

PRESS RELEASE

New Travel Grant Announced For Adventurous Young Cyclists

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

London, 8th February 2016: A new grant announced this week aims to get young people exploring the world – but on two wheels, rather than with a backpack.

The Janapar Grant (www.janapar-grant.org.uk), founded by bicycle adventurer and travel writer Tom Allen, will provide equipment and mentorship for a young British person to set out into the world on a bicycle.

The grant, which launches this week and will be open for applications later this month, will be available to UK residents between the ages of 18-25 who intend to spend a minimum of 6 months travelling abroad.

Speaking of the motivation behind the grant, Allen says: “The purpose of the Janapar Grant is to help young people begin a ‘rite-of-passage’-style journey, at a time in their lives when it will benefit them most, and with the fewest possible strings attached.”

Allen is familiar with the benefits of making such a journey, having put his career on hold to cycle through 32 countries on 3 continents in his early twenties.

“The journey changed my life immeasurably and in ways I could never have imagined,” continues Allen. “On returning, I found many others who’d made similar trips. They’d all benefitted from a new perspective on the world, a maturing of character as a result of the challenges overcome, and a heightened appreciation of what’s possible in life.

“With this grant, we hope to evangelise these benefits to the next generation of young people in the UK.”

The successful applicant will receive a package of cycle touring equipment, including an expedition bicycle donated by Oxford Bike Works, luggage from Carradice, and clothing from Polaris Bikewear.

Mentorship will come from a range of experienced bicycle travellers, including Alastair Humphreys, Emily Chappell, Laura & Tim Moss, and Leon McCarron. All veterans of trans-continental cycling adventures, they will be volunteering their guidance and experience to the successful applicant.

“I’m really excited that this grant will encourage young people to explore the world by bicycle, and to have some of the same experiences that have given me so much,” says Chappell.

Humphreys is in agreement: “There are few better educations than setting out on a bicycle, with simple equipment and loose plans, to go and explore the world for weeks, months or years.”

Applications for the Janapar Grant will open in late February 2016, with the outcome being announced in early May. For more information, visit www.janapar-grant.org.uk.

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Notes for editors

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Electronic Press Kit

<http://www.janapar-grant.org.uk/press-media/>

About the grant

'Janapar' (ճանապարհ) is the Armenian word for 'journey', 'way' or 'road'. This choice of name was inspired by grant founder Tom Allen's experiences while travelling by bicycle in the country.

'Janapar' is also the title of Allen's first book and film (www.janapar.com), released in 2013 and telling the story of his journey.

The stated aim of the grant is 'to promote journeys that involve immersion in unfamiliar places, cultures and ideas'. The guidelines mention that preference will not be given to journeys associated with a charity, record attempt, or other 'cause'. The grant excludes any financial contribution to the journey, which the applicant will be expected to raise herself or himself.

The successful applicant will be announced in May 2016 for a journey beginning this year. Unsuccessful applicants will receive free cycle-tour planning kits to encourage them to take the initiative to make their journey, regardless of the outcome of the grant.

The grant is a charitable venture, with all involved donating their time, expertise & products freely.

Key URLs

Website homepage

<http://www.janapar-grant.org.uk/>

News page

<http://www.janapar-grant.org.uk/news/>

Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/janapar.grant/>

Twitter

[@JanaparGrant](https://twitter.com/JanaparGrant)

Founder Information

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Sponsor Information & Contacts

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Laura Moss

<http://cycletouringfestival.co.uk/faq/>
[@CycleTourFest](#)

Tim Moss

<http://thenextchallenge.org/about/>
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Leon McCarron

<http://www.leonmccarron.com/who-is-leon.html>
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