



In 1952 a 23 year old by the name of Ernesto Guevara de la Serna and friend Alberto Granado left their native Argentina to become possibly the world's first celebrity bikers and ride the back roads of South America. After eight months Ernesto "Che" returned a changed man. His account of the ride "the motorcycle dairies" has become a biking classic. This historical and inspiring journey re-traces this epic motorcycle ride first completed on a 1932 Norton 500, affectionately, if not optimistically known, as La Poderosa II, the powerful two, humorously La Poderosa I was Alberto's pushbike. Love him or loathe him El Che has become iconic around the world even though few have more than a fleeting knowledge of his principles or his life. Che has become ubiquitous, with his image of the beret wearing freedom fighter adorning coffee cups, posters and the back of trucks the planet over. It has been over four decades since his execution at Vallegrande, Bolivia in October 1967 aged 39, however one thing has remained from those times, the cry shouted across Latin America after his demise "no lo vamos a olvidar" we won't let him be forgotten. Join us on this history seeking journey

The Ride

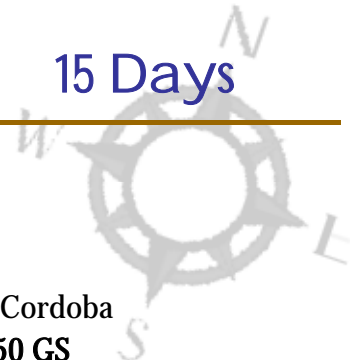
Week One

We begin in the Argentinean city of Cordoba, a pleasant city surrounded by the Central Sierras where we visit the historical, colonial city centre with its UNESCO listed 1784 cathedral and Jesuit block. Riding east we stay overnight at one of the many Estancias that surround San Antonio de Areco, one of the most beautiful and traditional towns in Argentina. We follow "Che" into Buenos Aires where we spend two nights and catch a Tango show and visit the Colourful La Boca as well as the amazing Recoletta. We ride south to Villa Gessell where Che spent two nights at a house belonging to his uncle, before riding through Miramar where Che farewells Chinchina, his girlfriend. We spend a night in Bahia Blanca where La Poderosa needed its first repairs after numerous falls. Bahia Blanca is also home to South America's largest naval base. We cross the Rio Colorado and ride into Patagonia stopping overnight at the scenic Piedra del Aguilar.

Week Two

We faithfully follow the path taken by Che and Alberto and ride through the beautiful San Martin de los Andes where they both work at a barbeque restaurant and onto Junin de los Andes then Villa La Angostura before riding the stunning Seven Lakes Drive and into Bariloche. This day is a scenic overload as we ride amongst towering alpine peaks, turquoise lakes and along the 100k/60mile long glacial lake of Nahuel Huapi. Things become a little tricky here as Che and Alberto took the, (no longer operating freight ferry), across Lago Nahuel Huapi to Chile, we therefore backtrack to Villa La Angostura and enter Chile riding past the spectacular volcano scenery of Puyehue National Park, before riding into Osorno for the evening, back on their trail. From Osorno we ride the Pan Americana visiting the port city of Valdivia where the boys were interviewed by the newspaper "Correo de Valdivia", continuing on and detouring off "Che's" route we visit the stunning Pucon, deep in the Chilean Lakes District. Pucon is scenically set by the shores of Lago Villarrica which offers superb views of the snow capped Volcano Villarrica that looms nearby. A day will be spent riding the stunning lakes district. From Pucon we rejoin "Che's" route and the Pan Americana and ride through Temuco where Che and Alberto were again interviewed, this time by the newspaper "The Austral". We ride on through to the small town of Collipulli and this is where the motorcycle part of the dairies ends. La Poderosa II breaks the steering head mechanism and this is the end of the road for the bike, a disappointed Che wrote "we were the gentlemen of the road, now we are nothing but two tramps". The boys hitch-hiked and walked onto Los Angeles where they are accommodated in the local fire station and worked as volunteer fire-fighters. We spend a night here. From Los Angeles we visit the spectacular Salto del Laja waterfall before riding onto Santiago where Che and Alberto stayed for a week. Santiago offers a magnificent setting with the 6000m/19,680ft peaks of the Andes in full view for most of the year. We end our ride only slightly north of where Che, Alberto and La Poderosa II ended theirs.





Tour Highlights

- UNESCO listed Cordoba
- Buenos Aires
- Stunning Seven Lakes Drive
- Bariloche and Lago Nahuel Huapi
- The breathtaking Circuito Chico ride
- Spectacular volcano scenery around Puyhue
- Chilean Lakes District
- Santiago

The Route



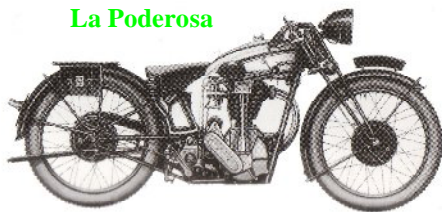
What's Included

- Airport transfers
- Flight from Buenos Aires to Cordoba
- Motorcycle rental **BMW F650 GS**
- **GPS** units pre-programmed with waypoints
- Fuel
- Tolls
- Support vehicle with passenger carrying capacity
- Non alcoholic drinks on support vehicle
- Breakfasts on all days, lunch and dinners on all riding days
- Accommodation in excellent small hotels and lodge
- **Bonus** nights accommodation
- All camping equipment
- Services of ride leader and support vehicle driver
- Pre departure material and route maps
- Compass expeditions dress shirt and baseball cap
- Tango show in Buenos Aires
- Entrances to all national parks

What's not Included

- International airflights
- A small number of lunch and dinners
- Travel insurance
- Visas (if needed)
- Personal Items
- Tips & Gratuities
- Sleeping bag Liner

La Poderosa



Discover the Extraordinary

General Tour information

The following information is relevant to this tour, please read carefully and if you have more questions please email us on info@compassexpeditions.com

Ride profile

Grade two



Please refer to FAQ page on our website for full details on our grading system

Total distance: 4410ks/2770miles
Days on bike: 11

95% of this ride is on pavement, some sections of pavement can be potholed and narrow and can be heavily trafficked.

5% of this ride is on dirt, some of which can have loose gravel and can be rutted.

Suitable for off-road novice and two up riding.

Accommodation

- 15 nights hotels & 1 bonus night.
- Accommodation generally 3 to 4 star hotels, for a list of our accommodation styles please refer to our FAQ page on our website.
- A flexible attitude is needed as standards are not always what we are accustomed to.

Single supplement : US\$ 700

Included meals

Breakfasts: 14
Lunches: 11
Dinners: 12

On everyday of the tour we provide breakfast, on all ride days we provide a picnic lunch that we prepare ourselves from our mobile kitchen, on all ride days we provide dinner in a reliable restaurant that we have used many times before.

General info

- Please note that you will need to be in Buenos Aires at least one day prior to start of expedition (to catch included flight to Cordoba)
- All prices are based on rental of **BMW F 650 GS**
- For bookings of 60 days or less that have an "included flight" a surcharge of **US\$ 200** is added
- It is a requirement that all clients have appropriate insurance for this type of expedition.



Great scenery



Discover the Extraordinary