

Nothing clouds the start of GlobeBusters Silk Road Expedition

While most travellers have been talking about volcanic ash and longing to get back home from wherever they are in the world, the GlobeBusters Silk Road Expedition was waved off by hundreds well wishers from London's Ace Café on Saturday 17 April under clear blue skies and safe in the knowledge that their crossing on Euro Tunnel had been booked months before.



The group of BMW riders left London's iconic biker café to start one of the most extreme, exciting, and enviable motorcycle journeys imaginable – the GlobeBusters Silk Road London to Beijing Expedition.

This ambitious group journey will set a new high in motorcycle adventure travel. The groundbreaking 12,000 miles (20,000 kilometres) two-wheeled voyage will include riding the Afghan border in Tajikistan on one of the world's highest altitude roads and reaching Mount Everest Base Camp at over 5,300 metres, before entering the mysterious city of Lhasa and then heading east to Beijing.

BMW R 1200 GS Adventure rider Kevin Sanders, who is the Co-Founder of GlobeBusters and the Expedition Leader for this Silk Road journey, researched the whole route back in 2009 and knows only too well the difficulty of the challenges that lie ahead for the riders.

"I've got two Guinness World Records for global riding, but the London to Beijing route ranks as the most extreme ride that I have ever done," he said. "There's a reason why no other company in the world has attempted this ride. It's tough, it's



unpredictable, it's way off the beaten track and that makes it high risk. But as with all GlobeBusters expeditions, the pre-trip preparation is done in absolute detail.

"I've briefed the riders personally about what kit they need, what modifications to do to their bikes, and what they must have with them to give them the very best chance of successfully getting to Beijing. They know exactly what they will face – riding at over 5,000 metres altitude, freezing temperatures, and narrow dirt roads traversing some of the highest peaks in the world. For parts of the ride, not even the basics exist – no hot water, no familiar food, and sometimes no shelter."



For all that, there are highlights on this trip that make it truly unique, according to Kevin: "Other than our research team, I don't know anyone else who has ridden their own bike across the Tibetan Plateau to Everest Base Camp or Lhasa. GlobeBusters is about to change that!" says the record-breaking GS rider.

Although the next London to Beijing trip isn't planned until April 2011, those that want to follow the current expedition over the next 10 weeks can catch up with all the latest information – including online podcasts, pictures and gossip – on the www.globebusters.com website. Alternatively, follow the trip on GlobeBusters Facebook.