



April / May 2008

### Early Bird Special

To launch the beginning of our 2008 Patagonian season we are offering a **5%** discount on the first tour of the season, the 17 day Patagonian Explorer PE-151108. Read on to discover some of the highlights of this most intriguing part of the world.



Lake Pehoe Torres del Paine National Park, Patagonia

# Compass Expeditions Newsletter



Welcome to the Compass Expeditions Newsletter. In this edition we shall introduce you to some of our favourite spots on the South American continent.

The Patagonian summer is fast approaching and we are gearing up to begin our Patagonian expedition season. It is never too early to book your Patagonian expedition as these expeditions are proving to be extremely popular.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and that it may inspire you to explore the world we live in.

Your Compass Expeditions Crew

## Patagonia

There are very few places in the world that inspire the imagination like the mystical, Patagonia.

Patagonia is an amazing place no matter what your mode of transport. However, nothing compares to the sheer exhilaration of traversing this iconic region on a motorcycle.

You can sweep down into the heart of this expansive landscape on the hard packed dirt of Ruta 40, the Patagonian equivalent of Route 66. Stare in wonder as massive glaciers calve and tumble into the pristine waters, cruise roads that wind through mountain forests and skirt the edge of spectacular lakes, stretch your legs amongst some of the most stunning mountain scenery on the planet and feel safe and

welcome amongst the friendly, hardy locals of this region.

Personally, it's the Patagonian sky that leaves us spellbound every time. The horizon seems to stretch on forever. The sunsets, you will never forget, they seemingly last for hours changing through every colour imaginable before fading out to reveal an endless sky of stars that are unspoiled by light pollution. You just have to see it to believe it.

Boasting one of the lowest population densities in the world, Patagonia provides the rider with the feeling that they are the only person thundering across this mighty expanse. If you don't feel inspired and thrilled at this prospect then there is always the

first sight of the Fitzroy range that will leave even the most jaded traveller rubbing their eyes in disbelief. As you approach this dark outline across the flat horizon it grows and grows until you see the mighty Cerro Fitzroy towering over the beautiful hamlet of El Chalten, at 3441 metres it can be seen for a long way off across the flat Patagonian expanse.

In this e-news addition we want to talk about our two favourite things in Patagonia. We could name 20 in a heartbeat, but after a lot of thought, we have narrowed it down to Torres Del Paine National Park and experiencing the people and culture of Patagonia on an Estancia.

## Torres del Paine

There is a reason that we have chosen to have the picture of a sunrise at Torres Del Paine on the home page of our website and that is because it's simply stunning. The first time that we stumbled out of the tent in the wee hours of the morning, we simply could not believe the splendor of the panorama before us.

Located in the Southern quarter of Chile close to Puerto Natales this 181,000 hectare UNESCO Biosphere Reserve contains steppe, southern beech forest, creeping glaciers, rugged mountain trails, sky blue glacial lakes and most importantly The crown of jewels Torres Del Paine (2800m), Paine Grande (3050m) and Los Cuernos (2200m to 2600m). These spectacular peaks tower

above the range and can be seen from a great distance

The park has countless walking trails taking you through all of the ecosystems and landscapes that the park has to offer. You can walk the whole 85kms of the famous W walk, which will take you past the three main peaks and around three lakes and up to a spectacular view of Glacier Grey before heading around to the park information centre.

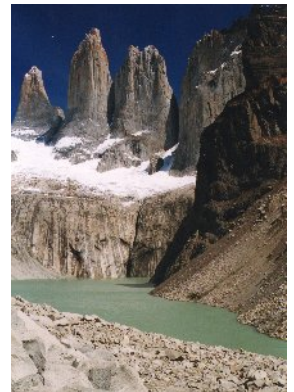
If you would prefer to explore the park on motorbike there are hard packed dirt roads that wind throughout large sections of the park, taking you from skirting lake verges to high mountain roads.

As well as amazing scenery, there is an abundance of

wildlife. You must always be on the lookout for the amazing Armadillos, Striped Hog-Nosed Skunks, Rheas and the majestic Guanacos that inhabit the region. There is the odd occasion that you may see the beautiful Patagonian fox eyeing you from the roadside and if you are extremely lucky you will spot the king of the sky, the Great Andean Condor.

Torres Del Paine will leave you feeling alive, wind-swept, free, and importantly you will want to come back time and time again.

This is some of the greatest biking on earth.



Torres del Paine, Patagonia



Guanacos at Torres del Paine

## Give us your best story and win

Send us a story of your Adventure Motorcycle Expedition, the best story will win a copy of the book "The long way down" By Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman. We will also run your story in the next edition of Compass Expeditions E-news.

Send your story to [Brendan@compassexpeditions.com](mailto:Brendan@compassexpeditions.com)

## "The Road gets better from Here" by Adrian Scott

Think you don't have what it takes to head off into the unknown, think its all a little to hard, then think again. Read this wonderful book by Adrian Scott, a guy who had never ridden a bike before, and hardly knew the front from the back of the bike. Direct order from [www.vividpublishing.com.au/adrianscott](http://www.vividpublishing.com.au/adrianscott) or "Tell us where to go" for your chance to win the book.

Tell us where to go!!

Got a favourite destination? Somewhere you would love to ride? Let us know where you would like to ride and why. For the best answer we will send the winner a copy of "the road gets better from here" by Adrian Scott.

Submit your ideas by 15th June 2008.

## Estancia La Angostura

After a great morning riding along the famous Ruta 40 taking in the breathtaking expanse of Patagonia, some people may be surprised when we turn off the highway in the early afternoon, seemingly in the middle of nowhere, 180 kms north of Tres Lagos and 180 kms south of Bajo Caracoles. There is a reason! We want you to meet some real Patagonian locals and spend the night in their historical Estancia.

La Angostura has been the property of the Kusanovic – Pinero family since 1916. Our host Tony Kusanovic who lives on the Estancia is very proud of his family history and of that of Argentina.

The genuine welcome and feeling of being part of the family on La Angostura is a nice change from hotels. You will soon see where Patagonians get a reputation for being one of the most hospitable people on earth.

You will get a chance to look around this working sheep Estancia and if you like you can swap your BMW seat for a saddle and take a different kind of ride across the plains on only one horse power.

But the best of all is the evening meal. We will experience a traditional Asado (BBQ) you will taste the best lamb cooked in this traditional slow

roasting method over the coal. After washing the lamb down with some great Argentinean wine, we will be ready for a perfect evening around the camp fire, with the chance to hear some amazing stories about life in this remote and beautiful part of the world. You may even get the chance to learn some interesting stories from your fellow riders.

Whatever happens on this remote estancia one thing is for sure, you will remember this place for many years to come.



A traditional asado (bbq)

*“Even the longest  
journeys begin  
with a single  
step” (Confucius*

*551-479 BC)*

*Begin your  
journey with  
Compass  
Expeditions*

## Compass Expeditions Team display at the Phillip Island Superbike World Championship: 29<sup>th</sup> Feb – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar

Being that it was our first time displaying at Phillip Island, we were a little unsure of what to expect, and how a couple of daggy tourists would fit in amongst the Superbike crowd, but as they say “Bikes is bikes”. Once we smelt the fumes and saw every bike imaginable amongst the spectators, we soon felt right at home.

Setting up in our little 3m x 3m space was fine, I set everything up and looked it over before Mick arrived and gave myself a little pat on the back. Mick walked in and said “It looks great

Bren, but where are we going to fit the bike?” Hmmm I’d forgotten to leave any room for the BMW R 1200 GS, not exactly small. Anyhow we worked it in and were happy with the look.

We did look slightly the odd one’s out, as we were the only touring company there, surrounded on each side by displays of new bikes from Aprilla, Harley Davidson and a stand making great ear plugs.

It was a fantastic three days for us as we got the opportunity to talk to bike/

adventure enthusiasts from all walks, about trips they have done and were planning to do. It is amazing how many adventurous people there are out there. They all have that certain spark in their eye when they talk about adventures past and adventures yet to come.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who stopped to chat, your interest and feedback always gives us a lift as we strive to develop and improve Compass Expeditions.



Brendan and Mick at the Phillip Island Superbikes

## We really do give a damn!!



Bitumen at Last, Siberia



The London Fundraiser with Alistair (CEO, Ataxia UK)

"Check out our website for the epic 100 day London to Vladivostok expedition."



**Friedrich's Ataxia Network Inc.**  
**Getting over the Barriers**

It is true that a lot of companies support charities these days which can only be a good thing, however a certain amount of cynicism goes along with that support.

We at compass expeditions do indeed support a number of charities and we want to talk about one of them here.

In 2004 while leading tours in South America we had the pleasure of meeting an amazing girl Cathy Mclean. Cathy suffers from the very rare and eventually fatal disease of Friedrich's Ataxia. Being so rare the sufferers of Friedrich's Ataxia languish in the fundraising backwaters receiving zero government support and little research money.

In 2005 four riders, (one of them, part owner of Compass Expeditions), set out on an epic 120 day journey from London to

Vladivostok, via Scandinavia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, (an incredible journey that we now offer as a 100 day tour), to raise money and awareness for Friedrich's Ataxia. In the process, we, along with Cathy, established Friedrich's Ataxia Network, a group established to offer support to those suffering from this disease. In its advanced stages sufferers of Friedrich's require around the clock support.

We raised \$20,000 as we held various fundraising events around the globe and received sponsorship for the ride itself. Our overriding concern was that once the charity ride was done the fundraising will dry up and the money will stop coming in, unfortunately the sufferers of Friedrich's keep on suffering and are an increasing need of support as the disease progresses.

Friedreich's Ataxia Network is not only a charity we decided to support but it is our charity, one we helped establish and one that is registered as a charity by the Australian government. It is an integral part of Compass Expeditions, not just a feel good exercise, and we have decided to donate a part of every single booking to F.A.N and hopefully be able to provide meaningful and sustained support to those suffering from this miserable disease.

For further information on Friedrich's and what is being done check out the following websites:

In Australia  
[www.fan.asn.au](http://www.fan.asn.au)

In America  
[www.curefa.org](http://www.curefa.org)

In the U.K  
[www.ataxia.org.uk](http://www.ataxia.org.uk)

### COMPASS EXPEDITIONS

62 Cowans Drive  
Dales Creek, 3341  
Victoria, Australia

Phone: 1300 887 327 (toll free within Australia)  
Phone: +61 3 5368 6473

E-mail: [info@compassexpeditions.com](mailto:info@compassexpeditions.com)  
Website: [www.compassexpeditions.com](http://www.compassexpeditions.com)

That's it for this newsletter, thanks for taking the time to read it and we hoped you enjoyed it, we look forward to hearing from you.

Cheers, your Compass Expeditions crew

