

London to Xi'an

2022 DATES ARE NOW SOLD OUT. An awesome 55 day motorcycle ride to China, starting at the [Ace Cafe London](#) and finishing in Xi'an, China. We'll ride first to Eastern Europe, where there's always enough rough edges to keep you intrigued. See the grandeur of **Prague**, the human tragedy of **Auschwitz**, the art nouveau architecture of Riga, or the beaches of the Baltic Sea. We can explore them all before crossing into Russia.

From the majesty of the Tsar's Winter Palace in [St. Petersburg](#), to Moscow's **Kremlin**, we ride eastwards. The mountain road over the Urals take us to **Siberia** and Yekaterinburg, where the Bolsheviks executed the Tsar. After, we reach Mongolia, a distant sprawling land of camels and nomads, vast untouched landscapes and shrouded behind legends of [Ghengis Khan](#). This is the most sparsely populated country in the world! Whilst travel here may feel rough, you are on definitely on the road less travelled. The sense of space is epic and the huge vistas are endless.



China

Crossing into China, the roads become challenging and more chaotic. We make our way to Hohhot, capital of Inner Mongolia, to explore the [Dazhao Temple & the Silver Buddha](#). Then we head to the city of Yanan, wartime stronghold of the Chinese communists after [The Long March](#). Reaching Xaanxi Province, our final destination of Xi'an awaits. You have plenty of time to explore the ancient city walls, the Bell & Drum Tower and the UNESCO listed **Terracotta Warriors**. Join us for a great motorcycle ride to China!

If you are short on time, why not ride [London to Mongolia](#) (6 weeks)? Or if this sounds exciting and you want more, then carry onto Bangkok with us on our to [London to Bangkok Expedition](#) (12 weeks) instead?

IMPORTANT NOTE

We must submit all individual and vehicle details / documents to Chinese authorities three months prior to our entry date. Therefore no bookings can be taken for this tour at short notice. Last date for booking is no later than 31 May 2022

At a glance

Duration (days): 55
Miles Covered: 8000
Riding difficulty: Difficult
Unpaved Roads: 10%
Culture Shock: Large

Highlights

Here are some of the amazing sights that you will see on this 83 day motorcycle expedition:

- Prague, wonder through a maze of cobbled lanes and hidden courtyards, across the Charles Bridge, around Prague Castle or stretch your legs along the banks of the Vltava.
- Krakow, probably the country's cultural capital, with the magnificence of all the great European architectural styles, and a great place to try Polish sausage.
- Option to visit the memorial and museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau, former German Nazi concentration and

extermination camp.

- Former Soviet Union Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia
- St Petersburg, the Romanovs' imperial capital with elegant canals, 342 bridges, and a treasure trove of art and culture at the State Hermitage Museum & Winter Palace
- Moscow, visit the Kremlin & Red Square and marvel at the magnificence of St Basil's Cathedral. Lenin's Mausoleum
- The medieval towns of Vladimir & Suzdal – with their UNESCO listed white limestone Russian Orthodox churches, monastery and fortress.
- The magnificent Kazan Kremlin, built on the orders of Tsar Ivan the Terrible after his conquest of Kazan in 1552 and the Qol-Şarif Mosque.
- Yekaterinberg, the capital of the Ural Mountains and site of the execution of the last Tzar family, the Romanovs.
- Altai Mountains, this sparsely populated region on the Kazakh-Russian border boasts snow-covered peaks, forested hillsides, glaciers, pristine lakes and rustic villages.
- Karakoram (now Kharkhorin), capital of the Mongol Empire between 1235 and 1260, and Mongolia's oldest monastery, Erdene Zuu
- Mongolia is at its best when we spend our nights in the traditional ger (yurt) camps
- Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia's capital, see the Gandantegchinlen Monastery and the emperor's palace, Bogd Khaan.
- Xi'an, it's iconic Bell and Drum Tower and ancient city walls. Option to visit the Terracotta Warriors.

ROUTE

This map is for illustrative purposes only

Itinerary

This is our provisional itinerary and may be subject to some changes. It is for 55 days, covering around 8,000 miles (13,000 kms). It starts in London, UK and finishes in Xi'an, China.

Week 1: Europe

Depart Ace Cafe London. France – the Vosges. Germany – Trier. Bamberg, quintessential German medieval town. Czech Republic – UNESCO listed Prague. Poland – UNESCO listed Kraków. Option to visit Auschwitz.

Week 2: Poland & Baltic States

Poland – Old City of Zamość & Białowieża Forest. Lithuania – Vilnius, the medieval capital city. Latvia – Art nouveau architecture of Riga. Estonia – Europe's 4th largest Lake Peipus and a night on the Gulf of Finland coast.

Week 3: Russia

Two night stop in St Petersburg. Explore the Winter Palace, Church of Savior on the Spilled Blood, Grand Palace and St Isaac's Cathedral. The monuments at Novgorod & Valdaisky National Park. Three nights in Moscow to explore the Red Square and Kremlin, St Basil's Cathedral and Lenin's Mausoleum.

Week 4: Russia

White monuments at Vladimir & Suzdal. Two night stop in Kazan. UNESCO listed Kazan Kremlin. Izhevsk. Kungur. Two night stop in Yekaterinberg. Explore Church on Blood built on the site where Tsar Nicolas II was executed. Tyumen. Omsk.

Week 5: Siberia & Mongolia

Two nights at Novosibirsk, Russia's 3rd largest city, let's prep for heading south to Mongolia. Two days ride through twisty roads in the Altai Mountains to the Mongolian border. Ulgii.

Week 6: Mongolia

Staying a small ger (yurt) camps is the norm for the next few days as we cross these remote regions. Khyargas Lake Natural Park. Telmin. Khorgo Lake & climb the extinct Khorgo Volcano. Soak in hot springs at Tsenherjiguur. The ancient capital of Kharkhorin.

Week 7: Mongolia & Inner Mongolia, China

Ulaanbataar. Ghengis Kahn Statue. Erenhot. Cross into China. Get your Chinese Driving Licence and Registration Plate for your bike! Off to Hohhot, capital of Inner Mongolia. Dazhao Temple & the Silver Buddha. Zhaojun Tomb.

Week 8: Shaanxi Province, China

The “ghost city” of Ordos Kangbashi. Yanan, wartime stronghold of the Chinese communists after The Long March. Three nights in Xi’an. Time to explore the City Walls, Bell Tower and visit the Terracotta Warriors. It’s the best place to try traditional Chinese dumplings and celebrate an amazing motorcycle ride to China!

Accommodation

There is a wide variety of accommodation. In Europe & Russia, we primarily use good standard 3* or 4* hotels with secure parking. We tend not to use big international chains, although sometimes in big cities they may give the best option. We prefer independent characterful hotels that reflect the region.

In Mongolia, we have some remote routes, where we stay in ger (yurt) camps, in the middle of nowhere! Sometimes this can be communal accommodation and may have primitive, shared or outdoor bathroom facilities. The only hot water may be in flasks and the electricity may be supplied by a generator. But some ger camps are now akin to “glamping”, with comfy beds and indoor stoves making it very warm and cosy. Additionally, sometimes this accommodation will often not have single rooms. If you book for a single supplement, we have taken into account that you may have approximately five nights of this type of accommodation in your pricing. In remote locations, you will not get mobile phone coverage or wifi access.

Once we cross into China, hotel standards are good, with en suite rooms, and normally TV (only expect English speaking in major tourist destinations) and wifi access. However, there may not be full access to the internet or its use may be restricted, not freely available or just very slow. Common social media platforms are blocked in China (FaceBook, YouTube). So think about getting a private VPN. The most common is ExpressVPN <https://www.expressvpn.com/>

All of the above reflects the nature of the adventure that you are undertaking – some parts of this trip are very remote where tourism is negligible and you will need to cope with the same facilities as the locals.

Whats Included

WHATS INCLUDED

You have the benefit of booking your motorcycle tour with a tour operator with Financial Payment Protection Insurance with Towergate Travel and your money paid to us in advance is protected in accordance with [The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018](#). You may wish to know that during the COVID-19 crisis, we gave a cash refund to all customers for all monies paid to us within 14 days as required by law.

Before you go

- The assurance of booking with a fully bonded and insured UK operator, acting in accordance with The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, ensuring your money paid in advance

is protected.

- GlobeBusters Guidance Handbook with all pre-trip information
- Pre-departure expedition briefing and ongoing access to the GlobeBusters team for any questions you may have, via additional one-to-one meetings
- Assistance with the procurement of visas for each country and provision of Letters of Invitation, if required.
- Daily hard copy route notes with GPS co-ordinates and information about the hotels, the roads and the sights
- Loan SD Card with open source GPS mapping for the region, suitable for Garmin units.
- Expedition Tour Shirt

En Route

- All accommodation on shared basis (or a single room, if booked)
- All breakfasts, in keeping with local traditions
- 16 group dinners, with water or soft drink (no alcohol)
- Euro Tunnel Train for you and your bike, Folkestone to Calais
- Local overnight hotel parking charges.
- Chinese Driving Licence & Chinese Bike Licence Plate for your motorcycle, required for travel in China

Motorcycle Freight

- Group freight of your motorcycle (including crating, where required, and Customs Clearance) from Xi'an back to the UK or to other destinations, if additional charges are paid. (You must ride your motorcycle to the appointed freight forwarder in Xi'an)
- In transit insurance for your motorcycle, during freight, subject to an excess of £500.

Support Crew

- Motorcycle Expedition Manager to accompany the group, either in a Support Vehicle or on a Motorcycle depending on numbers.
- Motorcycle Support Rider, where the group is more than 12 riders
- Support Vehicle, equipped with satellite phone, spare fuel, water, tools, selected spare parts and emergency first aid kit, acting as a sweeper vehicle
- Support Driver, with motorcycle mechanical experience and first aid qualifications
- Local fixers/translators that travel with the group in Russia, Mongolia and China (mandatory).

Not Included

- Return passenger airline flights or any other travel costs to get to the start and from the finish point of the expedition or any internal flights or other travel costs required during the expedition.
- Personal travel, accident and medical insurance (covering matters such as medical expenses, repatriation, cancellation, curtailment, loss or damage to property)
- Third party liability or any other motorcycle insurance cover, motorcycle breakdown cover or recovery costs
- Entrance fees to sights and parks, optional local excursions or local activities, (except where stated)
- Lunches, snacks or evening meals (except where stated). Any meals whilst on board ferries.
- Personal spending money, tips, souvenirs or other extras.
- Personal documentation (eg visas, passport), vaccinations, personal taxes, border crossing fees, motorcycle documentation
- We do not supply riding gear; you must bring a minimum of your own helmet, jacket, trousers, boots and gloves.

- Costs of motorcycle servicing, motorcycle repair (parts, labour or other related costs), spares, transportation of your bike to the workshop
- Fuel, oil & other motorcycle consumables, toll road fees, traffic fines or other charges relating to breach of the law
- Any travel, subsistence & hotel costs to and from the freight depot when you drop off or collect your motorcycle, and to and from any UK briefing meetings.
- Freight of the Participant's motorcycle back to their home county from a place that is not the official end point.
- Additional transportation of you or your motorcycle en route where you or your motorcycle cannot continue beyond the short and temporary assistance offered by GlobeBusters Support Vehicle.
- Transfers to / from the airport at the start and end of the expedition.
- Any other item not specifically included in the price.

Please also refer to our [Booking Conditions](#)

Flights

For clarity, we do not include your passenger flights. Once we have confirmed that this tour is a guaranteed departure, it is your responsibility to organise your own flights to the start point (if needed) and from the end point.

For riders not based in the UK, you should to book an outward flight to our start point, London, UK to arrive no later than 10am on 5 August 2022. The earliest leave date is any time on 28 September 2022 from Xi'an.

Only book your flights once we have confirmed that your motorcycle expedition is a guaranteed departure. We do not refund flight costs if you have booked flights for a tour that has not been notified as a guaranteed departure.

Useful Info

We understand that booking a motorcycle expedition is a big commitment both financially and in terms of time and preparation. Here are some of the most common questions we are asked before riders make a booking. If you wish to meet with us prior to booking to ask more questions, do not hesitate to [contact us](#) and we can set up a one-to-one meeting. In addition, we hold a Pre-Expedition Meeting for the group at our premises around 6 months prior to the start of the expedition.

What type of bike do I need?

Our expeditions are designed so that you can use your own motorcycle. We recommend that you use a dual purpose / adventure style bike. **We support any make and model.** Our Support Crew normally ride the [Triumph Tiger 900XCA](#) or Tiger 1200XCA. We also have extensive experience with the BMW GS motorcycle range, having ridden them for over 15 years. What is important is that you have a reliable and robust bike that you are comfortable riding and that it has been properly prepared and fully serviced prior to the start and has new tyres.

What riding experience do I need?

This trip is not suitable for novice riders. Riders should have advanced road riding skills, experience in riding up to 400 road miles in one day and be confident at tackling unpaved roads. Ideally you should also have other travel experience in developing countries, either on or off the bike.

You will enjoy the experience more if you are a confident and controlled rider and by that we mean you have a good command of slow riding and manoeuvres (eg you don't dangle your feet or paddle at slow speeds and can U-turn your bike without putting your feet down), you are assertive on the road and have good forward planning and hazard perception, you are able to perform safe and precise overtakes and are able ride to the legal speed limits where appropriate.

You also need to have experience of riding your motorcycle on unpaved surfaces such as gravel, and dirt as some of the expedition routes are on these types of roads. In addition, if there any roadworks on our route, normally diversions will be on temporary dirt roads. Please note we estimate that our route covers around 10% of dirt and gravel roads (up to 800 miles), although as the infrastructure develops, this may reduce in future years.

If you need to improve your off road riding skills, attending a training school such as Adventure Bike Training www.adventurebiketraining.co.uk, Triumph Adventure Experience <https://www.triumphmotorcycles.co.uk/adventure-experience> or BMW Off Road Skills is highly recommended.

It is your responsibility to ensure your motorcycling skills are up to the requirements for this Expedition.

How does motorcycle freight work?

We start the expedition from the Ace Café, London, so UK and some EU riders can ride to the start point.

If you are a non-UK resident, you are responsible for organising your own freight to the start. We are able to provide you with details of our UK freight agent, who can organise the freight of your motorcycle to the UK from your own country. Just [contact us](#) for details. They can customs clear your motorcycle in the UK and you simply need to collect it from the freight agent's depot and ride to London or they can deliver your bike to the start point in London. This is a separate contract between you and the freight agent and is not part of your expedition price. You are free to organise your own freight through your own freight agent, at your own cost.

At the end of the trip, all bikes are road and sea freighted from Xi'an back to the UK. This is included in your expedition price. From the UK, if required, you can request a UK freight agent to onward freight your motorcycle to your home country. This onward freight is a separate arrangement between you and the freight agent, at your own cost. You are free to organise your own freight through your own freight agent.

If we have at least 3 riders from the same non-UK destination, we can do a separate sea freight arrangement direct to that country, as part of your expedition price.

What about servicing & tyres?

All motorcycles must arrive at the start fully serviced and with new tyres. In Novosibirsk, we will have access to dealers and / or workshops if the bikes need minor servicing and we can fit and / or collect knobbly tyres ready for the rougher roads in Mongolia. All riders need to supply a minor service kit and change of tyres (TBA), which we will carry in our support vehicle. The tyres need to be a dual purpose or knobbly tyre ready for the rougher roads in Mongolia.

Is it difficult to get fuel?

We have never had any issue with finding fuel. In certain regions, once en route, we will warn you in advance of any possible fuel shortages or if there is a route with a key fuel stop, where everyone must fill up with fuel to get to the next destination. It is not necessary to fit any after-market large fuel tank or carry fuel bottles, although some riders chose to do so. Our support vehicle also carries spare fuel for emergencies.

What is the average group size?

Our groups are normally between 10 – 15 riders (some have passengers). Our groups are often very international and whilst the majority of riders come from the UK, we also get riders from USA, Canada, South Africa, Australia, Switzerland, Scandinavia, Spain, France, Germany, Italy, Russia and so on. Groups are predominantly solo male riders.

Is this ride suitable for a passenger?

We have had other riders successfully complete this ride with a pillion passenger. Your passenger needs to also be an experienced tourer, used to long distance riding and riding on unpaved roads. Your passenger must ride the motorcycle each touring day – there is no option to sit in the support vehicle as this is only for participants who

are ill or injured, or unless the road conditions are too difficult for a rider and passenger to attempt two-up. In some end destinations, there is accommodation where, as a couple, you may not get privacy and bathroom facilities can be very primitive.

Is there a support vehicle?

All our expeditions have a dedicated [GlobeBusters Support Vehicle](#), driven by a GlobeBusters Support Driver. It is capable of carrying two motorcycle and two passengers. Our support vehicles carry a satellite phone, mobile phone, medical bag and spinal board, spare fuel, water, tools, some spare parts, some spare tyres. Our support vehicle provides temporary assistance to you if you have a mechanical problem or an accident and are injured. Depending on the size of the group, we may also take a second support vehicle.

These are not a luggage vehicles – you must carry your own luggage on your motorcycle. For more information, please see our Support Vehicle section.

Do I have to ride in a group?

No! We do not make you ride in convoy. We offer you the freedom to decide how you would like to ride. We give you a road book, GPS co-ordinates and hotel information. You can use this to self-navigate. If you prefer to ride with our Motorcycle Support Rider, then you can do this. We will also ask you to ride in a group when we are crossing a border or if there is a security issue.

What documents do I need to bring?

You will need your original documents as follows: Passport, Motorcycle Registration Document or Title, Driving Licence from the country of your residence, International Driving Permit (1949 & 1968), minimum 3rd Party Motorcycle Liability Insurance (where available), Travel Insurance Certificate (see below).

You should note that we need to request copies of the above documentation, which we have to send to suppliers who are outside the EU and who do not have the safeguards in place with regard to data protection as we have within the EU. These suppliers are for services such as motorcycle freight, overseas agents, hotels, motorcycle customs clearance, ferry services as well as the Chinese authorities. Please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#).

Do I need any Visas?

As visa requirements are dependent on your nationality and a complex with constantly changing requirements, we appoint a visa agency to assist with the process if you require it <https://www.thevisamachine.com/>. Most nationalities will require visas for Russia, Mongolia & China. You should note that the Chinese visa **MUST** be obtained by you in person at the [Chinese Visa Centre](#) in your own country of residence. This is also the case for the [Russian visa](#) which must be applied for in person in your own country of residence. This is because they do biometric fingerprinting.

At our pre-departure meeting, we cover this in detail to ensure you have all the information to enable you to apply for the visas you need and we will provide you with Letters of Invitation where needed.

Special note about logistics for entry and exit of China

Your price includes entry and exit of China, as part of the group arrangement. The entry point is Erenhot and the finish point is Xi'an. This is agreed as part of the permissions given for our group to ride overland across China and is done well in advance of travel. You are not able to change your exit point after 31 May 2022. Should you wish to have a different finish point, you must inform us on booking and additional charges will apply, depending on the exit arrangement that you want.

What about my health when I am abroad?

You need to be physically fit and healthy and also take the necessary health precautions. It is essential for you to consult your doctor or travel clinic for up-to-date medical travel information prior of travel, particularly if you have

a pre-existing medical condition. For up-to-date medical advice you may wish to use the Medical Advisory Service for Travellers Abroad "MASTA" <https://www.masta-travel-health.com/>, the NHS website <http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk/home.aspx> or NaTHNaC <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>.

You will be obliged to disclose any medical condition or medication that you are taking to GlobeBusters in advance and to your Tour Manager at the start of your Tour, for health and safety purposes. We provide you with our Emergency Details Form for this purpose and to collect information about who to contact for you back home in the event of an emergency.

Please note that many countries on this route do not have the same level of medical infrastructure nor consistent medical standards that you may be used to. In particular, emergency services often may be a long distance away, with no co-ordinated response, or sometimes no medical response available within reasonable times. Please do not book this trip if this unduly concerns you.

First Aid Training

It is not a requirement to be first aid trained to participate in this expedition. However, we do strongly recommend that you consider doing a motorcycle first aid course. Some sections of this trip are remote and hundreds of miles away from medical treatment. If you, or a rider you are with, are involved in any accident, whilst not riding with or not close to the support team, having first aid skills may make a significant difference to an injured party.

Travel / Medical Insurance

It is a condition of you travelling with us that you are adequately insured. Your insurance policy must cover you for the costs of any medical expenses, medical treatment or repatriation needed, due to injury or illness on this trip, including those that occur whilst motorcycle touring, either as the rider or a passenger. It is important that your insurance company understands that the MAIN PURPOSE of your trip is motorcycle touring, using your own large capacity cc motorcycle or a rental motorcycle. Your insurance must cover you for the full duration of the trip and for all countries we travel through.

In addition, we strongly recommend that your insurance policy has cover for loss or damage to your personal belongings, delay at your outward or homeward point of departure, personal liability, overseas legal expenses and cancellation and curtailment.

We also strongly recommend that you take out your travel **insurance at the time of booking your trip** as cover will commence for predeparture cancellation from the policy issue date. This will therefore provide cover should you have to cancel your trip for an insured reason such as illness or serious injury. We do not refund your deposit simply because you failed to take out insurance in sufficient time.

Are these countries safe?

The Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) (<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>) monitors overseas destinations and provides destination travel advice for UK nationals. GlobeBusters monitors the advice from the FCO and any decisions taken regarding a Tour's safety and security will use the vast experience of the company's 16 years of operating as well as the FCO advice. In the interests of your safety and security, changes may be made to your Tour based on any FCO warnings given.

We strongly recommend that you read the information about the country you are planning to visit to be fully informed – each country has a summary and general information as well as advice on safety & security, local laws & customs, entry requirements and health, and road conditions.

There are currently warnings and travel restrictions in place about travel to the countries listed in the itinerary due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We assume that by the time of travel these will have been withdrawn.

If you are not a UK national please make sure you have checked your own country's travel advice for your

destination/s: The US Department of State: <http://travel.state.gov> Canadian Foreign Affairs: www.voyage.gc.ca
 Australian Government Travel Advice: www.smarttraveller.gov.au NZ Government Travel Advice:
www.safetravel.govt.nz.

What will the weather be like?

This motorcycle expedition is run at the most optimum time for the best weather possible, but it is a fine balancing act. Leaving in August should mean nice weather in Europe and into Russia. We will be in Mongolia for the first two weeks of September, so temperatures will be cooling and the season coming to an end. In China, temperatures will warm up as we go south – Xi'an at the end of September should be an average of 25C. So, we don't expect any freezing temperatures on this trip, although it will be chilly in Mongolia in the evenings, and any kit you bring should be suited for warmer climates, with good venting.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather>

<http://www.worldclimate.com/>

What about local currency?

The base currency for this trip is primarily the US Dollar, although obviously the Euro for Europe, which is also readily acceptable in Russia. The US Dollar is readily exchangeable for all the local currencies. When you bring US Dollars, it must be in MINT condition or locals will not readily exchange the notes. The websites below will give you the current rates of exchange.

<http://www.oanda.com/>

<http://www.travelex.co.uk/>

Minimum Numbers

We require a minimum number of 10 riders on this tour. If we do not have this number of bookings, then we reserve the right to cancel the tour. If we have to cancel the tour we will provide you a minimum of 84 days notice prior to departure.

Available Dates & Prices

Date	Rider Shared Room	Single Supplement	Passenger Shared Room	Bike Rental
Aug 5 – Sep 28, 2022	£17,995	£3,995	£10,995	