

Now that we're over the hectic Xmas/New Year rush it's full steam ahead with organising our 2009 motor bike tours.

What a troubled economic time the world is going through at present.....however this has not stopped Asian Experience from powering ahead with tours during 2009. Already some tours are booked out and others are well on their way to being booked out.....even have bookings for 2010 and beyond.....so thanks to everybody out there who continue to support us.....

We finished off 2008 with 2 booked out tours to Bhutan during Oct & Nov.....the 1<sup>st</sup> tour was very fortunate to coincide their arrival in Bhutan with the Coronation of the new King of Bhutan.....it certainly was nice timing to be involved in this historical event.

### **BHUTAN BECKONS.....**

Since we pioneered motor bike tours to Bhutan they have become one of our most popular tours.....and its not hard to see why!!! The tour starts in Kathmandu ( Nepal ) which gives people a taste of this wonderful country ( many people return to spend more time ) before entering India to ride through the Himalayas to Darjeeling ( think tea plantations ) .....then onto Bhutan to experience the shy innocence that would be expected from this small Himalayan Kingdom which has only recently opened to the world. ....and then back into India to conclude the tour in Kolkata ( Calcutta ). Not many tours offer such contrasts.....no wonder its so popular!!!



### **GOOD NEWS FROM NEPAL**

Nepal is well and truly back on the tourist scene.....40% increase in tourist numbers during 2008. The King ( or should that be Dictator ) has lost his power and a democratically elected Govt is back in control. This is such good news for our Nepalese friends whose livelihood depends on tourism.

### **KEDAR, PADMA & ABRAHAM**

We have written many times in our Newsletters about our great Nepalese friends Kedar & Padma and their journey of emigrating to Australia and becoming true blue Aussies!!!

Life couldn't be better for them. Their son Abraham is almost 2 years old and a joy to be around. Kedar is a trained chef and he & Padma hold a "Nepalese Curry Night" every week at a local restaurant.....the proceeds of this night are sent to Kedars village in Nepal to help out some of the poor people....what a great gesture and typical of the kind hearted spirit of the Nepalese. Kedar has also sponsored his sister Neelam to come to Australia to study....hopefully she can make a new start for herself just like Kedar did.....

### **KATHMANDU ORPHANAGE**

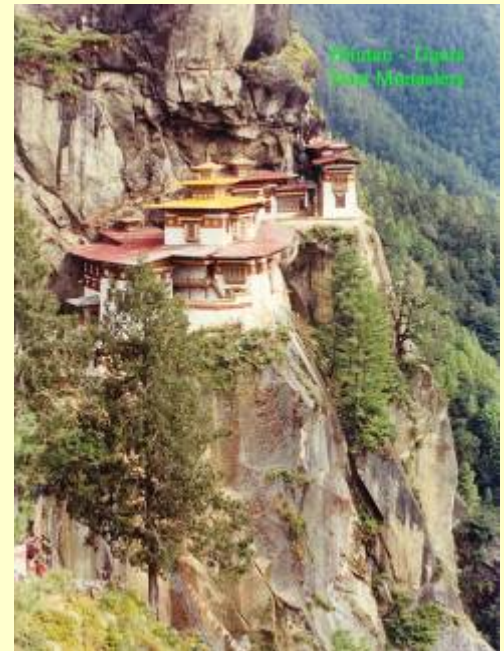
We've written in the past about Sue Clark.....to recap.... not only do our tours provide great riding to some exotic destinations but many of our participants can be "touched" by their adventure and return to their homes with a desire to help the underprivileged in the countries they have visited. One such person is Sue Clark from Australia who came on our Nepal tour and Bhutan tour. Sue has since returned to Kathmandu to help with the setting up and running of an orphanage to provide care & help to the children.....

To utilise Sue's expertise and knowledge of this region of the world we asked if she would like to be a tour leader on our Nepal and Bhutan tours in 2008. Sue jumped at the offer and we're privileged to have her on board. Sue took the Nepal and Bhutan group members on a visit to the orphanage. As you'd imagine the kids were delighted to have foreign visitors and were overwhelmed with the gifts that had been generously donated by the group members.....great big thanks to you all.....

Sue is a bit of a nomad!!! She commutes between Australia to visit family, Nepal to help with the orphanage & take the tours and Canada to be with her partner Ed who works in the mining industry in the "wilds" of Canada. Sue emails from Canada to say that it's minus 20....we can't imagine living in those temperatures!!! On a warmer note.....Sue and Ed are coming to Australia to get married on the 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.

## MARRIAGE PROPOSAL ON THE BHUTAN TOUR

Once again Helen was thrilled to have another marriage proposal whilst on tour. This seems to be a frequent occurrence on Helen's tours.....why doesn't it happen on my tours??? The marriage proposal was at Tigers Nest Monastery which is one of the most auspicious places in Bhutan. Congratulations to Michael & Sharon .....we wish you a lifetime of happiness together....



## TOURS FOR 2009

Please note that prices are in Aussie Dollars.....for our overseas motorcyclists the current exchange rate can be found at <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

### Bhutan, Nepal and India Motor Bike Tour

One of our most popular tours which covers a diverse range of countries, cultures, scenery & people and provides some great riding in the Himalayas

- 26 Apr – 14 May..... **booked out.**  
**Tour 1.** 22 Oct – 9 Nov..... **2 spots left.**  
**Tour 2.** 9 Nov – 27 Nov

**Please Note.** When **Tour 1** is booked out we will commence taking bookings for **Tour 2.**

**Tour Cost:** Rider \$7090 and pillion or non rider \$6490  
**Tour Cost for Land Only:** Rider \$5490 and pillion or non rider \$4890

### Nepal Motor Bike Tour

Nepal is a wonderful country to visit and enjoy. The tour covers all that Nepal offers: great riding in the Himalayas, white water rafting ( optional ), trekking in the Himalayas ( optional ), elephant ride through thick jungle in search of Rhino and Tiger, Kathmandu, Pokhara and a visit to Buddha's birthplace.

28 Sept – 15 Oct..... **5 spots left.**

**Tour Cost:** Rider \$5390 and pillion or non rider \$5090  
**Tour Cost for Land Only:** Rider \$3790 and pillion or non rider \$3490

### Himalayan High Road to Leh Motor Bike Tour

This is one of the most challenging and spectacular rides in India – the scenery is breathtaking and you'll ride from the flat "Plains of India" up through the foothills of the Himalayas to the world's highest and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest motorable road ....worth some bragging points amongst your riding mates!!

- Tour 1.** 14 July – 2 Aug  
**Tour 2.** 4 Aug – 23 Aug..... **booked out.**  
**Tour 3.** 25 Aug – 13 Sept..... **2 spots left**

**Tour Cost:** Rider \$6290 and pillion or non rider \$5890  
**Tour Cost for Land Only:** Rider \$4690 and pillion or non rider \$4290

**Please Note.** When **Tour 3** is booked out we will commence taking bookings for **Tour 1.**

### Rajasthan Classic Motor Bike Tour

Rajasthan is situated west of Delhi and is India's most visited tourist area. Its population is made up of the colourful and friendly Rajputs and there are many forts, palaces, markets and bazaars to visit and explore.

12 Sept – 29 Sept..... **5 spots left.**

**Tour Cost:** Rider \$5590 and pillion or non rider \$5190  
**Tour Cost for Land Only:** Rider \$3990 and pillion or non rider \$3590

**Prices include:** International airfares ( Aust - Aust ) using either Singapore Airlines or Thai airlines, local domestic flights, tour leader, twin share hotel accommodation, motor bikes plus all fuel, maintenance & spares, support vehicles or buses, experienced local guides & mechanics, all ground transport, sightseeing tours including entrance fees, Bhutan Govt tourist tariff of US\$220/person/day ( Bhutan tour only ), trekking guide & porters ( Nepal tour only ), meals as indicated in the itineraries, airport/hotel transfers and permits.

**Prices do not include:** Departure/security taxes & fuel surcharges, visa fees, personal expenses, travel insurance (compulsory) and any excess baggage charges.

**If the tour you're interested in is Booked Out.....don't despair.....we do get cancellations so send us an email or phone and let us know which tour you're interested in.....you never know.....**

**If you want more information about any particular tour.....let us know which one and we will send further information - detailed itinerary, general tour information, web sites of the hotels so you can see the standard of accommodation used....**

## **ULYSSES CLUB AGM....**

The Ulyssians make up a good proportion of our group members. We're looking forward to the Penrith AGM in March 2009. We'll be having our usual display stand in the Expo area. It's always great to set up our display surrounded by photos/videos and memories of previous tours, catch up with many of you who have been away with us and introduce ourselves to other motorcycle and travel enthusiasts....see ya there....

## **MELBOURNE AND SYDNEY MOTORCYCLE EXPOS**

These 2 events in 2008 were great as always in providing us an opportunity to promote our tours and also to catch up with past clients. We're looking forward to the 2009 events....dates to be announced soon.....

## **GET YOUR OWN GROUP TOGETHER**

We get enquiries from people who can't go on a tour as the departure dates are not suitable due to work, family commitments.....frustrating for them and us!!! We suggest that if they can get their own group together ( 10 + )from their family, friends, clubs, work colleagues etc then they can go on dates which suit them. We have sent many tours this way and it works out well for everybody.



## **COMBINING TOURS**

The tour dates have been scheduled to coincide with other Asian Experience tours in the region. This will provide substantial savings and also an opportunity to experience the many and varied contrasts that these countries offer. The diversity of scenery, climate, people, vegetation, culture, architecture and lifestyles in the Himalayas never ceases to amaze us. We can be on the "Roof of the World" in Tibet and within a few hours be on the "Plains of India"....

## **ONWARD TRAVEL**

We get many people who include one of our tours on their way to Europe or on round the world tickets. It's easy to arrange a stopover at the tours starting point, do the tour and then continue on your way.....we can advise on all flights and offer suggestions as to the best way to do this.

## **INTERESTED IN JOINING A TOUR**

Once you have decided to come along, all we require is a completed Client Profile and Booking Form plus your \$200 deposit and we will arrange everything....all you have to worry about is turning up at the airport on time. Tour information, visa forms and general information will be sent to you.

## **HAS YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGED?**

We get several of our Newsletters returned "Postmaster - Undeliverable Mail" If you intend to change or have changed your email address please keep us informed or else we "lose" you!!

Until next time.....stay upright.....



**Cheers**

**John and Helen**

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**You may know of someone who might be interested in our tours. We'd appreciate if you could give them our Newsletter or our contact details. Our aim has always been to offer good value for money tours and this will help to keep advertising costs down.**