



Ayres Adventures

Premium
Motorcycle Tours
Worldwide



Waypoints

Raising the Bar in Japan!

Japan - Cherry Blossoms AND Mt Fuji



Tour Director Claus Lazik recently returned from his Japan scouting trip and has finalized the details of this exciting new Adventure, which is published on our website. Many of Claus's photographs from the scouting trip are now incorporated into the slide show on our web page.

As a result of Claus's scouting, we have decided to rename the *Japan Cherry Blossom Tour* to *Japan - Cherry Blossoms and Mt Fuji*. It's obvious

from the name change that Claus was able to design a route that not only includes great motorcycling to the most popular locations for seeing Japan's cherry blossoms, but also includes one of the country's most popular attractions - Mt Fuji. To achieve this, it was necessary to add two days to this Adventure, making it a 14-day trip beginning

March 28, 2015. Since many of our previous guests have pre-booked this trip, only a few spaces remain.

Being so well-traveled, it takes a lot to impress Claus, and he's assured me that this Adventure will rank up there with our very best premium tours. I hope that you can join us for our first running of this amazing Adventure.



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As this Waypoints bulletin is being published, the intrepid riders of our 35-day [Munich to Istanbul Adventure](#) are enjoying the first week of this exciting trip. This first running of the trip includes eight motorcycles, five of which are couples riding two-up. This international group includes riders from Australia, Germany, Indonesia, Thailand, and even a few from the USA. The group is also noteworthy in that all of the riders on this trip have done multiple trips with us in the past.

The Adventure includes 15 different countries covering approximately 9,500 km (6,000 miles) of exceptional motorcycle travel. From Germany, the tour proceeds through Austria, Slovenia,

Italy, Croatia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, and Turkey. After spending a couple of days in Istanbul, the trip returns to Germany via Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic with virtually no repetition during the return to Munich.

Our longer Super Tours generally require more advanced planning and budgeting of time and money than our shorter trips. Riders participating in our [Munich to Istanbul Adventure](#) began planning the trip as long as 18 months ago.

We'll operate this trip again beginning in May, 2016. If you're interested in this exciting Adventure, it's time to start planning.

New Zealand in November

Spring in New Zealand

If you haven't experienced the "motorcycling paradise" of New Zealand in Spring (September, October and November) you're in for a real treat. Our 13-day [New Zealand Top Down Adventure](#) begins November 8, 2014 and there are still spaces available.



We could have named this trip *Best of New Zealand*, as it incorporates the country's most popular attractions on both of the country's major islands. The Adventure begins on the North Island in Auckland and ends in Christchurch on the South Island, with a wealth of unforgettable experiences in between. You'll ride the stunning roads of the Coromandel Peninsula, visit the North Island's wine country, experience the Maori culture at Rotorua, cross the Cook Strait to the South Island where you'll visit the Fox and Franz Joseph Glaciers, and stop for a night at Mt. Cook before heading for Christchurch.

In addition to great riding and stunning landscapes, the quality of the meals and lodging are in keeping with the high standards that have become an integral part of all Ayres Adventures. Accommodations range from comfortable, middle class hotels to luxury accommodations and "boutique" establishments that are off the usual tourist path. If you're looking for a springtime getaway before the holiday season begins, New Zealand in November could be for you.

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Our Interesting Adventurers

Mike and Cara Hardinger

One of the most rewarding things about operating Ayres Adventures is meeting interesting people. I'd like to start introducing you to some of our "Ayres Adventurers" in the Waypoints bulletins. I think it's fitting to begin with two of our most traveled customers.



As this bulletin is being published, Mike and Cara Hardinger are somewhere in Europe, participating in our [Munich to Istanbul Adventure](#) (see article above). When this 35-day Adventure is over, each of them will have spent more than 200 days on tour with us - an accomplishment that will earn them a special *Lifetime Award* in our frequent traveler program - the [Adventurer Club](#).

I first met Mike and Cara on our [New Zealand Top Down Adventure](#) in 2006. Since then they have traveled with us on four of our African trips, two South American trips (including Antarctica) and three European trips. They are also planning to participate in our [Moscow to Hong Kong Adventure](#) next year.

Mike and Cara have been married 44 years and live in Southern Pines, North Carolina. They have a large farm that is managed for both timber production and as a wildlife habitat. Mike spends a lot of time in the woods

improving the habitat, stating that it's one of his greatest pleasures in life. Their farm is also home to four horses, two dogs, two cats and Elton - their Sicilian donkey. They enjoy spending time with their horses and also playing golf.

While Mike is camping in the woods, Cara is likely to be at the theater. She loves the arts and enjoys reading and studying history, with a special interest in World War II. They are very understanding of each others' individual interests, but share the love of traveling to new places. Happily for us, the motorcycle is their preferred mode of transportation and they obviously enjoy doing trips with us.



Mike and Cara have both been involved with Boys and Girls Clubs for several years. Mike was Chairman of the North Carolina Council Of Boys and Girls Clubs and also was Chairman of their local club.

"Many of the children have never been outside the county, so telling them stories of what we have seen on our distant travels is exciting for them", stated Mike. "It allows them to imagine that they, too, can someday experience the wonderful world of which we are all a part, and having that dream is important. They love hearing about all of the places we visit, but I would say Antarctica and Africa are the best sellers!"

Barb and I have accompanied Mike and Cara on about half of their trips with Ayres Adventures. We're looking forward to traveling with them again next year on [The Epic Journey - Moscow to Hong Kong](#).



Tour Leader Slide Show

Slide Show - Empire of the Incas (Machu Picchu)



In February, tour leader Arthur Tarian helped lead our Empire of the Incas (Machu Picchu) Adventure in Peru and Chile. Quite an accomplished photographer, Arthur put together a nice slide show from the trip. Click [here](#) to view the slide show. You'll feel like you are there!

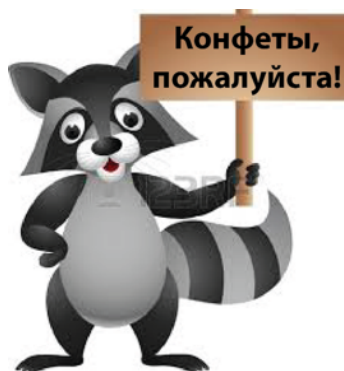


Tales from the Trails

California Dreamin' - Or Was I Only Dreaming?

Over the years we've heard numerous amusing stories from tour participants of things they've experienced during our tours. Several of you have encouraged me to share some of these stories with our subscribers. Last week I heard an interesting story from Tour Director Steve Phillips, who, along with fellow tour leader Arthur Tarian, was leading a private group from Russia on our [California Dreamin'](#) Adventure.

Steve reported that while staying at a lodge in Yosemite National Park, the Russians decided to leave their patio doors open during the night to enjoy the fresh mountain air and hear sounds of the rushing river just outside their rooms. At breakfast, the guests said that they were mystified over evidence of minor vandalism in their rooms. The mystery was solved when another rider arrived and reported that upon hearing a noise in the room during the night, he turned on the lights and saw a raccoon sitting on the floor, carefully unwrapping chocolates and eating them.



As a side note, the Russians thoroughly enjoyed their California experience and plan to return again. One rider was so enamored with the beauty of California that he plans to return with his entire family for an RV trip through the state so

that they, too, can enjoy what he experienced.

An Organizational Note

John Jesson Named Managing Director

During the last several years I have been delegating management responsibilities to John Jesson, General Manager of the company. John has consistently done an outstanding job as I've continued to transfer additional duties to him. I have named him *Managing Director* - a title that I believe is more appropriate to the additional responsibilities that he will continue to assume.

Thanks to John and our other dedicated staff, we have enjoyed consistent growth over the years. We have many additional opportunities, especially in the international arena. John, with the assistance of a professional team of tour leaders and support staff, will focus on company operations, while I concentrate on developing business in international markets and managing new offerings, such as our [Epic Journeys](#).

Congratulations, John!



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