



Ayres Adventures

Premium
Motorcycle Tours
Worldwide



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Waypoints

Bariloche to Ushuaia

Accompany Me and my Russian Friends to Ushuaia!

With the time constraints that Ayres Adventures places on me, I don't get the chance to personally lead tours as often as I'd like. Last year I led only one tour: a private group from Russia who toured the American Southwest. I had the time of my life and made some great friends. Now I'm looking forward to leading another private Russian trip with many of the same riders who rode with me before. Beginning February 2 I'll lead a 13-day trip from Bariloche, Argentina to Ushuaia. This trip is not listed on our web site, but click [here](#) to see a description of the *Escape to Ushuaia*.



This trip is almost fully-booked, but a few spots remain available and my Russian friends have assured me that additional riders would be very welcome. Riding with the Russians provides a most enjoyable and culturally enlightening experience. My good friend Svetlana Malygina, who serves as both our translator and Russian agent (sounds like a line from a James Bond movie, doesn't it?) will accompany us as well.

I've done the ride to Ushuaia more than a half-dozen times and I never tire of it. There isn't anything quite like riding through Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, to the southernmost settlement in the world - a top "bucket list destination" for most serious motorcycle adventurers.



Highlights of this special tour include the popular Argentinian resort of Bariloche, the Perito Moreno Glacier, Torres del Paine National Park, and Tierra del Fuego National Park. We'll enjoy first class accommodations and meals the entire way, starting with the exclusive *Lao Lao Resort* on beautiful Lake Nahuel Huapi. This trip is suitable for single riders or for a special two-up getaway. I hope you can join me and my Russian friends this February. Until then, "пей до дна!"

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East Meets West in 2014

Munich and Istanbul Graduates to “Supertour” Status

In my last Waypoints Bulletin I announced a new European “Trilogy” - a series of three tours that could be booked “back-to-back”: Munich to Istanbul, a Tour of Turkey, and Istanbul to Munich. We’ve decided instead to combine the three tours into a 34-day “Supertour” beginning on May 10 and ending on June 12, 2014. There are several reasons for this change:



- Customs regulations in Turkey make it impractical or impossible to end a tour there. Riders who arrive by private vehicle must leave the country by the same private vehicle.
- As soon as we announced the trilogy, several regular customers booked all three trips and a few others told me they intended to do the same. I think many of our customers will want to book all three segments.
- The itinerary is much more enjoyable if we do not have to return for another night in Istanbul, which was necessary with the trilogy approach.

Our Supertours are characterized by itineraries that run approximately a month or longer, feature exotic destinations, and offer attractions, accommodations and a la carte dining that isn’t usually found on a motorcycle tour. Recent Supertours include our [Ushuaia and Antarctica Adventure](#) which incorporates a cruise to Antarctica, and our [Into Africa Adventure](#), which includes a gorilla safari in Rwanda or Uganda as well as two nights on the spice island of Zanzibar.

Supertours are usually fully booked. There are more than 18 months to go before our [Munich and Istanbul Adventure](#), but don’t wait too long to book it. Others have already begun doing so.

A “Riders” Tour of Africa

Our First African Panorama Tour

By the time you receive this bulletin we will have concluded our first [African Panorama Adventure](#). Although this special “Club Tour” (one of our first) was designed specifically for the BMW Club of Northeast Florida, we’ve decided to run it annually. We’ll do it again next October.

When I lived in South Africa several years ago, long before founding Ayres Adventures, I’d often take off for the Panorama Route in the Mpumalanga Province early on a Sunday morning and spend a long day riding the beautiful roads in the area. I’ve always thought it represented some of the very best riding I’d ever experienced. Many other riders think so too, as the area is a favorite motorcycle rally destination. If I wanted to take a very long day (or perhaps spend a night on the road) I’d throw in a loop through the mountains of Swaziland.



I’ve always wanted to incorporate my favorite areas of southern Africa into a relatively short, inexpensive tour. This 10-day “Riders Tour” fits the bill. In addition to the Panorama Route and Swaziland, it includes a day “on safari” in Kruger National Park. This is the perfect African introductory tour. It is ideal for single or two-up riding, and is the most affordable African tour we’ve ever offered.

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An African Safari Primer

“On Safari” with Rider Magazine

My wife Barb and I recently returned from a trip to Africa where we hosted our [Southern Cross Adventure](#). One of the eight couples on the tour was [Rider Magazine](#) editor Mark Tuttle, along with his wife Genie. Look for Mark’s article about the trip in the January issue.



One of the highlights of the [Southern Cross Adventure](#) is a two-night stay at [Jock Safari Lodge](#) in Kruger National Park. I’ve become accustomed to first time visitors being blown away by Kruger, but Barb, who has probably done more safaris in more African countries than anyone except our tour leaders, declared it one of the best wildlife experiences she’s ever had.

Our experience prompted me to reflect on what we’ve learned about African safaris over the years. When I moved to Africa nearly 15 years ago, I purchased a Land Rover Defender, the “classic” African safari vehicle. Barb and I did countless safaris on our own in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. When we began offering motorcycle tours in Africa, we decided to incorporate wildlife experiences into them.

We think it’s a shame to invest in a trip to Africa and not experience the continent’s wildlife. For the first-time visitor, it’s easy to miss the full African experience. While there are numerous game lodges and game parks in South Africa, very few offer much hope of seeing Africa’s “Big Five” (lion, leopard, elephant, buffalo, and rhinoceros). Many simply don’t have enough game to support the voracious appetite of predators, so game viewing is limited to elephant, antelope, and less exotic species. In South Africa, “Kruger is King”. Larger than New Jersey, it is one of the best on the continent and offers the best opportunity to experience the Big Five during a visit to South Africa.

There are two ways to experience Kruger. Our less expensive Club Tours stay at a modestly-priced hotel or lodge located outside the park and spend a day in the park. During our recent Panorama Tour (article above) riders reported seeing all of the “Big Five” before lunchtime. The experience only gets better if you’re able to spend several nights at one of the luxury game lodges inside the park, as we do on our Premium Tours.

There are many advantages to staying inside the park. First, we are permitted to enter before sunrise and after sunset when some of the best wildlife experiences occur, whereas day visitors are limited to daylight hours. Second, as guests of lodges located inside the park, certain unpaved roads that lead deeper into the park are reserved for us. Day visitors do not have access to them. Finally, Kruger rangers who operate safari vehicles for the lodges communicate by radio to alert each other about sought-after wildlife sightings. During our recent stay at [Jock Safari Lodge](#), we were able to locate a pride of lion after the sun had gone down, only because our ranger was notified by another ranger of their location. We were also able to spend one morning on a walking safari (with armed rangers) - something day visitors are not permitted to do.

With a room cost of about \$1,000 per night, Jock’s is one of the most expensive lodges that we use on any of our tours, but the place really delivers.

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