Tours for Every Taste

New Tours for 2014

It’s that time of year when we review, modify and introduce new tours to the coming year’s tour schedule.

Our customers’ tastes vary significantly and our new offerings reflect it. Our upscale Premium Adventures will remain the mainstay of our business. We’ve added an additional North American Adventure - *California Dreamin’*, to our list of premium offerings. And we’ve re-introduced our *Alaskan Splendors Adventure* with more “off bike” activities.

Our shorter and less expensive Club Class tours have been very popular, so we’ve introduced a 9-day *Cape Colony Adventure* in South Africa, a 7-day *Switchback Challenge* in the Alps, and a 10-day *Treasures of Eastern Europe Adventure*.

Some riders prefer more challenging off-road riding, so we’re announcing an off-road Adventure in an incredibly interesting and unusual part of the world north of the Arctic Circle in Russia - the Kola Peninsula.

And for the ultimate Adventure, there is our new 65-day SuperTour - *The Epic Journey*.

Read on!
New SuperTour

Moscow to Hong Kong - 2015

A few weeks ago I returned from a second scouting trip to prepare for our new Super Tour - The Epic Journey - Moscow to Hong Kong 2015. I posted a blog and slide show about this scouting trip on our website. To see it, select Irkutsk to China and Back under Ron’s Travels. You may find the article and slideshow interesting whether or not you are a candidate for the trip.

Scouting a new Adventure is one of the most exciting things about this business and I love it - especially when I’m scouting a place I’ve never visited before.

This scouting trip began with a five-hour Aeroflot flight from Moscow to Irkutsk - the largest Russian city in eastern Siberia. Our partner in Moscow, Svetlana Malygina, had assisted with the earlier scouting and agreed to help with this trip, too.

The scouting began in the Buryatiya region of Russia, which borders Mongolia and includes Lake Baikal. From Irkutsk the scouting continued through Mongolia to the border with China. I think this was the most productive scouting trip I’ve ever done. We refined the route for the 2015 Adventure and were able to settle on lodging, meals, and “off-bike” activities for this portion of the trip. We identified an experienced Mongolian tour guide who will accompany us in Mongolia and perhaps in Kazakhstan, Russia and China.

We’re now taking bookings for this trip. Seven of our regular customers (including three couples) have already booked it. I’ve set up a special email list to keep those who are interested in this trip informed as planning proceeds. If you would like to receive the bulletins, let me know at: TheEpicJourney@ayresadventures.com.

WAYPOINTS BULLETIN

AYRES ADVENTURES - AN OFFICIAL TRAVEL PARTNER OF BMW MOTORRAD

WWW.AYRESADVENTURES.COM
Riding among the Redwoods

California Dreamin’

I’ve often been asked to offer a premium-level Adventure that includes San Francisco, the Pacific Coast Highway, and popular US national parks. Here it is. Our 10-day Adventure: California Dreamin’. 

So, what does this premium-level Adventure include? Start with a hotel on San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf and a kickoff dinner at one of my favorite seafood restaurants - Alioto’s. Throw in a couple of nights at a luxury resort/casino on Lake Tahoe at Incline Village, interspersed with a ride among the giant redwoods through Avenue of the Giants and Sequoia National Park and a visit to Yosemite National Park. And we won’t miss the Pacific Coast Highway and Big Sur.

Riders wanting to pack on additional miles can use the free day at Lake Tahoe to visit the motorcycling endurance-riding capital of the world: Gerlach, Nevada. Ride on the Black Rock Desert, where most of the world land speed records have been established. I’m going to enjoy leading the first running of this one myself. Join me next May if you can.

An “All Alaska” Adventure

Alaskan Splendors

There is so much to see and do in Alaska that’s it’s impossible to incorporate all of it into a two-week tour. Many customers have asked for an Alaskan tour that includes such off-bike activities as deep-sea fishing and sight-seeing cruises and flights. We’ve modified our Alaskan Splendors Adventure to accommodate them.

We’ll couple an opportunity to fish in Homer (the halibut fishing capital of the world) with a cruise from Seward to see glaciers and do some whale watching. We’ll top-off the activities with a salmon cookout on Fox Island. We’ll also visit Denali and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks, enjoy some “flight seeing” from the charming little town of Talkeetna, and pan for gold in Fox.

During the free day in Fairbanks, riders can opt for a variety of local Alaskan cultural activities, or do some additional riding and capture a photo at the Arctic Circle on the famous Dalton Highway. Check the website for details.
Bohemian Rhapsody II?

**Treasures of Eastern Europe**

We’ve added a couple of new European tours to our portfolio, beginning with one that focuses on Eastern Europe. Our 10-day *Treasures of Eastern Europe Adventure* includes five countries with two free days and numerous opportunities for sightseeing and off-bike activities.

The new tour continues the spirit of our 12-day European Adventure - a “Bohemian Rhapsody” on motorcycles. Riders will enjoy stunning roads, great hotels and cultural highlights of Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland.

**5 Days of Sensory Overload**

**Switchback Challenge**

Our 7-day *Switchback Challenge* is a bit different from traditional tours. It is designed for experienced riders who wish to trade the experience of staying overnight in a variety of locations for the convenience of spending four consecutive nights in the same location and maximizing time spent on riding all of those wonderful passes.

Ride from Munich to our Adventure Center in the Austrian Alps. Stay four nights and accompany our native alpine tour leader on daily loops through some of the best riding in the Alps. Ride the mighty Stelvio Pass, the Italian Dolomites, the Swiss Alps, and much more. After four days of incredible riding, return to Munich via Garmisch with a final day of great riding:

Non-riding companions (or companions not wanting to ride every day) will enjoy our resort hotel and can take time off from riding to relax at the hotel.
Cape Town and the Cape Peninsula

**Cape Colony Adventure**

Many of our customers can’t seem to get enough of Africa. Barb and I understand, as it’s one of our favorite destinations, too. Of all of the places where we operate tours, more customers return to Africa than to any other destination. We’re the undisputed leader in motorcycle tours in Africa with nine different tours offered. And now something new: our 9-Day Cape Colony Adventure.

Several of Africa’s most popular destinations are located in what is known as the Cape Colony. Steeped in history, the first permanent settlement in South Africa was established in 1652 at the Cape of Good Hope by a group of 90 Calvinist settlers. By the late 1700s Cape Colony was one of the best developed European settlements outside Europe or the Americas. Today, the area is regarded by many as one of the most beautiful areas in the world and a motorcycling paradise. It just doesn’t get any better than this.

The Cape Colony Adventure begins and ends in Cape Town, with accommodations at the city’s famed Waterfront - replete with local cafes and restaurants, bars, shopping and entertainment.

In addition to the Cape Town Waterfront, highlights of the Cape Colony Adventure include the Cape Peninsula and Chapmans Peak Drive (one of the ten most scenic drives in the world), Cape L’Agulhas (the southernmost point on the African continent), the longest wine route in the world, and the Swartberg Pass.

The Cape Colony Adventure has it all: Great riding, lovely accommodations and meals, and exposure to a wide variety of South African historical and cultural attractions.

**Coming Next - Russia’s Kola Peninsula**

After I finished my scouting in Siberia and Mongolia last month, I had the opportunity to ride from Moscow to Pyatigorsk with my friend Alexey Strugalskly. In Pyatigorsk we joined our friend Sergey Ilianov (president of the BMW Motorrad Club Russia) and about twenty club members, for their annual enduro ride in the Caucasus. These guys know how to have a great time off-road!

During this adventure, I learned of another annual club ride on the Kola Peninsula, above the Arctic Circle between the Barents Sea and the White Sea. Sergey agreed to organize an off-road “Discovery Tour” for us next summer during the time of the “White Nights”. It’s like the “Midnight Sun” in Alaska. It doesn’t get dark. This is the first time a motorcycle tour will be offered in this previously inaccessible area of the world.

Sergey and I are working on the details of this trip, but to provide an idea of what it will be like, I’ve put photos from last year’s trip on our website. The Kola Peninsula Adventure will be designed for riders with off-road riding experience and will include tent camping as well as rustic cabins and lodges.

Campfires, fresh seafood, shashlik, vodka and cigars! But forget about mints on the pillow at night. It’s that kind of experience. If you haven’t experienced Russia, you can look forward to this one. I’m not going to miss it, and if you favor exciting and rugged off-road riding and an incomparable cultural experience, you shouldn’t either. Look for details soon.