

Extreme adventurer cycle to world record – 18.000km from the Arctic to Cape Town

German ultra-cyclist Jonas Deichmann attempts his next world record project and is due to cycle 18.000 km from Cape North in Norway to the Southern end of Africa. His target is less than 75 days – a month faster than the current record.

The adventure starts in late August at the Northernmost point of Europe and then goes through Finland, Russia and the Middle East to Egypt, where he will continue through Eastern Africa until Cape Town. The route through 15 countries has for a long time been one of the biggest challenges in ultracycling.

It is not the first impossible sounding challenge for the four-times world record holder. Two years ago he became the first person to cycle the entire length of Eurasia – setting the world record from Portugal to the Russian Pacific coast at 64 days. Last year he achieved his so far biggest quest – cycling the legendary Panamericana from Alaska to Patagonia, unsupported in a record breaking 97 days, an entire month faster than the former record for the 23.000 km route. “There are three big continental crossing in the world and for two of them I already hold the record. The ride through Europe and Africa is the next logical challenge for me“ explains Jonas.

While he completed his last adventures alone, he has partnered with Mexican ultracyclist Charly Meza for the upcoming adventure. Both met during the Panamerica ride and quickly decided to join forces during a new expedition. “So far, I always cycled alone and this will be a very different experience. I don’t think it is necessarily easier since teamwork during such a ride is a tremendous challenge“, reflects Jonas.

Not only the massive distance and terrain will be a challenge. The two friends undertake their journey completely unsupported and carry food and equipment on their bikes. If something goes wrong in the politically unstable Middle East or during the 11.000km through Africa, they will be far away from the next proper bike shop or professional help. “Difficulties and extreme situations are simply a part of a big adventure. The tough moments will be the best memories“, anticipates Charly.

The two cyclists are also raising awareness about climate change and collect donations for OroVerde. The German charity has different rain forest projects in Africa and Latin America. The world record quest is financed by sponsors and speeches as Jonas is currently touring Europe as a sought-after motivational speaker. Supporters can follow the adventure on jonasdeichmann.com and on social media where they can find regular updates and a GPS live tracker.