

## BMW Motorrad GS Safari – Australia’s Great Divide explored...

If you ever want to see what your GS can do in its natural environment, then you should join BMW Motorrad Australia on one of its annual GS Safaris. This amazing event is all about fellow GS enthusiasts using their bikes to get ‘off the beaten track’ to faraway places where the riding is as memorable as the scenery. And judging by the pictures and film of this year’s epic adventure, the 2012 edition certainly didn’t disappoint...



The BMW Motorrad Australia GS Safari is a week-long off-road adventure that took 170 GS riders through Australia’s Great Dividing Range. It is a blend of diverse terrain, scenery and roads that are perfect for the Unstoppable GS. After a day’s riding, riders enjoyed the great company and over dinner relived the day’s journey before a good night’s sleep and the start of another day of adventure.

The Safari commenced at Ballina, on the New South Wales coast, with a traditional welcome dinner where riders met up with old friends and introduced themselves to new ones.

Two days prior to the kick-off, 40 riders availed themselves of the opportunity to brush up on their adventure riding skills at the pre GS Safari Off-Road Training Course at Yamba. This extra training proved invaluable in the coming week as rider’s skills and confidence reached new heights.

After setting out from Ballina, the first couple of days provided an array of terrain to explore, mixed with occasional showers and even hail to keep the ‘safariists’ on their toes. The showers kept the dust to a minimum and as the sun came out, riders headed down the Old Kempsey Road to bask in the heat at



the idyllic Georges Creek. It is at these sorts of places off the beaten tack, like Georges Creek, that people realize the benefits of owning and riding a BMW GS.

Heading to Port Macquarie, an optional 'difficult' section was available to riders who wanted to challenge themselves. The first short sand section was deep and rutted and while a few riders got through cleanly, others found it more challenging. There were a few sandy sections mixed in with undulating double track that kept riders fully focused. The tough day ended on the beach where riders got to watch a spectacular demonstration of riding in sand by BMW Motorrad marketing manager Miles Davis and listen to tips and advice on how to try and master the mysteries of riding in the soft stuff.



On the penultimate day there was the 'GS Challenge' where riders were put through nine varied skills tests in friendly competition. The increased confidence and ability of all the riders had grown far above their expectations. The day ended at Port Macquarie for dinner where local BMW Motorrad Dealer, Rock Motorcycles, unveiled the brand new F 700 GS and F 800 GS.

The final day of any BMW GS Safari is always mixed with sadness that it is over but also with a great deal of satisfaction at having pushed and achieved the goal of riding a GS through some of the most magnificent roads and scenery in Australia with like-minded GS enthusiasts. As riders enjoyed this final dinner they set their minds to what the next ride could be and all decided to look forward to meeting up again at the 2013 BMW GS Safari.

The mix of riders on the GS Safari was extraordinary: some were experiencing their first off-road adventure, while others were ex-pro riders. The youngest was 19-year-old Daria Twist, enjoying the week with her father Con. Malcolme Smith was the oldest at 72, and he enjoyed the ride in company with his son-in-law. In short, all ages and experiences were represented, all riding together on the trails, enjoying the incredible scenery and camaraderie. That is why the GS Safari is such a great event.

General Manager of BMW Motorrad Australia and New Zealand, Tony Sesto, also



enjoyed his time on the BMW GS Safari, commenting: “Magnificent scenery from behind the ‘bars of a BMW GS motorcycle and far from the normal day to day work schedule. The BMW GS Safari is a brilliant event, and every GS rider should do it at least once – or every time as some do!”



The BMW GS Safari is a highlight on the Australia calendar and planning is well underway for 2013. It's a perfect way for everyone to get to see the roads less traveled in the Big Brown Land.

For some excellent video highlights from this year's BMW GS Safari, please visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeTpd15d1hk>

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