



Top 13 World's Highest Motorable Passes or Roads

If you are into adventure Travel, especially in the mountains, then you must have heard of terms like Highest Lakes in the world, Highest Motorable Mountain Passes in the world, Highest Motorable Roads in the world, etc.. Let's look at the Top 13 Highest Motorable Passes or Roads in the world whose altitude data points are measured in compliance with SRTM or with modern age GPS systems.

Highest Mountain Roads & Passes



1 Umling La or Umlingla Pass Ladakh, India

In 2017, BRO has built and opened the world's highest road over Umlingla pass or Umling La connecting Chisumle and Demchok villages. Umling La pass is about 105 KMs from Hanle Village and about 235 KMs from Leh.

5,883 Mtrs or 19,300 Feet

2 Road to Uturuncu Potosi, Bolivia

The road to Uturuncu above col is situated in Potosi, Bolivia which was used to be considered as the world's highest motorable road at a staggering altitude of 5,777 Mtrs or 18953 Feet until India opened up Umlingla.

5,777 Mtrs or 18,953 Feet

3 A Road uphill Mana Pass or Dungri La - Uttarakhand, India

Mana Pass or Dungri La is situated at the border between Tibet and India in the state of Uttarakhand. Civilians, though native to India, with prior permits from the army can travel up there.

5,610 Mtrs or 18,406 Feet

4 Marsimek La or Marsimik La Ladakh, India

Marsimek La or Marsimik La is situated in Ladakh, India where civilians, though native to India, with prior permits from the army can travel and scale this daunting pass at an altitude of 5,582 Mtrs.

5,582 Mtrs or 18,313 Feet

5 Semo La Central Tibet

Semo La is situated in the central part of Tibet. According to wiki link of Semo La, "Travellers use this route as an alternative access route to western Tibet and Mount Kailash, especially when mud makes access by the more southern route difficult"

5,565 Mtrs or 18,258 Feet

6 Photi La Ladakh, India

The latest unknown entry into the world's highest motorable passes or roads is Photi La pass which is situated in India - Ladakh region, about 30 odd KMs from an amazingly beautiful place on this earth called Hanle.

5,524 Mtrs or 18,124 Feet

7 Dongkha La or Donkia La Pass North Sikkim, India

On number seven, we have Dongkha La or Donkia Pass located in North Sikkim having Tso Lhamo Lake or Cholamu Lake (14th Highest lake in the world) very near to it.

5,486 Mtrs or 17,999 Feet

8 Kaksang La Ladakh, India

Kaksang La pass is situated in Changthang region of Ladakh on the route from Mahe to Nama - Chusul - Pangong Tso when going over Hora La Pass that comes first as you start ascending from Mahe ahead of Chumathang near Tso Moriri.

5,438 Mtrs or 17,841 Feet

9 Suge La West of Lhasa, Tibet

Suge La is situated in Tibet about 110 KMs northwest of Lhasa. The road to the top is in decent condition and after reaching the top, you get an amazing view of Chomo Gangtse mountain which boasts an altitude of 7,048 Mtrs.

5,430 Mtrs or 17,815 Feet

10 Chang La Ladakh, India

Suprise, surprise, surprise !!! Well, yeah, those of you who have been to Ladakh will be in a surprise to know that Changla pass is higher than Khardung La too as per the readings in compliance to SRTM or with modern age GPS systems.

5,360 Mtrs or 17,586 Feet

11 Khardung La Ladakh, India

Number eleven on the list is the falsely claimed highest motorable pass in the world named Khardung La pass, situated in Ladakh, India. I am thankful for the stars that at least it made it in this list after all the hype around it.

5,359 Mtrs or 17,582 Feet

12 Taglang La or Tanglang La Ladakh, India

Second last on the list is Taglang La or Tanglang La pass which is located in Ladakh, India. It comes on one of the most beautiful & the adventurous road of the world that is Manali - Leh Highway.

5,328 Mtrs or 17,480 Feet

13 Wari La Ladakh, India

Last on the list is a desolated pass situated in Ladakh, India which is connecting the direct route from Nubra Valley to Pangong Tso and falls under Nubra Valley. The route to Wari La is quite desolate.

5,312 Mtrs or 17,428 Feet

What defines motorable pass or road for this list?

A road or pass where an average skilled local citizen / civilian driver or rider, with permits from army if required, can take an SUV car having high ground clearance (4x2 or 4x4) or an average powered motorbike irrespective of the fact whether the road is metalled / tarred or unpaved / dirt track as long as such a vehicle can be driven and maintain decent connectivity.

Important Tips

- Have Buffer Days
- Stay Warm & Hydrated
- Avoid Alcohol
- Carry Required Clothing, Food & Water
- Drive with Caution & Care
- Start Early, Sleep Early



#SaveOurHimalayas

- Spread Smiles Not Plastic
- Stop Littering
- Bring Back Your Own Trash
- Avoid Plastic Water Bottles