

ktm expeditions

BIKE TOURS THROUGH OMAN

Your prayers have been answered: you can now have your dream bike tour organised for you

Two wheels are always more fun than four. Ask Rainer Kopp or Klaus Schreck. They will not only tell you so but will also take you biking across the deserts, mountains and wadis of the sultanate. Together they run a motorcycle expedition organising company called Oman Bike Tours.

"We have always enjoyed motorcycling and there was not much scope of off-road adventures back home in Germany like there is here. That's what brought us to Oman. Having ridden around the country we felt that there was an opportunity to run a motorcycle expedition company in the sultanate," explains Rainer.

The season

December to March

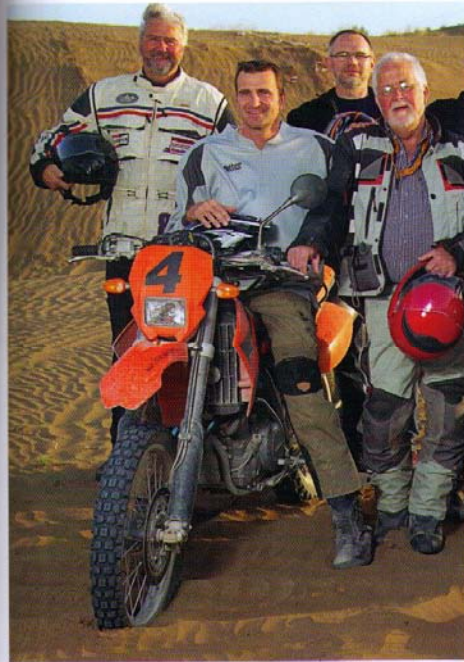
Upcoming tours

Tour 1: 10.1.2007 to 24.1.2007

Tour 2: 26.1.2007 to 2.2.2007

Tour 3: 3.2.2007 to 17.2.2007

Tour 4: 3.3.2007 to 17.3.2007



The schedule

The tour is 14 days long and usually encompasses the following places:

Days 1 and 2 - Arrival in Muscat, night halt

Day 3 - Muscat to Tiwi

Day 4 - Tiwi to Wadi Bani Khalid

Day 5 - Wadi Bani Khalid to the Sharqiya Sands

Day 6 - Sharqiya to Nizwa

Day 7 - Tour of Nizwa and the souq

Day 8 - Nizwa to Jebel Akhdar

Day 9 - Jebel Akhdar to Jebel Shams

Day 10 - Jebel Shams to Wadi Bani Awf

Day 11 - Tour of Wadi Bani Awf and Rustaq

Day 12 - Return to Muscat from Wadi Bani Awf

Day 13 - Night halt in Muscat

Day 14 - Departure from Muscat

The cost

Each such motorcycle tour costs 3,800 euros (RO1,900). This ▶



includes return airfare, accommodation, motorcycle, petrol and food.

Requirements

All travellers interested in motorcycle tours of Oman with Oman Bike Tours must have a valid international motorcycle driving licence, travel insurance and must bring along their own protective gear. "There are no plans as of now to include protective gear among the things that the tour will provide as it would entail problems like difference in sizes, gear for different terrain and so on," explains Rainer.

The bikes

KTM lc4 640, fitted with dual sport tyres
 Engine displacement: 625cc
 Output: 54hp at 6,750rpm; 60Nm at 5,750rpm
 Brakes (front): Brembo four piston fixed calliper 320mm disc
 Brakes (rear): Brembo single piston fixed calliper 220mm disc
 Fuel tank capacity: 9.2 litres (2.5 litre reserve tank)
 Dry kerb weight: 149kg

"These enduro bikes have good handling characteristics in both on-road and off-road conditions. They have enough power to provide a top speed of 165kmph, which is good enough for road travelling and the dual sport tyres provide the perfect compromise between on-road comfort and off-road grip," explains Klaus.

This was the second tour organised by the group, the first one being a purely experimental venture. "Our target group is primarily tourists from Germany and Austria but others are welcome to join the tour as well," says Rainer. Klaus explains that their website is entirely in German as of now, as are their advertising fliers. "However we will be introducing an English version of the website soon," he says.

Contact

In Oman tours can be booked through Gulf Ventures. For further details call 24706381 or log on to www.gulfventures.ae. Alternately you can find more information or book tours by logging on to the group's own website www.omanbiketours.com. Ω