







# TRIGGER

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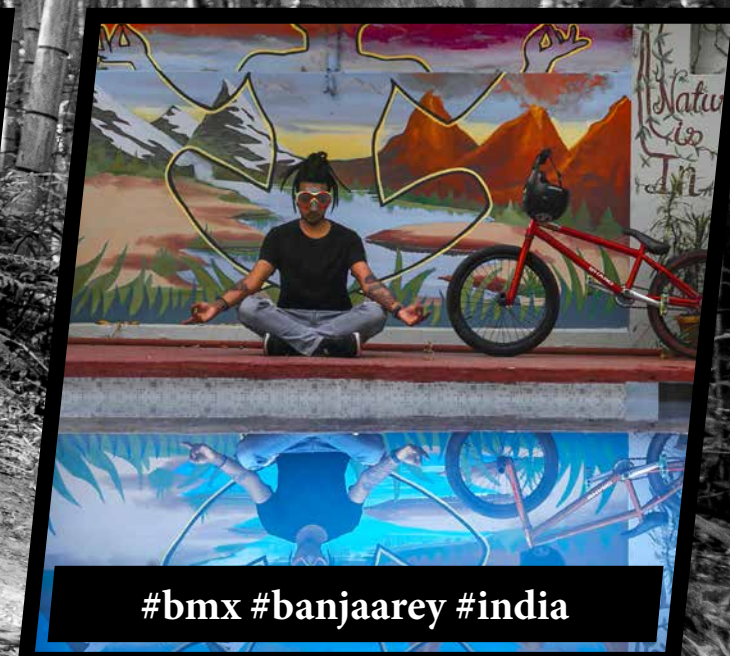




#race #recap #bpbp #china



#yakru #enduro #nepal



#bmx #banjaarey #india





# ON THE RADAR







RACE  
RECAP  
@BPBP



On 1st June, I married my partner in crime and adventure buddy, Danica. It was a great day and a lot of fun celebrating and dancing. We followed it up with a week camping and riding mountain bikes in the Lake District in the UK. On the lead up to the wedding, Michael from SLH got in touch to ask if I wanted to race at BPBP on 16th June. I knew I was going to need a pick me up after our honeymoon, so I asked him to sign me up, some racing in the China sun would be perfect!





This was going to be my 3rd time at BPBP. I always enjoy the process of getting there. I meet the SLH team at the old shop, after doing wheelies through the streets of Shanghai and racing the electric scooters away from the lights. We loaded up and got on our way, arriving at the hotel at 1am.

**Practice day:**

I knew I would have some work to do on my bike to get it set up for BPBP. I had set it up soft and slow to stick it to the ground over the slippery Lake District rocks and mud. So I spent my first two runs increasing pressures and winding





back the rebound damping and adding some compression damping, the bike was now poppy and playful and feeling good in the yellow dirt. The top section of the track at BPBP has lots of tight switch backs and some fun tables, so a bit more pop was going to help me get over those. The track then opens up in the middle section with a fast open motorway section with some jumps and pump sections, so the livelier bike also helped generate some speed when pumping transitions. It was pretty easy to get to a setting I was happy with, and now I could just enjoy the track.





It was after my second run that I bumped into Mesum Verma and Aurelius Satlow A.K.A 'Max' waiting for the shuttle truck up to the top. I spent a lot of time with these boys over the weekend, and little did I know at this point that Mesum and I would be up until the small hours drinking beer and chewing the fat. To anybody who bumped into us that night...'tits and ass!'

It was Max's first time at BPBP, so I offered to show him the top section of track and lead him into the jumps. This run was going to cost us both. Max had a crash early on when he lost the front end over the top of a berm. He took the hit like a champ, dusted himself off and carried on. The price I had to pay was for a wheel build, I hit a rock hard on the bottom section and ruined my rim, resulting in a flat tyre and a long walk back to the hotel for repairs and lunch.

We shuttled up again after lunch and sessioned the bamboo section at the bottom of the track, with Mesum getting behind the lens as we tried (and failed) to get some huge lean angles. It was good to hit this section multiple times, as it's easily the hardest point on the track to carry speed, so I began to find a rhythm through there and a bit more speed, and we got some cool pictures to boot.





The last run of the day was a special one and a lot of fun. Claudio Calouri was visiting BPBP, so we all did a big train down the motorway section, check out the video on MTB Mag Asia social media. It was time for food with the SLH team and too much beer with Mesum!

**Race day:**

I woke up late with a cloudy head and 'tits and ass' ringing in my ears, and feeling pretty ropey! Definitely not ideal for racing bikes, but I dragged myself out of my





comfortable bed, strapped my race plate on and got to the top of the mountain. I needed to get my head in the game, or a miracle.

I dropped in for a chilled warm up run with Max, the mountain biking medicine immediately kicked in and the healing began. It lifted the cloud in my head, and the pain in Max's shoulder disappeared, the good times were rolling, we were ready to race.



**Race run:**

San, er, yi, out the start gate and into the open turns at the top of the track, I had a big slide on the second corner which reminded of how much grip was available. I settled into a pace and it was a fairly tidy, undramatic run. That is until I got half way through the bamboo, went the wrong way, and probably lost a few precious seconds. It sucks to make a mistake like that when you've had a good run, I was annoyed at myself for a few minutes, but soon accepted it as we sat





and waited for the rest of the guys to finish their runs. I finished 3rd in Elites, which I was pretty happy with, congrats to Xiao Long on your victory and super quick time!

For me, riding bikes is all about having fun, meeting cool people and seeing new places. The race weekend was a great way to do all that, I even went away with a medal and some new buddies. Thanks to the organizers for putting on such a great event, BPBP hotel for the awesome set up and SLH bikes for getting me there and helping me out as always.





1st: Chen Zi Qi / 2nd: Chen Zi Wei / 3rd: Zhou Wei Heng



1st: Zhang Jia Li / 2nd: Chen Hai Ling / 3rd: Yang Chan Lin



1st: Zhang Xiu Biao / 2nd: Yang Qi / 3rd: Chen Hai Chuan



1st: Zhou Xiao Long / 2nd: Tang Meng Qi / 3rd: Paul McPherson





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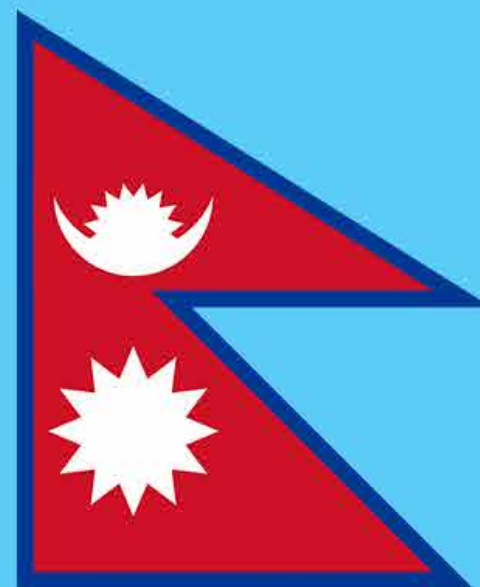






YAKRU ENDURO

Sunil Sharma



mtbmag

# YAKRU ENDURO

## 2019

08-19 November

### Location

Race Venue: Manang, Annapurna Region  
Arrival / Departure City: Kathmandu (KTM)

### Categories

Male / Female Open (18-39 years old)  
Male / Female Masters (40 years old and over)

### Registration Fee & Packages (for International Riders)

Registration Fee : USD \$90  
All Inclusive Package A (Hostel) : USD\$900  
All Inclusive Package B (Guest House) : USD\$1010  
All Inclusive Package C (Boutique Hotel) : USD\$1310

### Contact

Contact: [marketing@nepalbiking.com](mailto:marketing@nepalbiking.com)  
[www.yakru.com](http://www.yakru.com)

### Features

- Big Mountain Experience
- High Altitude singletrack
- Expedition ambiance
- 40 racers
- 3 days 'blind' enduro
- Authentic cultural immersion



*Welcome to the Yak Ru Enduro – an event that is equal parts big-mountain competition, alpine adventure, and exploration through the heart of the Nepalese backcountry. It is the world's highest multi-day mountain bike Enduro: a project that combines a passion for riding & enjoying wild places with the ideals of remote-area community empowerment & cultural recognition.*

*The best trails and scenic views of the rugged and amazing Annapurna Circuit – known primarily for its trekking routes – are showcased in this remarkable high-altitude event. An authentic Enduro odyssey amidst the wonders of the Nepalese Himalayas with great people beckons.*








*The Yak Ru Enduro is a 3-day mountain bike enduro race that will test riders on beautiful, steep, and rugged trails between 3200-4300m (10600-14200ft) elevation in the Manang region of the Annapurna Conservation Area, Nepal. The Annapurna Range – boasting huge glaciers, sheer rock faces, and majestic snow-capped peaks – towers over the entire course, providing a stunning backdrop for the ultimate multi-day enduro adventure.*

*Riders race 'blind' on sections of breathtaking terrain – pine and birch forest singletrack, high-speed flow through alpine pastures, rocky switchbacks, steep ridgelines, and generations-old trails passing remote settlements and religious monuments. Participants wishing to challenge themselves and explore one of the most magical landscapes to ride a mountain bike in will be enthralled by the terrain the Yak Ru passes through.*





*Yak Ru's enduro racing format allows riders of various abilities – from pros to amateurs – to mingle, swap stories, and take in the amazing scenery, while still allowing themselves to push their limits. Only certain sections of the race are timed: these mainly downhill stages have been selected as among the very best trails that the Manang region has to offer, and will be raced 'blind' – without prior practice. This area is also culturally rich and boasts diverse wildlife, affording riders an all-encompassing Nepali experience during their time here.*

*The special demands of racing in such thin air require all riders from lower altitudes to do an untimed group 'acclimatization' ride of 35 km to reach our main basecamp, the village of Ngawal, the day before racing commences.*





## Yak Ru Enduro Race 2019

Venue : Manang, Nepal

From 08 November to 19 November  
2019

[www.yakru.com](http://www.yakru.com)

[marketing@nepalbiking.com](mailto:marketing@nepalbiking.com)

Registration closing date

01 October 2019

Package Type	Description	Cost(USD)	Includes
<b>Registration Fee</b>	This package is for overseas visitor who just wants to take part in the race but do not need any services. He/she will make her arrangement to reach the race venue to take part in the race and have their own uplift	90	Race Registration / Race Pack
<b>Package A (Economy)</b>	This package is an all inclusive package based on Hostel with shared shower Accomodation in Kathmandu for 4 nights (2 nights before the race and 2 nights after).	900	Jeep Transport from Kathmandu to Manang and back  accomodation and meals , beverages, Kathmandu Accomodation, Meals,Trekking Permit  Race Day logistics - Liaison Transport /Water/Refreshments/Medic
<b>Package B (Economy +)</b>	This package is an all inclusive package based on twin share room at Epiphany guest house with private shower Accomodation in Kathmandu for 4 nights (2 nights before the race and 2 nights after).	1010	Jeep Transport from Kathmandu to Manang and back  accomodation and meals , beverages,, Race Jersey, Kathmandu Accomodation, Meals, Trekking Permit  Race Day logistics - Liaison Transport /Water/Refreshments/Medic
<b>Package C (Luxury)</b>	This package is an all inclusive package based Twin Share room at Dalaila Boutique Hotel with private shower Accomodation in Kathmandu for 4 nights (2 nights before the race and 2 nights after).	1310	Jeep Transport from Kathmandu to Manang and back  accomodation and meals , beverages, Race Jersey, Kathmandu Accomodation, Meals, Trekking Permit  Race Day logistics - Liaison Transport /Water/Refreshments/Medic

Excludes	Remarks
Transport from/to Kathmandu, beverages, Insurance, Race Jersey, Accomodation, Meals, Race Day logistics, uplift Transport (US\$60)/Water/Refre shments/Medic, Timing System Chip (US\$90)	You have to go to Race venue in (Ngawal, Manang) on your own and report at Race HQ at NGAWAL MOUNTAIN HOME Resort on <b>12 November 2019</b>
Insurance, air ticket, Nepal visa fee, emergency evacuation costs	Riders in this package must attend the race briefing on <b>09 November 2019 in Kathmandu.</b> *****
Insurance, air ticket, Nepal visa fee, emergency evacuation costs	Riders in this package must attend the race briefing on <b>09 November 2019.</b> *****
Insurance, air ticket, Nepal visa fee, emergency evacuation costs	Riders in this package must attend the race briefing on <b>09 November 2019.</b> *****





*Over the 3 racing days, riders will be covering 40km of riding and challenged on 8-10 timed stages. Due to the steepness and remoteness of the course, riders can be expected to carry/walk with their bikes for some uphill parts of the untimed transfer stages. Riders will also receive limited assistance in the form of vehicle uplifts to reach some of the timed stages.*

*At the conclusion of racing, 2 days of untimed group 'celebration' rides will see us descending over 80km and over 3000m (9800ft) over 2 days, a fitting post-competition wrap-up this mountain bike experience of a lifetime.*







#### **LOCATION & ROUTE:**

Annapurna Conservation Area, Manang District, Nepal. The spectacular journey will start with a vehicular transfer from Kathmandu and trace the Marsyangi River course up to Taal (1 night's stay), then onwards to Pisang (where bikes are assembled for the start of the pre-race acclimatization ride). The hub of the event will be in Manang (2 nights stay in Manang, 1 night's stay in Khangsar), before heading back down to Pisang (1 night's stay). Thereafter the post-race celebration ride heads back to Tal (1 night's stay) before transitioning to a vehicular transfer for the journey back to Kathmandu.

#### **SKILL LEVEL / EXPERIENCE:**

Riders should come prepared with sufficient physical conditioning & fitness for 5 consecutive days of between 2-6hrs of riding, hiking, & bike carrying each day. Riders must possess solid technical & singletrack riding skills. All parts of the route whether non-competitive or timed - will vary greatly during the 5 days, and will include fast, flowy sections as well as rocky, muddy, or rooty sections with varying amounts of steepness and exposure. Riders are advised to be prepared for alpine conditions with the possibility of strong sunlight, rain, snow, strong winds, and with sudden changes in temperature & weather - and should equip themselves accordingly. Riders should be aware of the effects of high altitude on their health and fitness, and train themselves accordingly - all race stages take place above 3200m elevation.



A full-page background image showing a mountain biker in the foreground, riding down a steep, rocky trail. The biker is wearing a tan jacket, dark shorts, and a backpack. In the background, there are rugged, brown mountains and a large, snow-capped mountain peak under a clear blue sky.

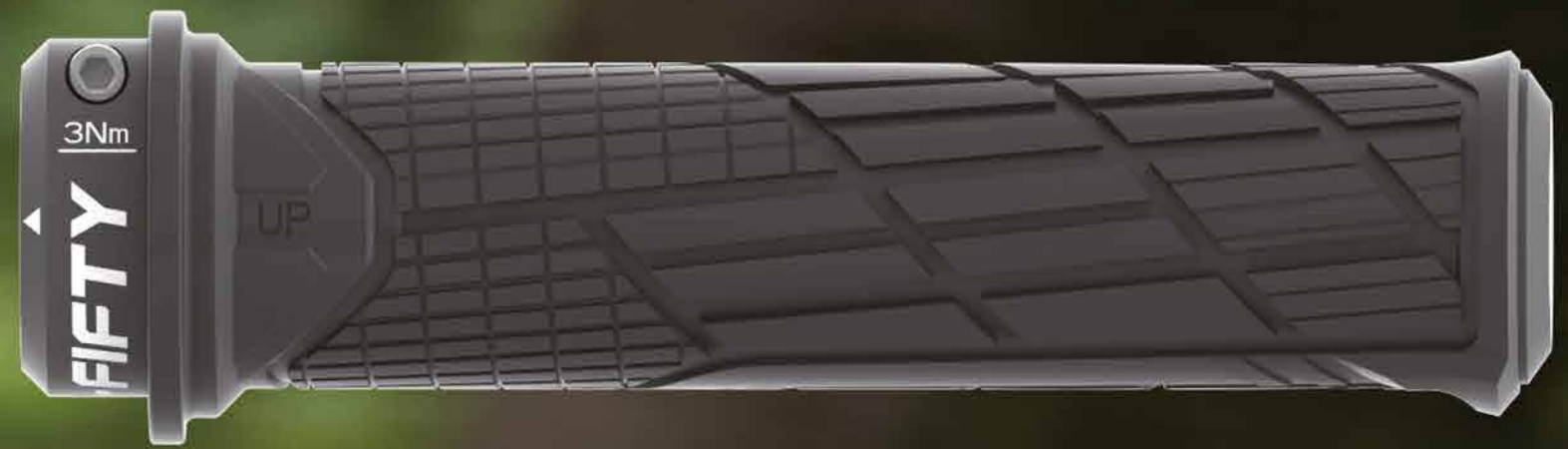
### **ACCOMMODATION:**

Riders will be accommodated in standard twin-share city hotels/guesthouses during their stay in Kathmandu; and will be put up in basic, comfortable twin-share/bunk-style rooms at alpine lodgings/tea houses in the mountains. While bedding and blankets are provided, riders are advised to bring a good-quality insulated sleeping bag of their own.

### **FOOD & HYDRATION (IN KATHMANDU VS. OUT OF KATHMANDU):**

Cooked breakfasts and full dinners comprising of mountain region Nepali cuisine (with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options) will be provided everyday\*; lunches (with vegetarian and non-vegetarian options) comprising of mountain region Nepali cuisine on out of Kathmandu days will be provided during vehicular transfers and at accommodations. Bottled water will be distributed regularly at the start of each day and during mealtimes on out of Kathmandu days. Bottled water is available for purchase all along the race trails, although they could be expensive as you go higher.





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Material:	Custom Rubber Compound
Size:	145mm total length / 31mm diameter
Color:	Black Grey Yellow Red Orange Purple Blue Turquoise Green
Clamp:	Single clamp
Weight:	approx. 122g/pair







#page47

Zummerboyz  
Mohit Gena

Karan Bansatta

Vipul Garg



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We have done numerous trips to various parts of India on motorcycles and most of those rides were really fun. But many times one feels like doing something different. So, we thought to ourselves, why not travel around on a bicycle this time, and that too a BMX? 'It'd be fun', we further thought to ourselves. The ride did turn out to be a lot of fun and a different experience altogether but more than the riding part, it was the planning phase that was quite time consuming and tedious.

It all started with a very bachelor get-together at a very bachelor pad with three of us who actually rode and two freeloaders sitting there and judging us. After a lot of brainstorming, we finally settled on the destination, which came out to be Rajasthan, and after a little more bickering, the route as well. The most difficult task though was to settle on a name which had us sitting and thinking till dawn broke. But the freeloaders came in handy at this point and therefore the name, BMX Banjaarey. It seemed quite appropriate as BMX was our steed and nomads, we are. The very next day we had a discussion on the phone for finalizing the dates and such and we were off.







**Route:**

Delhi>Ajmer>Jodhpur>Jaisalmer  
> Udaipur > Jaipur > Delhi

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation was not an issue, courtesy of Zostel. Peeps there helped us make all the arrangements for our stays, all of which, to our liking, were hostels which are fantastic stops for backpackers. All the basic amenities and a lot of likeminded wanderers made our stays enjoyable to a "T." So a big thanks to Zostel.

**Travelogue:**

Day 1 started early in the morning as after making all the arrangements and finishing the packing, we were raring to go, and as many travelers would agree, the night before is restless and mostly sleepless. And since we started early, we beat the traffic to the highway and after that it was a smooth ride which saw us reach Pushkar around noon. We were quite happy to have made good time. This gave us a lot of time to unpack at the Zostel Hostel in Pushkar and head out for scouting locations. After unpacking we headed out to get some lunch and rested a bit before going out.

In the evening we set out for scouting but our man Vipul aka StuntHacker is an eager man. We say that because he took out the BMX and before we knew, it was Bunny Hop time. He started doing his thing and we thought to ourselves that this ought to be fun. As we were busy capturing some nice photos, people started to gather around as expected and after a while, we had ourselves









a crowd which is never a bad thing. We moved on to the local markets of Pushkar and then to the nightscape of Ajmer.

Day 2 saw us taking in more of Ajmer as we explored and shot simultaneously. We went to places like Nausar Ghati, The Sunset Point, and the Statue of Prithviraj Chauhan etc. These are some really beautiful places and made for some really good pictures. After that, it was time to head to our next destination. So we went back to the hostel, packed our bags and headed out to Jodhpur. We had planned to reach Jodhpur on the same day and we did. We arrived around 6 PM but it was the journey which was fun. We wandered off the beaten path quite a few times and it, while scary at some places, was an enriching experience.

Day 3 was a rather lazy morning as we woke up late because we were tired from the previous day's ride. After freshening up, we went out to explore Jodhpur. First destination was the Clock Tower. What an amazing place that is and we made up our minds that we'll be back there after sunset for shooting. After that it was the Umaid Bhawan Palace, Mehrangarh Fort and the local market. One of the best parts of this was the walls painted in blue, in keeping with the nickname of Jodhpur, The Blue City. Our last destination was Chamunda Mata Temple, after visiting which we finished wrapped up our shoot and called it a day.

The next day was Bye Bye to









Jodhpur as we headed towards Jaisalmer. Situated in the heart of the Thar Desert, it is known as The Golden City of India. The nickname is justified by the fact that the yellow stone monuments do not need anything more than sunlight to start glittering and the sight is something one can never forget. There are many places to visit here from palaces to even deserted towns! The crown of the city, though, is the Jaisalmer Fort. We reached Jaisalmer around 10 PM which is quite late so we decided to call it a day leaving the shooting and exploring part for the next day.

Our first destination the next day was naturally the Jaisalmer Fort. Shooting around that place is an experience that is going to stay with us till we draw our last breath because the place is so beautiful, even more so under the sun. Our man Vipul was doing what he does best, pulling moves on his BMX, some of which just feel otherworldly. After that we went out to explore the rest of the city like the local markets and streets, the beautiful Gadisar Lake. Gadisar Lake was our destination of choice for the sunset shots and we are proud of that choice because the sunset there is a sight to behold. The next morning we planned to go to Sam Sand Dunes which is 50-some km away from the main city of Jaisalmer. The morning was cold, really cold. We started at around 5 AM but were in at least some regret because of the cold! But it was necessary as we had to depart from Jaisalmer the same day. On the way to Sam Sand Dunes, we saw a whole lot of wind









turbines. Why does one bother to look at wind turbines, you ask? Well, because we strayed off the original route a few times because of the bad internet connectivity and among our quarreling, blame games and shenanigans, wind turbines felt like a better choice. But those above things are what make trips with friends worth every second. We completed our day's shoot at Sam Sand Dunes at around 2 PM and immediately left for Udaipur. After a tiring ride of over 500 km, we reached Udaipur at around 11:30 PM. But we had no time to waste, so much work to be done and there was no time to rest, so we went to sleep straight away. What else could we do, sleep is nature's call so you can delay it but not avoid it.

The next day predictably started a bit late because of the fatigue and there was no breakfast. We had jumped from breakfast to lunch in our sleep. So, after the lunch it was time to explore the city. Udaipur is known as the City of Lakes. It is also referred to as the Most Romantic City in the Indian subcontinent. All those adjectives are materialized right in front of your eyes because of a number of artificial lakes and the monuments. The city just has that kind of a vibe which makes you want to... but unfortunately we did not... let's not go there. Places like the Fateh Sagar Lake, Udaipur City Palace, Lake Pichola, Udai Sagar Lake, Doodh Talai Lake, Baadi Lake etc convinced us that it was surely going to take more than 2 days if we really wanted to enjoy this place. Also, Udaipur is close to the Gujarat border so it is influenced by the Gujarati culture









too. This amalgamation shows in the local food and Garba Nights as it Navratri Festival was also ongoing. A special note for this city, it just looks magical at night. We were truly in love with the nightscape of this place and that is the reason why some of the best photos of our trip were from Udaipur.

After Udaipur, we went to Jaipur which was the last destination of this trip of ours. We reached there after a 500 km ride and it was Dussehra Night. No rest for the weary, this time we stood true to it. We roamed around obsessing over the beauty of the city accentuated by the festivities. One of our friends came to Jaipur from Gurgaon just to be a part of the last phase of our trip. After wrapping up the shoot next day and visiting places like Sisodia Rani Garden, Chandpole, Nahargarh, Jal Mahal and such. So many places to visit in the city that it almost got us tired. But since this was the end of the trip, we had a heck of a lot of fun and relived the past few days again and again through the photos we captured.

Next day was the trip back to Delhi, back to our mundane lives and that travelogue is not going to be a good one so we'll end it here, on a good note after having experienced the palaces and ruins of Rajasthan.





## #about

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## #special #thanks

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