



**AYRES**  
ADVENTURES

Premium  
Motorcycle Tours  
Worldwide

Official Partner of  
BMW Motorrad 



ARCTIC CIRCLE DISCOVERY

BARCELONA/LISBON

RIDER PROFILE

THE PYRENEES

NEW VIDEOS

CATALOG/TRADE SHOWS

# Waypoints

**Happy Holidays!!**

We wish each and every one of you a very *Merry Christmas* and *Happy New Year*. We thank those of you who have traveled with us in 2017, and look forward to meeting more of you in 2018!!

*Arctic Circle Discovery*

## Vintage Motorcycles

One of the fun things about motorcycle travel is the interesting people you meet along the way. As I was leading our North Pole tour through Norway this past August, I saw a sign for the Arctic Circle Museum and decided it would be a good place for a rest stop.

Once inside, we met the owner of the museum, Benny Sætermo. Benny has been interested in history since he was a small child and finds great pleasure in collecting items related to historical events. Combine that with his lifelong love of motorcycles, and you have the biggest vintage motorcycle collection in Northern Norway.

A big part of his collection has its origins from when the Germans abandoned their war-time motorcycles at the end of WWII. Benny's museum includes such bikes as the Zumdapp KS750, Zumdapp K500, several BSA M33s, and the rare Hungarian Pannonia 250 – the only one in Norway.



When we described our just-completed motorcycle ride at the North Pole, Benny asked if he could include something in his museum to commemorate our ride. We contributed our North Pole sign and the knobby tires from the actual motorcycle we rode at the Pole.

In addition to being on the route of our *North Pole Adventure*, this museum can also be visited during our *Norwegian Midnight Sun* tour. You can learn more about the Arctic Circle Museum [here](#).



### Barcelona/Lisbon

## You're Invited

As those of you who have traveled with us know, lifelong friendships are often forged on our Adventures. Six riders from South Africa, Australia and the USA formed such a bond, having done multiple trips with us since 2011. They recently requested we design a special trip for them through Spain and Portugal.

As seasoned riders they wanted an exciting itinerary that would highlight the spectacular riding available in the region - one that could only be put together by someone as experienced as our Ayres Adventures European tour leaders.

The result: *Barcelona to Lisbon*, a 14-day tour beginning May 19th, 2018.



Our tour leaders boldly predict that the routes they have selected will leave riders breathless, and rank among the top 5 riding days of their lives.

The Pyrenees Mountains, which separate the Iberian Peninsula from the rest of continental Europe, present a magnificent playground for motorcycle riders. Less crowded and older than the Alps, they are full of roads that offer some of the best riding in the world. Starting in Barcelona, this tour passes through the tiny principality of Andorra, includes Pamplona (famous for the running of the bulls) and passes through the autonomous Basque Country on the way to the Cantabrian Sea.

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Small and twisty roads are abundant in the mountainous border between Portugal and Spain. The tour includes a free day in Porto, Portugal to imbibe some of the local culture (and perhaps a bit of the Port wine for which it is well-known!) before ending in Lisbon, one of the oldest cities in Europe.

You're invited! The riders for whom we designed this tour asked us to invite like-minded Adventurers to join them for this spectacular riding experience. Check our website for more about our *Barcelona to Lisbon* Adventure.



## Ends of the Earth

### A Profile of Accomplishment



Geoffrey Smith, a retired public relations executive from Los Angeles, is one of our more prolific riders. He has done eight trips with us since 2011 and has scheduled two more for 2018. He has achieved our Lifetime Adventurer status, having clocked more than 200 days on tour with us. Recently, on our *North Pole Adventure*, Geoffrey became a member of an even more exclusive club – he is one of only a handful of riders able to claim to have ridden a motorcycle at both ends of the earth - the North Pole and Antarctica!

Geoffrey says of his experience with Ayres Adventures, “One fateful day... I discovered the Ayres Adventures website. I didn’t know at that point how my life would change... I have ridden places I would never have ridden alone, seen sights that for me previously existed only on a page in *National Geographic*, and most importantly, traveled to places I knew nothing about.”

In addition to being a seasoned rider, Geoffrey is also an interesting writer. He has published articles in *BMW ON*: one about his *Antarctica Adventure*, and another about his *Iceland Adventure*. We

think you’ll find them very entertaining.

If you ever find yourself on tour with Geoffrey you can count on a good time. He says, “I enjoy my creature comforts and I enjoy laughing, and whether it is John, Claus, Axel or Janis leading the tour, there is always laughter, friendship and attention to detail.”

## A New Switchback

### The Pyrenees

We've just added a tour to our popular Switchback Challenge series - the *Pyrenees Switchback Challenge*. This new entry complements our three other Switchbacks - the Alps, the Dolomites, and the Spanish Sierra Nevada mountains through Andalusia.

Each tour in the series is specifically designed to maximize time spent on the bike by limiting hotel changes to one or two base hotels. The tours are intended for experienced riders who are passionate about twisty mountain passes and who want to experience some of the best motorcycling roads in the world.



tour on which you would take your favorite brother-in-law, if he were to come for a visit. Their efforts resulted in these four amazing Switchback Challenges.

As one recent participant put it, "Great riding, great food, great hotel and great fun!"

The *Pyrenees Switchback Challenge* begins and ends in Barcelona, and includes outstanding riding in the French and Spanish Pyrenees. The last riding day is along the famously stunning coastal road – the Costa Brava.

Each tour in our Switchback series was designed by two of our European tour leaders, Claus and Axel, who consider these areas their backyard playground, and who know all of the "roads less traveled". Our original Switchback was conceptualized when we asked them to design the kind of



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## Australia and Iceland

### New Videos

I had the pleasure of leading our *Australia and Tasmania Adventure* in October. What a stunning part of the world!! Tour leader Janis Cimins and I managed to capture some great video of our ride, which Janis has compiled into a short *video*.

Janis also created an incredibly beautiful video showing riders enjoying the splendor of Iceland during our *Iceland Adventure*. Take a *look!*



We hope you'll enjoy the fun of traveling through these two great destinations, if not in person, then at least vicariously through these videos.

## Ayres Adventures News

### Catalog

Our 2018/2019 catalog is available. If you haven't already received your copy, you can request one on our *catalog request* webpage or you can view the entire catalog *online*.

### Trade Shows

January and February will be busy ones for us as we attend multiple trade shows in the US and Canada. Take a look at our schedule. If you plan to attend one of these, please stop by to say hello!

Calgary Bike Show January 5 – 7  
(BMO Centre, Stampede Park)

Vancouver Bike Show January 19 – 21  
(Tradex, Abbotsford)

Timonium Bike Show February 9 – 11  
(Maryland State Fairgrounds)

Toronto Bike Show February 16 – 18  
(Enercare Centre, Exhibition Place)



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