

A "Rounding" Recap of What I Have

There were hard to find pants in Istanbul, buying all the malaria pills in Nairobi, the truck full of schmucks in Africa, and the animals; I've seen green alligators, and long-necked geese; some humpty backed camels and a chimpanzee. I've seen cats and rats and elephants, but sure as you're born, I just can't see no unicorns.

I've have

Been Blessed by a lama, and eaten llama

Ridden and eaten a camel

Spent the night in cars

Closed down bars

Snorkeled in Zanzibar, Malawi and Easter Island

Drank an earthquake

Gone after Gorillas of the Mist and missed

Touched the Devil's Marbles in Australia

Walked with Lions

Walked three Great Walks in New Zealand

Been Licked by Cheetahs

Jumped off a Bridge in Zimbabwe and the cord didn't snap

Slid Down a Dune in Namibia

Learned how to make Chipate in Uganda

Endured four days crossing the Drake Passage

Climbed up a Table (mountain)

Squoze Seabuckthorne Juice

Fossicked for Opals in the Outback

Ate Nepali Mo-Mo til I couldn't take it No-Mo

Learned it's all "Sweet-As" in New Zealand

Took the “polar plunge” in the Arctic

Learned to love Rugby

Been Tolerant of Cricket

Ate both a “Ferd” and “Devil” burger in the same day

Swung Across canyons

Jumped with Massai

Rafted the Nile

Lost my hearing for two weeks in Nepal

Climbed the stairs to Gorapani one day only to come down the next

Shot the Remarkables on Kangaroo Island

Climbed Cradle Mountain in Tasmania

Slept in a lighthouse in Australia

Swam with dolphins in the Amazon

Touched an eel in New Zealand

Completed a “Centurion” + 20 more with my “crew”

Shared a buffet with Maori

Hiked the steepest road in the world

Ate Yak in Nepal

Slept in a tent in Antarctica

Slept under African stars

Fed a Cayman

Caught and ate a piranha in Bolivia

Circled Uluru in Australia

Slipped on Penguin poo in the Arctic

Collected sea shells in Zanzibar

Bonded with a koala

Taken 26 flights and not lost my luggage

Sat on the world's largest meteorite

Tracked a Rhino in

Stared down a leopard seal in the Arctic

Poled a mokoko in Botswana

Swung the "Bin Laden"

Climbed Dune45 in Namibia

Slept in hostels, (ex)brothels, bars, cars, tents, teahouses, airports, buses, plane, trains and the occasional doorway; literally from the outhouse to the penthouse and everything in between

Rode boda-boda's, tuk-tuk's, and rickshaws, walked, stalked, tramped and stamped my way thru field and forest, mountain and morass, seashore to summit to breathe the rarified air of the traveler.

Used the words "Pole Pole", "Jam Jam" and "Sowa Sowa" and was understood

Kayaked and climbed, shuffled and slid, in snowshoes and barefoot, slid, skid tripped and tumbled my way thru impenetrable forests, sandy coastlines, vast open plains

Found the land of sky-blue waters, of ancient seas, thru broiling suns, driven snows and the occasional horizontal rain, seen many a sun; rising and setting with a fair amount of burning in between.

Gotten lost and found in most populated areas, discovered this is more fun than following silly maps

Scratched the ears of a few hundred camp dogs, and probably half-as many cats; jealous of the lifestyle they've attained

Checked in and out of about 50 hostels, some fantastic, some true flops, but all serviceable for what I needed when.

"Lost" between three to five items a day, only to "find" them upon further review. Learned to worry a lot less about the actual whereabouts of things not in my pockets

Trusted the souls of thousands of fellow travelers who haven't rifled my bags; occasionally cut in line or taken the bottom bunk, but not messed with my stuff

Marveled at the simple ability to connect to the internet in the oddest of places; from the remote tea-houses of Nepal to the shores of Easter Island, I caught my emails.

Gone from "Big Man" to "Mzungu"; from "Yeti" to "Santa" yet rarely found tee-shirts that fit

Seen more animals than I could ever name, content to view their lifestyles when the picture wasn't there

To those who may be inspired to fulfill their own "bucket list"; here are some tips:

Finish all the food on your plate; it may taste horrible, but there might be times when your next meal isn't guaranteed

Don't trust mileage signs, the distance "to" somewhere is always longer than coming back

Wear a hat; nothing more painful than burnt scalp

Appreciate each day; it's always better on the road

Get used to walking – a lot of walking. It's cheap and good for toning the thighs and calves

Invest in good gear; you don't need a lot but what you have needs to last

Learn to rise with the sun, the locals do

Generally the dogs of the world are friendly if you are

Kangaroos can be mean, especially the big red ones

Remember to laugh when you get really lost; helps to reduce frown lines

Take chances, trust your instincts and remember to take advice

If you don't book ahead, occasionally you'll sleep in doorways

Try not to buy more than you can carry; shipping is expensive

Have a talent, or at least a few good stories, there will be times when you're called on to entertain

Lines in the sand take a lot of effort to enforce; be flexible

You will see naked people; try not to stare or point

It helps to have a book with you, if not to read, then to sit on to pad the world's concrete

Don't forget your battery charger, and bring more memory cards

The fruit on display is probably over-ripe, the fresher stuff is usually in the back

Sleep is not over-rated; the lack of it can cause you to make mistakes, and that costs time/money

Take less, walk farther, enjoy more.

Try to remember the details of each day before collapsing into bed. This will help greatly when you're regurgitating the stories later

Lay hands on everything (except where it says not to) your sense of touch helps describe things later. While you're at it, *lend* a hand. You'll make friends faster, and you'll need friends

Take chances, both in planning your day and choosing your meal, surprises happen

Bring quick-drying clothes

Eat where the locals eat and ask questions; guidebooks are written to sell guidebooks

Things change, prices go up and though you may be convinced that something is the "greatest", tomorrow is another day.

Leave the I-Tunes and ear-buds at home. There's nothing wrong with listening to the local soundtrack

Try to carry your own cup. There will be times when it gets filled up with the most amazing local drinks

Budget enough money and time to splurge a bit along the way. It's better to be over-served and a bit bored than the other way around.

Learn to say "Thank You" in every dialect and use it

Treat your feet well; you can go farther without a limp