

Press Release

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EDINBURGH TRAIN DRIVER TO TAKE ON MONSTER CHARITY MOTORCYCLE RIDE

An Edinburgh train driver is set to undertake a mammoth 20,000 mile charity motorcycle ride from the southern tip of Argentina to New York – via the US state of Alaska!

On 20 March Richard Niven, a train driver for Edinburgh-based CrossCountry Trains, will swap the comfort of his cab and, along with his Honda motorcycle, travel to the tiny South American town of Ushuaia to begin the treacherous nine-week journey.

During the nine weeks Richard will face a host of weather conditions on some of the planet's most notorious and difficult mountain roads and valleys. The charity trip will take the 45 year-old through 14 countries on his way to the US state of Alaska where he will prepare for his final leg across to New York on America's east coast.

Kind-hearted Richard from South Queensferry is raising money for the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation – a small charity which provides funding projects in Africa and Asia to help save critically endangered wild animals, especially elephants and tigers.

Richard said; "This will be a really gruelling journey but also a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am funding the fuel, food and accommodation myself for the trip and I just hope to drum up as much support as possible for the charity and really raise awareness of the great work they do.

"I'm a keen motorcyclist and this is by far the most daunting road trip I'll ever face. I'm going to be away from Scotland for around nine weeks and I'll miss my family and friends but will be keeping in touch as much as possible. I've made sure my fitness is good and I think apart from the weather and road conditions, my biggest challenge will be tiredness.

“I just can't wait to get going!”

Richard also has a page on the Just Giving website. People who wish to donate can do so via www.justgiving.com/transamericantour

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CrossCountry facts and figures below.
For more information feel free to contact us on 0121 2006115 or by email to communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk

CrossCountry is now live on Facebook www.facebook/crosscountrytrains

Follow us on Twitter via www.twitter.com/crosscountryuk

CrossCountry facts and figures:

STATIONS SERVED: 118

ROUTE MILES: 1,478

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 295

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,600

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)