cozy rooms with classic interiors and a panoramic view of the hills and dunes westwards from its rooftop.

Accommodation	Jagat Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch
Activity	Cycling 150 kms, Terrain: Undulating backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Rajasthani village women in their traditional wear

DAY 26: KHEJARLA, RAJASTHAN **The non-touristy trails to the royal Fort Khejarla**

We will ride the undulating backroads along the majestic Aravalli ranges through numerous settlements and endless agricultural lands. We cross the Luni river which is the main source of irrigation in the region. You will pass through a rural setup and witness small temples, Havelis (traditional houses) and forts in sandstone as well as modern houses too. We will reach the village of Khejarla and settle down at the 400-year-old grand red sandstone fort, an epitome of Rajput architecture. Khejarla Fort is now converted into a heritage stay with its timeless grandeur and the company of the royal family. Here, one can go for a village heritage tour to meet the local artisans and visit the 600-year-old Durga Temple, or have a look at the ghost's step well, Marwari horse breeding farm, Pipar market or opt for camel safari.

Accommodation	Fort Khejarla
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 120 kms, Terrain: Undulating backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling through the sunny routes to Jodhpur

DAY 27: JODHPUR, RAJASTHAN **Cycling to the blue city of Jodhpur**

Today we ride to the flat backroads to the second-largest city in Rajasthan – Jodhpur. Cycling along the route, you will notice that the intensity of farming will decrease and the shrub vegetation is predominant as we travel westwards closer to the Osain and Thar desert known for the dunes and ruined temples. The princely state was historically the capital of the Kingdom of Marwar and is built around the majestic hill fort of Mehrangarh. Other attractions are the royal Umaid Bhavan Palace and the Jaswant Tada shrine. Jodhpur is also the hub of handicrafts like tie-dye textiles, camel leather products, metal antiques, wooden carvings and traditional jewelry. We will stay overnight at the heritage hotel made with the stunning red sandstone reflecting the traditional architecture of the region, with beautifully designed and decorated rooms and modern amenities.

Accommodation	Ratan Vilas
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 90 kms, Terrain: Flat backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

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Goat farmers of rural Rajasthan

DAY 28: DHAMLI, RAJASTHAN

Cycling to the old-world charm of Dhamli Village

It's time to leave the grand city of Jodhpur and head back towards the scenic Aravalli hills. We cross the Luni river again, the Khejarli village, Bishnoi temple and ride southwards on flat roads. Now, we have the Aravalli hills in sight while cycling along the golden yellow mustard fields. You can see local inhabitants going on their daily agricultural chores and the camel carts carrying fodder and goods. We cycle along Sardar Samad Lake and Marwar crossing the Bandi river to reach the Dhamli. The small rustic village is the seat of the Rajputs of the Rathore dynasty and Champavat clan. They were fearsome fighters and defended the territory against the Hans and Maratha invasions with their lives. Here we stay overnight at a tranquil and humble heritage stay with home-cooked meals.

Accommodation	Fort Dhamli
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 110 kms, Terrain: Undulating backroads

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Cycling to the Aravalli ranges to Kumbalgarh

DAY 29: KUMBALGARH, RAJASTHAN

Cycling to the foot land town of Aravalli Mountain Range

Today, we ride on undulating and uphill backroads across scenic villages, irrigation canals and farmlands to reach the Kumbhalgarh fort complex. The 15th century built Mewar Fort with its 36 Kms long walls is the 2nd longest in the world. There are also as many as 360 temples (mostly Jain and rest Hindu temples) inside the fort complex. The majestic fort separates the Mewar from the Marwar region and from atop, one can look deep into the captivating Aravalli ranges and also the dunes of the Thar desert. The Kumbalgarh fort along with 5 other forts in Rajasthan are listed as UNESCO world heritage sites. Here, we spend overnight at the eco-retreat nestled between the Aravali Mountains, Kumbhalgarh Forest, and Kelwara Lake. One can also go for an optional wildlife jeep safari to witness native species of the region, predominantly the leopards who prey on animals like sambhar, nilgai, Indian hare etc.

Accommodation	Kumbalgarh Forest Retreat
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 90 kms, Terrain: Uphill and Undulating backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

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Cycling along temples, forts & Havelis

DAY 30: UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Cycling to the lake city of Udaipur

Today, you will ride on a combination of hilly and undulating terrain towards Udaipur. We transverse through the dry deciduous forests of the rolling Aravalli Mountain range along many rivers, lakes, waterholes and irrigation canals. This is a section of the tour where you get to ride through fascinating hilly roads and valleys of the oldest fold mountain range in the world. You ride with the view of scenic countryside along lush agricultural lands and local temples of the erstwhile Mewar region. We ride across Rajsamand to reach the iconic white city of Udaipur. We end our ride at an enchanting boutique hotel by the scenic Pichola Lake. Here, you can witness Rajasthani Folk dance and cultural show before resting for the night.

Accommodation	Udaikothi
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 95 kms, Terrain: Undulating backroads

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Cycling along the lake city of Udaipur

DAY 31: UDAIPUR, RAJASTHAN

Sightseeing of the white city - Udaipur

After breakfast, you will be guided to the city's highlights including the famous Udaipur City Palace as well as the local markets before visiting the Jagdish temple. The Jagdish Temple in Udaipur city is an imposing structure and one that was built in the late 17th century. It is an important attraction for its unique architecture & structural highlights. The City Palace at Udaipur was built over 400 years and the complex consists of various smaller palaces atop a hillock. The Palace is considered the largest amongst the many palaces in the entire state of Rajasthan. After the visits, we go for a heritage walk in the evening to visit Bagor ki haveli to witness the Dharohar dance show. The Dharohar Dance Show is very well organized starting with a brief introduction given by a Rajasthani woman dressed in traditional Rajasthani attire. The performances are preceded by the beating of a drum, blowing of a conch shell and a religious song. Further showcasing well-choreographed dances ably supported by the musicians playing Tabla and harmonium. The women performing wear typical Rajasthani folk costumes with colorful Ghagra cholis embodied with glass work and embroidery work.

Accommodation	Udaikothi
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Sightseeing

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

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Bullock cart for rural transportation and logistics

DAY 32: MODASA, GUJARAT

Cycling to the sunny state of Gujarat

Morning, we ride down south to the mineral-rich Dungarpur region in the Aravalli mountain range, popular for the green marble. We ride on a combination of undulating, hilly and downhill terrain through village and forest roads along the Som river. We further ride southwest to cross the Rajasthan state border towards Modasa - a small village in the Aravalli district of Gujarat state. Gujarat is known for its vibrant culture, colorful festivals, unique flora and fauna and also immense technological advancement. We traverse on a combination of undulating and flat terrain through rural villages and backroads. We will ride along the Meshwo reservoir, local temples and agricultural lands. We wind our ride at the serene resort located in the heart of Aravalli hills. The unique location of the resort offers a panoramic view of the tranquil landscape of northern Gujarat.

Accommodation	Midas Touch Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 160 kms, Terrain: Undulating and downhill backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Rustic cycling towards Nadiad Gujarat

DAY 33: NADIAD, GUJARAT **The emerging city of Nadiad**

Morning, we ride south from Modasa to Nadiad city, the administrative center of Kheda district in Gujarat. This is a low-lying area located between the Vindhya mountain range and the Gulf of Khambhat. We ride on flat back roads across small rivers, irrigation canals, peaceful villages, agricultural lands and local temples. Though the area is predominantly under cultivation, you will notice significant modernization across the state. We will cross the Narmada canal, the second-longest contour canal in the country (532 kms long) and the major source of irrigation. A pilot project to generate solar power by installing solar panels over the canal is also underway. We ride through modern settlements and industrial areas to reach Nadiad. We spend overnight here at a cozy hotel close to the city.

Accommodation	Hotel Cypress
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 110 kms, Terrain: Flat highways and backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Backroads cycling to Bharuch

DAY 34: BHARUCH, GUJARAT **Cycling to the ancient seaport town of Bharuch**

Today, we ride from Nadiad to Bharuch town located at the mouth of the Arabian sea where the Narmada river exits. Bharuch was also an ancient shipbuilding and trading center and had trade relations with the Arabian Peninsula and the west. Initially, we ride on flat suburb roads across the city of Anand, the milk capital of India and the hometown of the Milk and Dairy products giant Amul. Further, we cross the river Mahi which further exits to the Gulf of Khambhat also known as the Gulf of Cambay. Further south, an ambitious fresh water barrage and reservoir project, upstream of the Narmada river is underway at Bhadbhut Village in Bharuch to curtail the tidal ingress of sea water into the river. Hence, the project will solve the freshwater and irrigation requirements of the region. A 30 Kms sea dam is also envisaged across the Gulf of Khambhat and to create the largest freshwater lake in the world in the ocean environment. After the ride, we stay at a comfy hotel in the town of Bharuch.

Accommodation	Regenta Central Harimangla
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 145 kms, Terrain: Flat highways and suburb roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling on the suburb roads to Valsad

DAY 35: VALSAD, GUJARAT

Cycling to the suburb of Valsad

Morning, we start our ride to South Gujarat, crossing another west-flowing river Tapi at Kamrej, the satellite town of Surat - the economic hub of Gujarat. However, the city has been a victim of frequent floods from the river. Initially, we ride through flat suburb roads and state highways crossing many small rivers like the Mindhola, Purna, Ambika and Kaveri. Riding across the scenic route, we reach the outskirts of the coastal town of Valsad. It is known as the city of Peace surprisingly with a large presence of Banyan trees. It is also the chemical and textile hub of Gujarat. Here we stay at a cozy hotel close to the Kharera river in Vaghaldhara village in the outskirts of the city.

Accommodation	Janki Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 145 kms, Terrain: Flat highways and suburb roads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The gateway of India to the world

DAY 36: MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

Cycling to Mumbai - the financial capital of India

Today, we start our ride South to cross the Gujarat state border towards Daman & Diu. We traverse across Auranga, Par and Kolak rivers along the Arabian sea. The Daman Ganga River flows through the region, with Daman town where the river exits to the Arabian Sea. It is also famous for its beaches, Portuguese colonial architecture and old-time churches. Further, we ride on undulating and flat backroads through villages with the view of hills, lush fields and local temples. We will ride to the coastal town of Palghar and hop on to the transport for an approx. 100kms drive towards the bustling Mumbai city. We will reach a comfy boutique hotel located near the great pier and monument Gateway to India. Tomorrow is a break day left for you to explore the famed monuments, museums and a few cultural intricacies of the financial center of India by yourself.

Accommodation	Taj or Trident
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling to Palghar 125 kms, Terrain: Undulating and flat backroads, Transfer to hotel

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The renowned Taj Hotel, Mumbai

DAY 37: MUMBAI, MAHARASHTRA

Sightseeing of Mumbai - The city that never sleeps

Today, we will have a free day for sightseeing in Mumbai. We will start with the visit to The Gateway of India and the Prince of Wales Museum – one of the prime museums in India. It has three main sections: Art, Archaeology and Natural History. The museum showcases some of the rarest and most ancient exhibits of Indian history and many interesting artifacts from foreign countries as well. We will also stop nearby for a photo click at the 'Dhobi Ghat' where Mumbai's 'laundry' is scrubbed, bashed, dyed, and hung out to dried.

Next on the list is the Dharavi Slum. Walking through the tight alleys along the trivial dwellings opens up to all sorts of emotions. Though the idea of gazing at the misery of the underprivileged can be quite uncomfortable, it is truly inspirational to witness the sense of community and entrepreneurship that thrives in such harsh conditions.

Accommodation	Taj or Trident
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	5 hrs Sightseeing of Mumbai (Gateway of India, The Prince of Wales Museum, Dhobi Ghat, Dharavi Slum, etc)

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The island fortress of Murud Janjeera seen from coastal road

DAY 38: MURUD, MAHARASHTRA

Cycling to the Island Fortress of Murud Janjeera

After breakfast, we pack our gears to board the ferry for transfer from Mumbai to Mandwa Jetty. We will alight at Mandwa and start riding along the coastal route towards the historic province of Murud. The meandering coastal backroad ride on undulating hilly terrain will progress traversing small tributaries exiting to the Arabian Sea and rustic villages. Further, we will cycle along the Phansad Wildlife Sanctuary abundant for its coastal woodland ecosystem and wide variety of flora and fauna. We will reach a serene beach resort to wind up today's ride. A visit to the historic and unconquered Murud Janjeera Island Fort is on the evening activity list.

Accommodation	Golden Swan
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	1-hour ferry ride from Gateway of India to Mandawa, Cycling to Murud (75 kms), Terrain: Undulating & hilly coastal backroads, Optional Visit the 15th-century Murud Janjeera Fort

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Backroad cycling across Rajpuri Creek

DAY 39: HARIHARESHWAR, MAHARASHTRA

Cycling to the temple town of Harihareshwar

Today, we will start our ride with a ferry crossing across the wide Rajapuri Creek. Though the creek was initially used for the transport of man and materials, the low depth of the waterbody here was not ideal for the steamers to reach close to the shores. After disembarking the ferry, we will ride through the fishermen's villages of Raigad district. Raigad was the first capital of the great Maratha empire and the place was named after the Raigad fort located deep in the Sahyadri forests eastwards to our route. with the view of the scenic Arabian Sea. We ride further south to the serene temple town of Harihareshwar situated along the Savitri river and surrounded by 3 hills. The place is also blessed with pristine beaches. Here, we stay at a private beach resort enjoying serene nature and fresh seafood.

Accommodation	Tranquil Beach Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 60 kms, Terrain: Undulating & hilly coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling across the tranquil Ratnagiri district

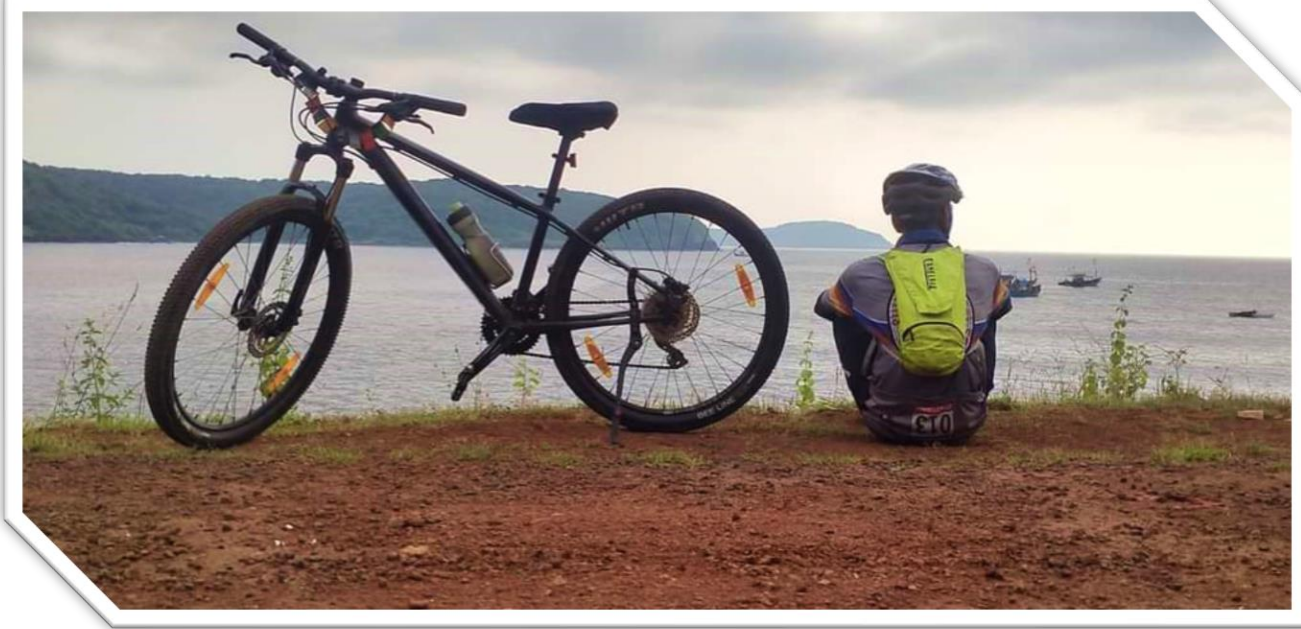
DAY 40: KARDE BEACH, DAPOLI, MAHARASHTRA

Cycling to the erstwhile British Camp of Dapoli

Traversing the undulating backroads, we will reach the banks of the Savitri River for yet another ferry crossing. It's a good chance to interact with the locals as the ferry is the only means for the locals to commute across banks. We will traverse through the Ratnagiri district, Konkan division of Maharashtra. The place is famous for its pristine coastline and beaches and for the Alphonso mangoes. We will ride through the coconut farms crossing many small rivers to end our ride in Dapoli - a coastal hill station. Dapoli enjoys cold weather throughout the year and hence was historically used by the British Troops for setting camps. Graves of many high-ranking British Officers can be seen in the town. Dapoli also has one of the biggest Agricultural universities in India with a Marine Biological Research station. Here we settle down at the serene beach resort at Karde.

Accommodation	Lotus Eco Beach Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 60 kms, Terrain: Undulating & hilly coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling along the Konkan coast

DAY 41: GANPATIPULE, MAHARASHTRA **Cycling to the Ganpatipule - land blessed by Lord Ganesha**

After breakfast, we start cycling along the moderately undulating terrain through the coastal villages. We cross the Vashishti river and ride to Veleneshwar Beach (around 75 kms) to have a picnic lunch at the beach. After lunch, a short rest, and maybe a quick swim at the scenic beach, we ride further south to cross the Shastri River to witness the Jaigad Fort standing tall against the bay formed by the river. We ride across the erstwhile Marathwada province - the land of brave Marathas who ruled this land before the Mughal reign. We continue our ride to reach yet another tranquil beach of Ganapatipule and rest for the day at a private beach resort.

Accommodation	Blue Ocean Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 100 kms, Terrain: Undulating & hilly coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Sri Ganpatipule Temple by the beach

DAY 42: GANPATIPULE, MAHARASHTRA

Free day at the beach and local visits

The day at the resort nestled amidst palm groves can be spent relaxing at the cozy Portuguese-styled cottages, tryout the seafood with relaxing drinks and swimming at the private beach. We can also go for local walks to nature, visit the historic fort, rustic villages and pristine beaches nearby. One can also visit the centuries-old Shree Ganpatipule Temple – a prominent pilgrim center in the region with its extraordinary brick red & white walls and the Konkan museum depicting the early culture of the region.

Accommodation	Blue Ocean Resort
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Leisure at the Beach

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The ghat roads of Ambolgad

DAY 43: AMBOLGAD, MAHARASHTRA **Cycling to Ambolgad - The Heartland of Ratnagiri**

Today, again we ride on the undulating coastal backroads of Ratnagiri through Fishermen villages along many fish markets and small temples. We will ride past the shallow basin of the Kajali river which forms a vast expanse of mangrove forest adjoining the coast. We also pass through the Ratnagiri town along the Ratnadurg fort, Mandavi beach, and the agrarian suburbs. We further cross the Purnagad creek formed by the Muchkundi river and Gaonkhadi Beach to reach Ambolgad Beach Village - our destination to end the day's cycling. We will spend overnight at a secluded yet comfy beach house with a scenic beach right in front.

Accommodation	Samindar Beach House
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 83 kms, Terrain: Undulating & hilly coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The fishermen village of Malvan

DAY 44: MALVAN, MAHARASHTRA

Cycling across the rivers of Sindhudurg to Malvan

After the breakfast cycle through the moderately undulating backroads of Sindhudurg crossing various rivers starting from the Vaghotan, Devgad, Naingre, Achara, Gad, and Karli. We will be riding along small temples, agricultural lands, and suburbs with historic Maratha forts like Devgad and Bhagawatgad in the vicinity. After lunch, you will be cycling through coastal and non-tarmac roads. We will traverse through the Kolamb creek to reach the secluded beach of Malvan in the Konkan Coast. We will spend overnight at the serene beach resort with the beach so closer as if located in the front yard. You will be able to see the Island fort Sindhudurg and the Padmagad Fort towards the distant South West frontiers of the bay.

Accommodation	The Windmill Resorts
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 110 kms, Terrain: Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling the backroads to North Goa

DAY 45: ANJUNA, NORTH GOA

Cycling to the hippie destination - Sunny Goa

After breakfast, we will ride our bikes through the coastal roads, sometimes non-tarmac at sections. We will cross over the Terekhol river to leave the vast state of Maharashtra and enter the small sunshine state of India - Goa. Once been an important Portuguese settlement, Goa is splendid with its customary architectural remnants, churches, and monuments, food, and culture apart from its golden sandy beaches and colorful nightlife. We will pass along the hippie beach of Arambol by the hills. We have a nesting site of the Olive Ridley Sea Turtles by the Morjim Beach bay. We will ride past the famous Chapora fort by the river to reach the picturesque beach of Anjuna. Here we spend overnight at a boutique hotel that has been inspired by traditional Goan architecture.

Accommodation	Casa Anjuna
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 102 kms, Terrain: Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Basilica of Bom Jesus

DAY 46: ANJUNA, NORTH GOA

A well-deserved free day by the golden beach

It's a well-deserved free day at one of the best beaches on the hippie trail. You can spend your free day basking in the sun and a sure dip in the shallow waters to rejuvenate your body and mind for the next South Indian leg of the epic cycling adventure across the country. Evening, you can stroll through the Market by the beach. The vibrant Goan nightlife is never to miss. It's a great choice to pick up your favorite beer and hit the nearby party place. However, please make sure that you hang out with a small group of your friends and ensure each other's safety at all times.

Accommodation	Casa Anjuna
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Leisure at the Beach

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Countryside cycling to South Goa

DAY 47: AGONDA, SOUTH GOA **Cycling to the serene South Goa**

Today, we will ride from the happening North Goa to the more tranquil South Goa. We will ride along the popular beaches of Baga & Calangute, cross the Mandovi river to enter the Old Goa known for its heritage remnants like the Basilica of Bom Jesus with remains of St Francis Xavier. We will further ride through the village roads with a view of Portuguese-styled houses, Churches, Mangroves, Coconut and Cashew trees, restaurants serving Goan Fish Thali and favorite beverage - the Feni brewed from the juicy Cashew fruit. We will ride through the silent beaches of Varca & Cavelossim to reach the tranquil beach of Agonda. Here we spend overnight at the beach resort with palm groves and beautiful cottages built of wood adjacent to the pristine beach.

Accommodation	Agonda Beach Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 84 kms, Terrain: Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Rustic cycling to Gokarna

DAY 48: GOKARNA, KARNATAKA

Cycling to the Sacred Land of Gokarna with its Ancient Temple

Leaving the beautiful beaches behind, we will head towards Gokarna. First, riding through the hilly undulating terrain with sparse forest and woody patches, we will pass through the coastal town of Karwar, Karnataka. Here you can view the sea shaking hands with the river Kali. We will be crossing the river on a Ferry along with the locals. Further, we will ride on the backcountry roads, mostly flat terrain with the view of fishing harbors, Coconut, Cashew, and Mango Tree groves along the way. We will finish the ride at a scenic nature resort in Gokarna. Also, being a prime pilgrim center in South India, Gokarna is famous for the 4th century CE Sri Mahabaleshwara Swami Temple. According to legend, the Atma Linga – the Soul of Lord Shiva is worshipped here. And hence, it is believed that the Mahabaleshwara temple is one of seven temples to be visited for attaining Moksha. In the evening, you will be visiting tranquil Ohm Beach for a sunset walk followed by a special dinner at the beachside restaurant.

Accommodation	Sunskruti
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 100 kms, Terrain: Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



The Murudeshwar Temple standing tall

DAY 49: KUNDAPURA, KARNATAKA

Witness one of the Biggest Shiva Statue and cycle to the riverside retreat in Kundapura

Today, we will start our bike ride Southwards, along the coastal road with the Arabian Sea in the west. We will pass through the fishermen villages of Honnavar and Manki with their off-grid beaches, fish markets, and small temples. We will cross the Aghnashini and Sharavati river and ride through a combination of flat and undulating backroads. En route, we will visit the majestic Murudheshwar Temple standing 20 stories tall in the coastal village of Bhatkala. A mechanical lift will take you to the roof of the temple. From here, you can see the gigantic statue of Lord Shiva sitting gracefully with blessing mudra and the vast sea in the backdrop. We will cross the Venkatapur, Chowtani, Byndoor, and Yadamavu River and ride through the narrow stretch between the scenic Maravante Beach and the Kolluru river. We will wind up the ride for the day at a small resort on the bank of the Panchagangavalli river in Kundapura.

Accommodation	Blue Waters
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 106 kms, Terrain: Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling along the fishing port of Malpe

DAY 50: MANGALAPURAM, KARNATAKA

Cycling to the port city of Mangalapuram

Today, we ride further south along the west coast on the rustic backroads through the endless coconut palm groves. We will be riding along the scenic Maravante Village close to the Arabian Sea. The terrain will be undulating with few climbs and flat coastal backroads. We ride across the temple town of Udupi famous for the holy Sri Krishna temple. The temple is conjoined with an Aashram – a place for living and worship. Food is being prepared in the temple kitchen using local ingredients and distributed to an approx. Twenty Thousand devotees as Prasadam – the Sacred Food every day. Janmashtami festival, the birthday of Lord Sri Krishna and many other festivals like Navaratri, Deepavali are celebrated here with great pomp and glory every year. Further, we will ride across the Malpe town, the hub of Mogaveera Fishing Community and the blue flag beach of Padubidri with its white sandy beach and coconut palms striking a rustic pose against the clear blue sky. Finally, we cross the Shambhavi river at Mulki and Gurupura river further south to reach the major Port city of Mangalore or Mangalapuram. Here, we spent overnight at a cozy hotel in the city.

Accommodation	Gold Finch
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 90 kms, Terrain: Slight Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Historic forts of Kasaragod

DAY 51: NILESHWAR, KERALA **Cycling to the rustic border village of Kerala**

Today, we exit the state of Karnataka, the sentinel of the Konkan coast. We cross the Netravati river and ride through the undulating roads towards the Malabar Coast. In India, the culture, traditions and cuisines change with each village. South India is no exception to this cultural diversity. You will be able to notice the cultural difference as you reach Nileshtar in Kasaragod district. Kasaragod is predominantly known as the land of forts in Kerala. The prominent forts in the region are Bekal and Kumbala built by the ancient rulers in the 17th Century. These forts were conquered many times, yet they stand undestroyed as a testimony of time in front of you. Presently, the Bekal Fort is being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India. The view of the forts towering adjacent to the sea coast is majestic as well as a never-miss sight along the South Western seaboard of India.

Accommodation	Kanan Beach Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 85 kms, Terrain: Slight Undulating coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Temple ritual arts form of Theyyam

DAY 52: NILESHWAR, KERALA

Free day at the beach and local visits

Free Day at Nileshwar can be spent relaxing in the sea-facing cottage at the resort, with the serene beach close by. If your tour is during the right time of the year, we will be visiting the traditional family temples nearby to witness the age-old temple ritual performance – Theyyam. The festive season starts from the end of October and lasts for a few months depending on each temple. It's a great feat for culture lovers to witness this bizarre and unique temple ritual in all its original colors. There are more than 400 types of Theyyam out of which as many as hundreds are highly significant. It is believed that the performer embodies the spirit of ancestors or the family god/goddess and possesses special powers to see into the future and give blessings. If you are not traveling during the festive period and miss this opportunity, we will be visiting, a breeding center for the endangered Olive Ridley turtles in Thaikadapuram beach. Here, this rare species crawl to the shore for laying eggs and mass breeding, best witnessed after the monsoon months from September to January.

Accommodation	Kanan Beach Resort
Meals	Breakfast Only
Activity	Leisure at the Beach

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Crossing the backwater bridges to Thalasserry

DAY 53: THALASSERY, KERALA **Cycling to the seafood capital of Kerala**

Today, we will ride along the scenic shores of Northern Kerala on mostly flat terrain with a view of scenic villages, small temples, and coconut groves. The ride will pass through the main towns of Payyanur and Pazhayangadi crossing numerous bridges across the west-flowing rivers Thejaswini, Perumba, Valapattanam and Kuppam. We will pass by a traditional weaving industry. Here, one can witness beautiful clothing being made by the master weavers using the generations-old handloom. We will ride along numerous wetlands, backwater islands and witness the spectacle of nature formed by the intermingling rivers and the lush green land. We end today's cycling at a cozy accommodation with a private beach at Thalassery in Kannur district. It's time to taste the exotic North Kerala seafood cuisines prepared from the fresh catch for lunch. Evening, we can go out for the local visits – to see youngsters play cricket or check out the cake shop nearby or a casual walk through the market. During the festive season, we can also visit specific temples around here to witness more Theyyam performances as well.

Accommodation	Pearl View Regency
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 80 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling through backroads to Calicut

DAY 54: CALICUT, KERALA

Cycling to the ancient trading center of the Malabar Coast

Today, we ride through the flat coastal roads to Kozhikode, erstwhile Calicut. It was a major seaport during ancient times under the rule of sea warriors – The Zamorins. The port has served as a trade center for spices and other local commodities with the western world and the Chinese. This land is also known for its traditional Vadakan Pattukal – Northern Ballads singing the stories of epic heroes and deities. Riding past trade towns of Mahe, Vatakara, and Koyilandy, you will reach the famous Kappad beach. Here the great explorer, Vasco da Gama first landed in the year 1498. Today, the place is progressing as a futuristic IT Hub in itself. Food enthusiasts should never miss the famous local dishes here. Kozhikode Biriyani and Halwa are a few dishes to savor and witness how it's being prepared. We will wind up the ride at a special beach hotel to relax for the rest of the day.

Accommodation	Taj
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 80 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads

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Cycling along the flat coastal roads

DAY 55: NATTIKA, KERALA

Cycling to the cultural town of Thrissur

Today, we ride further southwards to the cultural district of Kerala – Thrissur. We will cross the ancient port town of Beypore and significant rivers like Chaliyar and Bhratapuzha, traversing on the flat village roads. Thrissur is well known for the Pooram festival in the Vadakkunnathan Temple. It is one of the biggest temple festivals in Kerala and takes place during May every year. The festival showcases more than hundreds of decorated elephants with a huge gathering of people and visitors. Anakottai – Elephant fort (Punnathurkotta), once was a palace of the local ruler, is now being used to house and nurture temple elephants. This unique facility in 11 acres of land has around 50 – 60 elephants dedicated to the famous Guruvayur Mahavishnu Temple. Thrissur is again famous for its food joints where you can try out the delightful and special local dishes. We settle down at a serene Ayurveda resort renowned for ancient medicine and rejuvenation experiences.

Accommodation	Nattika Beach
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 115 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Chinese fishing nets of Fort Kochi

DAY 56: FORT COCHIN, KERALA **Cycling to the colonial town of Fort Kochi**

Today, we ride on flat coastal roads along the Kodungallur Sree Kurumba Bhagavati Temple en route. This ancient temple is also the prime Bhadrakali Temple in Kerala. Further, we will ride to the excavated sites with traces of the 1st century port of Muziris, believed to be washed off during a deluge. You will be able to witness various water birds like Storks, Egrets and Ibis fishing while you ride through the vast fish farms and the wetlands of the quaint Cherai village. We will cross the Cochin Harbour channel in a ferry from Vypin to reach the colonial Fort Kochi. A small sightseeing tour of Fort Kochi is the next experience awaiting you in the evening. Once been a major port and trade center, it evolved as a settlement hotspot for numerous merchants from across the world. The gradual intermingling of their cultures for centuries has made Fort Kochi a unique heritage city to visit. We will be exploring the narrow by-lanes to visit the Dhobi Ghat, Chinese fishing nets, the Jew Street Market etc and an optional Kathakali Show in the evening will enthrall you like never before.

Accommodation	Dutch Bungalow
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 60 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Houseboat Cruise - The backwaters of Alleppey

DAY 57: ALLEPPEY, KERALA

Cycling along the meandering waterways to Alleppey - the Backwater Village

From Hotel in Fort Kochi, we start our ride toward the backwater destination of Alleppey. The coastal road will be mostly flat throughout. You will be riding along the patches of wetlands, coastal fishermen village of Chellanam, Fishing Harbour of Andhakaranazhi, and coconut groves of Marari. We will stopover at the serene beach at Marari. Further, we embark on the famed houseboat at Alleppey to explore deep into the meandering canals and cruise along the paddy fields, fish and duck farms, coconut lagoons, and canals. In olden times, these houseboats were used to transfer enormous loads of rice to commercial centers. Now they have been converted into luxurious accommodation to explore the backwaters. We will also have a traditional lunch on board. After the day cruise, we arrive at a tranquil backwater resort perched along the backwater countryside. You can also opt for a casual walk in the rustic backwater village to see the church, toddy shop, vegetable market and local tea shop nearby.

Accommodation	Citrus
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 60 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads, Houseboat Day Cruise

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling along the backwater canals and farmlands

DAY 58: VARKALA, KERALA **Cycling to the picturesque cliffside beach of Varkala**

Leaving the backwater village, we will ride towards the hidden getaway destination - Varkala Beach. You will ride on the flat coastal backroads through agrarian villages and the temple town of Harippad. Riding very close to the sea, we pass through the tranquil countryside along Ashtamudi Lake and the Paravur Lake, crossing the many canals converging with the Arabian sea and wetlands patches. We will ride further on a narrow strip of coastal land with the view of lakes on one side and the sea on the other; towards the offbeat Kappil and Odayam beaches with its fishermen villages. We will end today's ride at the tranquil Varkala Beach encircled by cliffs and swatches of coconut palms. You can watch the picture-perfect sunset and the beach from the hilltop resort.

Accommodation	Deshadan Cliff Beach Resort
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
Activity	Cycling 110 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023

CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Local women sun drying coconut kernel to extract oil

DAY 59: KOVALAM, KERALA

The sun-kissed crescent beach of Kovalam

Morning, we will ride on the flat coastal roads via fishermen settlements, small villages, towns, along the scenic Veli Beach with its golden sands. We ride through Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city of Kerala. Thiruvananthapuram is famous for its ancient folklore and traditional temples, viz the Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple – one of the sacred and richest temples in South India and the Attukal Bhagavathy Temple known for the Pongala festival – the largest congregation of Women for a festival in the world. We will wind up at a scenic luxury resort by the famous Kovalam beach. Late evening, we have a get-together followed by a Gala Dinner. It's also the podium to share each of your experiences through the epic cycling event and portray your version of India which you have rediscovered recently.

Accommodation	Uday Samudra
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Gala Dinner
Activity	Cycling 54 kms, Terrain: Flat coastal backroads, Celebration dinner

THE GREAT INDIA CYCLING CHALLENGE - SEP 2023 CYCLING FROM LEH TO KOVALAM



Cycling along the picturesque beach roads to Kovalam

DAY 60: KOVALAM, KERALA

Relax at the sun-kissed crescent beach of Kovalam

This day marks the end of the great India Cycling Challenge starting from the extreme north till the very south of the vast expanse of the colorful country India. With the sheer joy of completing the adventure cycling, it's time for you to relax or sunbathe at the scenic beach, a few steps closer to the resort. The calm and serene beach offers a good chance to go swimming as well.

Accommodation	Uday Samudra
Meals	Breakfast, Dinner
Activity	Cycle Packing and Leisure

DAY 61: TOUR ENDS

Departure Day

With fond memories, invaluable experiences, and great friends made in a faraway land, it's time to pack the gears. Transport will pick you up from the hotel and transfer you to the airport. Stay tuned and we meet you on the next cycling adventure.

Meals	Breakfast
Transfer	30 minutes to Trivandrum International Airport

- End of the detailed Itinerary -