



London2Sydney

www.london2sydney.org

*An overland expedition to drive from
London to Sydney in aid of Cancer Research UK*

Introduction

Covering over 30,000 miles, taking in 25 countries and lasting for 6 months, the London2Sydney charity expedition is a hugely exciting undertaking. It will be a long, hard journey, but at the same time an immensely rewarding and stimulating experience. But the expedition isn't just about the challenge of adventurous travel: we are also using the trip to raise what we hope will be a significant amount of money for Cancer Research UK. In this brochure, we hope to explain a little more about the expedition, what it is we're doing, why we are doing it and how we plan to go about realising our goal.

“...the expedition isn't just about the challenge of adventurous travel...”

In The Beginning

What started out as just a dream has rapidly become a reality. At first the idea of driving from London to Sydney overland seemed just a little too fantastic to contemplate, but a team came together to take the idea and turn it into a serious proposition, and the London2Sydney charity expedition was born.

Cancer Research UK

Supporting the work of Cancer Research UK seemed like a natural choice for the team. The largest volunteer supported cancer research organisation in the world, CRUK is renowned for its high quality research and its commitment to help improve the quality of life for cancer patients and develop better cancer treatments. They also provide training and support for cancer research workers, information and advocacy on cancer and are striving to reduce the number of people getting cancer in the first place.

“...every penny we raise goes directly to CRUK.”

Cancer is, alas, an issue close to the hearts of both members of the team, and is something that will unfortunately touch many of our lives at one time or another. We are hoping that the London2Sydney expedition will provide the catalyst to help us raise as much money as possible for CRUK, to help them continue their valuable work. As the expedition is being funded entirely by ourselves, every penny we raise goes directly to CRUK.



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the route

Leaving in early July we intend to take approximately 6 months to reach Sydney. The only time constraint that we have is our entry into China, which has to be pre-approved and organized through an agency there. Because of this we will need to be flexible about certain parts of the route in case we encounter any unforeseen problems or a change in the political situation. Our chosen route currently takes us through Europe in approximately a month, passing through France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria. We will then move on into Turkey around mid-August, taking approximately 10 days to reach the Iranian border and stopping in Istanbul and Ankara.



Upon entering Iran we will head for Tehran and then continue south, aiming to cross into Pakistan after approximately 10 days. We plan to spend 7 days in Pakistan, staying in the south of the country to avoid trouble spots, such as those near the borders with Afghanistan and Kashmir. Once we enter India we have allowed 3 weeks to reach the border with China. However, we have also added an extra buffer week to make sure that we have ample time to get there in case of any problems or delays earlier in the trip. This means crossing into China in early October. Our route through China has to be fixed and timetabled with the Chinese agency before we leave and cannot be changed. All in all getting from the Nepalese-Chinese border to the Chinese-Laos border will take us 21 days. Entering Laos at the end of October we will head towards Cambodia, if possible using the Mekong as a means of transport, giving us a welcome break from driving. After spending approximately a week in Cambodia we plan to enter Thailand around the middle of November. Stopping in Bangkok,



we will head south towards Malaysia, possibly making a detour to some of the islands, such as Ko Samui and Ko Phangan.

We hope to have arrived in Kuala Lumpur by the end of November but by this stage our timing is far less critical. Having spent some time in Singapore we will return to Kuala Lumpur where our van will be packed up ready to be shipped to Sumatra. From Sumatra we will island hop eastwards, working our way towards West Timor. It is expected that this will take us between 4-6 weeks, including 2 weeks spent on Borneo. Once in West Timor we will say goodbye to our van while it is shipped to Darwin. Making this crossing ourselves, either by boat or by air, we will be there to meet it when it arrives. Reunited with our van we plan to spend 2-4 weeks travelling down the east coast of Australia. With 6 months of driving behind us we will finally complete our journey, arriving in Sydney in January 2005.

“With 6 months of driving behind us we will finally complete our journey...”

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the team



Andy Done, 24, graduated from St. Catharine's College, Cambridge, in 2003 with a Masters degree in Engineering, and is currently working as a software engineer for oilfield services company Schlumberger. He has backpacked in Guatemala, Belize and Mexico and travelled widely in both the United States and Europe. With many years experience in driving and maintaining air-cooled VWs, Andy's going to be the one in charge of keeping our vans on the road! His other interests include kayaking, singing/songwriting and scuba diving.



Nick Habershon, 23, graduated in German with French from the University of Warwick in 2002 and is currently working in Islington for the computer game developers Sports Interactive as their media editor. In exercising his linguistic abilities, he has lived in Germany for a year and travelled extensively throughout Europe. Nick is planning to combine his love of language and journalism to do some serious travel writing on the expedition. His other interests include guitar, piano and football.

From the road

The London2Sydney expedition will be offering those following its progress an unprecedented opportunity to interact with the team as they journey across some of the World's most varied landscapes and diverse cultures.

Thanks to the latest satellite communication technology, we will be keeping our expedition website up-to-date with regular written diary entries and photographs from the road. Not only that, but our van will be equipped with a GPS navigation system which will also be making use of our satellite link to convey the team's exact position back to our base in the UK. The interactive route map on our website will therefore be able to show our precise route and current position and allow visitors to read our diary entries and view photographs from any point on our route with the simple click of a mouse.



Our home for six months: a 1977 VW camper van

Mounted on the front of our van will be a compact digital camera, which will be constantly recording images of our journey. These images will also be transmitted back to our base and uploaded to our website, providing visitors there with near-real-time images of life on the road—the first time such images have ever been available on a vehicle-based expedition!

Preparations

Expedition preparations are already well underway with both team members having already attended Wilderness Medical Training courses, our van having been purchased and the engine having been given a complete overhaul. We have also begun the task of completely refurbishing the van's interior to meet our requirements. Much work still remains to be done, but the London2Sydney expedition has already attracted a number of high-profile sponsors and a great deal of public and media interest.

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the budget

Van purchase	£3500
Van repair, modification and refurbishment	£2000
Van Equipment (tools, spares, heater, vehicle safe)	£1900
Petrol	£2800
Chinese visa costs	US\$5000
Visas	£570
Shipping	£3500
Food	£1100
Carnet de passage (vehicle import/export permit)	£400
Insurance (vehicle and personal)	£1900
Other equipment (GPS, satellite phone, laptop)	£2800
Personal equipment (sleeping bags, rucksacks, tent, outdoor clothing, footwear)	£1500
Medical equipment	£500
Guide books	£400
Maps	£300
Vaccinations	£300
Medical training	£500
Misc. costs and equipment	£1500
TOTAL	£28,070

On our return

An expedition of this kind will undoubtedly be an incredible experience with its highs, its lows, its moments of elation and its moments of poignancy. On our return, we intend to write what we hope will be an entertaining, informative and insightful book about our journey, our experiences and the people and places which we will be visiting. We are currently seeking a publisher and part of the proceeds from the book sales will also be donated to CRUK.

Finding out more

If you'd like to find out more about our expedition, please do visit our website www.london2sydney.org where you will find all our latest news and information, along with articles, photos, our online diary and more. You can also email us at info@london2sydney.org or call on +44(0)1234 870571. We look forward to hearing from you. Donations can be made c/o London2Sydney.

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