



PRESS RELEASE

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Defying Disabilities and Inspiring Others: From Berlin to Tokyo on a Pino from Hase Bikes

A physically disabled cyclist teams up with a blind co-pilot for a tandem bike tour from Berlin to Tokyo: Sven Marx and Juergen Pansin are breaking all boundaries. On 7 March they set off from Berlin, embarking on a bike journey that will take them halfway around the world, through the Altai Mountains and Gobi Desert. On their planned route to the Paralympic Games in Tokyo, they will cover an impressive 15,000 kilometres.

Balance problems, double vision and a ticking time bomb in the form of a brain stem tumour: a condition that would drive many to despair is driving Sven Marx's enthusiasm for exploring the world. The former diving instructor, who had to be brought back to life three times after a surgery in 2009 and then spent the next few months learning to eat and walk again, has fought his way back to health through sheer determination. He goes on impressive bike tours, which he writes about to give courage to others. "I've already cycled to 43 countries and 31 capital cities, covering a total of 81,000 kilometres," said the Berlin native. For his trip to Tokyo, he wanted to find a blind co-pilot. "I thought, someone who's blind could never do something like this alone, but they could with a partner."

Sven researched tandems and quickly reached the conclusion that only one bike was suitable for his plans: the Pino Steps from Hase Bikes, one of the most popular touring tandems for globetrotters. The Pino is a semi-recumbent tandem, i.e. half upright and half recumbent. The "stoker" in front helps with the pedalling in a comfortable recumbent seat, and the "captain" in back does the steering with an unhindered view of the landscape. "This



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tandem is incredible," said Sven before the start of his mammoth tour. "It's a true all-rounder, and I'm optimistic that it can go the distance."

The Hase Bikes team is also confident. They provided the Pino Steps for Sven and Juergen's adventure. "At the age of 17, I built my first tandem so that I could go cycling with a blind friend of mine," explained company founder Marec Hase. "When Sven told us about his plans, we knew right away that we wanted to support him."

Sven and Juergen were given the bike back in April 2019 so that they would have enough time to train as a team before setting off on their big trip. Since then, they have covered 3,000 kilometres. Sven raves about his Pino: "The front rider sits in a much lower position, which is really helpful for me with my impaired sense of balance. A normal tandem wobbles whenever the other rider moves. But it's different with the Pino because the centre of gravity is so low."

The Hase Bikes team will be following Sven's blog and cheering on the two riders as they pedal their way to Japan. Because they know: where there's a Pino, there's a way ... for two!

You can find more information on Sven Marx and his tours at www.sven-globetrotter.com

And you can find more information on the Pino Steps at www.hasebikes.com

Picture and caption:



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Nothing can stop them: Sven Marx (left) and his co-pilot Juergen Pansin (right) with their Pino Steps

The photo can be downloaded in high-quality and web format via the following link:

<http://www.amedes.de/ftp/hasebikes/Pinotour.zip>

About HASE BIKES

Marec Hase, engineer, owner and managing director of Hase Bikes, has been developing extraordinary bikes and trikes for more than 25 years. The successes of the now 60-member team have earned numerous design awards and attracted a growing community of passionate Hase Bikers from (practically) every corner of the world. The delta trikes and tandems from Hase Bikes are popular for recreational sports, bike tours, family routines and adaptive cycling. Their innovative construction, high-quality engineering and multi-award-winning designs make them attractive for all riders, regardless of age or physical impairment. Thanks to the wide spectrum of accessories for various uses, Hase Bikes can be individually adapted to the (special) needs of any rider, so that words like “abled” and “disabled” lose their meaning. If you’d like to learn more about what makes the bikes, trikes and people from Hase Bikes so special, then visit www.hasebikes.com.