



BEAR INSIDE...

Australian

MOTORCYCLIST

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FREE INSIDE: TEAR-OUT TOURING MAP AND TIPS

**CELEBRATION
OF MOTORCYCLING**

1st Issue

COLLECTORS EDITION

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**SPECIAL
FEATURE**
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SPECIAL FEATURE

is no use here. If the site waxes lyrical about cathedrals, that's what you'll be looking at. If it suggests that some of the roads require dirt riding experience, they most certainly will. If it shows flash multi-storey hotels with vast swimming pools then there is at least a chance that's the kind of place where you'll be staying. Don't be afraid to ask for clarification; don't just hope for the best. And remember that this is your holiday that you're booking. Make sure that it sounds like fun!

Of course there is no guarantee that everything will work out on an organised tour, either. But professional tour operators should be ready for problems, and usually you will find that they have solutions ready. Sometimes you won't even notice that there was a problem.

One of the things you will be able to see on a website, if you read between the lines, is how much freedom you will have. Some tour companies make it possible for you to create your own itinerary day by day, expecting

you only for breakfast and dinner. Some others will organise everything, including a detailed route for you to follow, possibly even riding in a group. Choose the style that you prefer. Once again, remember – it's your holiday.

So what's new in the wonderful world of organised motorcycle touring?

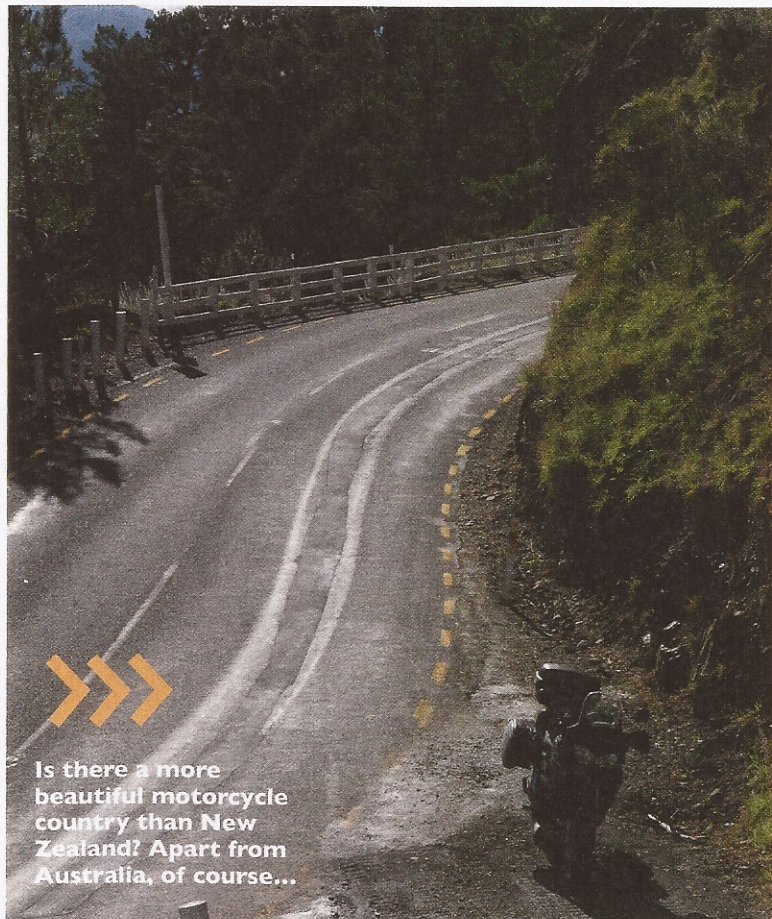
COOL RUNNINGS

The Ferrises, Mike and Denise, who are among our very favourite people, have a new Ferris Wheels tour to a place that many of us have been tempted by over the years. It's Iceland, the place that stopped so many aircraft when one of its unpronounceable (and unspellable) volcanoes blew its top a few years ago. Mike and Denise tell us that you can expect to not only check out the volcanoes but get up close and personal with whales, see Europe's largest glacier, visit the Snaefellsnes Peninsula, Vopnafjörður and Stykkishölmur (no, I have no idea what they are, but don't they sound

good?) and experience Dettifoss Waterfall, Lake Myvatn and much else.

The tour, called the Inspiring Iceland Motorcycle Safari, starts on the 2nd of June and ends on the 17th, although you can of course stay on. There are several flights per day from various European and American cities, it seems, so you won't have any trouble getting there. The tour price, excluding airfares and joining in Reykjavik, is A\$8500. Riders must have a valid and unrestricted rider's licence. Pillions are welcome and there are a limited number of passenger seats available in the accompanying minivan support vehicle – price for pillion or passenger is A\$7500. Please note that prices are subject to change due to exchange rates and other considerations.

See www.ferriswheels.com.au for more details or ring 02 9970 6370, in case one or the other Ferris is in Australia!



Is there a more beautiful motorcycle country than New Zealand? Apart from Australia, of course...

RAINS IN UNZUD

Not many people know this, but I was once a tour operator myself... It was probably the shortest ever career in the industry, mind you. Back when I was running BIKE Australia, a friend called Peter Colwell and I organised a tour of New Zealand. Peter led it, and apart from a self-inflicted crash by one of the participants it went off quite well – but it didn't seem to make sense economically, so we canned it. Peter has since become one of the mainstays of Te Waipounamu Motorcycle Tours, the NZ tour and rental operator established in 1987 by John Rains. Te Wai, as the company is better known, was named from the Maori term for the South Island but operates from both Christchurch and Auckland and even runs a tour in Japan. I've had dealings with Te Wai and with John, and I can recommend them wholeheartedly. Take a look at www.motorcycle-hire.co.nz/ for the full range of services, the very large choice of bikes and the highly useful advice about travelling in New Zealand.

More information from nzbike@motorcycle-hire.co.nz, and tell them the Bear sent you.