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A 15,000km trip for a cup of tea

A GROUP of adventurers has begun a seven-month expedition exploring the world's tea routes – in a tuk tuk. Riding at a top speed of 30mph in their two-wheeled motorised carriage, they plan on drinking 8,000 cups of tea as they cover 15,000km (9,300miles). Starting in Darjeeling in India, their epic adventure will take the Cambridge-based team through countries including China, Iran, Turkey and Germany.

'The rickshaw is a fabulous vehicle but slightly crazy – rather like a cross between a hairdryer and a lawnmower,' said Sophie Ibbotson who is filming a TV documentary, *Tracing Tea*, about the trip.

She added: 'People think tea is an innocuous beverage but it influenced the culture, politics and economics of a huge amount of places.'