

# THE ULTIMATE ROAD TRIP

TEXT & PHOTOS: ROB YATES

When Rob Yates won MSL's Roadtrip-USA competition last year, he couldn't believe his luck. Now he's been there and seen some of the best sights the USA has to offer, touring six of America's southwest states, covering 4,000 miles and amassing a mountain of unforgettable memories in the process...

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fter the months of planning following the delivery of that amazing letter from America - the letter that informed me that I'd won MSL's Roadtrip-USA competition entitling me to two weeks' free bike hire - it was finally happening. One connecting flight from San Francisco and a few hours later I found myself in the Oregon town of Bend, the motorcycle touring company's base, and my first night's stay in this vast country.

The hotel staff greeted me warmly and pointed me in the direction of my room. Scott Sargent, Roadtrip's founder and boss, had promised me a decent room but this was unbelievable - a luxurious suite complete with hot tub; just the thing after a long journey.

Up early the next morning I headed out to meet Scott at Roadtrip's office, only to learn he'd been delayed by a cattle drive in the mountains - this really was the Wild West! Roadtrip-USA offers several customised itineraries and I had elected, on Scott's recommendation, to tour the southwest. Once Scott arrived he led me to my travelling companion for the next two weeks, an 11-week-old Kawasaki Concours.

Known to us Brits as the GTR1000, it's a big in-line four with a massive screen, shaft drive and



Roadrunner's home - Monument Valley.

Death Valley - don't forget your water...



Step back in time on Route 66.

