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Parker hopes to help local charities along his vast trek



Morgan Parker Transcontinental biker

You're about to embark on an amazing adventure. What is it?

It's a 120-day motorbike expedition covering about 24,000kms through ten countries in order to raise awareness and financial assistance for ten charities. I'll be riding on a BMW F800GS through China, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, East Timor and then finally Australia, to my home town Brisbane, for my non-profit organisation Wheel2Wheel.

Are you riding alone?

Yes. But I'll also be joined by some team members along the route, plus local motorbike gangs from certain countries.

And when do you set off?

March 1, so by the time your readers see this I'd have just hit the road.

Are you filming the trip?

For sure. Primary filming will take place over 55 days, covering each of the ten charities. Secondary filming will be with some Hong Kong film students over a 30-day period. The tertiary filming will be myself [Parker has two cameras fixed to his bike,

plus a helmet-cam] so I'll be able to capture any skirmishes or disagreements at the border crossings.

What about the charities?

At each country we'll focus on a different charity. For Hong Kong it's the Clean Air Network; for China it will be environmental education; for Vietnam, animal cruelty; and so on. It's a great way to create leverage for them.

We hear you were a real estate investment banker?

Yes, for the past 15 years, throughout Asia. I'm a retailer developer now, developing luxury malls, but that's on hold. I would like to have some balance in my life [Parker is 36] and I want to pursue philanthropic interests. I don't want to just make money and then die. What's the point of that?

This adventure might be a little dangerous...

To me the first major risk is southern Laos. Lots of land mines are still laid there.

Cambodia has border disputes with Thailand, a civilian was recently shot on the western border, and then there are the religious tensions in southern Thailand. I'm also riding across Indonesia, including eight water crossings, so the main worry there will be the theft of my bike or filming equipment.

Have you always loved bikes?

Absolutely not.

Come again?

I couldn't ride a bike until five years ago! This is the first bike I've owned.



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Er, blimey. Are you mentally prepared for this trek?

I'm a little bit behind on that. I'll be arriving at the start line completely knackered after 18 months of non-stop logistics and preparation. Physically

I'm in great shape, but yeah, mentally I'm working on it...

Don't worry, once you hit the road your head will be clear.

You said it.

Interview: Jake Hamilton

Follow Morgan's expedition on Twitter at www.twitter.com/wheel2wheelteam