

## **Around the world with the Ténéré 700**

### **Nick Sanders tackled his tenth round the world trip on Yamaha's latest adventure bike, the Ténéré 700**

An explorer with boundless adventurer spirit and passion, Nick Sanders has circumnavigated the globe a remarkable nine times in his life. Two of those adventures, in the 1980s, were under his own steam with just a bicycle to get him to his destination. Nick's most famous trips however were completed on a motorcycle, and as a long-time advocate of Yamaha engineering he has put its bikes to the test like no other. His incredible biking expeditions include his 2005 circumnavigation on an R1, and his record-breaking Alaska-Tierra del Fuego-Alaska ride on a XT1200Z Super Ténéré in 2011.

For his tenth trip around the world Nick chose Yamaha's ultimate adventure machine, the new Ténéré 700. After participating as one of the European Ambassadors for the Ténéré 700 World Raid event, Nick was able to ride the prototype bike before production began. Nick immediately saw the potential of the reborn Ténéré and knew it would make the perfect companion for his tenth around-the-world journey. In his own words, *"The simplicity of the bike is what gave me confidence, the stripped-down detail means there's less to go wrong. I want to be able to focus on moving around the world."*

### **A legend reborn**

The new generation Ténéré 700 is built with purity and simplicity designed to harness the challenges and joys of adventure riding, an evolution of rallying DNA inspired by the original 1983 Ténéré 600. The bike was bred with a refined mix of power, control

and agility to allow the rider to tackle off-road routes as easily as open highways. Excellent fuel efficiency from the 16-litre tank ensures less stops on the journey, and the streamlined body gives maximum rider comfort on the longest of rides.

Powered by a 689cc 4-stroke CP2 engine with powerful linear torque, the bike provides incredible acceleration for a perfect balance between performance and control. With complex electronic riding aids stripped away and a focus on adaptable suspension, the Ténéré 700 delivers a highly intuitive ride, ideal for tackling diverse terrains on a circumnavigation such as Nick's.

### **Next Horizon: The World**

Nick's circumnavigation began in royal company at Buckingham Palace. As part of Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Honours, Nick received a prestigious MBE (Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for his services to endurance motorcycling and endurance cycling. Arriving at the palace on his Ténéré 700, Nick enjoyed tea with Her Majesty before setting straight out from London on his epic journey.

His route continued on the other side of the Atlantic in New York, where he travelled across the USA to California. Enjoying local hospitality on the way such as a gift of pumpkin pie from locals celebrating Thanksgiving, Nick took in diverse sights and experiences such as camping on the edge of Death Valley and the ghost town of Ballarat. The first leg of Nick's trip in the USA saw him cruise the open roads and endless plains, tests that he and his Yamaha saw off with ease. During his American stint around his own campfire Nick reflected on a solo adventurer's life, *"It would be nice to have company sometimes, but the feeling of being on the road on your bike just makes up for the things you haven't got. I'm going around the world, so what's not*

*to like about that!*” Three miles south of Big Sur on the Pacific Coast Highway Nick again enjoyed friendly locals, with the offer of free hospitality overlooking the ocean one that he simply couldn’t turn down.

After reaching San Francisco and the iconic Golden Gate Bridge Nick journeyed through Mexico, where the harsh landscape of the Baja desert awaited. The desert’s deep sands proved the biggest challenge for Nick, and he was full of praise for the Ténéré 700’s abilities. *“The bike handled really well. It felt robust; the conditions were seriously testing but it went very well. It’s light enough to be manoeuvrable, and the TKC 7 tyres had excellent grip.”* Despite challenges on the way Nick was able to revel in the beauty and tranquillity of Mexican life, and was even helped by federal police officers to refill his low fuel tank.

From Mexico Nick rode down through Central and South America. He took an exotic route running from Sonora to Patagonia and the beautiful territory in-between, including the colourful and peaceful ‘stuck in time’ atmosphere of Nicaragua. The long ride took in Columbia and Ecuador, where even constant rain in the lower Andes couldn’t dampen the adventurer’s spirits. Travelling thousands of kilometres into Brazil, Nick wound his way down the east coast of South America to take in the stunning sun-drenched Peruvian coastline. Meeting colourful and friendly characters all the way gave Nick chance to reflect on the nature of his journey, *“It’s what the trip was all about, capturing a few moments from other people’s lives, not just my own, and passing it on.”*

Nick and his Ténéré 700 then linked up with the Altiplano, or Andes Plateau, on the way into Argentina and Chile. During this stint Nick had one of his most memorable encounters, when he was greeted by a fellow adventurer also riding a Ténéré 700.

The extraordinary chance meeting emphasised the truly global nature of the Yamaha family, and the facets that make the Ténéré 700 such a popular choice for adventures. To cap his ride of the Americas, Nick travelled to Ushuaia, the southernmost tip of South America nicknamed 'End of the World'. His South American trip nearing its end, Nick rode back up through Argentina and Chile for his trans-South Pacific voyage to leave the continent and travel to Australia.

### **A change in plans**

Every adventure has its challenges, and the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic has put Nick's journey on hold. While waiting for safe passage back to his bike however he has no intentions of stopping his journey, and as soon as possible he will pick up where he left off in Australia. From there he will cross the country and the Coral Sea to Papua New Guinea, where he will travel into Asia and Kazakhstan on his way towards Russia, Northern Europe, down to Morocco and back up to arrive home in the UK.

Nick's trip has so far covered over 40,000 kilometres and visited some extraordinary places filled with extraordinary people, which was the crux of his journey. *"What does a journey like this mean to me? It means meeting people that I'd never normally know about and how we all exchange ideas. It means riding my bike to places which in my wildest dreams I never thought I'd visit, then come home with heroic tales and great stories. It means proving to everyone that the world is a fantastic place to live in and travel across, and that if you do it with the right spirit it's friendly, it's safe and it's fun.*

Nick's tenth world trip can be experienced online in a series of beautifully produced video diaries, available on Yamaha's 'The Adventure Project' website and on the Yamaha Motor Europe YouTube channel.

<https://www.yamaha-motor.eu/ie/en/experiences/the-adventure-project/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/YamahaMotorEurope>

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