

MC-Tour in the Alps 2014

Last year Erik conceived the bright idea of doing a tour around all the Alp-Countries and the idea was passed to all members of our honorable bikerclub. The inspiration came from a trip arranged by BMW for the BMW-club in Dubai.

The proposal was met with acceptance from 4 members- e.i. Aage, Erik, Flemming and Nils.

12/6 - F+N left Rungsted for Hamburg, Altona in fine weather to embark upon the Autozug to München. The trip to Roedby was on motorway, but after arrival at Puttgarden we continued along small roads via Grömitz and Neustadt to Lübeck where we continued to Hamburg on the motorway. We made a stop in the center of Hamburg at Hansa Viertel where we did some shopping at the delicatessen to endure the long trainhaul followed by a delicious meal and a bottle of good White wine at a fishstand in the gallery.

Around 21:00 the bikes were loaded and we set off from Hamburg and had a relatively good night's sleep supported by our Hamburg purchases.

Milage: 370 km

13/6 - At München we had a wait for 1 hour to get our bikes so we sailed off around 08:30 and continued via small roads/towns north of Rosenheim to NH Hotel in Salzburg. It was quite a change for us to meet the traffic and commotion of a big city after our pleasant countryside ride but thanks to the wonderfull invention of GPS, the hotel was easily found and we arrived around noon.

Around 17:00 the group was completed by the arrival of E+Aa and friendly hugs were exchanged followed by the traditional DJ+ beer(s).

E+Aa had met in München airport around 13:00 - Erik coming directly from Dubai and Aage coming from Singapore via Copenhagen and together they continued to the BMW rental store in a limo from Emirates which comes as a free benefit when you travel on Business Class. After processing all documents and formalities they went straight on the motorway to Salzburg but had to endure heavy traffic.

The dinner was had at K+K in dead centre of Salzburg and we enjoyed the first of many

memorable meals. The meal consisted maily of fresh white asparagus and calfs liver along with some quite drinkable wines.

We took a taxi to the restaurant and after the meal E+F took a taxi back to the hotel whereas the braves Aa+N decided to walk back which took all their navigational skills in addition to a few pit stops before they finally made it back home.



Milage for F+N: km 155

14/6- After breakfast we left the hotel at 10:15 and continued South via 311 towards Zell am See and thereafter we passed Grossglockner via 107 - partly in rain and fog and made a stop for a small meal at the top. We were quite pleased with ourselves when we had made the pass and luckily little did we know [what was in wait for us...](#)

We continued via Lienz to Cortina d'Ampezzo via Gemärk Pass where we after some difficulties found [Hotel Ambre](#) which was a small hotel driven by the most kind and helpful staff. After the usual JD+beer(s) ritual we had a small walk in town and had the fortune to find Hotel Cortina which has the most wonderful kitchen and charming staff. If you mention Parpadelli to Erik don't be surprised if you will see tears in his eyes, but also asparagus, Schweinhacksel, Ossobuco with Risotto etc were consumed without shyness. The hotel was run by an elderly charming and English speaking lady who gave us recommendations for small trips in the vicinity as we had decided to stay one more night in Cortina - partly because we found the place attractive and partly as Aage was taking the full beating of jetlag.

Milage: 202 km

15/6 - Aage was out of service so E+F+N decided to follow the lady's advice and saddled up for a minor trip to Alleghe which took us over [Passo di Giau](#) which was our first encounter with the challenges of the Dolomite passes. Narrow roads with countless turns which came just one after the other and we all felt really put to the test. After the pass the roads were more civilized and we ended up in Alleghe where we had coffee and cakes and enjoyed the lake view. Back to Cortina with arrival 17:00 via [Passo Falzarego](#) and the day ended at Hotel Cortina where we had another culinary experience. Unfortunately during all our time in the Dolomites the clouds hung low and only on rare occasions had we the opportunity to see the remarkable peaks.

Milage: 80 km

16/6 - During the evening the previous day Riva del Garda was chosen as next destination so we left Hotel Ambre 09:15 via 203 and turned left on a yellow road towards Moena via the town of Falcade and [Passo di St. Pellegrino](#). From Moena we went continued on 48 to Molina where we turned left and went on a yellow road towards Trento. It appeared to be a lucky choice as the road was good for MC's and we had all the time a beautiful view of the south facing mountain sides where you at any time would see 4/6 villages and church Towers perched on the Mountains and vineyards all over.

We stopped at the village of Sover at a non-script restaurant and found a table at a terrasse with a nice view and no high expectation to the meal. The staff was friendly but only Italian was spoken so we had the choice between pasta with meat or without meat. We choose with meat and in a matter of minutes the kitchen was mobilized and the result were plates of wonderfully tasting pasta meals designed for giants. Needless to say Erik was the only one finishing his plate whereas Flemming had trouble finishing his plate of melon and ham which had been his diet for days as he suffered from stomach problems which actually culminated when we should disembark the train in München. No further details...

We then continued through Trento to find route 12 trying to avoid motorways and we actually managed avoid them and made it to Riva del Garda where rooms were booked at Hotel Antico Borgo. The meeting with civilization again was an unpleasant encounter as traffic was heavy and

our GPS'es when in coma as it appeared that the hotel was located in a pedestrian area. After circling the hotel a few time E+N decided not to give a shit and went right though the pedestrian street and parked outside the hotel for check in an depositing our luggage - pretty much to the horror of the staff which had a different sence of loyalty to regulations. Arrival traditions were respected at an outdoor bar adjacent to the hotel where E and N enjoyed the drinks whilst two sweating and cursing Aa + F passed carrying their bulky belongings to the hotel. The bikes spent the night in parking houses nearby. Riva is in fact a beautiful place although very touristic and we all praised the fact that we had arrived prior the peak season. Dinner was had on the lakeside - pizzas were on the menue whilst we saw the sun setting on the lake and mountains and the faint noice of football on TV where Germany beat Portugal 4-0.

Milage: 211

17/6 - Davos was in our sight this morning where we departed Riva 09:00 and this was going as it turned out to be our most trying day. After Riva we headed via route 240 to Storo and turned left Down 237 to Bagolino. Here our GPS'es guided us into a small path where we always thought we



were on our way into peoples back-gardens. Children and goats were jumping aside for their lives as 4 four bikes came riding through the rain and mist which made it extremely difficult to see at all and people in the villages we passed were wondering what kind of mischief god had put upon them. Finally we made it to the "main road" which was an absolute torture. Narrow roads with bends you could not overview, loose stones and gravel on the road earthslides and roadwork. We passed [Passo st. Pellegrino](#)

and [Passo di Aprica](#) and made it to Breno where we continued North to Edolo and Teglio on routes 42 and 39. At that point Nils's GPS sent a few riders on peculiar mountain climbs in the vineyards but finally all riders came together at a gas station. At that point Aage had just had enough of mountain passes and as another one was on the horizon on the planned route(Bermina pass) he declared that we should stay on route 38 until we could turn North at Delebio onto route 36 until Chiavenna and continue on route 37 towards St.Moritz. This was probably the most awfull decision made on the entire tour as the trip to

Delebio was heavily trafficed, countless roundabouts, speed limits of 50 and 70 kms and surroundings just to be forgotten. It further appeared that we had 2 more passes to make before we could make it to Davos i.e. [Passo di Maloja](#) and [Julierpass](#) before we finally made it to Davos after 10 hours of intensive driving - completely exhausted. We had booked rooms at [Grisca Hotel](#) which turned out the be the perfect sanctuary after the long ride. The suggestion to stay one more night was met with no opposition and a good Chinese meal was enjoyed at the Hotel.

Milage: 356 km

18/6 - Taking it easy, walking around the city and having lunch in the Mountains overlooking Davos and watching football in the evening on TV.

19/6 - 09:00 we took off on route 28 direction Susch via [Flüelapass](#) which was really a walk in the park as we came from high altitude. Then onto route 27 to Samedan and onto 29 to Tirano passing [Passo del Bermina](#). At Tirano we turned North on 38 and after passing quite a lot of tunnels we reached Bormio where we made a stop to put the warm gear for the challenge ahead which was [Passo di Stelvio](#) where we would be reaching an altitude of nearly 2800 metres. No one had warned us of what lied ahead of us, but the sheer number of mc's on the road should have told us that this upcoming challenge is for seasoned riders or - as in our case - just reckless fools. We simply could not comprehend how we could end up in such a situation which ended up with a pass going up 17 km and going down 17 km with countless of 180 degree turns and heavy traffic in both directions which made each turn a struggle partly due to elevation and partly oncoming traffic. We later learned that this is "must do and most see" for all motor bikers as well as bikers and it is considered "the manhood test" for all on 2 Wheels. I read in a Danish newspaper that this pass is the most difficult one and that if you wish to take it on you have to do it in the early hours to avoid oncoming traffic. Having made it in the afternoon it I find that a most prudent advice. At the peak it was packed with bikers as well as motor bikers to the extend it was barely passable and Erik suggested that we stopped for lunch, but seeing what was ahead took the appetite completely from Nils who suggested we just continue and get it over with which was the final outcome. It did not help much that there was light snow in the air at the peak and later on the downhill passage we we hit by hail. We made it to the bottom and stopped at a small restaurant to have Panini and something to drink. We were served by a most interesting young lady who spoke 7 languages incl Japanese as she had been married to one. Now she has cast all her love on Finland of all places - (and she spoke Finnish as well) so pretty unusual.



We continued on route 38 to Merano and as we approached the landscape changed as entered into what must be the fruit orchard of Italy. The mountain sides were covered with various sorts of fruit trees and the landscape became soft. The temperature on the peak was around 4 degrees c and now we entered Merano where the temperature was 33 degrees c and we still had the same equipment on. It was like a sauna and traffic again heavy plus we could not get to the hotel although we actually could see it due to oneway-and pedestrian streets. Finally F+N drove through the old town consisting only of pedestrian streets with people jumping in all directions and shouting unpleasantly at us. Somewhere we got separated but N took a foot path along the river and finally made it to the hotel where E+Aa had just arrived although in more legal manner. Flemming later joined once he learned the name of the [hotel Terme](#). We found a nice place with a garden restaurant where a large tv screen had been erected so we had dinner and watched England lose to Uruguay. Erik showed signs of depression.

Milage: 260 km

20/6 - Took it easy in the morning and decided leave at checkout time at 11:00. F+N took a swim and various types of bath at the spa whereas E+Aa who still are active businesswise, did what business men do on ipads etc During breakfast the route to Garmish-Partenkirchen was agreed upon but when we all were ready to leave at 11:00 Aage had had the opportunity to check the route on his i-pad and had discovered it called for yet another climb over a pass so he said no way. He would rather go on the motorway to Innsbruck and then on to Garmish. A vote was called for and the result was a split in 2 Groups - one via Innsbruck with Aage and Erik and one via route 186 directly towards Garmish with Flemming and Nils.

We later met at Garmish and learned that Aage and Erik had had a terrible journey due to heavy traffic on the motor ways and stressed drivers.

Flemming and Nils had quite another experience as when they left Merano the road curved gently between the orchards and small villages and the weather was fine. The road soon changed and we had to climb a pass which is rated nearly as difficult as Passo di Stelvio. It was [Timelsjoch](#) strasse. Let us just say that we managed to make the pass but happy that no marks for style were given... After that it was a walk in the park as they passed Obergurgel and Sölden but when they reached Imst to go North to Garmish it started to rain heavily and traffic was intense. They reached Garmish at 16:00 and Aage and Erik had arrived about one hour earlier at [Hotel Dorint](#). We had farewell dinner in town and hugged good-bye at the hotel as Aage and Erik had to leave early the next morning as their bikes had to be redelivered latest at noon the following day in München. Flemming and Nils had arranged for late check outs (14.00 hrs) as they had to reach the Autozug in München only at 20:00 hrs.

Milage(F+N): 182

21/6 F+N left the hotel around 13:00 and followed the old road 11 to München and this was a good decision as it took them through a diversified landscape, incl mountains, lakes, picturesque villages and lunch was taken at a lakeside restaurant. They had time to make a small excursion in München before arriving at the Check-in point at München - Ost. After check-in they had dinner at a local place and bikes were loaded around 20:00 together with about 60 other bikes. They had a cabin with shower which was immediately attacked by both and the rest of the trip underwear was the only attirement due to the temperature.

Milage :120 km

22/06 - After the usual wait for the bikes they left Hamburg in rainy weather and headed straight for Puttgarden on the motorway and made it to a ferry departure at 11:00. There was a strong westerly wind constantly and the passage of Femern Bridge was downright unpleasant as they struggled staying on the road. Weather later improved and Rungsted/Sletten were reached at 14:00
Milage: 350 km

The end had come an absolutely fantastic tour with experiences and challenges none of us had foreseen or expected - and all experienced together in good spirit, harmony and a smile constantly on the face.

Thanks to all for an eventfull and exciting tour of around 2200 km with no accidents or injuries.

Nils