

## BMW Motorrad TS Safari – every road a winner

The BMW Safari is BMW Motorrad Australia's major riding event. It was established in 1994 and since then the Safari has grown into a 'must do' for BMW riders. There are now two Safaris, the GS Safari for adventure riders and the TourenSport (TS) Safari for those who enjoy kilometre after kilometre of sweeping bitumen.



This year's BMW TS Safari was a week-long odyssey that took 130 riders on a diverse range of BMW models, over some of the most magnificent roads and scenery Australia can offer. The Great Dividing Range that stretches some 3,500 km along the east coast of the continent was the backdrop and the perfect weather made for motorcycle nirvana.

Riders from around Australia gathered at Bathurst in New South Wales for a memorable start to the BMW TS Safari. Bathurst is steeped in Australian motorsport history. The 6.2 km Mt. Panorama road circuit plays host to the annual 1000 km V8 Supercar race and for many years was at the centre of Australian motorcycle racing, with the Easter TT attracting large crowds.

The National Motor Racing Museum in Bathurst with over 40 historic motorcycles and 30 cars was the venue for the traditional Welcome Dinner. The BMW Motorrad crew and the riders getting to know each other set the scene for the week of adventure and riding excitement that lay ahead.

The temperature was low but the spirits high as the Safari set out with a lap of the historic mountain circuit. The circuit has an historic BMW link, in Forrest's Elbow, the final corner before the Conrod Straight. It is named after an



Australian, Jack Forrest who in 1957 rode a BMW 500cc Rennsport in the World Championship.

The meticulously planned route took riders from Bathurst to Queensland's Sunshine Coast on iconic Australian roads – Thunderbolts Way, Bucketts Way, Oxley Highway, and the Lions Road to mention but a few. Through countless sweeping bends, flowing rivers, lush farmland, towering forests and historic towns and villages, the riders made the most of their week on the open road.

From high up on the Great Divide during the day, the Safari made its way to a different location on the coast each night for a well-earned drink and a meal with friends both new and old. The Safari attracts riders from around the country. There were some on their first Safari and others took great delight in catching up with friends they have met on previous trips.

Ian Anderson, from Warneet in Victoria, is a legendary '*Safarist*', having been to every TS Safari since the event's inception in 1994. The panniers of his 1993 R 1100 RS proudly carry the stickers from each event. The ladies were also well represented on this year's event with about six riders and 10 pillions, all having a great time. The youngest participant was 25-years-old, with the oldest being 85-year-old George Phillips from Sydney. He only took up riding in his 60s but has made the most of it since then on his R 1100 RT.



The half-way point was reached at Port Macquarie where another dinner introduced riders to some of those on the Safari, including BMW Group Australia Managing Director, Phil Horton, and General Manager BMW

Motorrad Australia and New Zealand, Tony Sesto, who said: "The TS Safari is a great event. Beautiful roads and, importantly, riders enjoying their BMW motorcycles and the camaraderie of other BMW enthusiasts. It is a must for all BMW riders to do at least once."

After a sensational week of riding and socialising the BMW TS Safari drew to a close at the Twin Waters Resort near Maroochydore. The farewell dinner marked the end of the journey and the many new friends made this year will no doubt ensure a fantastic reunion at the next BMW Motorrad TS Safari.



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