

AUSTRALIA TO SWITZERLAND ON A BIKE AND ...

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It started with an idea, turned into a dream and now there are changes for Alex Kaeslin and Albano Tundo's dream bike journey.

Alex Kaeslin graduated from ICPP in Photography in 2005 and decided to focus on his career goal of combining his love of nature and interest in social and environmental issues by undertaking a trip from Australia to Switzerland by bicycle with his best friend Albano Tundo.

After years of planning and preparation the guys started their trip in Darwin, Australia in 2006 and cycled through Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Laos.

In Thailand's capital Bangkok the friends, also accompanied by Alex's wife Nataly, decided they were ready for a break from the trip and each other and took a month long sabbatical during which Alex took a side trip into the less populated areas of Myanmar (Burma) and Albano continued on his bicycle, now christened "Mungo", through Thailand and Cambodia..

On returning to Bangkok Alex and Nataly decided to travel together for a while and bought a motorbike "tuk-tuk" to transport themselves and all their gear. The three met up again in Cambodia. "If you live so close with each other for such a long time, there is sometimes the need for a break" says Alex. "Also, traveling on a bicycle it's sometimes very hard to capture all the things you want. You cannot always stop to take photographs because the trip has to continue".

After three months on the motorbike it was time to get back on the bike again for Alex. Now in mountainous Northern Laos the terrain became much harder to ride - Alex's back began troubling him again so he and Nataly decided to fly to Vietnam to visit the only Western Chiropractor

in the area in Ho Chi Minh City. Unfortunately, after a month of treatment his back did not improve enough for him to get back on his bike.

Alex sent his bicycle home to Switzerland and started his adventure through China and Tibet into Nepal by hitchhiking, where he will meet up with his wife again and they will try to find another alternative mode of transport, “maybe a Yak, who knows?” says Nataly.

During all of this Albano and his trusty bicycle made it safely to Kunming, China where the boys will meet up to organize their passage through Tibet and into Nepal.

Again and the journey continues ...

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