



## Nick Sanders

The world's most famous motorcycle adventurer – who has ridden around the planet seven times so far – is actually happiest going nowhere

### What do you love most about riding a motorcycle across the world?

I love the fact that it focuses me. It opens a door and allows me to be purposeful. It allows my aspiration to be fulfilled and I just love the freedom of it.

### The worst bit?

Sometimes when I'm riding 1000 miles a day in terribly bad weather and I've done it day after day after day and I'm terribly exhausted and I have to do it again and again – sometimes I think this is too hard.

### Do you come from a motorcycling background?

There's no history of motorcycling in my family. Really what I am is an adventurer. I've sailed canal boats to Russia, I've flown hot air balloons, I've cycled around the world twice, motorcycled around the world seven times, eight times up and down the Americas – so I'm an adventurer first and

foremost and primarily now a motorcyclist.

### Any close calls?

There's been a few of those! You're riding through the night wherever you are, in a faraway place, and you're exhausted. I've fallen asleep on my bike as I've been riding – and it's only my professionalism and ability to get through these hard moments that makes my survival instinct kick in and I wake up – and I'm doing 100 miles an hour!

### Any regrets?

The only ones I have is that some wonderful people have come into and sadly gone out of my life. I just wish there had been Facebook 50 years ago because it's a great way of keeping in touch.

### What's been your favourite Aussie experience?

I've been across Australia so many times. I've really been everywhere – every inch of the way. I love the Nullarbor. I love the isolation and peace of it. I

love the fact I'm completely on my own. I'm looking forward to doing the (1850km) Canning Stock Route at some point in the future. We're talking to Yamaha at the moment. We know there's a big stretch where there's nothing there. We just have to deal with it, by either having a light enough bike, pulling our own trailer and carrying our own food and petrol, or whether we go ahead in a 4x4 and we bury our stuff and relocate it afterwards. It looks like really great fun.

### Your favourite motorcycling moment?

It's always a terribly difficult question because I have a thousand favourite moments. A favourite moment is when somebody comes up to me – any member of the general public – and says to me they've read my books and they've understood it and they've really got behind the reason as to why it is I do what I do. That gives me a huge amount of satisfaction. Secondly, when I take some of these people on my motorcycle tours they

go back a completely different person – in a good way.

### What aspect about you would surprise your fans?

I've spent six months of the year away from home for the past 33 years (Nick is now 58) – always traveling every single day. People probably don't realise I don't like travelling that much. I actually like staying at home and am happiest going nowhere.

### What would you be doing if you weren't setting world records on a bike?

I used to be a professional racing cyclist and I may well have stayed in cycling. But whatever I'd do I'd just be a very chilled individual, I'm sure of that.

### Any fun trips coming up?

I'm taking 18 motorcyclists around the world in two stages. January 2017 will be stage one – from New York to Santiago de Chile. In 2019 we're doing stage two – Australia, New Zealand and all over Southeast Asia. ■

**“I wake up – and I'm doing 100 miles an hour”**