

Timor Sun

LESTE



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EXPEDITION 360
"Is that Ina in a kayak? Yes!"
Q: What do you get when you mix: 2 crazy Poms; 1 mad Yank; and a Timorese Falintil veteran?
A: Expedition 360
 A mad Englishman named Jason Lewis has spent 11 years circumnavigating the world by human powered means only. Read more on p.14 - 15.

Photo by Armando Loy

vasco da gama

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Prostitution & Abortion Crimes in Timor-Leste

Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri has stated that the resolution last month of the dispute between his government and East Timor's powerful Catholic Church opens the door for debate in Timorese society on sensitive issues such as abortion and prostitution.

Speaking in Lisbon on his first official visit as prime minister to Portugal, Alkatiri recalled that the 17 days of church-backed demonstrations against the Dili government, originally over the issue of the teaching of religion in schools, had been ended after the signing of a joint declaration by the church and government.

Under this declaration, both sides affirmed that abortion should be defined as a crime, except to protect the mother's life, in Timor's draft penal code. Prostitution should also be a crime, the church and government agreed.

(cont. on P.2)

HARVEY
world travel

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First Around the World ...

EXPEDITION 360 is one of the world's Last Great Firsts: an attempt to be the first to circumnavigate the globe using just human powered means: bikes, pedal boat, rollerblades, kayaks and walking; no motors or sails. Over two thirds of the journey - 25,000 miles - has so far been completed by Englishman Jason Lewis.

Jason Lewis

BORN >> 1967 in Catterick, England.

EDUCATION >> boarding school in the West Country, England. Then studied for a BSc degree in Geography and Biology at London University's Royal Holloway and Bedford New College.

REASONS FOR JOINING >> under the impression that it would take between 2-3 years to complete, it seemed like a good break from the London scene. The thrill of adventure and 'pushing limits' also attracted me initially.



My earliest memory of travel was leaving home to investigate a yellow JCB construction digger (backhoe) a mile up the road from our house. I was three years old.

Growing up I was the youngest of three children in a services family. The characteristic disruption of moving home every few years ended by the time I was four, so I was fortunate enough to grow up in the sleepy heart of the West Country in southern England. Aside from the digger episode, travel held little appeal for me until my late teens. After leaving school with sufficient 'O' and 'A' levels to study at London University, I made my first major trip overseas to Kenya with my mother in 1985. I remember the unfamiliar yet thrilling sensation of venturing into the unknown during a solo train ride from Nairobi to Mombasa. I didn't realise it at the time, but that first night of passage would prompt my appetite for further travel and ultimately prove instrumental in agreeing many years later to join Steve on the first attempt to circumnavigate the world using only human power. A short episode with the British Army followed my return from Africa, enough to convince me that working in such a rigid, institutionalized environment was not for me. I then spent the next four years in London studying for my BSc and playing in a rock 'n roll band at night.

A side-line business cleaning hotel windows and carpets helped pay the bills. It was during this period that I met Steve Smith - at the University. After initially taking a healthy dislike to each other we soon became great friends.

Several years later in 1992 I received an invitation from Steve to visit him in Paris where he was working for the OECD. After picking me up from the airport and buying us both dinner at a rather expensive restaurant (I should have smelt a rat at this point), he spilt the beans on the real reason for for inviting me over...

"Assessing the long term environmental impact of creosote on motorway fence posts for the OECD isn't what I had in mind when I decided to become an environmental scientist. It just isn't cutting it for me. But I've thought of something that does. Something that no one has ever done before. I want you to be my partner in an attempt to be the first in history to circumnavigate the planet using only human power!"

It was at this point that I realised the poor bloke had completely lost his marbles.

I had absolutely no interest in the watery sections of such a proposal, having always failed to be convinced by recreational mariners of the supposed fun to be derived from being cold, wet and seakick all at the same time and for extended periods of time. But the overland sections sounded intriguing: my head was filled with wildly romantic images of riding bicycles across the steppes of central Asia, trekking through the frozen wilderness of the Himalayas, staring into the flames of a roaring campfire after a hard day hacking our way through the Amazon jungle. And the 2 years the expedition was projected to take traveling through predominantly warmer climes sounded like a welcome escape from that cold, wet island known to us natives as England.

But before I signed on the dotted line, one question sprang to mind: how would we get across the big wet bits - the Atlantic and pacific oceans - without the assistance of the wind or a motor?

"Easy," Steve replied, "We'll use kayaks. All you have to do is go - 'like this' - until you get to the other side."

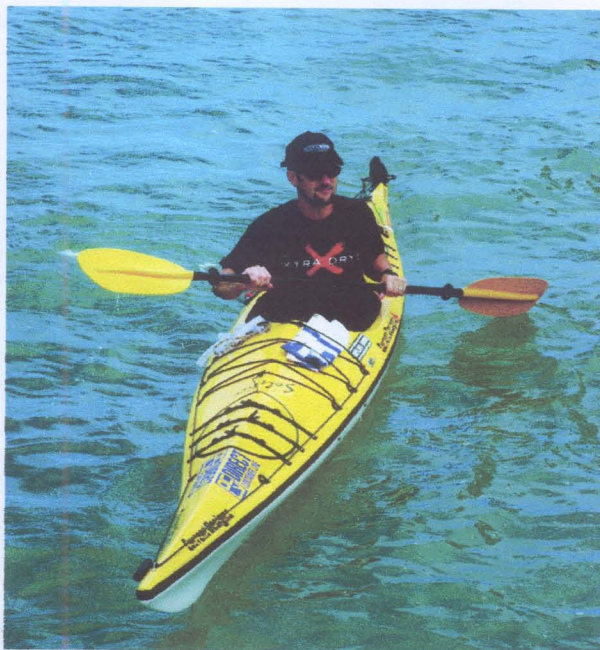
And with those reassuring words, he waved his arms around his head in energetic circles, mimicking the strokes of a paddling kayaker.

Clearly neither of us had the faintest clue as to what we were getting ourselves into at that point. But, as we found ourselves reminding each other on numerous occasions from that point on, not being an expert is never a good enough reason not to try.

That was a long time ago. Although the primary objective to circumnavigate the world using only human power remains the same I know that I am on an even 'bigger' expedition to the one I joined back in 1992. Steve is no longer on the project and, during the dark times when it all seems too impossible, I have had to dig deep for the motivation to carry on. My reasons for doing it have changed and, with them, the inspiration to keep going. Instead of running away from England, as it was at the beginning, it is now more a question of riding forward on the back of ideas that I feel passionately about, and which justify going 'out there' - with all the associated risks - again and again.

Hence the increasing emphasis to use this truly amazing project as a tool for furthering children's learning experiences in the classroom and for promoting those perennial qualities of human compassion, environmental responsibility and common citizenship - both at the local and global level - which are so vital if we, the human species, are yet to make a positive imprint on Earth.

Jason Lewis - June 2001



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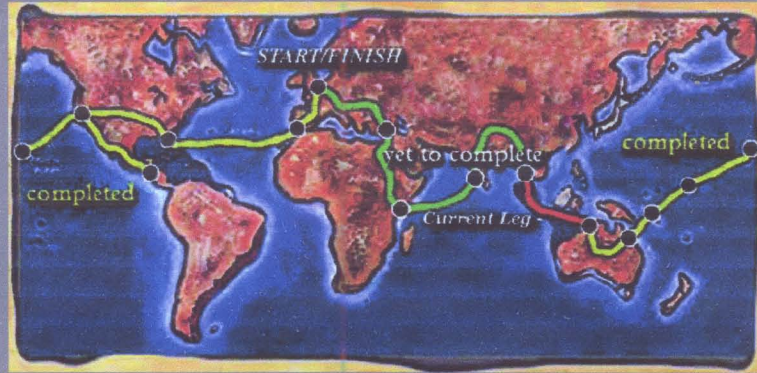
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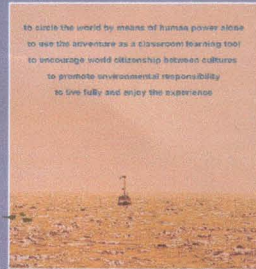
Goals and Objectives

to circle the world by means of human power alone
to use the adventure as a classroom learning tool
to encourage world citizenship between cultures
to promote environmental responsibility
to live fully and enjoy the experience

INDONESIAN LEG OF THE JOURNEY

The next leg of Expedition 360 is now set for May 2005. Jason will be joined by Lourdes Arango for a 450 NM pedal in Moksha from her current resting place in Darwin to Dili in East Timor. At this point the expedition switches to ocean-going kayaks for an 1,100 NM island hop up the Indonesian archipelago to Java where bikes will be used to cross the island to Sumatra. Jason will be accompanied for this section by Moksha's builder and veteran of the Tacawa to Solomon's crossing Christopher Tipper, newcomer Lourdes Arango and initially by our new Timorese friend, Ina Brndodge. The last leg to Singapore across the Riau Islands will again use kayaks.

The total distance is 2,600 miles, approximately half of which will be completed by kayak, half by bike. The projected timeframe is 6-7 months.



June 01, 2005

The best laid plans of mice and men....

We're getting pretty close to leaving - hopefully sometime over this coming weekend. We're currently waiting for one more visa to come through for our new temporary team member Ina, a native East Timorese who will paddle in the double with Chris as far as the western edge of Alor at Kalabahi. Ina will be an incredibly valuable asset, speaking both Teton and Bahasa Indonesian, and having a wicked sense of humour to boot!

We're also hoping to get the Indonesian consulate here to notify the Indonesian army and navy of our coming. The navy up around Alor are especially to be avoided apparently due to the Indonesian building a new naval station on Wetar, an island just 20 miles north of Dili.

Tomorrow morning we get out in the kayaks for the first time to practise our rescue drills in the event of a capsizing at sea. We're all really looking forward to getting these beautiful kayaks in the water and seeing how they perform. I suspect as beautifully as they look on land.

It's proving pretty tricky reducing all the gear we need down to an amount that will actually fit in the relatively small storage spaces available. But it's good practise also, having to decide what is absolutely necessary and what can be left behind or sent ahead with Moksha. One that note we scored a result today with Perkins Shipping kindly agreeing to send Moksha to Singapore for free, saving around \$1000. It all helps!



STEVE SMITH and JASON LEWIS set off from the Greenwich Meridian in July of 1994 to attempt one of the world's 'Last Great Firsts'. Steve decided to leave the expedition upon reaching Hawaii in 1998. Jason carried on alone and is still on course to complete the circumnavigation.

Along the way they met people who were moved by the thrill adventure enough to join up for a short section: either biking, hiking, kayaking or pedaling the boat. Others became involved by assisting with a support group and, most recently, a number of production partners have come on board to service the many different media components that today constitute Expedition 360.

