

DOSSIER

Solicitation of
**SPONSORSHIP
&
MEDIA COVERAGE**

"A Feast for the Senses"



A World Tour by Bicycle

Two years...

18 countries...

55 world heritage sites...

16,000 miles pedaled...

90 lbs. of luggage...

millions of smiles.





"A Feast for the Senses"



The Challenge: A WORLD TOUR by BICYCLE...

...18 countries in 2 years and 16,000 miles

Duration: Summer of 2003 - Summer of 2005

The Theme: World Heritage Sites

The Team: Sheri & Stéphane Marchiori,

26 and 28 years old

Focus: An educational program...

...And photo documentaries

Circulation: An Internet site & multi-media coverage

Purpose of dossier: To solicit sponsors and

media coverage





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PRESENTATION

“Plaisirs des Lieux...A Feast for the Senses” is the inspiration for a world tour, of which the countries of Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and North America will be the ingredients. A young married couple, we will traverse 18 countries and 16,000 miles in approximately 2 years, accompanied by our two precious bicycles. In order to preserve the maximum amount of autonomy, we will carry all of our gear with us on our bicycles. Our date of departure is set for July 2003.

Our guiding light will be that of meeting and discovery. We dream of embarking on an adventure...of discovering new cultures, new landscapes, of reaching new horizons. We wish to see life from a new perspective...in short, to leave behind, if only for a short while, the materialistic routines which haunt our occidental lives. This dream is a challenge which inspires us.

Long ago, the Greeks put together a list of the “Seven Wonders of the World,” which was determined by the physical and spiritual grandeur of the sites. Unfortunately, only the Great Pyramid has survived the passage of time. We feel that it is the responsibility of all of us to preserve what has been passed down to us by earlier generations because, across our planet, there are untold other “wonders of the world” which are today, more than ever, in threat of disappearing.

We have found ourselves drawn towards the grand masterpieces of nature and towards the masterpieces of mankind that our ancestors erected with patience and forbearing many centuries ago. We would like to discover for ourselves the beauty and inspiration of a group of natural and/or cultural sites of exceptional value that have been classified as “World Heritage” sites by the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization).

The delta of the Danube, the historic center of Istanbul, the Taj Mahal, the city of Angkor in Cambodia, the Grand Canyon...these are but a few of the magical places that will constitute the thread of our voyage.

This dream is dear to us, but without outside assistance, we will be unable to fulfil it. That is why we are soliciting your support through this dossier. We are looking for sponsors to give us financial aid, equipment, and/or logistical aid. If our adventure interests you, we will share it with you with pleasure.

This dossier presents the objectives of our world tour, its team, its itinerary, and its budget. One part is dedicated to our educational program, whose primary, though not unique, objective is to further the goals of the UNESCO program entitled “World Heritage in young hands.” In addition, we describe the means by which we will share our voyage with the media and others.

We leave the rest to you to discover...



OBJECTIVES

A Personal Challenge: As the old French saying goes, “Travel is the path to youthfulness.”

We will learn about ourselves and discover the world through our own eyes. We are in no way looking to accomplish a physical exploit or beat any record. We will advance according to the rhythm of our meetings and our desires.

Facing difficulties together, we will be confronted with uncertain and often unforeseeable situations. Our will, reinforced by a strong determination, will propel us along the routes of this world tour.

An Experience on Bicycle: This wonderful invention with two wheels has a ton of qualities that correspond to our philosophy of travel. Its rhythm allows us to fully appreciate the things and people around us. The bicycle has the advantage of being environmentally-friendly. It is silent and non-threatening; its only motor: our calves.

Many will tell you that a bicycle laden “like a mule” brings out people, pleases them, makes them ask questions and involves them in conversation, especially in the countries of the Middle East and Asia. It is conducive to meeting people, which is a priority for us.

In addition, the sturdiness of our bikes allows us to carry the necessary equipment with us, which gives us a large measure of autonomy. Finally, a bicycle is an economical mode of transport that passes in most places that other vehicles do not.

Encounters: With the Tibetan monks of the region of Lhassa, the farmers of the great plateaus of Iran, the cultivators of the valleys of Laos, with all of these people that we will meet from the four corners of the globe, we will have a desire for exchanges and sharing.

Thirsty to pass several hours, several days with those who would like to share conversation, a meal, perhaps even a roof. To live with these other peoples who give meaning to our voyage and reason to our long hours of pedalling.

A Sharing: Our desire is to share our dream and to permit all interested persons to follow the progress of our travel. It is in this interest that we will publish articles and photos throughout our journey.

This distribution will be made possible from our Internet site, www.travleur.fr.st, which will present our expedition, our writings, and our sponsors. The event will be covered by the local press and specialized magazines throughout its different stages: before, during, and after (see chap. “DISTRIBUTION”).

An Educational Program: The chronicling of our journey by bicycle will provide a means by which young French, American, and foreign generations can discover magnificent sites and consider the importance of and take action for the protection of our world heritage. By following our adventure, young people will have real-time access to peoples and cultures of distant lands (see chap. “EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM”).



THE COUPLE

SHERI:

26 years old. Miss Rights became Mrs. Marchiori July 14, 2001. She is an American citizen (waiting for French bi-nationality) who grew up in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She obtained a BS in Business from Wake Forest University in 1998. Has been living in Paris since 1999, where she works as a bilingual assistant.

- ▲ **Languages:** Bilingual English/French, some Spanish
- ▲ **Volunteer Work:** at "Cyclo-Camping International"
- ▲ **International Tourism:** Western Europe, Mexico, Canada, Caribbean Islands; semester abroad in London
- ▲ **Backpacking Experience:** 2 months in Western Europe during the summer of 1998
2 months in the western United States during the summer of 1993
- ▲ **Cyclo-tourism Experience:** 3 weeks in Andalusia, Spain in April 2002. 450 mi. Numerous weekend trips in France.
- ▲ **Sports:** Biking, Paragliding, Snow-Skiing, Swimming, Water-Skiing, Hiking



STEPHANE:

28 years old. Married in Pennsylvania on July 14, 2001. He is a French citizen who spent the majority of his childhood near Grenoble, in the French Alps. Has been living in Paris since 1994, where he works as a nurse.

- ▲ **Languages:** Bilingual French/English, some Spanish
- ▲ **Professional Studies:** Diploma "Travellers' Health, Travel Medicine" 2002-03.
- ▲ **Volunteer Work:** at "Cyclo-Camping International"
- ▲ **International Tourism:** Several trips to the United States (northeast region), Tunisia, Nicaragua, Romania, Senegal, the West Indies
- ▲ **Backpacking Experience:** Spain, the Netherlands, Florida
- ▲ **Cyclo-tourism Experience:** 3 weeks in Andalusia in April 2002. 450 mi. Numerous weekend trips in France.
- ▲ **Sports:** Biking, Paragliding, Paramotor (pilot's license), Judo (brown belt), Snowboarding, Swimming, Hiking



PREPARATION

In preparation for our voyage we began by reading small and large accounts alike of travellers who have accomplished a thousand feats, whether it be on the roads, in the mountains, by sea or by horse. Our preparation has been long, but very rewarding, and what pleasure it has been to escape into a story, a guidebook, or a map. It has given us patience until the big departure day in July 2003, and here below you will find a summary:

Choice of Itinerary:

We've had to inform ourselves on the political, climatic, cultural, and social situations of the countries which we plan to visit. Long and difficult, the choice of itinerary took several turns before finishing as a tour of the world parting towards the east (see chap. "ITINERARY").

Educational Program:

Little by little, our ideas have evolved until they have crystallized into what they are today. This part is in continuous evolution (see chap. "EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM").

Equipment:

We performed long and meticulous comparisons of equipment in order to find the combination of durability, quality, weight, and cost that was suited for our needs (see chap. "EQUIPMENT").

Budget:

We opened a savings account in anticipation of our voyage. In addition, we are looking to collect funds and equipment with the participation of sponsors (see chaps. "FUNDING" and "BUDGET"). We will update the dossier in function of its evolution and the contacts that we have established.

Professional/Social Obligations:

We have planned to cease all professional activity, as well as to move and either sell or store our belongings. Our mothers will be in charge of administrative tasks such as banking, filing income tax, etc. in the United States and in France (thank you to our moms!)

Health Check-Ups:

We have had all the latest medical check-ups (dentist, ophthalmologist, allergist, etc.) and have subscribed for a repatriation insurance. And, of course, we haven't forgotten our vaccinations (for details, see following page).

Continue...



PREPARATION

... Continuation

Athletic Preparation:

In order to prepare physically, we cycle regularly in Paris and have had several weekend bicycle trips in France. We spent three weeks cyclo-camping in Andalusia in April of 2002 and plan to bike for two weeks along the Loire Valley in France in April of 2003.

Photographic Aid:

The precious aid of two photographer friends, Gwen and Brounch, has directed us in the choice of equipment, and has especially helped train us in this art. We have also gleaned many photo-taking tips from National Geographic photo guidebooks.

Vaccinations:

We have consulted with a doctor at the Pasteur Hospital in Paris for a course of vaccine treatment. In addition, Stéphane is currently taking a university course entitled "Travellers' Medicine, The Health of Travellers". No single solution is perfect, but because of our high exposure to different risks, especially in rural zones, we have chosen to follow a cautious immunization program.

VACCINES	INJECTIONS/pers.	DATE(1st injection)	COST (total/2 pers.)
Hepatitis A & B	3	11/25/02	46.70 x 6 = 280.20
Rabies	3	11/25/02	40 x 6 = 240
Typhoid Fever	1	11/25/02	27.50 x 2 = 55
Japan. Encephalytis	3	1/06/03	53.50 x 6 = 321
Tick Encephalytis	3	4/03	42 x 6 = 252
Polio	1	11/25/02	12.30 x 2 = 24.60
TOTAL			\$ 1172.80



DOCUMENTATION

CCI: *Cyclo-Camping International*, where we volunteer, is an association whose aim is to help member cyclo-tourists in preparing their voyages by providing them with information from the following sources: pamphlets covering countries from every corner of the globe; a quarterly magazine; a guidebook entitled “Voyage by Bicycle”; an annual conference entitled “Travelling by Bike”; a bi-monthly members’ meeting to exchange information; guidebooks and maps, which are available on premises.

UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. A vast web-site...which corresponds with the size of their actions. An entire section is dedicated to the World Heritage sites and a brief description of each site is given. The UNESCO organizes training programs related to our world heritage by using the pilot kit WHE (World Heritage Education - see chap. “EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM”).

Internet: Goldmine of information of all kinds (visas, climate, equipment, road conditions, creation of Internet sites, etc.). Related links are cited on our website www.travleur.fr.st.

Guidebooks: We generally preferred Lonely Planet guidebooks.

Rando-Cycles and Rando-Boutique: A question, a problem, a need for technical advice? No problem, Paul and his team are there to help you. In a friendly atmosphere, professional and experienced artisans are always available to give you good advice and tips. We have been happy with their services and products.

ABM: “Adventurers from the four corners of the Globe”. We are also members of this association, which was created to assemble voyagers of all kinds, whether they travel by jeep, by bike, by camel, you name it. They publish the “Globetrotter” magazine and organize an annual “Globetrotter” conference. Their website is choc-full of recent stories and tips from travellers still in the course of their travels or recently returned from their voyages.

Maps: Michelin, Geocenter, National Geographic, Nelles, ONC. They all have their advantages and their disadvantages, but the principal object was to find maps with a scale adapted to cyclo-camping, generally between 1/500,000 and 1/750,000. It is important to have maps written in the local alphabet, with local spellings, especially in Asia (useful to ask for directions).

National Geographic Institute: Maps and guidebooks galore.

All of Our Valued Advisors: Specialists, experienced cyclo-tourists, retailers, and manufacturers who professionally guided us in our choices. We thank them.

Embassies and Consulates: Useful information, particularly on the website www.ambassade.gouv.fr, which gives precise and up-to-date tips on each country.



LOGISTICS

VISAS: A visa is generally valid for a period of not more than three months. We will therefore not be able to request all of our visas in France before our departure, but will be obligated to request our visas in the country preceding that of which we are about to traverse. Certain “rules” are known by cyclo-voyagers. For example, it is known that the request for a visa within certain embassies can be particularly laborious. For instance, it takes approximately two weeks to obtain an Iranian visa in Istanbul, while you could lose two months at the Iranian Embassy of Ankara.

MEANS OF PAYMENT: We will carry a credit card with us, which will allow us to withdraw money in the larger towns. We will also carry a minimum of cash in dollars, as a safety shield in the rural regions. In addition, we will carry travellers’ checks.

CONTACTS: We will have contact with the local people within each country, of course, but also with:

- ▲ The persons in charge of the protection of the World Heritage sites
- ▲ Local schools, notably those that belong to the “Patrimoine” network of UNESCO
- ▲ Members of French and American consulates and embassies
- ▲ Alliance Française schools, French and American high schools
- ▲ Cycling clubs, paragliding clubs, etc.

LODGING: We estimate that our lodging will be split about equally among hotels, camping, and the homes of local inhabitants, depending upon our location. Turkey and Iran, for example, are known for the locals’ warm welcome into their homes, India for its inexpensive hotels, and the United States for the quality of their campsites.

WATER: The transport of water and its treatment represents an important logistic. In regions where there are large distances to cover, like the American West, it is indispensable to carry a sufficient quantity of water. Our weak immune system obliges us to disinfect the water, especially in Asia. We will therefore transport the necessary equipment to stock water, as well as disinfecting tablets and a water filter.

COMMUNICATION/INTERNET SITE: One of the major difficulties for us will be the distance between us and our families and friends. It will be important to have reliable methods of communication. The recent explosion of web bars across the globe will enable us to e-mail back home, as well as to update our website regularly. Our Internet site will be our key means of communication (see chap. “DISTRIBUTION”). Our handheld computer, on which we will type articles or part of our journals will allow us to spend less time in the web bars. The “poste restante” in certain large cities will enable us to receive packages, repair parts, maps, guides, etc.

Continue...



LOGISTICS

... Continuation

LIGHTING/BATTERIES: For nighttime cycling (sometimes obligatory), we will outfit the bicycles with a dynamo (see chaps. "EQUIPMENT" and "SPONSORSHIP"). Our electronic equipment and lighting will use primarily LR6 rechargeable batteries that we will recharge using a solar and electric charger.

PHOTOS: In order to share our experiences, we will write articles complete with photos which we will transmit via Internet. We will send our film regularly through the mail. Our photographer friend, Brounch, will be in charge of the classification and development of photos that he will receive and put on our Internet site (Thank you, Brounch!). The photos will complete journals and articles that we will have kept current. They will be stored in numeric format upon a CD. Upon our return, the photographs will also be used for slide shows (in numerical format). We plan on using 25 rolls per month, on average.

AUDIO: All of the places that we will discover - the magic of a place, a country, within a family - will be imprinted with a multitude of sounds that we will try to record (music, concerts, conversations, ambient sounds, etc.). Our Mp3 player stores up to 20 GO of files (see chap. "EQUIPMENT"). We will send selected files by Internet to add to our website. We will use some of these for slide shows upon our return.

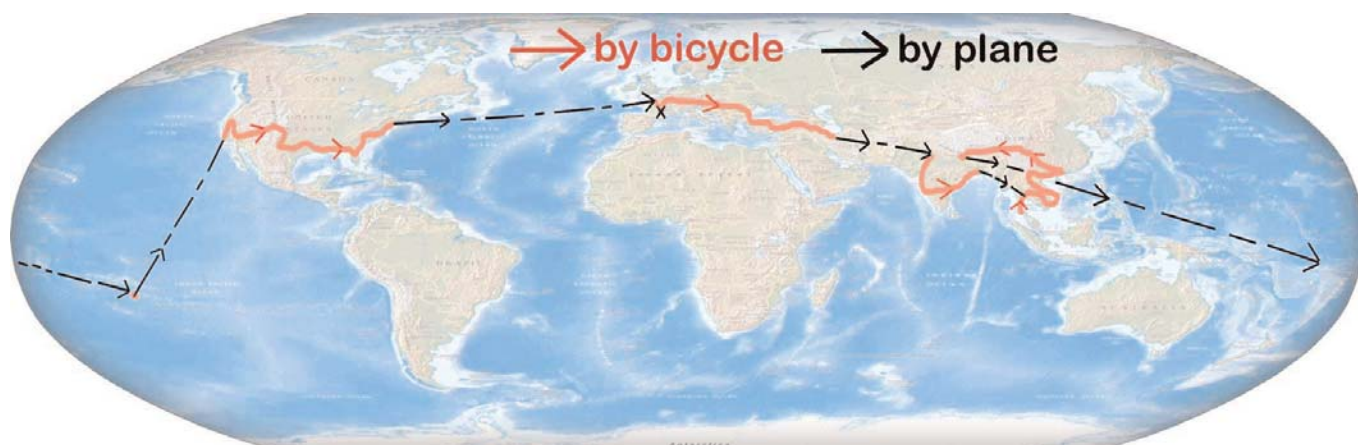
MALARIA: We will traverse regions infected by malaria during the monsoon season. Southeast Asia in one of the zones where the virus is resistant to classical treatments such as chloroquine and proguanil. Because a prophylactic treatment during our entire sejour in this region is too prohibitive (cost, side effects, storage), we will use a preventative treatment only in the regions which are the most highly infected (rural zones of Cambodia, Laos, and southern China). When we travel through regions which are particularly isolated or infected with malaria, we will take a curative treatment at the first sign of a fever and go to the nearest medical center. In order to help fend off the disease, we will use effective repellants for the skin and for materials (citradial, DEET 35%, and permethrin), as well as mosquito netting.

"AROUND THE WORLD" AIRPLANE TICKETS: We will follow the land route as much as possible. We will, of course, fly over the oceans, but also the countries of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Myanmar (see chap. "ITINERARY"). These plane tickets, sold by travel agencies or directly by the airline companies themselves, will allow us to make the necessary "flea jumps." Because of existing airline routes, we will have to make several layovers. Below is a list of the flights that we will take:

1. Teheran (Iran) - Delhi (India)
2. Dacca (Bangladesh) - Bangkok (Thailand)
3. Kathmandu (Nepal) - Papeete (French Polynesia)
4. Papeete (FP) - Los Angeles (USA)
5. Philadelphia (USA) - Paris (France)



ITINERARY



We can study the terrain, evaluate the climate, avoid certain routes, and minimize certain dangers, but there are still many factors (notably political) that remain unpredictable and beyond our control. Because of this, we may modify our itinerary at any time, and without warning. Below you will find a summary of the factors which have oriented our compass.

*Points of Interest...*The principal course was pre-determined by the countries and regions we have dreamt of visiting: Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East (Turkey and Iran), India, Southeast Asia, Polynesia, and the United States.

*World Heritage Sites...*Within each country, we will guide our bikes towards UNESCO “World Heritage” sites. We first located the sites, then traced our route according to their geographical location.

*The terrain...*Our inexperience in cyclo-tourism led us to choose a course with relatively flat terrain for the commencement of our voyage. We will cross Europe by following the Danube River until we reach the Black Sea. After our training in the Romanian mountains, we will have a sufficient base to envisage traversing the mountains of Turkey and those to come (slowly, but surely).

*The climate...*We plan on avoiding extreme climate conditions: the heatwaves of the American West, the summer and winter months in central Turkey, Iran, and the Himalayas. It is difficult, however, to take into account all of the micro-climates of Asia. We will traverse Asia during the monsoon season, thereby witnessing the daily life of a people which organizes itself around this season.

*International Situations...*Initially, we planned on travelling through Pakistan and Afghanistan. Because of the current international situation, however, we now plan on traversing them by air-plane. The same goes for the country of Myanmar (formerly Burma), which has closed to tourists its borders with India and Bangladesh.

*Tibet...*This Chinese territory and its spectacular landscape are one of the priorities of our trip. However, unaccompanied tourism is prohibited, and the many check-posts make entry especially difficult, particularly in coming from Kathmandu (Nepal). We will therefore make a circular detour to enter by Yunnan or Sichuan, where the check-posts are less numerous. Also, it will be easier and less costly to procure the Chinese visa in Hong Kong.

*Pedaling...*We have planned to pedal on average 35 miles per day, 5 days per week, for a total of 700 miles per month.

EUROPE

Country	Cities	Approx. Mileage	Period	Possible Detours	Points of Interest	UNESCO Sites
France	Le Cheylas Lyon	390	July 03		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Visit with our family and friends ▲ Cathedral of Strasbourg ▲ Route of Wines of Alsace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Place Stanislas, Place de la Carrière, and Place d'Alliance in Nancy ▲ Strasbourg - Grand Island
	Strasbourg					
Germany	Karlsruhe	280	July 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Munich ▲ Konstanz Lake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Rhine Valley ▲ Black Forest ▲ The grand plateaus of Franconie ▲ The Danube and Isar Rivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Cathedral of Speyer ▲ Monastic Island of Reichenau ▲ Lorsch Abbey ▲ Maulbronn Abbey
	Stuttgart Ulm Regensburg Passau					
Austria	Linz	170	Aug 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Fertöd Lake ▲ Czech Repub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The shores of the Danube ▲ Village of Krems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Cultural Landscape of Wachau ▲ Historic Center of Vienna ▲ Cultural Landscape of Hallstatt
	Melk Vienna					
Slovakia	Bratislava Komarno	60	Aug 03		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Cities of Bratislava and Samorin 	
Hungary	Esztergom	220	Aug 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Holloko ▲ Eger ▲ Peninsula of Tihán 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Historic Village of Budapest ▲ Steppe of Hortogaby ▲ The banks of the Danube 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Pannonhalma Monastery ▲ Panorama of the Danube from Budapest ▲ Holloko ▲ The Castle of Buda ▲ Hortogaby National Park
	Budapest Gyongyos Debrecen					
Romania	Oradea	560	Sept 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The Mounts of Orastie ▲ Tulcéa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The mountains of Transylvania ▲ The village of Brasov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Fortified churches of Transylvania ▲ The historical center of Sighisoara ▲ Wooden church of Maramurès ▲ Delta of the Danube
	Brasov Bucarest Constanta					
Bulgaria	Varna Burgas	250	Sept 03		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The shores of the Black Sea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Natural reserve of Srebarna ▲ Ancient village of Nessebar

* Difficulties: Mountainous terrain in Romania

MIDDLE EAST & INDIA

Country	Cities	Approx. Mileage	Period	Possible Detours	Points of Interest	UNESCO Sites
Turkey	Istanbul	1120	Oct 03	▲ Bursa	▲ Ancient vestiges across western and central Anatolia	▲ Historic center of Istanbul
	Izmit Ankara Kayseri Malatya Van			▲ Syria	▲ The Marmara Sea ▲ The Cappadoce ▲ Van Golu Lake	▲ Göreme National Park
Iran	Tabriz Teheran	450	Nov 03	▲ Caspian Sea ▲ Esfahan	▲ The route of the Hashichin castles ▲ The Zagros mountain chain	▲ The Meidan Emam of Esfahan ▲ The vestiges of Persepolis
	Delhi Agra Udaipur Ajmer Ahmadabad Surat			▲ Ajanta ▲ The Ashram of Poona ▲ Bhubaneswar, the city of 500 temples	▲ The holy city of Pushkar ▲ The temples and palace of Udaipur ▲ The beaches of the Omam Sea and of Goa ▲ The fauna and waterfalls of the Similipal Park	▲ The caves of Ajanta, Ellora, and Elephanta ▲ The Fort of Agra ▲ The Taj Mahal ▲ The sun temple of Kornak ▲ The national parks of Keoladeo and Sundarbans
India	Mumba (Bombay) Solapur Hyderabad Vijayavada Visakhapatnam Bhubanezwar Kolkata (Calcutta)	2360	Dec 03			▲ The church and convent of Goa ▲ The monuments of Hampi and Pattadakal ▲ Fatehpur Sikri ▲ The tomb of Humayun and the Qutb Minar at Delhi
Bangladesh	Dhaka	90	Mar 04			

* Difficulties: The acquisition of the Iranian visa; the winter in Iran; Hygiene; Mosquitos

SOUTHEAST ASIA AND FRENCH POLYNESIA

Country	Cities	Approx. Mileage	Period	Possible Detours	Points of Interest	UNESCO Sites
Thailand	Phuket Bangkok Khon Kaen Ubon	1 120	Mar 04	▲ Chiang Mai	▲ The coasts of the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand ▲ Vestiges of Thai temples ▲ Ko Chang National Park	▲ Historic city of Ayutthaya ▲ Historic town of Sukhothai ▲ Thungyai - Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuaries
Laos	Sanasombun Muang Khong	80	May 04		▲ Islands and rapids of Mekong	
Cambodia	Kompong Ch. Siem Reap Battambang Phnom Penh	390	May 04	▲ Gulf of Siam	▲ Sacred mount of Phnom Kulen ▲ Vestiges of Khmer temples	▲ Angkor
Vietnam	Ho chi minh Cam Ranh Danang	450	June 04		▲ The Mekong Delta	▲ The old town of Hoi An ▲ Complex of Hue Monuments
Laos	Savannakhet Vientiane Luang Prabang	450	June 04		▲ Landscapes of the Luang Prabang region & its 32 temples ▲ Les Vats, the old town of Vientiane	
Vietnam	Hanoi	200	July 04		▲ The Tonkin Gulf	▲ The Ha-Long Bay
China	Hong Kong Guiyang Chongqing Chengdu Kunming Lhasa	1600	July 04	▲ Sea of China	▲ Nanning Park ▲ Varied landscapes of Yunnan ▲ Lakes of Sichuan ▲ The gorges of the Tiger River Valley and the Valley of Nujiang ▲ Tibetan people and landscapes	▲ Jiuzhaigou Valley scenic and historic interest area ▲ Huanglong scenic & hist. Interest area ▲ Wulingyuan scenic & hist. Interest area ▲ Historic ensemble of the Potala Palace, Lhasa
Nepal	Katmandou Pokhara Bhairawa Katmandou	340	Oct 04		▲ Sanctuary of the dynasty of Malla ▲ Trek to Anapurna	▲ Kathmandu Valley ▲ Sagarmatha National Park ▲ Royal Chitwan National Park ▲ Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha
Polynesia	Papetee	60	Oct 04		▲ beaches, turquoise sea	

* Difficulties: Monsoon season starting in May; Acquisition of Chinese visa; Entry into Tibet; Mountainous terrain

THE UNITED STATES

Region	Cities/ Nat'l. Parks	Approx. Mileage	Period	Possible Detours	Points of Interest	UNESCO Sites
The West	Los Angeles, CA			▲ Eugene, Oregon	▲ Redwood N.P.	▲ Yosemite N.P.
	San Francisco, CA			▲ Crater Lake N.P. (OR)	▲ Lassen Volcanic N.P.	
	Death Valley, CA			▲ Reno, Nevada	▲ Lake Tahoe	
	Las Vegas, NV				▲ Hoover Dam (Lake Mead)	
	Grand Canyon, AZ	2780	Winter 05	▲ Hopi Indian Reservation	▲ Colorado River	▲ Grand Canyon
	Zion N.P., UT			▲ Petrified Forest N.P.	▲ Navajo Indian Reservation	
	Arches N.P., CO				▲ Canyonlands N.P.	
	Mesa Verde N.P., CO			▲ Grand Junction	▲ Bryce Canyon N.P.	▲ Mesa Verde N.P.
	Albuquerque, NM			▲ Chaco Historical N.P.	▲ Rocky Mountains	▲ Pueblo de Taos
	Carlsbad, NM			▲ Santa Fe	▲ Rio Grande River	
The South	Dallas, TX				▲ Carlsbad Caverns N.P.	
	Houston, TX					
	New Orleans, LA	1800	Winter 05	▲ Baton Rouge	▲ Mississippi River	
	Gulf Port, MI			▲ Jackson	▲ Gulf of Mexico	
	Mobile, AL			▲ Montgomery		
	Panama City, FL			▲ Orlando	▲ Atlantic Ocean Beaches	
The Southeast	Daytona Beach, FL				▲ St. Augustine	
	Savannah, GA			▲ Atlanta		
	Charleston, SC			▲ Charlotte	▲ Myrtle Beach	▲ Great Smoky Mts.
	Cape Hatteras, NC			▲ Asheville	▲ Outer Banks	
	Raleigh, NC	1130	Spring 05	▲ Great Smoky Mts.	▲ Wake Forest University	
	Winston-Salem, NC					
	Charlottesville, VA				▲ Mt. Vernon	▲ Univ. of Virginia, Monticello
	Richmond, VA				▲ Washington, D.C.	
The Northeast	Baltimore, MD	275	Spring 05	▲ Fairlee Creek	▲ Chesapeake Bay	▲ Independence Hall
	Wilmington, DE					
	Philadelphia, PA					

*Difficulties: Transport of water in the West; extreme temperatures



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION

Bicycling gives a real dimension to adventure; it brings a concrete element to the time and distance covered in a voyage. For young people, it is easy to follow and leaves room for the imagination to wander.

The UNESCO project entitled “World Heritage in young hands” and the corresponding pilot kit targets adolescents between 14 and 18 years of age. We will work with this age group, as well as with young children between the ages of 7 and 10, adapting activities appropriate to their age.

OBJECTIVES

- ▲ Give youths the chance to discover the existence of other peoples and other cultures
- ▲ Give an added dimension in disciplines as varied as history, geography, languages, the sciences, theatre, etc.
- ▲ To educate and increase the awareness of today’s youth concerning the importance of our environment and our cultural heritage
- ▲ Encourage the students to be active participants; solicit their opinions
- ▲ Utilize new information technologies to create an exchange network among our partner schools, the existing UNESCO network, and us
- ▲ To further the cause of the UNESCO in their program “World Heritage in young hands”

WHAT IS “WORLD HERITAGE IN YOUNG HANDS”?

“Launched in 1994 at the grassroots level by the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet) and the UNESCO World Heritage Center, this Project gives young people a chance to voice their concerns and to become involved in the protection of the world’s natural and cultural heritage. Through the development of educational and participatory activities, the Project seeks to encourage and enable tomorrow’s decision-makers to respond to the continuing threats facing the World Heritage and give young people a chance to participate in the conservation and presentation of cultural and natural heritage from local to global levels.” (extract www.unesco.org).

WHAT IS THE “WORLD HERITAGE EDUCATION (WHE) KIT”?

“Since the role of teachers is of vital importance for the success of World Heritage Education, a pilot version of a teacher’s World Heritage Educational Resource Kit entitled “World Heritage in young hands” was published by UNESCO in 1999. The Kit is currently being experimented and adapted in 700 Associated Schools in more than 130 countries and more than 20 national language versions are under preparation. Based on an interactive and interdisciplinary approach, the Kit invites teachers of various disciplines to explore various aspects of heritage conservation with their students in the form of a journey through the world’s magnificent cultural and natural heritage.” (extract www.unesco.org).



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

OUR ROLE

- ▲ Present UNESCO sites visited during the voyage (history, dangers menacing the sites, actions taken for their protection, etc.); meet responsible persons on site
- ▲ Creation and regular updating of our Internet site
- ▲ Meet with our partner schools before the trip to present our project; put into effect a program adapted to the different classes (according to their means, ages, geographical location, etc.)
- ▲ Creation of a “homemade” version of the WHE kit in order to adapt it to younger children
- ▲ Present and introduce the WHE Kit to schools we meet along the course of the voyage
- ▲ Slide-show exhibitions after our return for our partner classes in the USA and France

ACTIVITIES FOR 14-18 YEAR OLDS

The WHE Kit proposes in-school activities as well as extra-curricular activities. There are activity pages to be completed by the students, a series of large-format photographs of the World Heritage (WH) sites, a poster, a map of the WH sites, stickers, and theme transparencies for in-class discussions. It will be up to the teachers to choose the program and activities to put in place.

PROGRAM FOR 7-10 YEAR OLDS

Familiarize the children with a world map. Presentation of our project.

Examples: Demonstrate the relationship between a globe and a map. Pick out on a large world map the different places already known to the children: their country, neighboring countries, vacation spots, places visited on class trips, etc. Follow our itinerary on the map.

Increase the awareness of other peoples, other cultures

Examples: Place photos on the map showing typical situations in foreign countries: class of students, landscapes, sites, celebrations, meals, etc. Talk about examples given by students of different origins within the class, along with geographical markers. Value differences.

Presentation of surrounding sites known to the children

Examples: Study or visit the village church, an historical quarter, or a protected natural park. Talk about their value and the importance of their conservation. Show how they were built with different material, equipment, and labor. Talk about surrounding ecosystems that are in danger. Incorporate activities with designs, etc. Visit of sites. Include activities pre- and post-visit.

Presentation of other sites on the international scale

Examples: Films, slides, photos of exceptional sites such as the Taj Mahal, the Ha-long Bay, Yosemite National Park, etc. If possible, visit of sites, and activities pre- and post-visit.



EQUIPMENT

The quality of our equipment will constitute our minimum daily comfort. It's in this light that we have chosen, after months of research, good-quality equipment, principally bought in the United States, for a better price than is to be found in France. The following is a brief description of our choices for which it was not always easy to find a good compromise between the weight, the comfort, the cost, the durability, etc.

The Bikes



Equipped by Shimano and adapted for cyclo-tourism, they are “made-to-measure” by an artisan with many years of experience. They possess steel frames and parts which are able to be re-soldered or replaced anywhere in the world, 26-inch Schwable Marathon tires, and 24 speeds. There are luggage carriers on the front and back wheels which are ultra-resistant. Weight/Bike: 35 lbs.

Bike Bags



Based upon the advice of several manufacturers and cyclo-tourists, we opted for a German brand, Ortlieb, which offers resistant bags which are probably the most water-proof on the market. Total of 8 side bags and 2 handlebar bags. Total weight: 16.72 lbs.

The Tent



Free-standing (type: dome), it has two vestibules, with one that is large enough to store the two bikes or to do the cooking. It is a three-season tent that is relatively light and spacious, and has a discrete color (important detail). Weight: 8 lbs.

Stove/Pots



Our Primus Multifuel stove uses all types of fuel (gas or liquid). Important because once we have traversed Europe, gas becomes difficult, even impossible, to find. Our pots and pans (MSR) are principally made from titanium, a metal which is ultra-light and resistant. Weight: 1 lb.

Mattresses



Self-inflating. Air provides the best thermal insulation. $\frac{3}{4}$ size, 1.77-in. thickness. Weight/mattress: 1.32 lbs.

Sleeping Bags



Attachable, our Northface Snowshoe bags are efficient until temperatures of 0°F. We chose synthetic material because even though it is less efficient and heavier than down, it is more resistant to humidity and to prolonged folding. To date, the polarguard stuffing seems to be the best quality on the market. Weight/bag: 3.52 lbs.

Continue...



EQUIPMENT

Clothing



We preferred synthetic material (nylon, polyester) over cotton because it breathes easier, dries quickly, and is practically wrinkle-free. We chose fleece for its power to keep in heat and Gore-Tex outer-garments for its effectiveness as a wind-breaker and a shield against the rain. Brands: Lafuma, Northface, Pearl Izumi, Salewa, Salomon, Sugoi, Timberland

Lamp/ Batteries



In order to economize, we will be using rechargeable batteries and a solar charger. We will have regular batteries in reserve. A dynamo will be integrated into the front wheel of the bike to light the route. We will also use headlamps. Brands: Petzl, Cateye Weight/dynamo: 1.1 lbs., Solar panel: .44 lbs.

Water Filter



Light, it is one of the only filters which eliminates almost all toxins (parasites, bacteria, viruses, pesticides...). Model: General Ecology, First Need Weight: 0.88 lbs.

Photo Equipment



We opted for a manual camera, which does not contain breakable electronic pieces. It uses only one small battery, for the light meter. It is a Nikon FM2 with one Nikon lens 24-85mm. f/2.8-4. It uses a polarizing filter. We will be taking a tripod, as well as a compact APS camera. Total weight: 3.2 lbs.

Handheld Computer



We will use a small and lightweight handheld computer to type, store, and transfer our writings. Model: Hewlett Packard Jornada 720. We will also carry an external memory card 252 MO and a supplementary battery + charger + international adapter. Total weight: 2.6 lbs.

Audio



In order to record music, conversation, or ambient sounds, we have chosen an Mp3 player + recorder. Model: Archos FM 20 GO + external microphone. This model stores the equivalent of up to 500 CDs and is able to record programs on the FM radio. It utilizes a USB2 connection.



EQUIPMENT

CAMPING

\$

Stove (multi-fuel) + repair kit + fuel reservoir	105
1 Water Filter	94
1 Titanium Pot	130
1 Water Carrier (10 L)	49
2 multi-function Knives	90
Titanium Utensils	25
Foldable Cups	15
1 Tarpaulin/Survival Blanket	19
1 Cable/Saw	21
1 Foldable Shovel/Pick	24
1 Watch (Compass/Therm./Barom./Altimeter)	210
Plates, containers	35
SUBTOTAL: . . . . .	.817

BIKE EQUIPMENT

\$

2 Bikes made-to-measure	4170
4 pairs of Bike Bags	710
2 Backpack Straps(Attachable to Bike Bags)	35
2 Handlebar Bags	240
1 Odometer	70
2nd Odometer (*)	70
Repair Tools (*)	125
Supplemental Parts (*)	215
2 Rearview Mirrors	30
2 Bike Lights	35
4 Water Bottles	30
2 Tire Pumps	40
3 Locks (1 U + 2 cables)	140
2 tires w/ dynamos (*)	300
SUBTOTAL: . . . . .	.6210

CLOTHING

\$

2 prs. pants/shorts	130
2 prs. fleece pants	75
2 prs. goretex pants	270
2 polyester t-shirts	80
2 long-sleeve poly. T-shirts	80
2 polyester tops	145
2 fleece/goretex jackets	640
4 prs. biking shorts	310
2 prs. leg warmers	80
Sports socks	75
Long underwear	140
2 prs. biking gloves	32
2 prs. goretex gloves (*)	190
2 prs. goretex shoes	290
2 prs. Sandals	160
2 prs. sunglasses	220
SUBTOTAL: . . . . .	.2917

PHOTO/AUDIO/PC

\$

Manual Camera	520
Zoom Lens 24-85mm	560
1 Filter (polarizing)	90
1 UV Filter	40
1 Tripod	45
Shutter release	27
Camera bag	28
400 rolls film- 100 ISO (*)	1000
200 rolls film- 400 ISO (*)	600
1 compact APS camera	220
100 rolls film - APS (*)	270
1 MP3 Player (*)	425
1 Handheld computer (*)	1100
Speakers+micro (*)	55
SUBTOTAL: . . . . .	.4980



EQUIPMENT

PHARMACY

\$

Antibiotics	
Allergy Medication	
Antidiarrhoeal Meds	
Pain Killers	
Anti-Inflam. Tabs	
Antispasmodics	
Anti-Inflam. Cream	
Intestinal Antiseptics	
Anti-fungal Med.	
Multi-Vitamins	
Band-Aids, Compresses,	
Antiseptics, Steristrips	
Blood Tests + Inject.	
Stitches	
Eye Drops	
Sunblock	
Mosquito Repellent	
for Skin and Clothing	
SUBTOTAL: .....	.210

PAPERS, ETC.

\$

Maps, Guides	
Credit Cds, Trav. Chks	
Passports, ID	
Notebooks, Pens	
Playing Cards	
SUBTOTAL: .....	.550

SLEEPING MATERIAL

\$

Tent (dome) (*) .....	.400
Tent Stakes	22
2 Sleeping Bags (0° F) .....	.420
2 Inflatable Mattresses .....	.180
1 Cotton Sheet .....	.30
1 Hammock	40
1 Mosquito Net .....	.42
Tent Repair Kit .....	.20
SUBTOTAL: .....	.1154

LIGHTS

\$

1 Diode Frontal Lamp .....	.35
2 Bulb Frontal Lamps .....	.49
Small Diode Lamp .....	.20
24 rechargeable batteries .....	.47
1 Solar panel .....	.37
Batteries, Light Bulbs .....	.30
SUBTOTAL: .....	.218

Total Cost:\$16,970

Total weight: 165 lbs (2 bikes = 73 lbs.)

(*) Equipment still to be acquired



CIRCULATION

AN INTERNET SITE

Objectives:

- ▲ Communicate with our family and friends and make our project available to all
- ▲ Describe the UNESCO sites that we visit
- ▲ Allow students and teachers to follow our voyage
- ▲ Present our partners and sponsors
- ▲ Give information to cyclo-tourists
- ▲ Make the site interactive between us and the students

Content:

- ▲ Accessible in English and in French
- ▲ Our articles, journals, and photos
- ▲ Description of UNESCO sites, their history, threats, protective measures taken, etc.
- ▲ Info. on countries traversed (pop., climate, lodging, visa info., road conditions, etc.)
- ▲ Link to a newsletter subscription to receive our news directly through your e-mail
- ▲ Our media publications and appearances
- ▲ Description of our sponsors and reasons for the sponsorship
- ▲ "Classroom" section to present the students' work, their questions, and our responses

Progression: The creation of our website is made possible with the help of our cousins, Jean(webmaster), Julien, and Laurent (two of whom are computer engineers). They will be responsible for updating our website once or twice per month during our journey (thank you to the family!). The site will be referenced by several search engines.

MEDIA PLAN

Objectives:

- ▲ Share our dream and perhaps foster careers in travel
- ▲ To let people know about our project, our website, and our sponsors

Chronology: This project will be covered during all of the stages of its evolution. It will start to be covered by local & national press, as well as specialized magazines, in March 2003.

- ▲ Day #1: We will organize a meeting of family, friends, a partner class, and the media to see us off.
- ▲ During the voyage: We will recount our voyage in articles that we will send regularly to newspapers and specialized magazines. In addition, we will contact foreign local media.
- ▲ Upon our return: We will be in possession of a certain experience which we would like to share. Besides sending articles to be published, we would like to present slide shows of our adventure during travel conferences.

Cyclo-Camping International. Our first experience as cyclo-tourist narrators ("Andalousian Charm" - see "ANNEX") was published in the last CCI revue (n° 85). During our voyage, we will be followed by articles that we write for the "News from cyclo-tourists" section of the magazine.



SPONSORSHIP

Do our adventure and project interest you? They are the culmination of a long and enriching preparation for us. Our goals are modest; however, **the education of tomorrow's leaders in the domain of the conservation of our world heritage is a pressing need**. Whether you are an individual, or a member of a group or enterprise, your aid is indispensable to the accomplishment of our project.

Support Solicited:

Financial: sponsorships, donations

Logistical: plane tickets, addresses, connections, letters of support

Equipment from loans, gifts, or preferential tariffs

In Exchange, we propose...

Through our publications... Our future readers are perhaps part of your target market. Articles, equipment appraisals, Cyclo-Camping International and Globetrotter articles, local media, the Web...there are many opportunities for us to cite our sponsorships and its purpose.

On our Internet site... Your logo on the homepage. A link to your Internet site. Technical information presenting your services and/or products. We remind you that our site will be mentioned in all of our dealings with the press.

Directly to you... Slideshows or photo exhibitions within your company upon our return. Critical appraisal of your equipment and/or products.

Equipment and logistical support solicited

CATEGORY/BRAND NAME	EQUIPMENT / LOGISTICAL SUPPORT	AMOUNT	ACQUIRED
Archos	1 mp3 player, jukebox FM, 20GO	425	
	1 microphone, 2 mini speakers, headphones	55	
Plane tickets	2 around-the-world airplane tickets	4500	
Bohle	4 Schwable marathon tires	120	
Cateye	1 cordless odometer	70	
Repatriation Insurance	2 contracts for 2 years	2450	
Photo Development	develop. & storage of 700 rolls of film on CD	4800	
Gore-tex	2 pairs of gloves	190	
Hewlett Packard	1 handheld computer, Jornada 720	700	
	1 supplementary battery - long duration	200	
	1 external memory card 512 MO	200	
Printing of dossier	Laser Impression	1660	1660
Photo film	400 rolls of film, 200 ISO	1000	
	200 rolls of film, 400 ISO	600	
	100 rolls of APS film, 200 ISO	280	
MSR	1 tent, model : velo	400	
Rando-Cycles	2 tires with integrated dynamo	300	
	Supplemental bike parts	215	
	Tools	125	
Telecommunications	International phone card & communications	750	
TOTAL (in dollars)		18040	1660
REMAINING AMOUNT (in dollars)			16380

NB: The prices indicated were established according to current market prices or according to a quote.



BUDGET

EXPENSES (in dollars)

Equipment (see chap. "Equipment")	16970
Visas (see chap. "Preparation")	690
Vaccines (see chap. "Preparation")	1170
Airplane tickets (See chap. "Logistics")	4500
Printing of dossier (printing and binding)	360
Development and storage of film on CDs	4800
Repatriation Contract and Insurance	2450
Food and Lodging (avg. of \$7 / day / person)	9800
Mail, Communication	750
Entertainment	950
Margin of Security	2000
TOTAL (for 2 persons)	44440

CREDIT (in dollars)

ACQUIRED

Personal Investment	26400
Sub-total	26400

ACTUAL PARTNERS

RTE Asset Management (printing of dossier)	1660
In progress...	
Sub-total	1660

CREDIT (see previous page)

Potential Sponsors	16380
Sub-total	16380
TOTAL (IN DOLLARS)	44440



TIMETABLE

Dossier...

It will without doubt undergo some changes as our project evolves. It will be available on our website from April 2003. Starting in April, we will contact the media as well as prospective sponsors with an updated version of this dossier.

The UNESCO...

We have obtained the support of the French National Committee for the UNESCO. Mrs. Catherine Dumesnil, Cultural Counsellor, has given us access to their base of information, as well as to the WHE educational kit (see chap. "EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM"). We are negotiating with the World Heritage Committee, chaired by Mr. Francesco Bandarin, in order to obtain connections with the persons responsible for the sites that we will visit.

Partner classes...

Our project already interests several teachers:

- ▲ Mrs. Nina Winter-Deely, high school theatre professor, (Baldwin School), PA
- ▲ Mr. Fabrice Thiervoz, elementary school teacher, Gaillard, France
- ▲ Miss Myriam Mas, elementary school teacher, Ambilly, France

We are working to present our project to other teachers in order to enlarge our efforts and actions, especially in the United States and in Paris.

Sponsors...

We will begin to contact prospective sponsors (equipment and/or financial) in February and March of 2003 (see chaps. "SPONSORSHIP" and "BUDGET"). We are candidates for sponsorship for the "Paris Jeunes Aventures" program. RTE Asset Management has agreed to sponsor us by providing us with financial support as well as printing of the dossier.

Media Plan...

We will contact daily regional and national newspapers in France and the United States starting in March of 2003. The CCI and ABM associations will receive our articles regularly for eventual publication. These organizations will incorporate our project into their upcoming publications and on their Internet sites. In April we will solicit cable television stations and web companies such as Voyage and Wanadoo to present our project.

Internet site...www.travleur.fr.st.

We are currently working on the content and format with Jean Vacca (webmaster) so that the site will be functional in April of 2003.



CONTACT US

Sheri Rights Marchiori & Stéphane Marchiori

Your letters of support, gifts, or checks may be sent to the following address:
Mr. & Mrs. Marchiori - 1000 Leopard Rd. - Rydal, PA 19046 - USA

Until May 15, 2003...

3, rue Montera
75012 Paris
France
tel.: 011 33 (01) 4340 3833
cell phone: 011 33 (06) 1007 1501
e-mail: travleur@hotmail.com

After May 15, 2003...

1000 Leopard Rd.
Rydal, PA 19046
USA
tel.: (215) 572 5466
e-mail: sharon.rights@verizon.net
Ask for Sharon Rights (Sheri's mother)

If you speak French...

Residence du Fay
38570 Le Cheylas
France
tel.: 011 33 (04) 7671 7183
Ask for Anne-Marie Vacca (Stéphane's mother)

You can contact us throughout our voyage by e-mail...
travleur@hotmail.com



Charme Andalou

Voilà. On se lance. Premier courrier à CCI. Nous (Shéri, 26 ans et Stéphane, 28 ans) préparons un tour du monde à vélo d'environ 24 mois depuis maintenant presque trois ans. Destination l'Europe, le Moyen Orient, l'Asie, et l'Amérique du Nord et un départ prévu en Juillet 2003. Fraîchement mariés, notre soif d'aventure nous a dirigés sur ce projet. Envie irrésistible de nouvelles rencontres, de vivre au jour le jour. Nos deux super-vélos confectionnés par Paul, acquis cet hiver, nous ont enfin permis de goûter, en avril dernier, aux joies du cyclotourisme.

Nous nous sommes donc envolés pour un périple de trois semaines en Andalousie, où nous avons parcouru environ 700 kilomètres (ben oui, on n'était pas pressé !).

Lentement, le matin, le soleil réchauffe notre tente, repoussant ainsi la nuit fraîche. Douche rapide, petit dej, et nous voilà partis comme tous les jours cette semaine, vers Séville, la belle Andalousie. Cette semaine-ci, en ville, prend place la Feria de Abril. Comme tous les ans, des dizaines de milliers d'Espagnols viennent de tout le pays, comme pour assiéger la ville.

Séville, ville d'Hercule, offre une palette et un mélange imbattables de styles architecturaux. Ainsi, pour ne donner qu'un exemple, le majestueux Alcazar et l'époustouflante Cathédrale cohabitent dans le quartier de Santa Cruz.

L'Alcazar, ancienne forteresse musulmane, transformée en palais, impose ses murailles et des styles mélangeant allègrement le Gothique, le Baroque ou l'hispano-musulman. La Cathédrale, elle, bâtie sur l'emplacement d'une mosquée, par son imposante façade, donne un aperçu des trésors qu'elle renferme. Assis en terrasse à déguster des tapas, c'est un plaisir de

le Capilla Real, avec son style chargé mais non moins fascinant, vous entrerez avec plaisir dans le " patio de los naranjos " (jardin des orangers), héritage d'un style musulman. C'est la plus grande cathédrale gothique encore sur pied. Marquées maintes fois par l'histoire, ces deux édifices ont été classés au patrimoine mondial de l'humanité par l'UNESCO. (Entrée de la Cathédrale gratuite le dimanche).

La feria intervient deux semaines après la Semaine Sainte. Elle fut au départ une vaste foire agricole. Devenue de plus en plus festive, c'est aujourd'hui toute une ville en effervescence. Le cœur de la fête se trouve dans le quartier de Los Remedios, à l'ouest du fleuve le Guadalquivir. Ici, de grands groupes commerciaux ou associatifs, ainsi que des familles fortunées, louent d'immenses " casetas " (sortes de grandes tentes) où pendant une semaine, 24 heures sur 24, la fête bâtit son plein. Malheureusement, le caractère très privé de ces casetas oblige souvent les badauds, l'œil envieux, à ne rester que spectateur. Heureusement pour nous, " pris en charge " par un groupe d'étudiants Erasmus, nous aurons eu le privilège de pénétrer ces lieux si convoités.

La feria frappe par son étonnant panache de couleurs, en particulier sur les rayonnantes Andalouses

qui, toutes sans exception, après de longues et méticuleuses séances de maquillage et de coiffure, revêtent leurs flamboyantes " flamencas " (robes à volant). La ville entière se consacre à la fiesta, la musique, la danse, et... la boisson. Au rendez-vous : de succulents churros cuits sous vos yeux, dans des friteuses improvisées, accompagnés de son chocolat chaud... onctueux à souhait... un délice.

Sous le rythme des guitares, tambourins, et castagnettes, la " sevillana " (danse andalouse) s'improvise à chaque coin de rue. Pas d'instrument ? Qu'à cela ne tienne, le rythme de quelques claquements de mains relanceront le tout ! Des pas qui nécessitent bien des années de pratique. Mais ici ils ont compris le truc : dès le plus jeune âge, c'est un droit d'avoir son " flamenco " et sa séance de coiffure. Nous n'ou-



l'admirer. De la mosquée Almohade, la Cathédrale n'a gardé que la Giralda qui, initialement, fut un minaret. Tous les styles encore une fois se marient divinement. Après avoir admiré

blierons pas cette petite fille de quatre ans, qui, le sourire radieux et le pas assuré, aura su faire fondre tout un public.

Pour l'occasion, des centaines de chevaux et calèches ont été soigneusement préparés pour défiler dans les rues. Leurs cavaliers, vêtus de leur costume traditionnel à gilet court, parquent fièrement toute la journée au milieu des regards fascinés et ce partout dans la ville.

Après dix jours de mise en jambes à Séville et ses alentours, nous décidons, contrairement à nos plans initiaux, de nous diriger vers le Portugal. Sur la nationale 472 (en parfait état) qui relie Séville à Huelva, nous apprécions les petits villages pittoresques, leurs rues piétonnes qui se faufilent entre des maisons presque toutes fleuries. Partout nous apercevons balcons en fer forgé et les éternels "azulejos" (carreau de faïence) qui donnent éclat et fraîcheur aux habitations. Des couleurs, encore des couleurs. Charme caractéristique des villages andalous. À Huelva, nous resterons "songeurs" en fixant la mer à l'horizon devant le monument érigé à la mémoire de Christophe Colomb, qui partit d'ici pour sa longue traversée vers "l'Inde".

Nous filons sur des lignes droites parfois un peu monotones, mais qui nous laissent comme compagnies, des kilomètres durant, d'immenses champs de fraisiers, d'oliviers, d'orangers, et de citronniers. Le jus de ces derniers parfume l'eau-goût-plastique qui sort de nos bidons (vive les bidons alu !).

Notre périple vers Ayamonte à la frontière portugaise nous réservera de délicieux paysages.

Notamment lors de notre crochet vers le parc national de Donàna, qui constitue, à lui seul, la troisième plus grande réserve d'oiseaux au monde. Le Rio Guadalquivir et plusieurs de ses affluents traversent le parc avant de se jeter dans le golf de Cadix, créant ainsi plusieurs microclimats et donnant refuge et nourriture à des centaines d'espèces d'animaux et de poissons. On aura pu contempler des aigles, buses, busards, hérons ou cigognes. L'accès au parc national lui-même est très réglementé et très cher du fait de son inscription au Patrimoine Mondial Naturel de l'UNESCO, et c'est tant mieux !

Notre chemin passera à tour de rôle, forêts de pins, dunes de sable, cultures, marais, et une belle côte offrant d'immenses plages. Ici, la tempéra-



re de l'eau en avril ne dépasse guère 15°, mais les après-midi sont déjà très chaudes et ensoleillées (on aura quand même fait un peu "trempette"). Le soir, le plus souvent, on plante la tente sur la plage ou en forêt sans jamais avoir été dérangé. Lors de notre court séjour à Huelva, Béa, Caroline, Antonio, Francesco, Yacine, et Christophe nous ont gentiment hébergés chacun leur tour chez eux (et comme des rois !). Grâce à eux, on aura fait l'expérience intéressante des fêtes "botellon" (en français, grosse bouteille). On "botellon" ce soir ! Mais qu'est-ce donc ? Simplement un rassemblement de nombreux jeunes dont le sport favori est "l'apéro-bique". Et comme par un heureux hasard, une épicerie est ouverte. Et comme par coïncidence, ils vendent des "kits" botellon : un sac plastique rempli de glaçons, gobelets plastiques, et la bouteille d'alcool et de soda de votre choix. La rue est alors entièrement squattée ; les capots de voitures servent de tables de salon, les trottoirs de chaises, et le moindre coin de rue... de toilette. C'est un peu comme un grand saloon commun, mais dans la rue (ben oui, tout le monde n'a pas un Sarko qui veille).

Ce fut en tout cas trois semaines fantastiques, pleines de rencontres et d'émerveillements. Nous avons grandement apprécié l'immense liberté que donne le cyclotourisme. Nous ne pourrions que conseiller cette destination, mais de nombreux cyclo-voyageurs l'ont compris puisque l'Espagne est la destination première des CCistes !

À bientôt pour la suite de nos aventures.

Sheri et Stéphane Marchiori
3, rue Montéra
75012 Paris
travleur@hotmail.com

"A Feast for the Senses"

The Challenge: A WORLD TOUR by BICYCLE...

...18 countries in 2 years and 16,000 miles

Duration: Summer of 2003 - Summer of 2005

The Theme: World Heritage Sites

The Team: Sheri & Stéphane Marchiori,

26 and 28 years old

Focus: An educational program...

...And photo documentaries

Circulation: An Internet site & multi-media coverage

Purpose of dossier: To solicit sponsors and

media coverage