

Ride BABY *ride...*



Mike spent 17 years in various roles in the hi-tech industry, stretching back to the dark ages when they still had someone referred to in hushed tones as The Computer Operator who, dressed in a white lab coat, loaded arm-length columns of punched cards into a steam-driven megamachine.

Through titles such as 'programmer' and 'analyst' to systems design, sales, marketing, and eventually setting up his own company with a couple of friends, he successfully arrived at an early mid-life crisis in 1993 and took off on an Everest expedition where he discovered the mysticism of the Himalaya.

He grew his hair too long, acquired an earring and sampled some of the local vegetation, then one fateful night in Kathmandu someone took advantage of his altered state and sold him a motorcycle. Having never even sat on a motorcycle before at the tender age of 37, the rest, as they say, is history.

Denise (Dyer) also spent many years in the Corporate World.

With a master's degree in psychology she moved quickly up the Human Resources ladder to become the youngest-ever board member for NCR (NZ) and then HR Director for several multinationals.

She made a career change to the philanthropic world in becoming CEO of The Humour Foundation.

Then one fateful day on an international flight she found herself in a conversation with a guy who ran motorcycle safaris.

So she married that guy, changed her name, got her license and became a professional globe-trotting motorcyclist. Her parents still think it's a phase she's going through.

Now, together, Mike and Denise run Ferris Wheels.

"To be honest, I never in my wildest dreams thought this would be my life but I'm glad it is," Denise said.

"It's such a rewarding job, showing people the world from the back of a motorcycle. There is so much adventure to be had and this is the best way to travel – you feel so alive!

"People feel burdened by the mundane, the

everyday stuff, work, the routine – it takes all the juice out of you.

"Ferris Wheels gives people a way to get back in touch with themselves and nature and when they return to their "real life" they feel so much better."

Ferris Wheels takes riders, male and female, on tours across the globe to the most breathtaking and sometimes scary destinations.

"Everyone says you shouldn't venture into Kashmir, which is why we've been doing it for 18 years," Mike said.

"The Himalayan Heights tour is an emotional favourite of ours and we love taking people there."

As long as you have your motorbike license you can come along for the ride, and even if you don't, you can still follow behind the group in the support vehicle.

Tours run at various times throughout the year so visit their website for more information www.ferriswheels.com.au >>

Take a tour



Himalayan Heights

- The original tour that started it all.
- Travel along the highest (official) road in the world at 5,600 metres, the mighty Khardung La.
- Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh religions; temples, mosques, monasteries, gurudwaras.

Inspiring Iceland

- Put together all the fjords of Norway, the lakes of Finland, the glaciers of New Zealand, the geysers of Yellowstone, the volcanoes of the Andes and enough waterfalls for 6 other countries and you have Iceland.
- Bet you've never heard of Dettifoss? Just happens to be Europe's biggest waterfall.
- How about Vatnajökull, Europe's largest glacier? Or Eyjafjallajökull, it's most troublesome volcano?
- At the great continental divide you can stand with one foot on the European plate and one on the North American.

Moroccan Magic

- A long-time favourite with musicians, film directors, surfer types and two-wheeled adventurers.
- Ride across successive ranges of the impressive and majestic Atlas Mountains.
- Visit the famous Djemaa el Fna old town square in the mystical Imperial city of Marrakech.
- Gaze upon a Saharan sunset, and then ride through forests to the Mediterranean coast.

Dalmatian Delights

- Five countries in one – this tour weaves through Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Italian Dolomites.
- It's called the Dalmatian Coast because of the thousands of islands dotting the sea
- Visit the haunting memories of Sarajevo, so recently devastated by sectarian violence.
- Iconic Dubrovnik sits like a medieval sentry upon the Adriatic Sea.

Shining Shangri-La

- Bhutan is the only country in the world to officially measure the nation's Gross National Happiness.
- Ride across three countries; India, Nepal, Bhutan.
- Traverse the entire length of Bhutan from the western frontier to the east.
- Mystical Kathmandu, magical Darjeeling, inspirational Tiger's Nest monastery.

Awesome Andes

- The Andes is the spine of South America; the longest continuous mountain chain on our planet.
- Ride to 5,000 metres in search of the world's biggest wingspan, on the great Andean condor.
- Visit Machu Picchu, Lake Titicaca, the Nasca Lines, the ancient Inca capital of Cusco.
- Cross the world's largest saltpan, Bolivia's amazing Salar de Uyuni.

Turkish Treasures

- Istanbul was once the capital of the whole known world, and the Turkish people have a well-earned reputation for warmth and hospitality.
- Is there a more majestic sight than the Blue Mosque framed by the magic deep blue of the Bosphorus?
- Ride the Aegean, Mediterranean and Black Sea coastlines, and the Gallipoli peninsular.
- For something completely different, how about a hot air balloon ride over the surreal landscapes of Capadocia. ■

A TOUR THAT'S ONE OF A KIND 'CAUSE WE'RE ONE OF A KIND

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