

## **Sample Q&A with The Motelorcyclist – Andrew (Drew) Beattie**

### **Q. What is a motelorcycle and a motelorcyclist?**

A There has always been a cheesy romanticism with motels and motorcycles. The mere mention conjures up images of James Dean and 1960s motels. So it seemed natural to bring the two together.

So, motelorcycle is my way joining these two in a new word: motels and motorcycles to create motelorcycle. So motelorcycle and motelorcyclist are nouns. And by definition, it is a motorcycle that rests at roadside motels and the motelorcyclist(s) are the riders of motelorcycles.

### **Q. 50 nights in 50 different motels, why would you do this? And why 50?**

A. Having spent a 30-year career in the hospitality industry and always having a love for retro-motels, I decided I would go on a motorcycle journey to document spending 50 nights in 50 different roadside motels. I chose 50 because there is a bit of magic in that number. The average age of a motorcycle owner in the United States is 50. We are talking about motels that are at least 50 years old and of course I am 50. Let's just say they are all aligned.

### **Q. What is the attraction of these motels?**

A. I've always loved the colorful old neon motel signs and holiday travel before the era of the interstate. Each motel is its own little haven. Some of my earliest and fondest memories were of staying in motels on family vacations, swimming in the pools, watching TV in bed and getting to drink soda from the pop machines.

### **Q. What do you say when people call this is the ultimate mid-life crisis?**

A. I see this journey as the ultimate mid-life awakening. My philosophy is you take your life experiences and bring them forward to learn and grow. And with imagination, an open mind and a little inspiration new opportunities have a way of presenting themselves. This is one of them.

### **Q. What do you hope to accomplish?**

A. The world is full of great travel writers and motorcycle adventurers. But Instead of writing about far away places that no one can ever get to, my goal is to create a living directory of retro motels across America where people can go visit today. And equally important I want to learn and retell the stories about the people behind the motels, meet their guests, and talk to the people in the communities they are in. I hope to find out what are their similarities? What are they like? What is the unique history of each motel? They all have great stories. These are the questions I am aiming to answer. And in doing so, give people who are looking for a unique travel experiences something other than the typical franchise box as an option to stay in.

Finally, when I am finished the trip, I am publishing these stories in a new book called *Sleeping Around in America: Revisiting the Roadside Motel* due out this Christmas.

**Q. Is there any part of this journey that concerns you?**

The weather. Weather is my biggest concern, especially with extreme weather events like wildfires, tropical storms and extreme temperature conditions. Fortunately, most travel days don't exceed 250 miles and with the NOAA app on my phone I can hopefully work my travels around it.

**Q. What do you expect to find out about yourself?**

A. I expect that just like the motels, I constantly have to reinvent myself and be open to new ideas. And sometimes that means stretching myself beyond my comfort zone. But in the end, isn't that what life is all about?

**Q. Is there a way to follow you on this journey?**

Yes. You can subscribe to my Chronicles (blog) on The Motelcycle Chronicles web site at [www.motelcycle.com](http://www.motelcycle.com) where I will be publishing weekly updates. You can also follow me with more frequent updates on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/the-motelcyclist](http://www.facebook.com/the-motelcyclist)), on Instagram as the motelcyclist, and on twitter @motelcycle.