



Ayres Adventures

Premium
Motorcycle Tours
Worldwide



Waypoints

Breakfast in Europe, Lunch in Asia

Scouting Munich to Istanbul

Claus Lazik, our German tour director, recently completed the scouting for our round-trip [Munich to Istanbul Adventure](#). He spent 21 days riding his F800GS through 13 different countries along the northern Mediterranean coast into Turkey and back via the inland route. Riding almost 5,000 miles, his mission was to find the best roads, scenery, accommodations and cultural highlights to guarantee an unforgettable Ayres Adventure.

Last year Claus rode along the Adriatic and Mediterranean Coasts to Turkey to scout the portion of the trip that includes Istanbul, Troy, Ephesus and Pamukkale. As the saying goes, it's a tough job...

Highlights of the Adventure will include:

- A 6,500-mile journey through 15 countries: Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic.
- Rest days in Istanbul, Budapest, Dubrovnik, Aristi and the beautiful Greek island of Thassos.
- Albania, which was opened to western tourism only at the end of the last century.
- Romania, where villagers live as they did 100 years ago.
- Transylvania, where we'll visit Vlad Dracula's castle and birthplace!
- Premium-level boutique-style accommodations, many of which feature spa and wellness facilities.

Many of our repeat customers have already booked this 35-day "Europe and Asia Adventure" which begins May 10, 2014. Check our website for additional information.



IN THIS ISSUE:

MUNICH TO ISTANBUL

RUSSIA

BMW MOA RALLY
HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICAN SOUTHERN
CROSS WITH
BOB'S BMW

ADDITIONAL
AUSTRALIA TOUR
DATES

CHINA, MONGOLIA,
AND RUSSIA



русский

The Real Russia

Beyond the Golden Ring



As stated above, one of the most enjoyable aspects of a tour leader's job is to scout a new trip. Every day is filled with visiting hotels, restaurants, roads and attractions that will ultimately be incorporated into an unforgettable itinerary. Being paid to spend a few weeks developing a new Adventure, unencumbered by obligations and schedules imposed during an actual tour, is a welcome task. Now and then I like to do one myself. I recently returned from a fascinating scouting mission in Russia to develop our first Russian tour.

[Beyond the Golden Ring](#), to be offered in 2014, will be a premium-level Adventure beginning with a visit to the



Golden Ring - a collection of picturesque and charming cities northeast of Moscow. As the name of the tour implies, riders will continue beyond the Golden Ring to many less frequently visited locations in the "real Russia". We'll take "roads less traveled" into the Republic of Karelia and its capital city, Petrozavodsk, where riders can take a boat to Kizhi Island, one of Russia's treasures and a World Heritage Site.

On the way to St. Petersburg we'll ride to the small town of Sortavala where we'll stay in a

beautiful lodge on Lake Ladoga - Europe's largest lake. A free day in Sortavala will allow us to take an exclusive cruise to Valaam - one of the most popular islands on the lake, where we'll also enjoy a shashlik - a classic Russian cookout.

We'll spend two nights in St. Petersburg - a city that has jumped to the top of my short list of favorite cities in the world. On our way back to Moscow we'll take some interesting back roads, visiting additional towns and villages not on the usual tourist routes.

Until this scouting trip I've never "blogged", but I decided to publish accounts of my Russian experience from the road to provide insight into what it was like to travel in Russia. It's under *[Ron's Travels](#)* on our website. There are six short articles, most of them accompanied by slideshows. They are listed with the most recent first, so you'll have to select the second page of blogs if you want to read them in order.



Ayres Adventures at the BMW MOA International Rally

Ride with Ayres Adventures in Oregon

The annual BMW MOA International Rally is the single most important event we attend each year. This will be a big year for us. As I publish this *Waypoints Bulletin* I'm on my way to Salem to host several Ayres Adventures events at the rally.



Lunch Rides

My good friend John Dinges, who lives in Lebanon, Oregon and has taken many of our tours, has graciously offered to assist me in organizing and leading lunch rides from the Oregon State Fairgrounds to a restaurant near *The Oregon Garden* - a showplace for nursery products produced in Oregon. Participants will follow scenic roads through farmland, vineyards, nurseries, and Christmas tree farms.

We'll do the rides on Friday, July 19 and Saturday, July 20. You can sign up at the Ayres Adventures booth - C2. Reservations will be limited to a maximum of 25 guests. There is no cost for the ride, but riders will pay for their own lunch. Anyone who wishes to stay can take a tour of the gardens after lunch. There will be no speeches or sales presentations - just a nice ride and some fine food with friends.

Presentation - Ayres Adventures in Africa

This year's seminar presentation will feature an overview of our African Adventures. We operate guided motorcycle tours all over the world, but Africa is one of our specialities. We operate nine different tours there, from our 10-day [African Panorama Adventure](#) in South Africa and Swaziland to our 35-day [Into Africa Adventure](#) that includes the Serengeti, Victoria Falls, Zanzibar and an Ayres Adventures exclusive - a gorilla safari in either Rwanda or Uganda. My thanks to Ayres Adventurer Lee-Ann Fick, who captured this shot of the young gorilla just last week during our [Into Africa Adventure](#).



Although the focus of the presentation will be our African Adventures, I'll include a brief peek at our new upcoming tour offerings: [Australia](#) and [Russia](#).

Shirts, Staff and Stuff

Whenever I visit our storage area I wonder if we're in the shirt business or the motorcycle tour business. We always provide two shirts to riders who tour with us: a t-shirt and a more dressy "safari-style" shirt. To insure that we have enough shirts in various sizes, we usually wind-up with more shirts than we need. We're bringing the surplus shirts to the rally this year. If you've taken a trip with us in the past and you'd like an additional shirt or two, stop by and we'll see if we can get you "suited up". You can also meet two of our veteran staff members, Shirley and Roberta, whom you have come to know via phone and email over the years. Stop by the booth this year and say hello. I'm sure they would love the opportunity to put faces with names.

Grand Finale

This year Ayres Adventures has donated a spot on our [African Panorama Adventure](#), beginning October 12, as a grand prize for the rally's closing ceremony. This 10-day Adventure has a value of \$5,275 and includes a safari in Kruger National Park as well as some of the best riding in South Africa and Swaziland. Be sure to attend

the closing ceremonies to see if you're the lucky one who will be joining us in Africa.



Grand Prize
AYRES ADVENTURES
African Panorama Tour
Value: \$5,275

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Ride Africa with Ron Ayres and Bob Henig

Bob's BMW - Southern Cross Adventure

Barb and I don't get a chance to host as many tours as we did in the past, but we'll be back in Africa in November to ride with Bob and Suzanne Henig from Bob's BMW. Bob's BMW is sponsoring a special running of our [African Southern Cross Adventure](#), open to all riders.



We've been operating this 14-day tour for ten years and it remains one of our most popular African tours. The Adventure offers an incredibly wide variety of African experiences, beginning with Cape Town, continuing through South Africa's mountainous wine route, and the "Garden Route" along the Indian Ocean. Cultural experiences include Zulu areas and Swaziland. The Adventure culminates with a two-night stay in a 5-star game lodge inside Kruger National Park.

The January issue of Rider Magazine featured the [Southern Cross Adventure](#). If you didn't see the article in the magazine, you can view a copy on our [website](#). Make this one if you can! Barb and I promise you a truly unforgettable experience.

Additional Dates "Down Under"

Adventure Down Under - Australia

We don't book large groups on our Premium Adventures. When it became obvious we had too many riders to stay under our ten-bike limit for our 15-day [Adventure Down Under](#), we scheduled a second tour. Tour dates are:

- Melbourne to Sydney (via Tasmania, of course) - October 25 - November 8
- Sydney to Melbourne (and Tasmania) - November 9 - 23

You can view a description of these Adventures on our website. Each is 80% booked, so don't hesitate if you're interested in an [Adventure Down Under](#).



A "Super Tour Plus" in the Works

Name That Tour

Keeping quiet about a new tour idea is difficult. When it's an epic journey that will eclipse anything I've done before, remaining silent is almost painful. But I'm now going public with my "idée fixe". I envision an epic journey, approximately 50 days, that will entail travel through China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan and Russia. Highlights will include The Great Wall, portions of the Silk Road, and many other attractions. We will begin in either Vladivostok or Hong Kong, and we'll end with an appropriate celebration in Moscow.

I was in Russia a few weeks ago to finalize [Beyond the Golden Ring](#) and I did a bit of scouting for this new Super Tour too. I'll return soon to continue the effort. I'll spend a few months in Asia in 2014 to finalize the planning. Then I'll publish the details.

This 2015 Adventure will be our most significant undertaking yet. It will be a fully-supported expedition whose leadership team will include senior tour leaders and a licensed paramedic.

I haven't been totally silent. I couldn't help but disclose my obsession with a few previous customers, and three couples have already committed to make this incredible trip. As it requires so much advance planning and budgeting (of time as well as money) I'm going to publish a periodic update as we develop and refine the details. If you would like to receive the updates, send a message to TheEpicJourney@ayresadventures.com.

Ayres Adventures Super Tours: [Antarctica](#), [Into Africa](#), [Munich and Istanbul](#), and now...

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