



↑↑ Tibetan prayer flags leading the way.
 → Synchronized crash.
 ↗ With original bikes sold respectively shipped back, the journey continues on bikes by local producer Djiang, nicknamed the 'red dragon' and 'blue dragon'.

The friends were to find that trips like these are not only possible, but infinitely better on a shoestring.

snowy Ala-Too Range, part of the enormous Tian Shan mountains, also known as the Tengri Tagh, separating Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan from northern China. Encountering numerous Kyrgyz stereotypes en route—herds of horses lining the pastures, forlorn donkeys, farmers on horseback trying to contain the animals, and speeding fines paid with cash bribes to police—they returned to Bishkek, sold the Suzuki, and shipped the Kawasaki to the United Kingdom due to the high cost of importing them into China. At the three-

month halfway point, they were on the Chinese border, ready for new bikes and a new adventure. They were bid farewell by a view of the sun rising over the snow-covered Pamirs as they hitchhiked across the border and toward the closest city in this remote corner of China, Kashgar, in search of motorcycles. A prominent Silk Road trade stop, Kashgar is an ancient city of 500,000 with a hugely energetic feel, compared to the quiet Central Asian cities they had already explored. >