

## A TAXI RIDE – AROUND THE WORLD!

Three friends – Johnno, Paul and Leigh – were in a London taxi one day, and they thought 'How far can a London taxi travel? What's the most expensive taxi fare<sup>1</sup> in history?' They decided to find out<sup>2</sup> – by driving around the world!

They bought an old black London taxi and asked companies<sup>3</sup> to sponsor<sup>4</sup> them for the trip. On 17<sup>th</sup> February 2011, outside the London Transport Museum in London, they turned on the taxi meter<sup>5</sup> and started their journey. They drove south and put the taxi on a ferry to France. It was the start of an amazing year.

The friends drove all across Europe. In Finland they saw the Northern Lights<sup>6</sup>, one of the world's most amazing sights. Then they drove through Italy, visiting Venice and Padua. They wanted to go through North Africa, but a war started in Libya. So they went to Turkey, through countries like Croatia, Bosnia, and Greece. In Istanbul, Turkey, they drove their taxi across the Bosphorus Bridge – the bridge between Europe and Asia.

After Turkey, the journey became slower and harder. The weather became warmer in the Middle East, but the roads weren't as good and the taxi had mechanical problems a few times a week. They stopped in Erbil, Iraq to make new parts for the car. In Iran, they had problems with the police because they camped<sup>7</sup> in the wrong place. In Tibet they drove on some of the highest roads in the world. In Asia, the weather wasn't as good as before. It became colder, and in China it rained a lot. It was also more difficult to find English-speaking people when they needed help.



Every few days, Johnno, Paul and Leigh put photos of their journey on their blog. In most of them, three good-looking men with short, dark hair stand in front of a taxi and smile. Behind them, you can see some of the most famous and most beautiful places in the world like the Great Wall of China or Angkor Wat in Cambodia – the world's biggest temple<sup>8</sup>. The friends were a little overweight when they left Britain, but in Asia, they looked very thin.

After Asia, they got a boat to Australia – then they went across the Australian desert – one of the driest and hottest places in the world. The towns were further apart in Australia, so they often drove all day and saw no towns. From Australia, they put their taxi on a ship to America. When it arrived, they spent a few days in San Francisco before driving across America. They stayed in cheap hotels, camped or slept in the taxi. On some days they visited famous places, like the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. In March 2012, a plane flew the taxi from New York to Israel. Then they drove it back across Europe. A few months later in France, they put it on a train to England.

Johnno, Paul and Leigh arrived in London on May 11<sup>th</sup> 2012, after a journey of 69,716 kilometres! The taxi meter showed the highest taxi fare in history – £79,000. Of course, nobody paid it!



### Glossary

- <sup>1</sup>taxi fare *tariffa della corsa in taxi*  
<sup>2</sup>find out *scoprire*  
<sup>3</sup>companies *società, imprese*  
<sup>4</sup>sponsor *sponsorizzare*  
<sup>5</sup>taxi meter *tassmetro*  
<sup>6</sup>Northern Lights *aurora boreale*  
<sup>7</sup>camped *si accamparono, fecero campeggio*  
<sup>8</sup>temple *tempio*