

Tipps und Hinweise zum KKH

Plan on getting into Chinese Customs and Immigration in Tashkurgan between 8-9 am it can take unto 2-3 hours with paper work and inspections. Then it is a 2-2.5 hour ride to the border at Khunjerab.

Khunjerab is close to 16,000 ft above sea level, people have experienced altitude sickness, expect minor difficulty in breathing especially if you get off the bike and move around. The border crossing is fairly simple, the road is excellent except for an occasional land slide during the rainy season. Resist the temptation to ride very fast.

From Khunjerab it is a 1.5-2 hour ride to Sost. This is where you will have the Pakistan customs and immigration, budget 2-3 hours for clearance. The sunset in the summers is around 1845 hrs.

If you are late there is a PTDC motel in SOST. Adequate residential facilities. However if you have time my preferred stop is Passu which is 1-1.5 hours from Sost.

The place to stay is Ambassador Hotel in Passu. Nice accommodation and very nice people running this place. The names are Ghaddeer, and Kareem. Two brothers. I always stay with them. Price should be around Euro 30-35.

From Passu the next town Hunza/Kareemabad is about 1-1.5 hours. Spend a day here. The place to stay is PTDC motel in Hunza which is right on the road and very convenient. My preferred place is Eagle's Nest Hotel. This is a bit expensive at around Euro 60 but the views are spectacular. This is about 7-7.5 kms from the road and a very steep climb up the mountain. It is a bit demanding but it is a short distance and I have done it in rain and at night. But worth it.

While in Passu ask the hotel guys to confirm the availability of Rooms in Eagle's Nest because this is the domestic holiday season and you don't want to climb all the way up and find no rooms. It might be possible to pitch a tent in a camping ground near the Hotel but you need to ask. I have never Spend at least one day to take in some local sights. The "Altit" and "Baltit" forts are the high point.

From Hunza the next town is Gilgit which is 2-2.5 hrs ride. It is the capital of the region, the biggest little town in the area. Not my favourite. If you don't go to Gilgit Then you can push onto Chilas about 3-3.5 hours from Gilgit. The last 1.5 hours are not so good road, from the Raikot Bridge. This is where the heat will hit you.

You can stay in the Shangri-La Hotel in Chilas or if you arrive at about 1500 hrs then you can take a turn to the left on N15, about 7 km short of Chillas going to Naran via the Babusar Pass. Babusar Pass is a shade below 14,000 ft above sea level, the ride is demanding, but not too much. This is the preferred route, it is cooler, more scenic, and shorter. You should plan on reaching Naran about 3-3.5 hours ride from the turning. Plan on staying in PTDC motel in Naran, old but reasonable.

The other option is stick to KKH, N35 and ride for 8-9 hours to Besham. Nearly 30% of the road is very bad especially around Dassu. The PTDC motel in Besham is on the left side of the road after you have crossed the town and the bazaar. You need to look out for it because it id not very well posted. Stop and ask if unsure.

From Besham, the chaotic traffic will start, you need to be very careful. People drive very badly on the road, and all manner of human and animal crossing takes place without any warning. This is the section where you will encounter the worst traffic in Pakistan. I hate it.

My advice is you leave Besham very early around 0400 in the morning to beat some of the heat and traffic. Ride 8-10 hours from Besham to Islamabad. This is the capital city quite crowded. I will let you know where to stay in Islamabad later.

From Islamabad to Lahore is about 5-6 hours. I will let you know about where to stay in Lahore later.

I hope this covers your travel in Pakistan the border to India from Lahore is a 40 minute ride. If you can firm up your dates then I can also book the rooms on all the above locations for you before or as you travel. My office will have all the relevant phone numbers to save you the hassle of calling, finding, and talking to English speaking people for reservations.

Final word it might look difficult but really it is not so bad. People do it all the time. This is not Europe but it is not Mongolia or Afghanistan either. So keep an open mind and enjoy the adventure. It is definitely worth it.