

German bicycling around the world

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Bicycling through Virginia on his way to Miami, Fla., Markus Schorn, 26, of Cologne, Germany -- who is in the middle of a cycling trip around the world -- says people told him to avoid North and South Carolina "because the people are so bad there."

Disregarding this advice, he traveled south along the coast to the Outer Banks and actually met some nice people. One person even invited him to stay at his house in Wilmington, N.C.

When Schorn continued into South Carolina, he met even more pleasant people in this state.

"Now I'm here and people are very nice here," he said.

This trip, which he says he is doing just for fun, is a total of 37,000 miles. Leaving from Germany on Feb. 1, and arriving in Canada on May 1 to continue his journey in America, he will travel from Miami to the Bahamas and the Caribbean Islands, taking a ferry or boat in between, then on to South America, from Venezuela to Brazil to Paraguay and across to Argentina and Chile.

From there, he will go to New Zealand and onto Australia (by boat or ferry where necessary), and to the Philippines, China, Russia and over to Europe, where he will end his trip in Germany.

Traveling 80 miles a day, Schorn camps out on most nights at rest stops or gas stations.

"Sometimes I sneak into campgrounds for a shower," he said. "It is very expensive to stay in a hotel room every night."

Although sponsors have supplied much of his material possessions for the trip, including camping gear, storage bags and half of the cost of his bicycle, Schorn pays out of pocket for most of his expenses.

The portion of the trip from Georgetown to Miami, which is about 900 miles, is about a 10-day ride, he said. Schorn is enjoying his trip around the world and he recommends that others take trips like this also.

"It is always good to travel," Schorn said.

"I met an Australian at the Mount Everest Base Camp who had gone from Australia to Nepal, so I thought if he can do that, I can go around the world."

For more information about his trip, to view pictures and movies on the road, or to contact Schorn, visit his Web site at www.markusschorn.de.