The Next Trip of Julien Leblay and his wife Marion Dumas Cheilletz

The Great Heart Travelers is an organization created in January 2004 by Julien Leblay, a survivor of an almost fatal accident at the age of 16. He could not survive without donor blood. Several years later, he was devastated when he first attempted to give blood. Julien writes,

> *"I was 18 when I proudly went to give my blood at university, but the Doctor announced it is something I will never be able to do again. Unfortunately, in France, people cannot give their own blood once they have received a transfusion"*

To regain his strength Julien began to ride a bicycle and over the years he determined to promote blood donation by way of cycling around the world in separate stages.

Julien has already covered 29000 kilometres in 25 countries and 3 continents (Europe, Oceania, South America). He has worked, with the help of Rotary Clubs and others, to promote national and international communication and understanding about the need for donor blood. Since the creation of his organization Julien has given more than 200 interviews on TV, radio, in newspapers and magazines. He has had five books published; 5000 copies sold in France. In addition he has given many lectures in France and abroad. In 2009, 100 talks have been given all over France. He has a website http://voyage-grand-coeur.org, some of which has been translated into English and is updated daily with thousands of pictures.

Now, he is planning a new project with his bride. Julien Leblay,28, and Marion Dumas Cheilletz, 23, plan to ride 27 000 kilometers by bike from France to New Zealand. On July 4th 2010 they will leave France by bike and to start a 20 months' trip through Europe, Asia and Oceania. They plan to arrive in Auckland, New Zealand in September 2011 for the rugby world cup. Once there, they plan an extra 6000 kilometers ride in New Zealand and Australia before returning to France in March 2012.

As Julien has done before, all along the journey, they will promote blood donation in each country they cross, coordinated by different partners and blood donation groups. These include Rotary Clubs, Red Cross, private blood banks and other Alliances.

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Back in France, they plan to publish two books and make a movie. In 2013 they intend to make 150 talks in France. While this is ambitious, past trips Julien has made for the same purpose since 2004 show that he can make the journey.

Marion Dumas Cheilletz is a Physiotherapist. Julien Leplay was transfused at 16years old and is a traveler and writer.

You may see them along the way. Julien and Marion, the Great Heart Travelers, will appreciate any help and support along the way. Their itinerary is below

Country	Period	Kilometers	Kilometers from the begining
France	From 4th to 20th July 2010	680	680
Switzerland	From 20th to 29th July	600	1250
Italy	From 29th to 31st July	170	1420
Austria	From 1st to 6th August	400	1820
Slovenia	From 7th to 13th August	350	2170
Croatia	From 14th to 19th August	210	2380
Bosnia-Herzegovinia	From 20th August to 4th September	850	3230
Serbia	From 5th to 12th September	450	3680
Bulgaria	From 13th to 20th September	350	4030
Turkey	From 21st September to 6th November	2400	6430
Iran	From 7th November to 7th January	3500	9930
Oman	From 7th to 9th January 2011	50	9980
India	From 9th to 29th January	820	10800
Nepal	From 30th January to 15th March	1340	12140
India	From 16th March to 16th April	1500	13640
Pakistan	From 17th avril to 31 May	1500	15140
Tibet	From 1st June to 15th July	2370	17510
China	From 16th to 31st July	1000	18510
Viet Nam	From 1st to 10th August	500	19010
Laos	From 11th to 22nd August	600	19610
Thaïland	From 23rd to 10 September	700	20310
New Zealand	From 11th September to 5th January 2012	3500	23810
Australia	From 6th January to 22nd February	2800	26610
France	From 23 February to 1er March	450	27060

Number of countries we'll cross	**22 (23 with Tibet)**
Number of kilometers	**27 060**
Number of days	**604**
Nombre oh hours of bike	**1800**