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Adventure Motorcyclist Spencer Conway to Face New Challenge



As readers may recall Spencer Conway circumnavigated Africa, solo and unsupported, by motorcycle, a while back, and a series of TV programmes was screened on Travel Channel of his exploits. He is once again on his adventures and this time he is attempting to circumnavigate **South America** travelling through thirteen countries over little used routes. It will take ten months to complete his journey starting in Bogota and then following the west coast riding to the most Southern part of the continent. He will then head north up the east coast to finally finish the adventure in Venezuela.

Spencer set off on his challenging trip on September the 3<sup>rd</sup> to fly to Bogota in Columbia. He has already covered 700 klms and is at present in the south of the country near San Augustin and hopes to cross the border into Ecuador within the next few days. He has first to negotiate the treacherous mountain pass known as The Devil's Trampoline, which has claimed many lives over the last few years, as the narrow road snakes around the hillsides and is prone to collapse.

He has found the Colombian people very friendly and helpful and the landscape to be lush and beautiful. He has been stopped by road blocks several times but the police and army have been courteous and interested in his venture. They ask to be photographed with the bike as it is covered in stickers of his African venture. There has been internal conflict in Columbia for the past 52 years but

recently a truce has been agreed between FARC and the government. The President Juan Manuel Santos stated that, 'we don't even have the slightest memories of what it means to live in peace.'

Spencer is reviving his Spanish and is able to converse fairly well in the language. He is filming, once again, for a series of TV programmes and has already captured exciting sights and sounds of Columbia.

He encountered one problem on his arrival in Bogota which was an eight hour delay. He had to 'persuade' the customs officials to release his Tenere motor cycle as the chassis number could not be found. It had been worn off during his ride around Africa. He chose to use his Tenere as it is tried and tested despite being offered two other bikes by Honda for his trip.