

WIN, WIN, WIN! LOADS OF GP MEMORABILIA UP FOR GRABS

A U S T R A L I A N

# MOTOR CYCLE

N E W S



## « NEW PRETENDER

Full test of KTM's all-new RC8 Superbike



## « REVOLUTION

Ducati's makeover of the legendary Monster

**AUSSIES  
OWN ASSEN**  
BAYLISS DOES  
SBK DOUBLE,  
PITT SNATCHES  
SUPERSPORT  
VICTORY

Vol 57 No 21  
30 April-13 May 2008  
**\$6.95** incl GST  
NZ \$7.95 incl GST

# BMW'S SUPERBIKE CONTENDER

# GAME ON!

acp magazines

ISSN 1320-2103



9 771320 210004

21

## INSIDE

**WORLD FIRST!**  
HONDA'S NEW FIREBLADE TAKES  
FIRST EVER RACE WIN — ON  
AUSSIE SOIL IN THE ASC!





Main: Imilil in the High Atlas. Yes, that's snow  
Left to right: Plate of steaming vegies looks  
delicious in the tagine; donkey-drawn carts are  
everywhere; Mohamed really wants to hire out a  
bike to all you aspiring motorcycle travellers next  
time you're in downtown Agadir — all Moroccan  
cities have bike hire available and Grant says it's  
the best way to get out and see the mountains



■ STORY & PHOTOGRAPHY GRANT O'BRIEN

# Morocco

**Morocco, in North Africa, is a top destination for those seeking a self-guided adventure tour on two wheels**

Inside the rickety old bus, Moroccans filled every square inch except for the few my fiancée Andrea and I squeezed into on the back seat. Diesel fumes mixed with the smell of body odour. Strapped to the top of the roof were six live sheep for the next day's Aid El Kebir religious celebrations, where every family that can afford it sacrifices a sheep and gathers for a feast.

We'd arrived in Marrakech two days earlier and felt the need to escape the busy city

before the streets filled with the aroma of slaughtered sheep, but we didn't count on a bus ride that, halfway into it, felt like being our last!

Climbing slowly up one side of the Atlas Mountains heading south-west was a breeze, but descending on the other side was an experience more suited to the locals. Halfway down, the bus started to fill with the smell of burning brakes as the driver used up both lanes for a better line from one sharp corner

to the next. Off to the left side of the road, the edge dropped away deep into the valley, while a glance to the right around a sharp left revealed ambulance men carrying bodies out of a van that had not long ago rolled 20 metres off the side of the road onto its roof.

It was at that point Andrea turned towards me with a worried look and said: "You think we're going to make it down this mountainside alive?"

Taking a deep breath of the toxic mixed





## 10 TIPS BEFORE PLANNING YOUR OWN TRIP TO MOROCCO

1. There are no direct flights to Morocco from Australia. The cheapest way to get there is to buy a return ticket to the UK or a European destination (from \$2000, depending on season) and then book a return flight from there with one of the many smaller airlines like Easyjet, Ryanair or Atlas Blue, which can be purchased from as low as \$200.
2. Best time to visit is outside the summer months of June to August. Australians don't need a travel visa for Morocco for stays of up to three months; ensure your passport is valid for at least six months.
3. Buy travel/medical insurance, making sure you're covered for the size bike you'll be riding, also making sure emergency evacuation is covered in case you get injured way off the beaten track. I used [www.worldnomads.com](http://www.worldnomads.com).
4. Three months before departure, check with your doctor as to which vaccinations are required.
5. Be prepared to barter for everything! Most goods like carpets, jewellery, clothes and shoes can be purchased for a third of the cost they tell you if you're prepared to spend the time haggling.
6. The local currency is dirham — you get roughly seven for one Aussie dollar. Most towns have a cash machine or money exchange for traveller's cheques. Cash up before heading out to the smaller villages.
7. Learn French as, away from the bigger towns, less people speak English and it could save your arse.
8. Ferris Wheels runs a 20-day, 3500km Moroccan Magic motorcycle tour which is the ultimate way to see the country for those wanting to step into an organised ride. The next tour starts 15 March, 2009, and you can find out all necessary info at [www.ferriswheels.com.au](http://www.ferriswheels.com.au). Another tour company, [www.wildernesswheels.com](http://www.wildernesswheels.com), also runs tours into the desert and can provide all required riding equipment. It operates out of Ouarzazate.
9. Mohamed will help you find any bike you like in Agadir, five hours from Marrakech. Call 00211 (0) 67063837. His email is: [abaroch06@hotmail.com](mailto:abaroch06@hotmail.com).
10. Check out the annual Tuareg Rally. More info on this can be found at [www.tuareg-rallye.com](http://www.tuareg-rallye.com).

# Magic

