

The Road of Bones

London to Magadan
100 Days



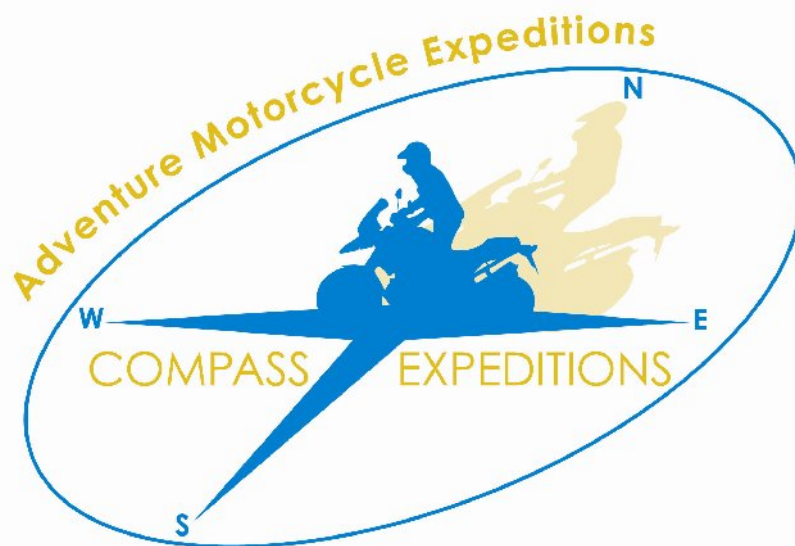
[Client information kit](#)

Discover the extraordinary

“Fully supported rides”

This epic motorcycle journey includes the following:

- 🏍️ Pre-Expedition, client rider training
- 🏍️ Services of ride leader
- 🏍️ Services of Mechanic
- 🏍️ Services of Medic
- 🏍️ Services of support vehicle
plus much much more.....



We hope you enjoy the read

London to Magadan



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Compass Expedition's "the Road of Bones" info Kit. Within these pages you will be introduced to one of the world's most scenic and historical journey's. This kit will detail everything you need to know to participate in this historic ride. Read on and dare to dream.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE EXPEDITION

This evocative journey covers a quarter of the earth's surface as we ride from the bustling, vibrant city of London to one of the most remote towns on earth, Magadan, Siberia. We take in some of the world's most scenic regions as we cross Switzerland and the stunning Tyrol region of Austria. Crossing Hungary we enter the beautiful Romania, visiting Dracula's castle along the way, before passing through Bulgaria and entering Turkey. We spend time in Istanbul, the crossroads of Asia, wandering the mosques and fantastic bazaars before riding out along the Black Sea coast and into an area littered with remnants of the once great Ottoman Empire. No ride to Turkey is complete without a visit to the Troglodyte region of Goreme. Crossing the Black Sea we enter the world's largest country, Russia, via the mighty Caucasus as we ride for Moscow. Starting out on the longest highway on earth, the Trans Siberian, we soon depart Russia and enter the storybook lands of Central Asia, the home of Ghengis Khan, Tamerlane and countless Silk Road traders as we ride across the vast empty and utterly silent Kazakh Steppe on our way to the jewel in the Silk Road crown, Uzbekistan. Blazing deserts, inland seas, mighty mountains, stunning Islamic architecture and a vastness nobody thought could still exist in today's world greet us as we ride these ancient trade routes. Wonderful Alpine valleys that tumble out of the Central Tien Shan Mountains provide us with memorable days of riding in Kyrgyzstan. Back on the Kazakh Steppe we once again enter Russia and rejoin the Trans Siberian as we ride on for the wonderful Lake Baikal, often described as the world's most beautiful lake. Mongolia will leave you on a high as we ride this indescribably beautiful and remote land, the riding here provides us with a great introduction of what is to come. The Trans Siberian now turns to dirt as we ride east across Siberia before riding north toward the impossibly remote Yakutsk in the heart of Siberia. Our last challenge is the infamous "Road of Bones" officially, the Kolyma Highway, this incredible ride travels over a thousand kilometres through the mountains to Magadan, on the Sea of Okhotsk. This is a road that has a tragic history yet is a road that will provide us with some of the most inspiring landscapes and challenging rides available, it truly is a challenge but one that is completely do-able with the right support. This expedition is another first being conducted by Compass Expeditions. For an experience that will stay with you forever, join us as we ride the "Road of Bones".

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- 🏍️ Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland
- 🏍️ Tyrol region, Austria
- 🏍️ Draculas Castle, Romania
- 🏍️ Medieval village of Sighisoara, Romania
- 🏍️ Istanbul
- 🏍️ Ottoman village of Safranbolu, Turkey
- 🏍️ Goreme, Turkey
- 🏍️ Dombay, Russian Caucasus
- 🏍️ Volgograd, (formerly Stalingrad)
- 🏍️ Saint Basil and the Red Square, Moscow
- 🏍️ Suzdal, Russia
- 🏍️ The "Road of Death", Kazakhstan
- 🏍️ The immense Kazakh steppe
- 🏍️ The Aral Sea (for all the wrong reasons)
- 🏍️ The Silk Road cities of Samarkand and Bukhara, Uzbekistan
- 🏍️ The glorious Registan, Emirs Ark and other Silk Road antiquities, Uzbekistan
- 🏍️ The Central Tien Shan Mountains, Kyrgyzstan
- 🏍️ Song Kol (the lake and it Ger dwelling families)
- 🏍️ The 3820 mt/12532ft Chong Asskan Pass (with views of China), Kyrgyzstan
- 🏍️ Altyn-Arashan (stunning Alpine valley), Kyrgyzstan
- 🏍️ Lake Baikal, Russia
- 🏍️ The vast, endless Taiga as it turns the colours of autumn, Russia
- 🏍️ Riding the world's longest road, the Trans Siberian
- 🏍️ The incomparable silence and vastness of Mongolia
- 🏍️ Amarbayasgalant Monastery, Mongolia
- 🏍️ Khovsgul Nuur (beautiful Alpine lake), Mongolia
- 🏍️ White lake, Mongolia
- 🏍️ Cinnamon rolls, Tserleg, Mongolia
- 🏍️ Yakutsk, Russia
- 🏍️ Riding the remote, challenging "Road of Bones", Russia
- 🏍️ Reaching Magadan, Russia



EXPEDITION ROUTE

WEEK ONE

Departing London we cross the English Channel and spend a night in Normandy before reaching the absolutely beautiful Lauterbrunnen, nestled in a post card perfect Swiss valley. Two nights are spent in the magnificent Tyrol region at Hotel Enzian enabling us the ride the legendary Stelvio Pass amongst others. We cross Hungary overnighting at Budapest before visiting Dracula's castle and the wonderful medieval town of Sighisoara in Romania, where we see the first week out.

WEEK TWO

A brief visit to Bulgaria will see us reach the crossroads of Asia at Istanbul where we spend two nights visiting the remarkable Topkapi Mosque, Bazaars and other sights. We will ride the Black Sea Coast visiting the wonderful Ottoman towns of Safranbolu and Amasya before visiting the fantastic Troglodyte dwellings at Goreme in Central Turkey. A hot air balloon flight is included to really get a great view of this amazing landscape.

WEEK THREE

Riding north across the Turkish plateau we once again reach the Black Sea coast at Trabzon where we catch a ferry to Sochi, Russia. We are in the heart of the 1100 km/ 690 mile Caucasus's now and the ride into Dombay will take your breath away. Riding the narrow twisting road along this forested valley we are suddenly confronted by a sheer wall of mountains, it is spectacular. We continue north onto Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad, this city was the sight of the bloodiest battle during WW11 and a visit to the moving memorial is a must.

WEEK FOUR

Further north we eventually reach Moscow. Three nights are spent in Moscow visiting one of the world's most recognisable sights of St Basils located in the wonderful Red Square. Also on the agenda are the Kremlin, Lenin's Tomb and Gorky Park. An amazing city. Riding out of Moscow we enjoy a short ride to Suzdal a small Russian village seemingly caught in a time warp, things haven't changed a lot since the rule of the Tsars. The skyline of this small village is dotted with golden cupolas that glint in the afternoon sun, it's a wonderful place. We ride south for Kazan with its amazing Kremlin and then through rarely travelled country as we head for Samara set on the banks of the Volga, a once closed Russian city and home to the MIG jet fighters.

WEEK FIVE

We leave Russia and enter Kazakhstan and the mighty Kazakh steppe. We ride the "road of death" across the silent Kazakh steppe so vast that you can see the curvature of the earth, it really is a remote, lonely place, and we spend a number of nights camping in the wild surrounded by silence, sunset out here is extraordinary. Next stop is the Aral Sea, where we see fishing boats left high and dry on the sand dunes when only a few decades earlier they were floating in the same spot. The Aral Sea disaster, as it is known, is a testament to man's capacity to completely stuff up his environment.

WEEK SIX

We ride through the Kyzyl-Kum Desert to our next port of call, Turkistan, where we visit Kazakhstan's greatest building the Kozha Akhmed Yasaui mausoleum built by Tamerlane in the 14th century. Finally leaving the desert we cross into Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is home to some of the greatest Silk Road treasures and is as about as far away as you could get from the usual tourist trail, yet it holds some of the most fantastic architecture on earth. We spend two nights in Tashkent living it up in our 4 star hotel

before riding out for Samarkand. No name is so evocative of the Silk Road than Samarkand. Two nights are spent in this magical city wandering the ancient alleyways and markets and watching as the sun sets over the mighty Registan. Another two nights are spent at Uzbeks holiest city Bukhara. Sipping tea and eating Shashlyks around the ancient Labi Hauz is stepping back in time. Bukhara too is synonymous with the Silk Road and also has a strong history relating to the "great game" played out in the 19th century.

WEEK SEVEN

We ride onto Tamerlane's birth place of Shakhrisabz and view the mighty Ak-Saray palace once so big it even dwarfed the Registan, all that is left now is its 40m/ 131ft high entrance, still an amazing sight. We cross the 1788m/ 5866ft pass of Takhtakaracha before riding back to Tashkent and down into the Ferghana Valley before spending a night in Andijan. We cross now into Kyrgyzstan home to some of Central Asia's grandest mountains. We are now in the cool of the mountains for the first time as we ride through stunning canyon lands dissected in two by a turquoise river running far below, the ride is simply stunning. We ride for Song-Kol, an idyllic lake inhabited by a handful of very friendly Ger dwelling families. We can horse ride, fish or soak up the stunning wilderness of this tranquil spot.

WEEK EIGHT

From Song-Kol we ride over a 3500m/ 11482ft pass and down to the capital, Bishkek. Only 35ks/ 22 miles from Bishkek lays the magnificent Ala-Archa canyon where we spend a night camping in amongst the towering granite peaks and pine forests, with a milky glacial river roaring past ensuring our beers are kept cold. We skirt the northern shores of the world's second largest alpine Lake of Issyk-Kol before arriving in the old Russian town of Karakol where we spend the next four nights. Karakol is the base we use for exploring the postcard picture perfect alpine valleys that tumble out of the Central Tien Shan Mountains that border China. We visit Jeti-oghuz, the stunning Altyn Arashan valley and ride the 3820m/ 12532ft pass of Chong Asskan where we can see China.

WEEK NINE

Leaving Kyrgyzstan we once again enter Kazakhstan and camp a night in the wild before entering Almaty. Two nights are spent in Almaty as we explore the city or maybe take a ride up the nearby Zailiysky Alatau range that looms just beyond the city limits. We once again ride across the vast empty and silent Kazakh Steppe eventually reaching the Russian border after nearly three days of riding. Crossing into Russia we rejoin the Trans Siberian highway as we head further eastward towards Krasnayorsk.

WEEK TEN

More free camping is spent in amongst the endless Taiga before arriving at Irkutsk, seven days after leaving Almaty. Irkutsk is the stepping off point for the wondrous Lake Baikal the deepest freshwater lake in the world. We ride up the western side of the lake reaching Olkhon Island mid afternoon. Olkhon Island offers some of the finest views of the towering cliffs that rise lakeside. Maybe enjoy a Banya (sauna) here or go dog sledding, we spend two nights relaxing and enjoying the surrounding scenery. On return to Irkutsk we are guests of the bikers from the Irkutsk bike club and spend a great night in their company.

WEEK ELEVEN

Crossing into Mongolia is like crossing into another world, it is a country without fences and mostly without roads, we simply ride across the landscape uninhibited, it truly is the last great act of freedom left in biking. First stop will be the Amarbayasgalant Monestary scenically located at the junction of three valleys, we camp a night nearby. The riding becomes more difficult now as we ride across the open landscape on rough dirt tracks, you will barely notice though as we are overawed by the immensity of the countryside where we free camp for a number of nights before eventually reaching Moron, yes Moron, and onto the spectacular Khovsgul Nuur

WEEK TWELVE

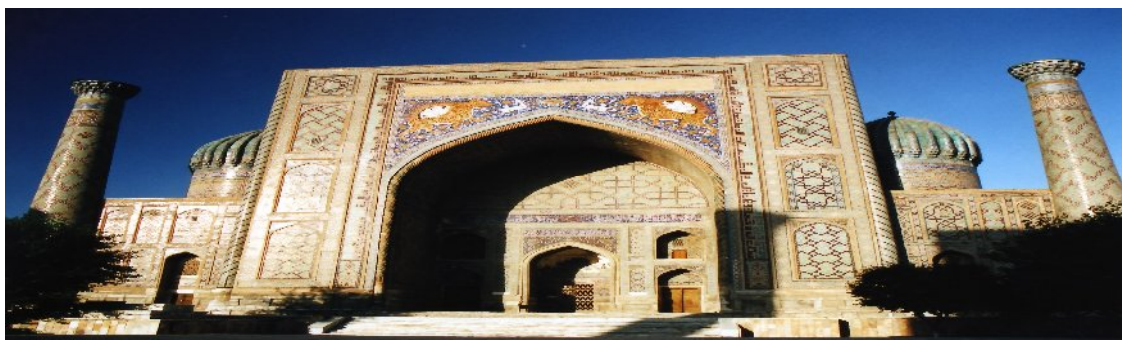
Khovsgul Nuur is a stunning lake surrounded by snow capped peaks and alpine forests where we spend three nights in a traditional Ger. We can ride along the western side of the lake for unbelievable views of the lake with brilliant white Gers reflecting in its calm waters or enjoy a fish lunch in a wonderful log cabin restaurant, lakeside. Dragging ourselves away from Khovsgul Nuur we take the back tracks to White Lake and this is where the riding becomes challenging as does the navigation, we follow a single grass track across the valley floors and begin to cross numerous creeks and high passes. We spend two nights at a Ger camp on the edge of the beautiful White lake, no T.V, no mobile phones, its magnificent isolation. The pace is picked up a little as we ride for Tseterleg and enjoy what is possibly the finest meal in Central Asia at the Fairview hotel and restaurant. We visit the magnificent Erdene Zuu Khiid Monastery on our way to Ulaan Baatar.

WEEK THIRTEEN

We spend three nights here re-charging our batteries and visiting the sights. It comes as a surprise to be talking with fellow travellers again as we have been in some very remote, rarely traversed regions for some time. We then ride north toward the Russian border and soon rejoin the Trans Siberian. This is a week long ride through the vast and remote Taiga that seemingly stretches on forever. It is a beautiful time of year to visit as the immense Taiga is beginning to show its autumn colours. We arrive at Chita for a well earned shower and a cold beer and maybe a sauna to wash off the Trans Siberian dust or mud before once again riding out into the vastness that makes up the Taiga. Turning off the Trans Siberian Highway we ride directly north toward Tynda where we can recharge our batteries again before once again riding out into the endless forests of the remote reaches of Siberia.

WEEK FOURTEEN

The riding becomes challenging here and is a great practice run for the "Road of Bones". We eventually reach Yakutsk, a surprising city of 240,000 people in the middle of absolutely nowhere. From here we enter the Kolyma Highway better know as the "Road of Bones". This is becoming one of the must do ride for true adventure bikers. The ride across this vast imposing landscape is nothing short of epic, it is a challenge, it is difficult and it is very remote, but as one famous Hollywood actor, cum biker, commented "I have lived more in these last few hours than I have in the last few years" or something like that ! we ride into Magadan and get our first glimpses of the ocean since Turkey all those months ago. Join us on this life changing ride, savour that moment when you know you have accomplished an amazing feat and discover some of the world's most remote, historical, yet stunning countries.



TOUR SCHEDULE

The schedule above is a guide only and we will endeavour to remain faithful to the itinerary. However, in an expedition of this magnitude, things sometimes go wrong, events that are completely beyond our control, border strikes, landslides, road closures, surly border guards, even being forbidden to ride a motorcycle into a city (it has happened) all may have an effect on our expedition. We will endeavour to get back as per itinerary as quickly as possible. The final decision as to what course of action to take lies with the Compass Expeditions crew.

A day in the life.....

No two days are the same, nothing can be assumed but we do follow a certain routine. Each morning we arise at a reasonable hour and have a filling breakfast before going over the days ride. You will be fully briefed the night before of our next destination, route to be taken, road condition, sights to see, and things to do. Depending on location, availability and need we will first fill the bikes before riding out toward our next destination. At a pre-determined point we shall meet for lunch. Lunch is pre-prepared by us out of our mobile kitchen and is a hearty filling meal enough to sustain us for the afternoon's ride. Arriving at our overnight destination we perform minor safety checks of the bikes as well as any routine maintenance that may be needed before having a shower and a cold beer or wine. In keeping with our "ALL INCLUSIVE POLICY" breakfast is included on every day of the expedition. Lunch and dinner is included on ALL ride days.

Weather

We shall be leaving England early June and will be anticipating good weather across Europe. Turkey will still be a little cold and the Caucasus's will still have snow around but the roads will be clear. At this time of year it is not uncommon for a little rain to be still be around in Moscow. There is no escaping the heat of Central Asia but we shall only be experiencing the worst of it for two weeks. The mountains of Kyrgyzstan will be cool and clear and by the time we reach Siberia the Taiga shall be turning the wonderful colours of autumn. We reach the Road of Bones when the rivers are at their lowest levels and the days are starting to cool down meaning a lot less mosquito's.

Road Conditions

The road conditions vary wildly on this expedition. The roads across Europe are smooth and we chose the back ways so will be quieter than the freeways; however the small valleys in Switzerland and Austria can get a lot of traffic and be narrow. The Russian roads can be very badly potholed and the Russian traffic can be aggressive at times, the right of way is the rule of thumb here. The so called "Road of Death" in Kazakhstan can be in terrible condition with massive potholes, a little sand and long sections of corrugations. Mongolia has only 400 kilometres/ 250 miles of paved road, the remainder is dirt and some of it a little difficult with shallow creek crossings and gravel sections. The eastern section of the Trans Siberian is still dirt (although this is being replaced by new paved road). The "Roads of Bones" is without a doubt the most challenging riding, with sections of mud (if we get rain) washed out bridges corrugations and long distances through the forests.

This ride is completely achievable by anyone with motorcycling experience. At no times do we include extreme moto-cross style riding, we always chose the least difficult option and the majority of riding is very easy, however we have all seen "The Long Way Round" and know what to expect, although we are arriving far later in the season when the rivers are at their lowest.

Food

As stated above all lunches and dinners are included on each and every ride day for the duration of the expedition. Breakfasts are included on everyday of the journey.

Breakfasts

Some tour operators claim that breakfast is included with their accommodation, having previously travelled in the regions that this expedition is going to we know a single egg on a piece of toast will not sustain anyone for a long and sometimes arduous day on the bike. In any case where we feel the breakfast provided by the hotel is not sufficient we will supplement the breakfast with our own supplies.

Lunches

On all ride days we shall prepare fresh, out of our mobile kitchen, a hearty filling lunch. Lunch usually consists of a choice of salads and a platter of luncheon meats with a choice of fruits and non alcoholic drinks and usually cakes or biscuits. (Everything is subject to availability). We note that other operators prefer to give clients a choice of where they eat (at clients own cost), we are all too aware of the sometimes dreadful effects of food poisoning which can be a tour stopping event. We are sometimes travelling to remote and sparsely populated regions and despite all the restaurants, truckstops best intentions, hygiene standards are virtually non-existent. We do, however, stop in some great places every now and then for lunch and the lunch is on us.

Dinners

Again on each and every ride day we will provide dinner, usually from a wonderful local restaurant where you can select from the menu. When we are camping we provide hearty campfire meals of at least two courses. We invite you to compare with our competitors and ask if they provide meals. It is a cost that soon adds up, especially on such a major expedition.



ACCOMMODATION

Hotels

We use hotels for a large portion of this expedition, usually 3 to 4 far in standard, however on a very few occasions we must use very basic accommodations as that is all that is available. We have chosen our hotels for the location, friendly staff and uniqueness. The accommodations are as varied as the landscapes we ride through, from Felt lined Gers in Mongolia to hostels in Kyrgyzstan and fantastic hotels in Uzbekistan.

Camping

This expedition includes approximately 30 nights camping, some of these locations are stunning and it would be criminal to hide away in a hotel, some places there simply isn't any other choice. It is the nature of this expedition that we are travelling to some very locations with zero facilities; our only option is to camp. There will be sections of up to 5 days where we camp with no showers however this is at the later stages of the expeditions as we travel to further and further away from civilization. Some of the most memorable nights of the entire expedition are whilst camping out in deep Siberia under a curtain of stars or camping on the Kazakh steppe where the silence and remoteness is overwhelming.

ARE YOU UP TO IT?

The rider

The rider should have at least two years experience on riding large motorbikes; this however is not a "set in concrete" requirement as we realise that riding skills differ from person to person. The rider does, however, need to be confident with a larger bike and confident in his/her abilities to ride safely in foreign countries that have a slightly different view of road rules than what we may be accustomed to. If carrying a Co- Rider, this expedition is not the time to find out you are not comfortable with it.

The Co-Rider

The Co-Rider needs to have experience in riding as a pillion and have confidence that they can handle some long day's on the saddle on some very ordinary roads in sometimes inclement weather. On the more difficult sections co-Riders have the option of riding in the support vehicle, (space permitting).

IN CLOSING

It is in the nature of this expedition that you will at times be tested. There will be times that people will feel exhausted, dirty or simply frustrated. A flexible attitude is paramount as is a good sense of humour and above all a tolerance for things that can and do go wrong, as well as an acceptance of other peoples and cultures that are completely removed from ours. A willingness to work as a team for the general day to day running of the expedition and to "muck in" while camping. The more you put in the greater the sense of achievement at the end.

ARE YOU ?

- 🏍️ Good humoured
- 🏍️ Tolerant
- 🏍️ Accepting of things that may be different
- 🏍️ Willing to help out for the success of the expedition
- 🏍️ Have the drive to keep going when everyone else has long since given up

Great then read on !!

If you choose to ride one of Compass Expeditions bikes you will be riding the new BMW F 800 GS. This bike comes from a stable of the world's finest touring bikes and as such we have chosen it for our epic "Road of Bones" ride. With a low seat height of only 850mm and unencumbered by luggage these powerful bikes are ideally suited for the demands of riding this challenging expedition across a quarter of the world.



Bike Specifications

- 🏍️ Liquid cooled
- 🏍️ 798 cc, 85 hp
- 🏍️ Manifold injection
- 🏍️ 6 speed gearbox
- 🏍️ Chain drive
- 🏍️ Seat height 880/850mm 34.6/ 33.4
- 🏍️ Ready to ride weight 207kg/ 456lb

Additional Accessories for Compass Expeditions

- 🏍️ Crash bars
- 🏍️ Aluminium Bash Plate
- 🏍️ Top box
- 🏍️ Radiator protector
- 🏍️ Barkbusters

BRINGING YOUR OWN BIKE

There is no doubt that just about any bike could feasibly attempt such a journey, but for the sake of the expeditions success we must insist you leave your step through 50cc at home. Bikers will insist that they and they alone have the most suitable bike for doing the "Road of Bone", they could be right, but we have compiled a "by no means complete" list of the bikes we have owned over the years and that would be more than capable of completing this expedition. Please be aware below is not a definitive list

Suitable bikes

- 🏍️ BMW R 1200 GS or any BMW in the GS Range
- 🏍️ HONDA TRANSALP/ DOMINATOR/ AFRICA TWIN
- 🏍️ YAMAHA TENERE
- 🏍️ KAWASAKI KLR 650
- 🏍️ KTM 990 ADV or 690
- 🏍️ TRIUMPH TIGER
- 🏍️ APRILLA PEGASO 650 TRAIL, CAPONORD

Modifications that need to be considered

- 🏍️ At least 650cc
- 🏍️ Range of at least 400ks/ 250miles
- 🏍️ Have protective equipment such as crash bars, aluminium bash plate, headlight protector, Barkbusters
- 🏍️ Top box for personal day use items
- 🏍️ Bike alarm and/or disc lock
- 🏍️ Heated hand grips
- 🏍️ GPS unit

All bikes must be in a roadworthy condition and in excellent mechanical order. We reserve the right to refuse participation for any bike we believe simply won't make it; the timely success of the expedition is our priority. Contact us on info@compassexpeditions.com for any questions concerning your bike.

BIKE SHIPPING

Shipping your bike from your home to the start of the expedition is your responsibility. All other shipping costs are included in the expedition cost, these shipments include:

- 🚢 English Channel crossing
- 🚢 Black Sea ferry
- 🚢 Magadan to Vladivostok
- 🚢 Vladivostok to your home port

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What do I do if my bike breaks down?

If your bike breaks down we will endeavour to fix it ourselves or get it to a point where it can be fixed, all repair costs are borne by the client (only if client owns bike). We have never been "stuck" unable to proceed and the locals they are masters at getting broken down bikes going again.

Do I need to bring my own spares?

Yes you do need to bring a basic list of spares with you suitable for our bike. If riding your own BMW F 800 GS we may be able to assist with spares and this is purely at our discretion and the spare must be replaced at the earliest possible convenience. Our support vehicle will carry all your spares. Please request a full list of spares if needed.

What about tyres/tires?

Tyres are very difficult to get once out of Europe. We require that you bring 1x road and 1x off road rear tyre and 1x off road front tyre. Your tyres should be new at the beginning of the expedition. Contact us with any questions you may have regarding your tyre choice.

What about servicing?

We have scheduled two major service points for this expedition. These service points will be in Tashkent, Uzbekistan and Almaty, Kazakhstan. If a service is needed earlier or later we shall arrange that on your behalf. Service costs for your own bike are at your own cost.

Will it get stolen?

Hopefully not, it's a long way to walk. Seriously though, theft is an important consideration. We park our bikes at secure bike/car parks that are under 24 hour guard or inside the hotel property whenever in a city. No bike will ever be left out on the street in full public on any occasion, overnight. A disco lock and/or immobiliser is required. Theft is not something to stress ourselves about, with a little care your beloved bike will be safe.

How do I get to start/finish point?

Easy, we can assist you with your shipping requirements, if needed, from your home port to the start point of London. All other shipping including shipping of your bike back to your home point is included.

Can I get my bike insured?

Good luck, we have never met an insurance company that will go near you once you mention that you are taking your bike overseas, but at least give your insurer a call, miracles may occur.

Do I need a Carnet de Passage en Douane if bringing my own bike?

No unlike other tour operators we do not require clients to go through the hassle and expense of getting a carnet. We have chosen this fantastically varied itinerary for many reasons, one of them being the fact that none of these countries require the carnet.

What about visa's?

In most of the Central Asian countries and Russia you will need a visa along with a letter of introduction or L.O.I. we will obtain the L.O.I for you at out cost however the client is responsible for obtaining his/her own visa's. A visa agency is adept at getting visa's especially those that are a little tricky to obtain. We will need to co-ordinate with you the L.O.I and visa process. It all sounds complicated but we have done it all before with no problems.

What about vaccinations?

We highly recommend that you speak with your doctor and/or check out the World Health Organisation website at www.who.int/country and have a look at their excellent International Travel and Health book, available online. In Australia visit the Australian Medical Centre website at www.traveldoctor.com.au or phone 1300 65 88 44. for our U.S clients visit www.cdc.gov/travel/ and for our U.K clients go to www.doh.gov.uk/traveladvice/ for travel health recommendations in general go to www.mdtravelhealth.com

WHATS INCLUDED WHEN RIDING A COMPASS EXPEDITIONS BIKE ?

Equipment

- 🏍️ BMW F 800 GS
- 🏍️ GPS unit on each Compass bike
- 🏍️ Fuel for entire expedition
- 🏍️ All mechanical spares, servicing, repairs and tyres/tires
- 🏍️ Top box for personal day use items

Expedition support

- 🏍️ Services of ride leader, mechanic and medic
- 🏍️ Full pre-expedition rider training at an accredited rider program
- 🏍️ Support vehicle to carry all luggage, (two bags per person), spares etc
- 🏍️ Mobile kitchen for lunches and campfire dinners
- 🏍️ Motorcycle third party insurance
- 🏍️ Satellite phone

Daily on road costs

- 🏍️ Flight Magadan to Vladivostok
- 🏍️ Airport transfers
- 🏍️ All accommodation of a generally 3 to 4 star standard
- 🏍️ All camping equipment excepting personal sleeping bags
- 🏍️ One bonus nights accommodation
- 🏍️ All ride day lunches and dinners
- 🏍️ All breakfasts on every day of expedition
- 🏍️ All tolls, ferries and security park costs

Excursions and entrances

- 🏍️ Entrances to all national parks as mentioned on itinerary
- 🏍️ All entrances to historical sights as mentioned on itinerary
- 🏍️ Off bike activities, such as Altyn- Arashan, horse riding etc
- 🏍️ All guide costs in cities
- 🏍️ All museum entrances as mentioned on itinerary

Please refer to the end of this document for a full list of inclusions



Other stuff

- 🏍️ A medical kit on support vehicle
- 🏍️ Comprehensive pre-departure booklet
- 🏍️ Daily briefings on route and destination

WHATS NOT INCLUDED WHEN RIDING A COMPASS BIKE ?

- 🏍️ Visa's
- 🏍️ Lunches and dinners on non-riding days
- 🏍️ Sleeping bags
- 🏍️ Traffic fines
- 🏍️ Repair and/or recovery costs to Compass Expeditions bike for loss or damage caused by negligence or failing to heed ride leaders directive
- 🏍️ Medical costs, it is a pre-requisite that all clients have comprehensive medical insurance that covers for riding a motorcycle over 650cc in foreign countries.
- 🏍️ Activities not mentioned on the itinerary
- 🏍️ International flights
- 🏍️ Personal spending money

WHATS INCLUDED WHEN RIDING YOUR OWN BIKE ?

Expedition support

- 🏍️ Services of ride leader, mechanic and medic
- 🏍️ Full pre-expedition rider training at an accredited rider program
- 🏍️ Support vehicle to carry all luggage, (two bags per person), spares etc
- 🏍️ Mobile kitchen for lunches and campfire dinners
- 🏍️ Motorcycle third party insurance
- 🏍️ Satellite phone
- 🏍️ Mechanical support if needed

Daily on road costs

- 🏍️ Flight Magadan to Vladivostok
- 🏍️ Airport transfers
- 🏍️ All accommodation of a generally 3 to 4 star standard
- 🏍️ All camping equipment, excepting personal sleeping bags
- 🏍️ One bonus nights accommodation
- 🏍️ All ride day lunches and dinners
- 🏍️ All breakfasts on every day of expedition

Excursions and entrances

- 🏍️ Entrances to all national parks as mentioned on itinerary
- 🏍️ All entrances to historical sights as mentioned on itinerary
- 🏍️ Off bike activities, such as Altyn- Arashan, horse riding etc
- 🏍️ All guide costs in cities
- 🏍️ All museum entrances as mentioned on itinerary

Please refer to the end of this document for a full list of inclusions



Other stuff

- 🚲 A medical kit on support vehicle
- 🚲 Comprehensive pre-departure booklet
- 🚲 Daily briefings on route and destination

Shipping

- 🚲 It is your responsibility to ship you bike to the start point in London. We can assist with your shipment, all other shipments are included in tour cost

Other stuff

- 🚲 A medical kit on support vehicle
- 🚲 Comprehensive pre-departure booklet
- 🚲 Daily briefings on route and destination

WHATS NOT INCLUDED WHEN RIDING YOUR BIKE ?

- 🚲 Visa's
- 🚲 Fuel
- 🚲 Third party insurance which we arrange for you
- 🚲 Shipping of your bike to the start point in London
- 🚲 Servicing of your bike, repairs and transport costs to repair point (if needed)
- 🚲 Lunches and dinners on non-riding days
- 🚲 Sleeping bags
- 🚲 Traffic fines
- 🚲 Repair and/or recovery costs to Compass Expeditions bike for loss or damage caused by negligence or failing to heed ride leaders directive
- 🚲 Medical costs, it is a pre-requisite that all clients have comprehensive medical insurance that covers for riding a motorcycle over 650cc in foreign countries.
- 🚲 Activities not mentioned on the itinerary
- 🚲 International flights
- 🚲 Personal spending money

WHAT YOU NEED BEFORE GETTING ON THE PLANE !

Personal documents

All documents must be the original and will be checked before departure so to ensure no nasty surprises while sitting at a far flung border.

- 🚲 Passport, must be valid for at least six months after completion of this expedition, passport must also have at least 15 empty pages
- 🚲 Fifteen colour passport photos
- 🚲 Your original local drivers license
- 🚲 For riders bringing their own bikes, the original bike registration document known as the V5 logbook in the U.K
- 🚲 International drivers license I.D.P available at your motoring organisation e.g.: AAA in the U.S, R.A.C in the U.K, R.A.C.V, R.A.A etc in Australia.
- 🚲 Credit card, either Visa or Master Card
- 🚲 ATM card
- 🚲 Original travel insurance documents
- 🚲 Visa's
- 🚲 Please supply to us one photocopy of all documents and keep two copies for your self
- 🚲 A current vaccination certificate showing all inoculations

Things of a personal nature

- 🚲 Camera, SLR and a small digital one to carry in the jacket
- 🚲 Sleeping bag
- 🚲 Mp3, I-pod or something similar
- 🚲 Swiss army knife
- 🚲 Dairy

A complete list of things to take will be included with your pre-departure booklet

RECOMMENDED RIDING GEAR

As bikers you will undoubtedly already have your own personal riding gear. The list below is simply a guide to what you need to be comfortable for the duration of the expedition

Helmet

A full face helmet is essential; riding with a motocross style and goggles will be extremely uncomfortable for such a long expedition especially in dusty conditions. A silk or thermal balaclava worn under the helmet is also a life saver on those cold mornings

Clothing

Waterproof gear is absolutely essential as is removable liners in both the pants and riding jacket. You will be riding through virtually every weather condition so a good jacket and pants that can be adapted to the riding conditions will only enhance your experience. A thermal fleece such as Paddy Palin, Himalaya or Patagonia is excellent for wearing under your jacket on colder days. A set of light coveralls is indispensable.

Boots

Again this is a personal choice, a pair of motocross boots are of course ideal but they are cumbersome and bulky to carry half way around the world, (I personally have never owned a pair). A pair of knee high leather riding boots is a great compromise, they are light, robust and can be polished up to go out at night.

Sunglasses

Don't forget your sunglasses. A good pair of strong sunglasses is essential; the light is intense out in the blazing Central Asia deserts.



SIGHTS INCLUDED ON THIS EXPEDITION

- 🏍️ Entrances to all national parks
- 🏍️ Dracula's Castle tour
- 🏍️ Istanbul city tour
- 🏍️ Hot air balloon ride over Goreme, Turkey
- 🏍️ Museum of the defence of Stalingrad
- 🏍️ City tour of Moscow
- 🏍️ Entrance to St Basils
- 🏍️ Lenin's tomb
- 🏍️ Kremlin tour
- 🏍️ Suzdal Kremlin entrance
- 🏍️ Turkistan Mausoleum
- 🏍️ All entrances to Samarkand sights, including the Registan, Bib-Khanaym mosque, Guri Amir mausoleum, Shadir- I - zindah
- 🏍️ Bukhara city tour
- 🏍️ Entrances to Kalon Minaret, the Ark, Ismail Samani Mausoleum
- 🏍️ Horse riding in song Kol
- 🏍️ Overnight 4x 4 trip to Altyn Arashan
- 🏍️ Olkhon Island sauna
- 🏍️ Amarbayasgalant Monastery, Mongolia
- 🏍️ Erdene Zuu Khiid Monastery and photographic permit (SLR/Digital only)
- 🏍️ Gandantegchinlen Khiid Monastery
- 🏍️ Permafrost Museum entrance in Yakutsk, (a lot more interesting than what it sounds)
- 🏍️ Mask of sorrow memorial in Magadan (very moving)



We are sure you will have a thousand more questions; we hope so. Below is our full contact details. Thanks for spending your time reading this info kit. We hope it has inspired you to challenge yourself, if not riding with us then just riding and enjoying this remarkable world that we live in.

Thankyou from the Compass Expeditions crew

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A very brief overview of our route

