

### About me

- 31 years
- IT professional
- Since 2000 all my money goes into travel
- 50 countries on 6 continents on my map before *the trip*

## Why go around the world ?

- Age is still good to go crazy (sex, drugs and rock and roll)
- Need to satisfy my craving for new (people, experiences, cultures)
- No obligations at home (no wife, no children)

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- NOW I have the money
- Why not ?!

# Planning

- The first step was 8 Apr 2010 when I took the first vaccine
- I booked my flight out in Jul 2010
- Flew to London to try-out backpacks
- Gear ordered online in Oct
- 5<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2011 last vaccine before taking off
- 6<sup>th</sup> of Jan 2011 on my way to French Guyana via Paris

### What to pack

- I bought shitload of stuff and 90% stayed at home
- Backpack has 12kg + 4kg the day-pack
  - 15 t-shirts, 10 pairs of underwear, 2 pairs of long trousers that can become shorts, 1 long-sleeves shirt
  - Laptop, Kindle, Camera, iPhone, cables, adapters
  - Medical kit, hand-gel
  - Hiking-shoes (and socks), flip-flops
  - locks (various sizes), swiss-army, spoon, fork
  - Ear-plugs (to give away)

### Life on the road

- From 5\* to hostel... you need some practice, visit a local hostel
- Be ZEN and OPEN minded, you're going to meet lots of people: rude, funny, smelly, horny
- Do some research, but not too much.. Be flexible. Sometimes it pays: my Antarctica trip booked 16h before or the raining season when I got to French Guyana

## What to do when you get there

- Do the touristic spots
- Do off-the-beaten track stuff (your new friends from the hostel will give you tips where to go)
- Meet the locals (even if you don't stay with Couch Surfing, attend meetings, coffee), ask the hostel staff (most of them have been around for a while or are locals and know the spots)
- Try the local cuisine even if it looks strange Peruvian food is AWESOME (*cuy* not so much, but had to do it)
- Research possible destinations, ways to get there and people to get there with

# Staying in touch

- Met only 3 people without Facebook accounts (1 gave in eventually)
- Internet is everywhere (the cheaper the place, the cheaper the internet will be)
- Photos on Picasa and Facebook
- SIM cards are cheap (don't buy them in Airports). In Hanoi airport they were asking US\$ 50 while downtown I got the same SIM for US\$4 good for 1 month with 1GB internet

## Staying healthy

- Laundry : for \$2 in Argentina you wash lots of stuff (2 weeks worth)... for \$2 more you get them ironed as well (by a chinese family)
- Water : bottled water is available everywhere
- Louise & Tina's tip : drink a shot of strong alcohol if you feel the food wasn't OK. Never had any problems.
- Insurance: World Nomads around 2 EUR/day, got it but never used it.. Yay!
- Not a fan of drugs, carry limited stuff (Vitamin C does the trick for me)

# Staying safe

- Most of the hostels have lockers. Bring your own locks
- Carry copies of the passport, scans of everything online (Google docs, Dropbox)
- ATM cards linked to an account with little money. Transfer when need using Internet Banking
- Backup cards, IDs (driving license for example)
- No expensive stuff while roaming the city
- Walking in public areas is not 100% safe (Bogota incident)

#### Money

- Hostel is US\$ 10 in South America, US\$ 40 in Australia
- Accommodation is 20% of total costs. Cheapest US\$ 3/ person in double room (Cambodia), most expensive US \$ 950 (Ritz Hong Kong)
- Transportation is 30% (flights are EXPENSIVE if you don't book in advance or don't use local sites)
- Food and Entertainment is another 30%
- If you slow-down, costs go down
- I spend US\$ 4000/month includes everything
- I've seen people who spent 5000 EUR in 6 months

#### THE MANY THOUSAND WORDS

... AND NOW









ITAIPU Binacional, Brazil

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<u>REPRESE</u>

Foz de Iguaçu, Brazil

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Marco das 3 fronteiras, Brazil

Cataratas de Iguazú, Argentina







Puerto Natales, Chile

BACKPACKER THE SINGING LAND

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STGING LANB

Torres del Paine, Chile

Puerto Varas, Chile



Osorno volcano, Chile

Bariloche, Argentina

CONTRACTOR OF

Mendoza, Argentina

Salta, Argentina



Atacama desert, Bolivia

Atacama desert, Bolivia

Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia







Isla del Sol, Lake Titicaca, Bolivia



Machu Picchu, Peru







Easter Island, Chile



Galapagos Islands, Ecuador



Medellin, Colombia



1-1

Salto Angel, Venezuela

Santa Marta, Colombia

44.4

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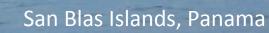
Cartagena, Colombia

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Cartagena, Colombia





Arecibo observatory, Puerto Rico

北京





Semuc Champey, Guatemala





Cenotes diving, Mexico

Welcome to Aberdeen Come As You Are	
	Road-trip, USA





Toronto Tower, Canada

The second









Ha Long Bay, Vietnam

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Hoi An, Vietnam

Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam



Mekong Delta, Veitnam

Phnon Penn, Cambodia

- Silver

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Bangkok, Thailand

Toda:

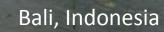
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No.

Krich Kor Korig

V. 2

Bangkok, Thailand



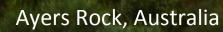
Marina Bay Sands Hotel, Singapore

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Great Barrier Reef, Australia

YERING + Wine Tastings Station + Cellar Door Sales Art Gallery Bar

Melbourne, Australia



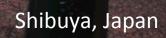


Middle of nowhere, New Zealand





Hamilton, New Zealand



ALL STREET













Tsukiji Tuna Auction, Japan







Emirates A380 in Business Class

500

Ritz Carlton, Hong Kong

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## ... to be continued

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