

Adventure Motorcycling by Robert Wicks



review by Moshe Levy

ROBERT WICKS HAS hit a grand slam with his new book, *Adventure Motorcycling: Everything you need to plan and complete the journey of a lifetime*. Well written and chock full of absolutely stunning full-color photography, the tome stays true to its subtitle, delivering a perfect balance of very practical information with voyage descriptions that will whet the appetites of even the most jaded world traveling motorcyclist.

Adventure Motorcycling opens with a forward from one of the genre's giants, Ted Simon, author of Jupiter's Travels, one of the original (and still one of the very best) motorcycle travelogues of all time. A brief history of adventure motorcycle travel follows, and from there the book attacks the subject in three main sections, each replete with multiple subsections, making quick reference to any subject of interest an easy affair.

The first section, "Before Leaving Home," tackles the groundwork necessary in any adventure motorcycling endeavor. These include the choice of motorcycle and gear, the multitude of aftermarket mechanical modifications for extended travel duty to consider, a thorough review of required paperwork, visas, insurance, and documentation, and most importantly, the basics of off-road riding techniques—skills especially interesting for those of us without much off-road experience, as are the accompanying photographs, which illustrate the text beautifully. Aftermarket accessories and suppliers are listed as well, complete with full contact information and websites to peruse.

The second section, "On The Road," addresses the realities of spending extended time in the saddle once in foreign areas. Gen-



eral health and first aid, safety issues, border crossings, navigation (both compass and GPS) and overall motorcycle service issues are covered in great depth.

Once the reader digests the "how-to" of the first two sections, "Typical Adventures" offers three very interesting mini-travelogues: Two weeks in Morocco, six weeks from Cairo to Cape Town, and three years around the world. The pictures are simply breathtaking and the message behind them is most encouraging: Anyone can have a riding adventure, even with

only limited time and budget.

Throughout the book, Wicks pays dutiful homage to those who have paved the way, such as Dr. Greg Frazier, Helge Petersen, and Grant Johnson. The overall effect is an invaluable reference guide at any stage of planning for the novice or seasoned adventure rider. *Adventure Motorcycling* neatly bridges the gap between the pure entertainment of Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman's popular *Long Way Down* series and the nuts and bolts know-how of Dr. Frazier's classic, *Riding the World*. Whether you're leaving tomorrow or your dream trip is for now merely a fantasy, Wicks' *Adventure Motorcycling* is certainly a worthwhile addition to your moto-library.

Adventure Motorcycling by Robert Wicks;
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