



NEWS LETTER #04
DECEMBER 2006

Hi everyone,

Finally, after 5 months, 7773 kilometres and a little later than we had initially anticipated, our first "on the road" newsletter:

If you have been following our stories you will know that we had absolutely appalling weather to start with but are now experiencing an incredibly mild winter. The weather pretty much depicts how our days pan out and we both can't wait until a little more daylight comes our way. At present, we do not much more than get up in the dark, cycle all day, arrive somewhere and mostly in the dark again, shower, eat, debate who is going to get out of the warm tent first to do the dishes and then fall asleep while it is still really early. The sleeping bag always looks like a pretty good option when it's around zero degrees outside.

Equipment-wise there have been quite a few breakdowns but nothing that couldn't be fixed somehow. Even the Sony Camera has had its focus ring and lens covering super-glued back on. Interestingly enough, we have had only two flat tyres on the road and considering all the glass, cobbles stones and rough roads we've encountered, that's a small miracle.

It has to be said that Europe is no longer a cheap travel option. While we don't know much about hostels, campsites are mostly set up for campervans and are hit and miss as far as facilities, comfort and cleanliness is concerned. The star system operating in all countries is not an indication of how good a place is. Also, most backpackers are paying up and beyond 60 euros/ day/ person. It therefore goes without saying that we have well exceeded our budget of 35 euros/ day for the two of us, but that does include all the new and somewhat expensive purchases and of course ironing out several teething problems. We expect and dearly hope to get back on track from now on.

If you want to check out the most recent update, new photos and video then visit our "on the road" page by clicking [here](#).

We are currently in Patra (Greece) and will be in Olympia for the New Year Celebrations. So, on that note, we would like to wish everyone a very, very merry one and hope that 2007 brings even more surprises than 2006.

Cheers

Son and Ali xxx

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