

ROYAL ENFIELD

CRUISER CHRONICLES



Super
METEOR 650

EXPLORE THE OPEN ROADS AND STAR-STUDED SKY OF WHITE KUTCH IN THIS EDITION OF CRUISER CHRONICLES. THE JOURNEY OF INQUISITIVE INDIVIDUALS PURSUING THEIR DREAM OF ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY.

SEP
2024





The first-ever marquee ride of the Super Meteor 650 was in the making; the journey had to be even more spectacular than the destination. Nothing could have been better than following the stars, embarking on an endless journey with breathtaking views along highways, while constellations navigated us towards a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

For the Super Meteor 650 riders, Royal Enfield designed a ride that would let them enjoy pure cruising while also pursuing their astrophotography dreams. Cosmic Caravan 2024 was such a journey, where a group of passionate riders came together to leave the world behind for the next ten days and get lost in the mesmerizing landscape of Kutch. We witnessed how a born-again rider met his new obsession, a 64-year-young gentleman challenging the status quo, and how diversity played a vital role in forming everlasting bonds among these riders.

There was something exciting and new every single day. The Rann of Kutch has a lot to offer, including the road to heaven, an infinite white desert, a crystal-clear night sky packed with constellations, and an aura of vibrant culture, among other things. The entire pack of riders started from Ahmedabad to Dhordo via Zainabad and Dholavira, experiencing mesmerizing sights and maneuvering through the highway's bends and turns on their very own Super Meteor 650.



The riders assembled in Ahmedabad at a common meeting point a day before the ride to attend a briefing session in the evening to understand the safety instructions and the importance of riding gears. The riders then got a chance to meet their fellow riders over hi-tea and inspect their motorcycles and riding gears. In the evening, they attended a workshop on mobile photography techniques that would help them capture their travel moments. After a delicious Gujarati supper, they went to bed early because they had a long trip ahead at daybreak and were all very motivated for the following dawn.

>>> RIDERS TOOK THEIR BIKES OUT FOR A TEST RIDE POST INSPECTION IN AHMEDABAD AND WITNESSED A GOLD PLATED SKY DURING SUNSET.





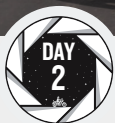


The next day, after an early morning breakfast, the entire group was ready. With helmets and riding gear on, they greeted one another with a hug, ready for an exceptional riding experience. They set off to cover 110 km from Ahmedabad to Zainabad, also known as the little Rann of Kutch. This was the first step toward uniting motorcycle and astrophotography enthusiasts to explore the rich cultural heritage of the region.



>>> TRAVELING WESTWARD ON STATE HIGHWAYS SH 7
AND SH19 FROM AHMEDABAD TO ZAINABAD,
ENCOUNTERING A TAR ROAD FLANKED BY VERDANT FIELDS





After cruising through villages and crossing farming fields, the group reached Zainabad last night. They stretched their legs after a non-stop ride and took a sound sleep, as this day was reserved for even more unforgettable moments. The Zainabad to Dholavira route awaited them with miraculous scenes. The infinite landscape is home to thousands of flamingos and many other migratory birds. They crossed the Tropic of Cancer en route to Dholavira, one of the five largest Harappan sites and most prominent archaeological sites in India, belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization. It was once the grandest city of its time and is now very popular among explorers and archaeology lovers worldwide. They traveled back in time to the Indus Valley Civilization during their evening visit to the heritage site, which is truly an architectural marvel and still preserves the richness of the civilization. They spent their evening with beautiful flamingos and many other birds at the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary before wrapping up for the day under a golden sheet-covered sky. Back at their village resort on the outskirts of Dholavira, they enjoyed a local cuisine meal and spent some time over an after-meal tea before going to bed.



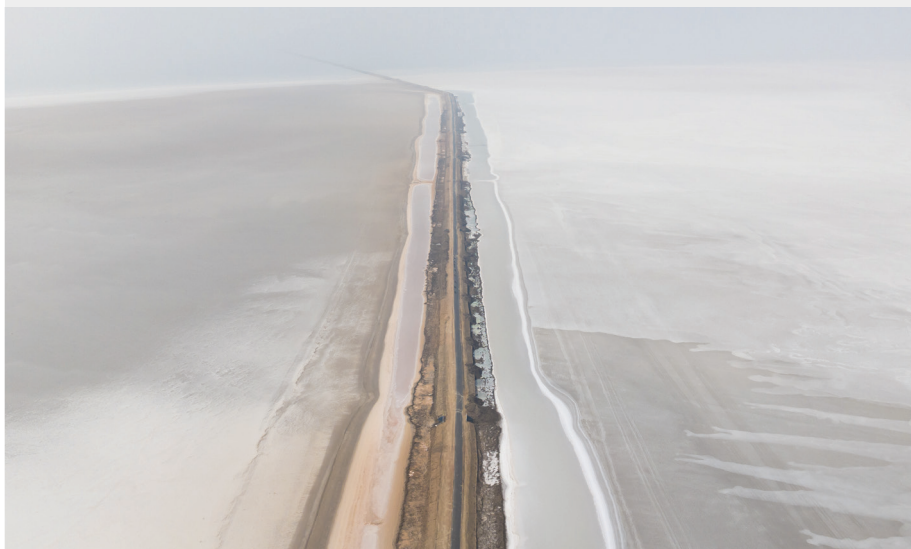




Time to unwind and immerse themselves in the serene surroundings, they headed toward the Road to Heaven, very much on this earth. A recently added local attraction and a new landmark of the Kutch landscape, a 30 km single-lane tarmac that passes through the Kutch lake. Within a few months of its existence, this stretch has caught the attention of travelers from across the world, especially motorcycle lovers. The cruising experience on this heavenly road was unparalleled. The riders didn't miss the opportunity to capture this moment on their mobile cameras and tried to seize every bit of the site in their frames. After a 100 km ride from Dholavira via Khavda, the group reached their new home for the next three days in Dhordo village.



>>> ON THE WAY TO DHORDO, CROSSING THE RANN OF KUTCH LAKE ON A SOLITARY, MAGNIFICENT STRETCH OF TARMAK WITH SEEMINGLY LIMITLESS SCENERY. SH 51 LINKS KHAVDA AND DHOLAVIRA, WELL KNOWN AS 'ROAD TO HEAVEN'









They unpacked their luggage and occupied their cottages at the resort, which was going to be their base camp for the next three days, 10 km away from the famous tent city of Kutch and 15 km away from White Rann. The evening turned out to be melodious, thanks to the folk singer's performance that made them forget how weary they were. They had a day-long rest and decided to try out the mobile photography workshop techniques that they learned at the beginning. They found a perfect point for the shoot and captured a few stunning photographs of their Super Meteor and selfies. After the photoshoot session, the entire group left to explore the tent city, taste some local delicacies, and shop for handicrafts. They all ended up having some fun around the game zone, trying bungee jumping, archery, and shooting. A well-spent evening after a long day's break.



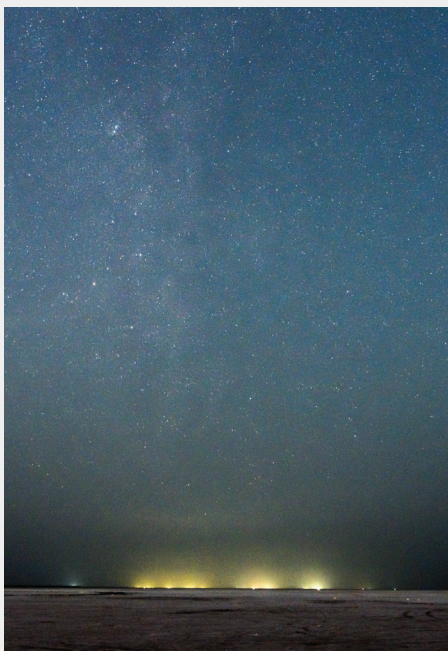
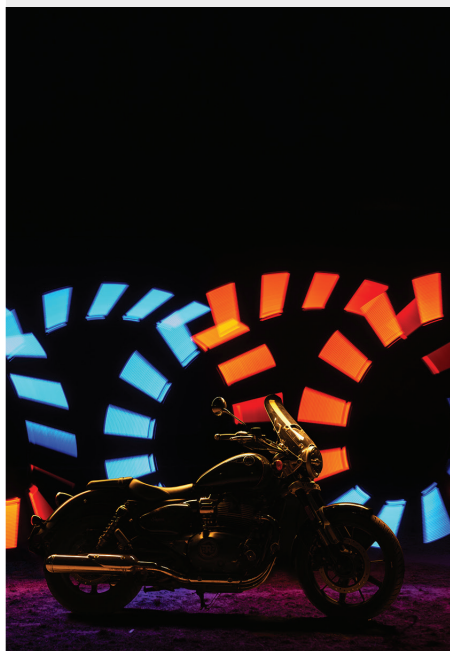


>>> GROUP APPROACHED NEARBY SPOTS TO TRY THEIR HANDS ON SUNSET PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRACTICING THE APPACHER, SHUTTER SPEED AND LIGHT COMBINATION TO GET THE RIGHT IMAGE '





>>> THE ENTIRE GROUP GROUP
 TRIED VARIOUS LIGHT EFFECT
 PHOTOGRAPHY AND
 ASTROPHOTOGRAPHY OVER
 THESE THREE NIGHT WHENEVER
 THEY GOT A CHANCE WITH CLEAR
 SKY. WE ALL TRIED CAPTURING
 MILKY WAY AND ASTRAL SHOTS
 IN THE MIDDLE OF WHITE SANDS.
 THANKS TO OUR COACH WHO
 TRAINED WITH SOME GOOD
 TECHNIQUE TO CAPTURE STUNNING
 NIGHT SHOTS WITH OUR MOBILE
 CAMERAS.



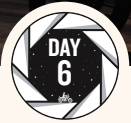


The itinerary had a plan to take them into another chapter of history, 200 km of cruising through bends and curves with almost no vehicles on the road other than their group. They encountered beautiful green hills and a ghat section decorated with windmills along the way. Around midday, they reached the main entrance of this city, also known as the Ghost Town, and had a sip of tea at the only small shop at the entrance. The large fort walls and mammoth entrance still testify to a glorious past. Once serving as the largest port for trade through the Arabian Sea, this city witnessed its decline in the 1800s. Within the fort walls also lies a 16th-century gurudwara. It is believed that Guru Nanak stopped here twice during his second (1506-1513) and fourth (1519-1521) missionary journeys called Udashis. The infinite view of the bay from the rampart of the walls offers an exceptional site experience. After spending a good time here, the group headed back to their base at the Dhordo resort.









The next day, the group was informed to get ready post their afternoon meal, as we had planned to visit a well-known sunset point in the Kutch region, named Kalo Dungar Temple Hill Point. From the summit, there was an unparalleled view over the enormous Rann of Kutch Lake, which stretches all the way to India's western border. Our coach had trained many of them in time-lapse filming of sunsets the previous evening at the resort, and they all tried their hands at the technique again, capturing the running shadows and changing colors of the sky during sunset. As it got dark, the local traders and vendors started wrapping up for the day, signaling them to ride down from the hill. On the way back to their resort, they refueled their motorcycles for the next morning to cover the longest stretch in a day.



>>> A GROUP PHOTO TAKEN AT THE DHORDO RESORT EARLY IN THE MORNING JUST RIGHT BEFORE STARTING THE LAST RIDE OF THIS JOURNEY. AND WE ALL STARTED TO COVER NEXT 400 KM TOGETHER ON THE WIDE HIGHWAY TO REACH AHMEDABAD.







After the longest single stretch ride of over 400 km straight from Dhordo to Ahmedabad via Bhuj, they reached Ahmedabad. The group started early in the foggy morning, and as the sun slowly rose, they crossed hundreds of trucks loaded with raw salt from the salt farms of the Kutch region. Halfway through, their ride leader waved them down at a roadside food junction, and the entire group took a quick break for Gujarati fast food. Back on the road, they revved their engines to conclude the motorcycling expedition with this final leg of their journey. By 1900 hrs, they assembled in a hall at their hotel to celebrate the successful completion of our Cosmic Caravan ride. Believe it or not, the room was filled with friends who had been strangers just a week ago. Anyone in that room could bet this was just the beginning for many of them.

All the riders and media participants were presented with memorabilia from the ride, and they shared one last dinner of this particular adventure together. The next day, Saturday, these friends started dispersing with mixed feelings to their respective homes, with the hope that one day, they might cross paths again and reunite for another pure cruising experience.



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