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Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ Fact Sheet

cycle a stage or the world in one year

12 tours in 41 countries...3 weeks to 1 year in length...Los Angeles to Los Angeles, via the world.

Odyssey 2000®

Odyssey 2000®, the largest bicycle tour in history, was produced by TK&A for the entire year of 2000. Odyssey was clearly the most unforgettable and important year in the lives of those who participated. It was a year filled with unbelievable personal rewards and plenty of challenges. Most of all, those involved will remember the warm and friendly people, the various cultures we were immersed within and the incredible beauty discovered in every corner of Odyssey's world.

Odyssey World Cycling Tours™-the world within your reach" by bicycle

Those often out-of-reach dreams of bicycling the most appealing places on earth, inexpensively, is now possible with TK&A. Beginning January 1, 2003, you can circle the globe for a solid year of brilliant cycling. Or, if time or money are a challenge, you can sign on for one or more of the 12 stages of Odyssey. Each tour varies in time, total distance and number of countries visited. However, in general we average 61 miles of cycling each day, schedule 2+ days off a week, and cap participation at 125 cyclists. Each tour is fully supported by TK&A's seasoned staff and cutting edge technology. We guarantee a challenging, but great time.

Odyssey in Stages

TK&A's goal has long been to bring international long distance bicycling, at a reasonable price, to adventurers looking for opportunities to cycle some of the best routes the world has to offer. Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ is broken into 12 world stages, each lasting from 3 to 7 weeks and ranging from 829 to 1940 miles, averaging 61 miles a day. We have taken great care to design fascinating routes through some of the most interesting and spectacular places on planet earth.

Stage riders travel at their own expense to the beginning of a stage and home after the stage is completed. Any stage riders cycling consecutive tours have the transportation between those stages covered by TK&A.

Route-41 countries

Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ travels to the following 42 countries in chronological order: USA, New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, England, Wales, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Greece, Italy, Vatican City, San Marino, Monaco, Andorra, Spain, Gibraltar, Morocco, Portugal, South Africa, Swaziland, Argentina and Chile.

TK&A reserves the right to alter the final itinerary at its discretion. Some of the reasons might include the availability of transportation, fuel, food, potable water, the political climate of a country or the discovery of a better route.

Odyssey's Stages

Stage 1: New Zealand

Auckland to Christchurch (28 days-Jan 5 to Feb 1).

Fly into Auckland to begin a spectacular month of cycling in one of the friendliest and most scenic countries in the world. Spend a night with Maori natives, count lots of sheep and cattle, explore glaciers up close and spend time in adventure oriented Queenstown, where bungie jumping was invented. New Zealand is one of the most appealing bicycling countries in the world and should not be missed. World riders begin their tour in Los Angeles, California on Jan. 1, 2003.

Stage 2: Australia

Tasmania, Sydney & The Great Barrier Reef (24 days-Feb 2 to 25).

After circling much of the island of Tasmania, Australia's southern-most state, we will make a stop in Sydney to enjoy its sights and active nightlife. Then, it's off to northern Queensland to pedal along the world renowned Great Barrier Reef, the largest living organism in the world. Along with cycling, there will be time for hiking, exploring, diving or just kicking back.

Stage 3: Southeast Asia North

Hong Kong to Ho Chi Minh City via China (33 days-Feb 26 to Mar 30).

This is one of the most fascinating stages of Odyssey. Hong Kong is as modern as they come, while mainland China is still adjusting to its Western visitors. Pedal along some of the most unusual landscapes on earth as people cheer and treat us like heroes. Then cross into Vietnam to explore a country filled with some of the most welcoming and industrious people on earth.

Stage 4: Southeast Asia South

Phuket, Thailand to Singapore via Malaysia (25 days-Mar 31 to Apr 24).

The Malay Peninsula offers great cycling along warm coastal routes inhabited by very friendly people. The beaches are fantastic. Pedal from exotic Thailand and its Buddhist culture into the more conservative Muslim areas of Malaysia and Singapore. The weather will be great and the hotels are first rate.

Stage 5: European Alps

Prague, Czech Republic to Geneva, Switzerland (25 days-Apr 25 to May 19).

This stage will prove to be one of the most incredibly scenic and interesting stages of Odyssey. Beginning in wonderful and historic Prague, we will travel to Vienna, Austria for a couple of rest days. Then it's off to Munich before heading deep into the Swiss Alps. After some challenging climbing, we will work our way to Geneva, one of Europe's (and the world's) most important cities.

Stage 6: Western Europe

Luxembourg to Aberdeen, Scotland via the UK & Ireland (46 days-May 20 to Jul 4).

Western Europe is the longest stage on Odyssey. Beginning in Luxembourg, we pedal through the heart of Paris for a couple of wonderful days of sightseeing. Then, it's along the famous and popular Loire River Valley before working our way to the historic Normandy Coast of France. After a ferry ride across the English Channel, we arrive in England to begin our journey across the United Kingdom and Ireland. This stage explores London, Winchester, Stonehenge, Cardiff, Dublin, Belfast and mysterious Loch Ness in northern Scotland. Much of this terrain is surprisingly challenging, much like pronouncing the name of a small town in Wales.

Stage 7: Scandinavia and Russia

Bergen, Norway to St Petersburg, Russia (35 days-Jul 5 to Aug 8).

Be prepared to pedal through some of the most spectacular landscapes on Earth, particularly in Norway's magnificent fjord country. As we journey throughout Scandinavia, we cross many major waterways and relax in some of its greatest cities, including Oslo, Copenhagen, Stockholm and Helsinki. The people of Scandinavia are some of the friendliest you will find in Europe and always extend a gracious welcome to our traveling community. To insure the least amount of hassles getting in and out of Russia, we will take the train from Helsinki to St Petersburg and back for a short, non-cycling adventure. St Petersburg is a wonderful city to explore and one of the most renowned cities in Russia.

Stage 8: Mediterranean East

Athens, Greece to Rome, Italy (25 days-Aug 9 to Sep 2).

Beginning in wonderful Athens, we find ourselves pedaling by some of the most famous sites and cities on earth. In fact, this stage is just the beginning of several weeks of the most historic pedaling imaginable. After circling the Peloponnese area of southern Greece, we board the "fast ferry" to Italy, where we will enjoy some great food, challenging terrain and beautiful scenery. After riding the spectacular Amalfi Coast, we parallel the shores of the Mediterranean until we reach Rome, one of the most popular tourist destinations on earth and home to the world's smallest country, Vatican City.

Stage 9: Mediterranean West

Rome, Italy to Barcelona, Spain (29 days-Sep 3 to Oct 1).

Pedaling north from Rome, we pass through Assisi, San Marino (a tiny country on a big hill), Florence, and the shadow of the leaning tower of Pisa before reaching the Italian Riviera. As we continue along the Mediterranean, we cross into France, pedal by the Monte Carlo Casino in Monaco and eventually reach the restored medieval town of Carcassonne. Then, it's an awesome climb over the Pyrenees followed by a fast descend through the heart of Andorra. As our descent continues, we find ourselves entering one of the most scenic regions of Spain. On our final leg to Barcelona, we traverse the unique mountain crags of Montserrat.

Stage 10: Southern Europe

Gibraltar to Lisbon, Portugal via Morocco and Spain (21 days-Oct 2 to Oct 22).

The more arid regions of southern Europe are definitely some of the most incredible. We begin this stage with a visit to a former British Colony located on a small, but very recognizable island know as Gibraltar. Then we board a ferry to take us to the exotic city of Tangers, Morocco in North Africa for lunch and a day of exploration. Once we begin pedaling down the coast, we visit some of Spain and Portugal's most beautiful cities-Granada with its Alhambra, Cordoba, Seville, Evora, Fatima and Lisbon.

Stage 11: South Africa

Johannesburg to Cape Town via Kruger National Park & Swaziland (41 days-Oct 23 to Dec 2).

Odyssey 2000®'s visit to South Africa was phenomenal. We had such a great time traversing this magnificent country and meeting its super friendly people, we have decided to add 9 more days to our visit in 2003. South Africa continues to hold the best memories for those who immersed themselves into the culture and its people. Join us for a safari deep into the world-renowned Kruger National Park, an overnight in a game reserve, a visit to the Nelson Mandela Museum in the remote Transkei, bungie jumping off the world's highest bridge, a pedal along the famous Garden Route of the Western Cape and a visit to scenic Cape Town.

Stage 12: South America

Buenos Aires & Bariloche, Argentina to Tierra del Fuego, Chile (29 days-Dec 3 to Dec 31).

This stage of Odyssey is undergoing the most radical change from 2000. After a stop in Buenos Aires, we fly directly into the Andes for a rest day in San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, one of South America's most famous resort and skiing areas. Then we climb over a modest pass and pedal to the resort town of Pucon in central Chile. As we turn south, we eventually reach Tierra del Fuego via bike and ferry. This journey will prove to be one of Odyssey's most scenic on any continent. And, if all goes well and the weather cooperates, we hope to arrange an optional flight, for an additional cost, to Antarctica.

What you can expect during Odyssey

Staff & management

- A carefully selected, well trained, understanding, helpful and supportive staff willing to work hard to make your ride as successful as possible. TK&A knows first hand how important this is to a successful tour.
- Leadership by North America's most experienced team of long-distance bicycling event creators and managers. Several of Odyssey 2000®'s seasoned staff have already committed to being part of the Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ key staff.

The basic services

- All scheduled transportation during a stage.
- World (year long) riders receive all scheduled transportation once the trip leaves LA. Stage riders receive transportation between connecting stages.
- Dinners and breakfasts each day of the tour. Vegetarians (non-beef, chicken or pork eaters) are gladly accommodated on Odyssey.
- Potable water when the water is unsafe to drink.
- Overnight facilities. At least half the year will be spent in beds at hotels, hostels or dorms. Two to three per room is the usual arrangement. Slightly less than 50% of the evenings will be spent camping in campgrounds, on school grounds and at municipal and private facilities.
- TK&A's portable showers (great hot water) are used as necessary to augment existing showers at certain sites. On occasion, we will also arrange for portable toilets.
- DRGs (Daily Route Guides)-a written set of instructions describing how to navigate from one overnight location to the next. DRGs include a map of the route as well.
- Transport of your gear from one overnight spot to the next, often in TK&A's specially designed gear trailers with 17"X17"X35" private lockers.
- An official Odyssey bike is offered to world cyclists. Stage riders receive a credit towards the purchase of an official Odyssey bike for each stage they are registered. Furnishing the bike had many advantages during Odyssey 2000®. Standardized components and wheel sizes made for much quicker repairs. The bikes held up extremely well considering the number of times they flew or were trucked.
- Professional, well stocked, traveling bike shop with expert, friendly help. You pay for your replacement parts and we will keep your bike in top running order for free.
- Local entertainment.
- Local information on laundry facilities, buying goodies, attractions, internet access, etc.
- Telephone numbers for your family to contact in the event of a family emergency.
- Mail stops about every three weeks.

Support when riding

- Each cycling day you can count on seeing several well-equipped support vehicles staffed with Odyssey pros ready to provide assistance should it be needed. Each road support vehicle is normally equipped with water, pumps, spare parts, first-aid kits, basic tools and a smiling staff member.
- A ride to the end of day if you are sick, injured or too pooped to finish pedaling the route.
- Emergency first-aid support from Odyssey staff trained in CPR and emergency medicine. You will also receive information about inoculations and tips on remaining healthy when traveling, particularly in developing nations.
- Emergency phone numbers to access Odyssey road management.

Information and preparation

- A Rider Handbook and several Rider Memos with tips on training, world travel techniques, visas, trip preparation, clothing, equipment, camping, health, getting foreign currency, etc.
- Private phone coaching from an Odyssey 2000® veteran on how to prepare for and what to expect during your tour.
- Substantially reduced fees for TK&A's Wheeling Hawaii and/or Wheeling Washington week-long cycling tours. We encourage riding one TK&A tour to get a feel for how Odyssey is run.

Fees and Payment Options for Odyssey World Cycling Tours™

Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ fees

The cost for the entire Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ is \$59,30 (\$162 day) or lower, depending on how early you register and whether or not you take advantage of our special payment discounts.

Stage rider fees

You can select one or more stages of your choosing. The price per day on each stage ranges from a low of \$128 a day to a high of \$200 a day, depending on how early you register and whether or not you take advantage of our special payment discounts. Now, for a little more than the cost of riding across America, you can spend 41 days in unforgettable South Africa. Or, if you prefer, spend 25 spectacular days riding the European Alps from Prague to Geneva for as little as \$3195. The required registration fee for Odyssey stages is a nonrefundable \$500 per stage, up to a maximum of \$1500 (still nonrefundable) for three or more stages.

Payment options

Whether riding the world or a stage, you can usually choose to make monthly payments, 2 equal payments, 3 equal payments (world riders only) or prepay the entire amount for the most generous discount available. All fees and payments are in US\$. Fees can be paid by cash, check, wire transfer, Visa, MasterCard or American Express.

Fees and Payment Chart

Please review TK&A's *Fees and Payment Charts for Odyssey World Cycling Tours™* for both "world cyclists" and individual stage riders.

Transportation surcharge

In the unlikely event transportation charges increase beyond reasonable inflation levels, TK&A has the right to add a surcharge to each affected stage of the ride.

Refund Policy

The \$500 stage and \$1000 World Tour deposits are non-refundable. 85% of all additional fee payments are refundable until September 30, 2002. From October 1 to November 30, 2002, 50% of all additional fee payments are

refundable. There are no refunds given for any reason after December 1, 2002. All refund requests must be in writing. Refunds are usually processed in less than a month.

Refunds will not be given to anyone asked to leave the trip because he or she, in the opinion of TK&A, is compromising the safety or success of Odyssey.

Pledge option

Interested in supporting a charity as part of your ride? Contact TK&A about raising money for a charity, perhaps your favorite, in exchange for getting some, or all, of your fees paid by the charity. See *TK&A's Fund-raising Option for all or Part of Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ sheet*.

Tim Kneeland & Associates, Inc. (TK&A)

Tim Kneeland & Associates, Inc. (TK&A) is a USA based special events management company focusing on the creation and production of inexpensive bicycling tours. Since 1980, TK&A has created and produced 64 bicycling events for over 12,000 participants riding over 9,000,000 miles. Some of TK&A events have also generated a combined \$10,000,000 for charities throughout the world.

TK&A is taking the best of its 3 decades of event management experience to create the highest level of service possible for such a major undertaking. TK&A's goal is to continue to create and produce tours that "cycle the best of the world" while providing each rider, volunteer, vendor, community and country with whom we have contact, a positive and rewarding experience. Although each rider will be challenged in many different ways, Odyssey World Cycling Tours™ will quickly become one of the most powerful experiences of his or her lifetime.