



Welcome to the October newsletter.

Our next meeting is this Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

## President Report

### **INTO THE EAST: A MOTORCYCLE CLUB GUIDE TO TOURING ASIAN COUNTRIES**

Asia is a rider's dream waiting to be discovered. From the misty mountains of northern Vietnam to the high-altitude passes of the Himalayas, the ancient temples of Cambodia to the coastal curves of southern India — riding through Asia is a full-body experience. The smells, the sounds, the smiles from strangers — it's not just a road trip; it's a culture trip on two wheels.

### **WHY ASIA?**

Asia offers a mix of rugged adventure, cultural depth, and affordability that's hard to beat. You'll find:

- **Incredible scenery** – mountains, jungle, rice terraces, deserts, beaches
- **Rich cultural heritage** – temples, markets, festivals
- **Diverse riding conditions** – from perfect tarmac to off-road adventures
- **Friendly locals** – especially welcoming to motorcycle travelers
- **Low daily costs** – food, fuel, and accommodation are often budget-friendly

---

### **TOP COUNTRIES TO RIDE IN ASIA**

Here are a few club-tested and rider-approved countries to explore:

#### **1. Vietnam**

- **Best for:** Cultural immersion, coastal roads, highlands

- **Top route:** Ha Giang Loop – winding mountain roads and ethnic minority villages
- **Pro tip:** Watch out for unpredictable traffic in cities

## 2. Thailand

- **Best for:** Well-paved roads, biker-friendly culture
- **Top route:** Mae Hong Son Loop (1,864 curves!)
- **Pro tip:** Helmet laws are strict—bring your own quality gear

## 3. India

- **Best for:** Epic adventure riding, Himalayas, deserts
- **Top route:** Manali to Leh – high-altitude, raw beauty
- **Pro tip:** Be prepared for chaotic traffic and variable road conditions

## 4. Nepal

- **Best for:** Off-road adventure, mountain scenery, spiritual sights
- **Top route:** Kathmandu to Pokhara and beyond
- **Pro tip:** Monsoon season (June–Sept) can get muddy—pack accordingly

## 5. Laos & Cambodia

- **Best for:** Remote exploration, temples, jungle tracks
- **Top route:** Pakse Loop in Laos, or Angkor Wat and beyond in Cambodia
- **Pro tip:** Border crossings can be tricky with bikes—research in advance



## RENT OR SHIP?

**Rent bikes is cheap and it is best to ride bikes they have parts for not something you have brought with you. Our XR250s in Cambodia were \$25US per day. Choose the newest bikes though as the less wear and tear the better**

### Renting Locally,

- Popular in SE Asia (Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia)
- Affordable and quick
- Bikes: Typically Honda CRFs, Yamaha WRs, or small-displacement street bikes
- Some rentals allow **one-way travel** between countries (check agreements)

### Shipping Your Own Bike

- Better for longer tours or unique setups

- More complex (carnet, customs, etc.)
- Not always practical unless you're doing a multi-country expedition

**Club Tip:** Reach out to other clubs or riding groups in the country — they often have insider info and contacts for trustworthy rental shops or mechanics.

---



## PAPERWORK YOU'LL NEED

- **International Driving Permit (IDP)** – Most include motorcycle classification Most of these countries won't care but check with your insurer
- **Passport & visa** – Check specific requirements per country
- **Local motorcycle license (in some cases)** – Some rentals require a local license
- **Travel insurance with motorcycle coverage**
- **Motorcycle insurance (third-party at minimum)** **Check your insurance details**

**Pro tip:** In countries like Vietnam and Cambodia, laws are sometimes loosely enforced, but riding without proper documents can void your insurance.

---



## WHAT TO PACK

### Riding Gear:

**This is up to the individual and it's a compromise between protection and comfort, most of the time it's hot at times like riding into a hair drier, I preferred a MX top and nylon pants, cool to ride in and then shower and hang up to dry for tomorrow. But I did have good boots gloves and helmet.**

- Ventilated armored jacket and pants (weather can get hot & humid)
- Waterproof layers or rain suit
- Quality helmet (DOT/ECE rated — local ones can be dodgy)
- Gloves, boots, hydration pack

### Essentials:

- Spare parts (tubes, levers, chain links)
  - First-aid kit
  - GPS or offline map apps (e.g., Maps.me, OsmAnd) **Best just to higher a guide**
  - Copies of all documents (paper and digital)
-



## RIDING TIPS FOR ASIA

- **Ride defensively:** Expect the unexpected — animals, kids, trucks on the wrong side of the road
  - **Respect local customs:** Dress modestly at temples, be polite, and smile
  - **Fuel smart:** Some areas have few stations — top off often
  - **Weather watch:** Monsoon season can affect roads dramatically
  - **Stay hydrated:** Especially in hot climates — heat exhaustion is real
- 



## CLUB RIDING ABROAD

Touring Asia as a group takes planning and flexibility. Here's how to keep the ride smooth:

- **Pre-plan route basics**, but allow for detours and rest days **Don't push yourself, plan days off the bike**
  - **Ride in a staggered formation** when in cities or traffic
  - **Choose a “sweep rider”** at the back
  - **Use helmet comms** to stay in touch **The intercoms we had were great**
- 



**MAKE IT MEMORABLE** After long days in the saddle, unwind the local way—sip tea in a street stall, join a local festival, or share stories around a hostel fire pit. Touring Asia isn't about clocking miles; it's about collecting moments. **Plus the beers cheap!**

---



## FINAL THOUGHTS

Asia will test your skills and expand your horizons. It's raw, rewarding, and downright unforgettable. Whether you're dodging buffalo in Laos or winding through Himalayan switchbacks, you'll come home with stories that only riders understand.

**Don't push your limits.**

**Riding -pushing 10-10ths until you make a mistake and end up in a local hospital**

**Budget- You need to allow for the unexpected**

**Time- same as budget plus being able to add extra roads or just relax will make it more enjoyable**

**So why wait?. Pick a country. Pack your bags. The East is calling.**

## October Ride

Our October ride is Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> and we are off to the fun Te Anga loop.

Leaving BP Tristram st at 10.00 am

Meeting for coffee and fuel at 9.30.

## Hamilton Motorcycle Clubs



## Waikato Trials News

Ray would like it known that there will be sections set for social grades and twin shock bikes...

Next event

Hamilton MCC Trials Champs Round 5

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October at Skinners property. 222A Peach Hill Rd,  
Ramarama

Sign on 9.00am



Riders briefing 10.15am

Entry \$20 senior \$5 junior.

**This event will appeal to those who enjoy Ray and Jenny's pristine valley on the Bombay hills. You are invited to help Ray setup the event on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 10.am. Spectators welcome free of charge.**

For more info contact Jim on 0273665842.

Or Ray Skinner 0276012873

Please note the opportunity for practice on Saturday 11th will be a practice try any line/grade to help as a lead into the NZ champs has already marked out sections.

Start riding from 10am

**“AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:  
TO PROMOTE MOTORCYCLING FOR THE GOOD OF MOTORCYCLING”**

**THE OPINIONS AND VIEWS OF THE CONTRIBUTORS ARE THOSE  
OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND NOT NECESSARILY THAT OF THE EDITOR  
OR THE HAMILTON MOTOR CYCLE CLUB INC.**

