

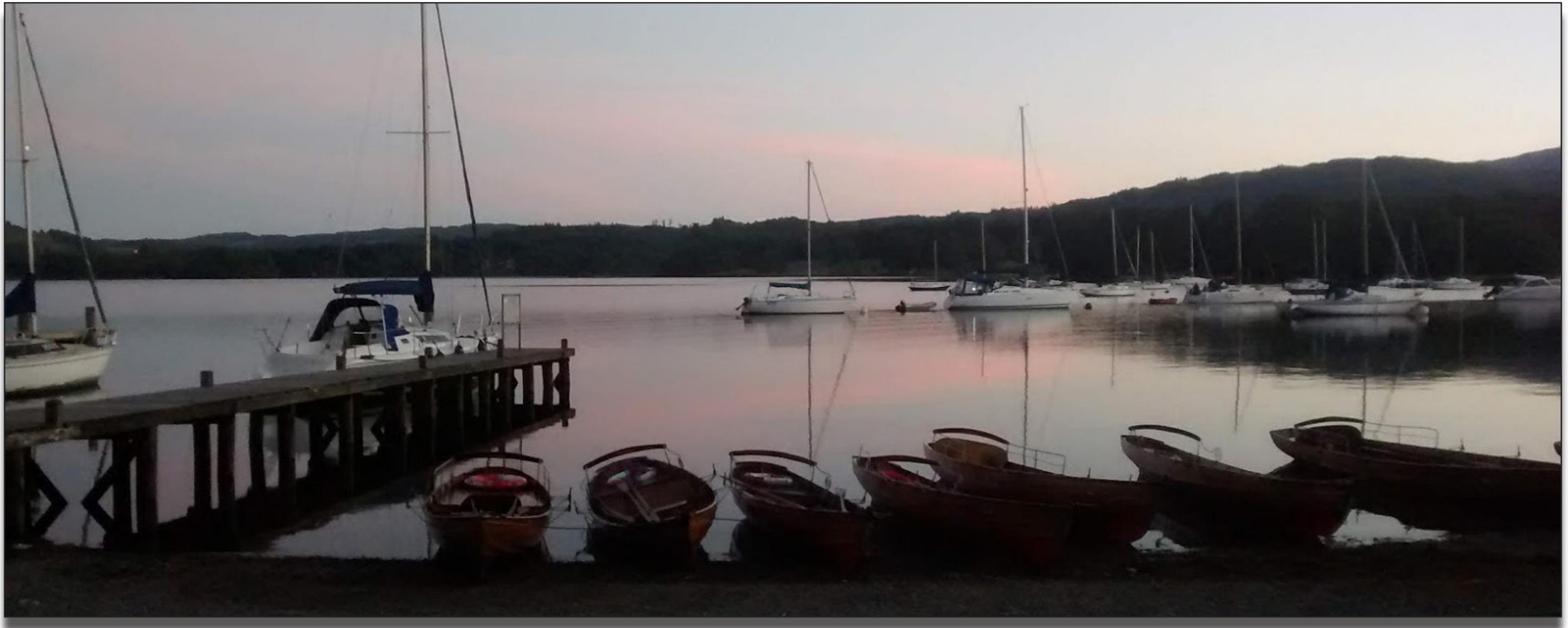
A black and white photograph of a tent pitched in a forest. The tent is the central focus, with its poles and guy lines visible. The background is filled with dense foliage, including large leaves and ferns. Overlaid on the image is the word "CAMP" in a large, white, stylized, cursive font. The letters are thick and have a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance. The overall mood is serene and outdoorsy.

CAMP

The First Issue...

Welcome To Your Great Escape

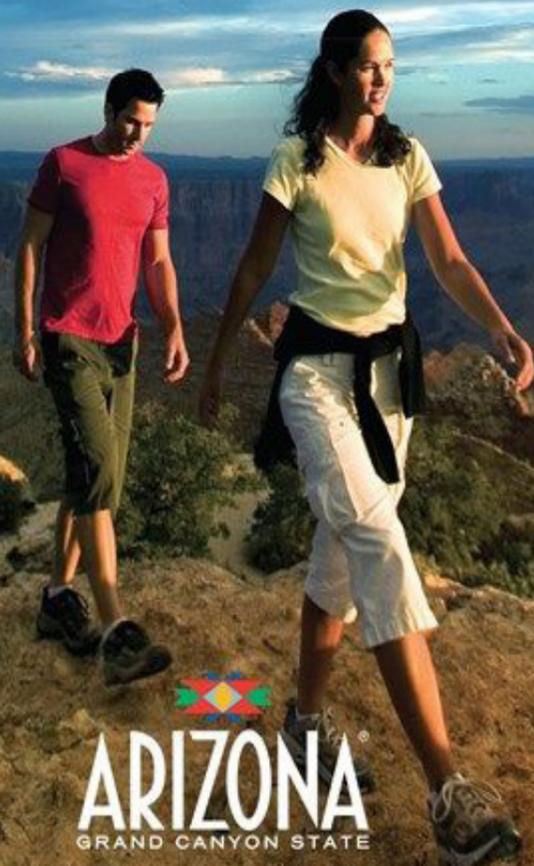




Contents

<i>Note from the Editor: 5</i>	<i>History Insight, Perry Fogg: 16-17</i>	<i>Literature: 25</i>	<i>Hadrian's Wall: 32-37</i>
<i>Van Life: From Germany to Spain: 8-13</i>	<i>Tidal Venture, Sailing the World with Miss Ramm: 18-23</i>	<i>Christopher McCandless, the Accidental Martyr of Exploration: 26-30</i>	<i>Knoydart, Spectral Seclusion between Heaven and Hell: 38-41</i>
<i>Cinema Pursuit: Uncharted: 15</i>			<i>Gear Highlight: 42-46</i>

.....
YOUR STORY STARTS
HERE.
.....
AND ONE SIZE DOES
FIT ALL.
.....
LET YOURSELF GO.



Start your story at arizonaguide.com/XX or call 1.877.817.6249

GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA

Note from the Editor

It is with great excitement that I present you with the first issue of Expedition Pursuit. This marks a proud moment in the history of Expedition Pursuit, as since the outdoor blog was founded in 2020, I have always aspired to create a tactile outdoor pursuits magazine that readers can hold in their hands and immerse themselves in both stunning photography and even more gripping stories.

The publication of this magazine falls on uncertain times. It is with joy that I write in an almost post-pandemic world. One where we can live freely again and be less so inhibited by the travel restrictions that were imposed upon us.

But my heart goes out to the people of Ukraine, hundreds of whom have perished under Putin's unjustifiable, unmoral and brutal crusade.

Yet, they stand tall and brave against his efforts in defence of their homeland representing a shining effort of valour to us all. I write in tribute to the young people who have lost their lives- whose opportunity to travel and explore this planet was stolen from them. It is with great hope that those who live can one day still do so and that we see a withdrawal of Putin's forces in the immediate future.

Regardless of the future, Expedition Pursuit will always be an escape and a safe home for the restless adventurer. In this issue I explore the gravity of wander lust epitomised by Christopher McCandless. I get talking to Felix Poblozski who has toured across Europe in his van; Melissa Ramm who indulged me with her life at sea and Nathan Lee who told me stories about the spectral and secluded wilds of Knoydart.

Moreover, the issue is packed with all things umbrellaed by the magnificent genre that is adventure including, history, literature and cinema. When you have had your fill, it is



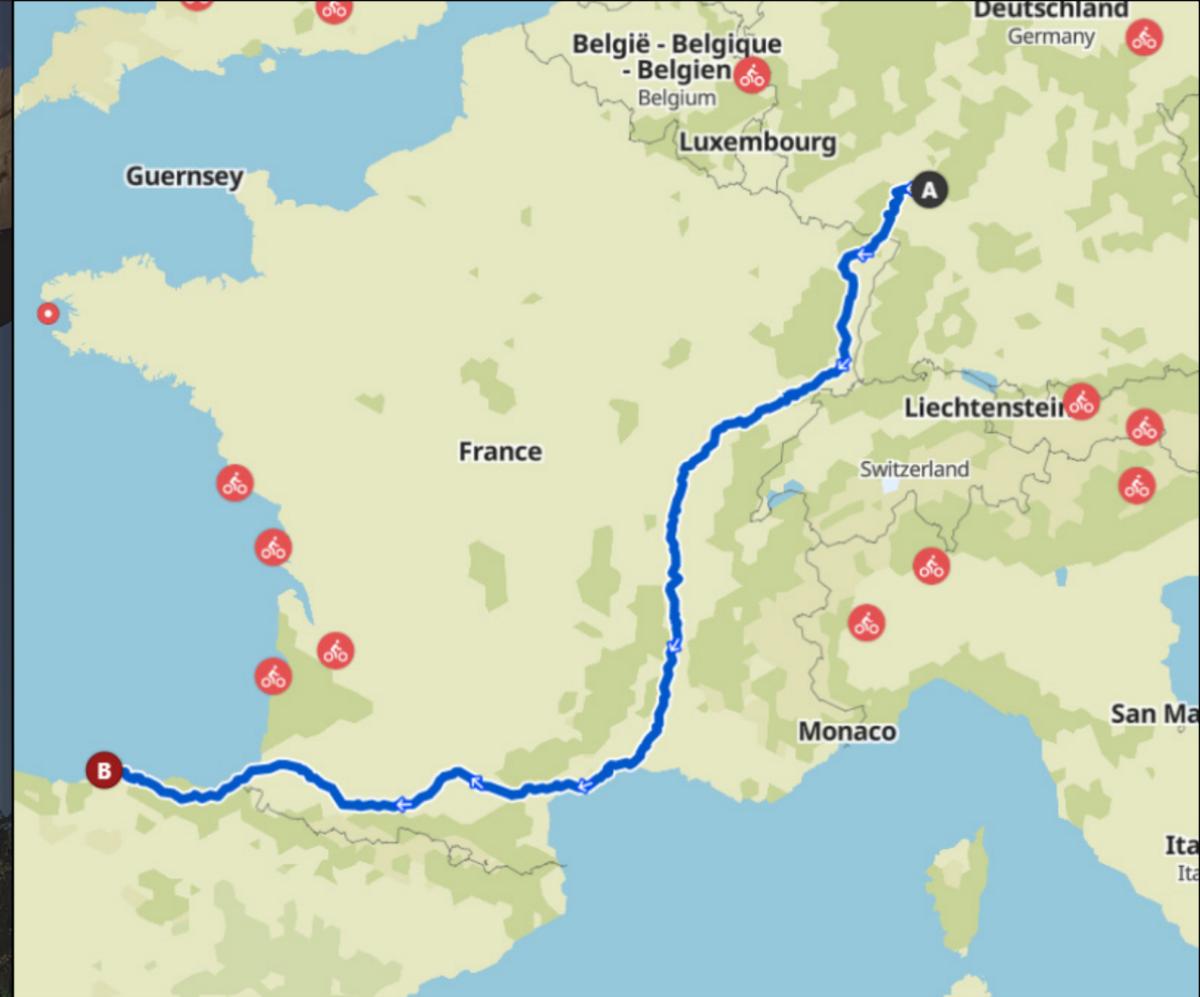
worth directing your attention to the Expedition Pursuit website where more outdoor content is always available, free of charge, and where we encourage interactivity amongst our readers.

My ultimate goal, after all, is to secure a family for those with wander lust in their blood. So sit back, relax and prepare to get lost in the wild.

Yours truly,



Van Life- From Germany to Spain



Last winter, born and bred German Felix journeyed across France to the northern tip of Spain immediately following his graduation. In a telling interview, he reveals to Expedition Pursuit the highs, the lows and the experiences that defined his journey.

There are two types of people in this world when it comes to having time off work- those who are content to recline and put their feet up, and then those who are determined to cram as much experience into that period as humanely possible. Felix falls into the latter category.

It's winter 2021. Most of us are at home with the fires crackling and are smothered into our sofas. Felix is in the Alps. He spends ten days there before receiving his graduation papers, but not before long he is in Croatia on a cycling trip with his father that takes him another ten days.

Yet that is still not enough for intrepid adventurer Felix and putting his van into gear he begins the solo expedition that will take him through France and into Spain spending a total of six weeks in the southern reaches of France.

"I had my travel bike with me, the longest trip I did with it was 70k and there were a couple of smaller ones as



Who's Talking?

Felix Poblzki is a 26 year old graduate who majored in Sport and English. His hobbies are hiking and mountain biking with goals to cycle through every country in Europe. His blog on Amsterdam can be found on our website!



well. Especially when I wanted to do a hike and the parking lot was a bit further from the mountain. I would use my bike to cover these distances.”

Felix, who spent time in the United Kingdom on a study abroad year, remarked how similar the castles between England and Scotland were to those between France and Germany.

“After visiting some of these I went south and encountered a hilly landscape, the mountains there didn’t have the greatest altitude. Just a couple of hundred meters. From the city of Lyon, I then travelled along the River Rhone until I reached the coast. But it was there I decided that I wanted to visit the north coast of Spain. There was a former teacher of mine I wanted to visit.”

It was 600k between the south coast of France to the northern tip of Spain, but Felix was not deterred and

made every effort to enjoy each city he encountered as he travelled through the Basque country until he reached his destination at Santander.

Like all of us who visit Spain, Felix fell in love with the Spanish weather, especially after sustaining a few wet weeks in France that saturated the pop-up roof of his camper van which didn’t prove watertight.

“At one point I parked the van under the bridge of a motorway in an industrial area where I had to wait two nights until the water drained. It was a weekend and it just so happened that someone’s burglar alarm went off. It beeped incessantly day and night and I couldn’t leave because my van was not yet dry. It came close to driving me mad.”

But the warm weather wasn’t the only aspect of Spain he fell in love with.

“I think the cliché that the Spanish are relaxed is true. I really liked that. Especially when they heard that I was trying to speak Spanish, which I’d been learning for two years. I always got the feeling that they could understand me, but I couldn’t understand what they were saying. That was the problem.”

During those four weeks in Spain, Felix also developed an appreciation of the Spanish landscape that made parting from the country difficult.

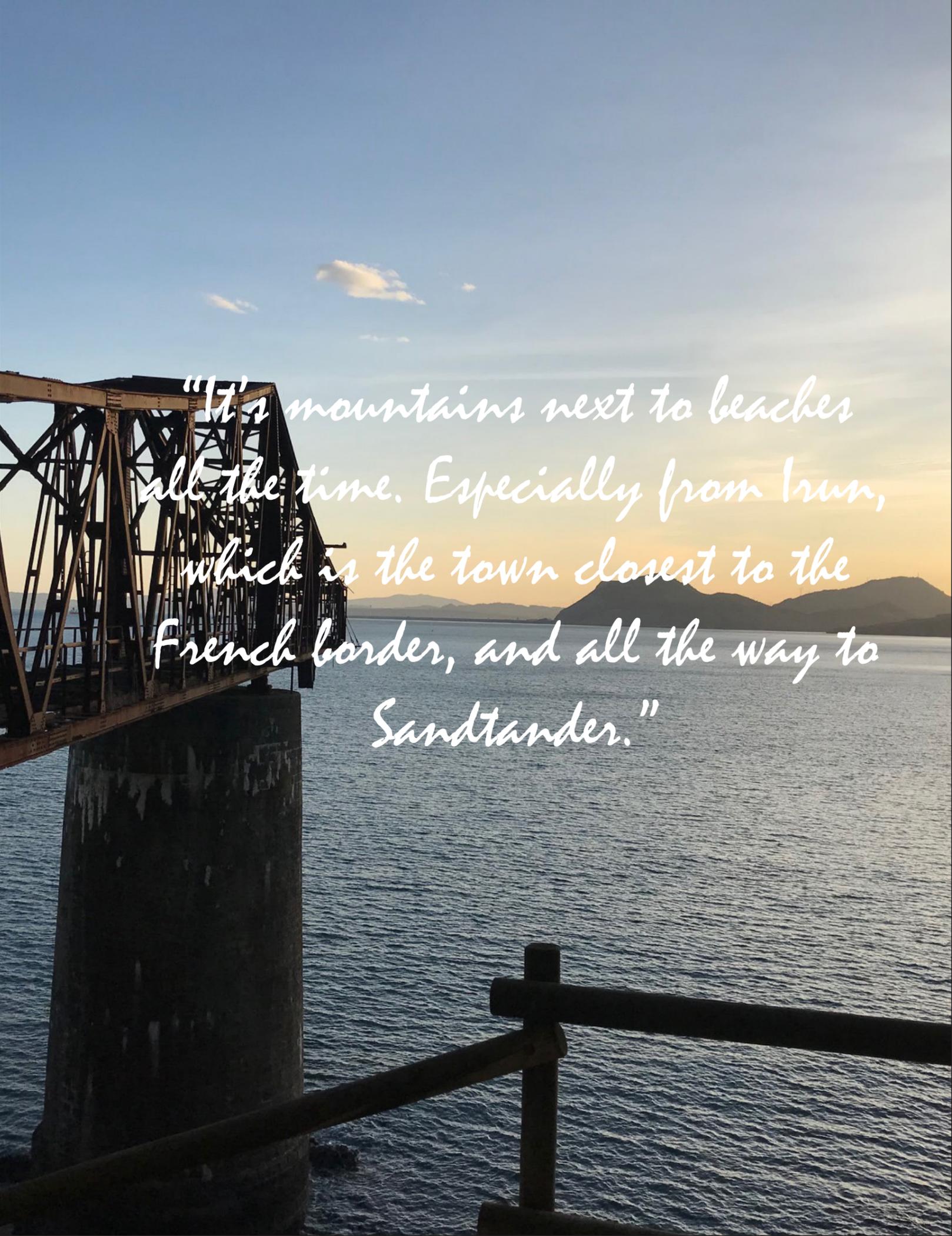
“It’s mountains next to beaches all the time. Especially from Irun, which is the town closest to the French border, and all the way to Sandtander. In fact, the Basque area of Spain is said to be the Spanish Scotland to give you an idea as to what its like. Lots of green hills, usually some rain, although I was fortunate not to have any.”

When asked about the best part of the trip Felix admitted that it was a hard question to answer but what came to mind was the Ojo del Diablo, which translates to the Eye of the Devil, in the Cantabrian Mountain range of Northern Spain.

“There’s this natural arche that looks like an eye. From it you can look down to the coast. You had to do a bit of climbing to get up there but not too dangerous for the average hiker. Standing atop the Ojo del Diablo was a very good day for me.”

Another two-week trip through France would see the end of Felix’s journey but his aspirations did not die in Spain, although he did admit that to settle in Spain would be the life.

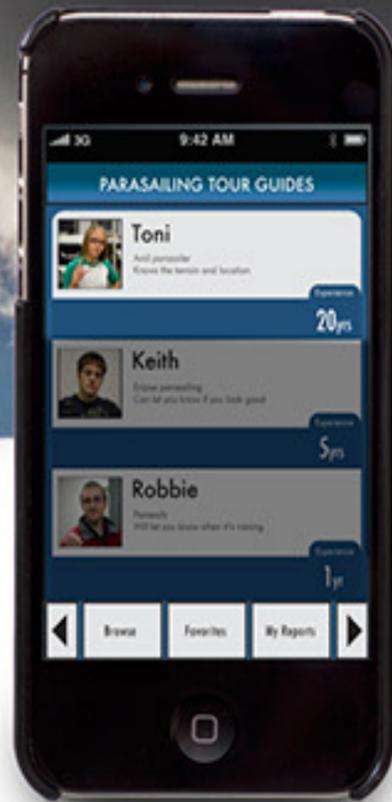
“I want to visit Sweden again. I’ve been there for a handball tournament, but I want to go back. I reckon I will do it during the six weeks I have off in the summer. I’ll also visit Spain again, that’s for sure.”



“It’s mountains next to beaches all the time. Especially from Irun, which is the town closest to the French border, and all the way to Sandtander.”



**BE AWARE
OF WHAT YOU'RE
GETTING INTO**



Altitude™
Travel Agency

Cinema Pursuit Uncharted



West took with Angelina Jolie's Tomb Raider back in 2001. BUT there are some good elements to the movie that make it worth watching and if you go in with the attitude expecting little then you can only go out the cinema doors feeling pleased.

cher's new **Uncharted.**

There is no doubt that fans of the hit Naughty Dog franchise Uncharted were delighted to hear the news that their favourite adventure series was getting adapted onto the big screen, especially considering the multitude of film worthy content that is already in the games. Surely not that big of a chore to produce. Right?

However, the casting for the film faced a certain amount of backlash from the outset with Tom Holland as Nathan Drake and Mark Wahlberg as Victor Sullivan. Some argued that Holland is too young to play the dashing swashbuckling treasure hunter while Wahlberg looks nothing like our Sully.

Unfortunately, a viewing of Uncharted might warrant this criticism along with several other points. The narrative chose to abandon the plots of its source material resulting in a plot that lacked substance and complexity. The treasure lacked the supernatural element and the backing track to the movie was particularly unmemorable.

Ultimately the movie felt childlike when it could have gone for the grittier adult approach that Simon

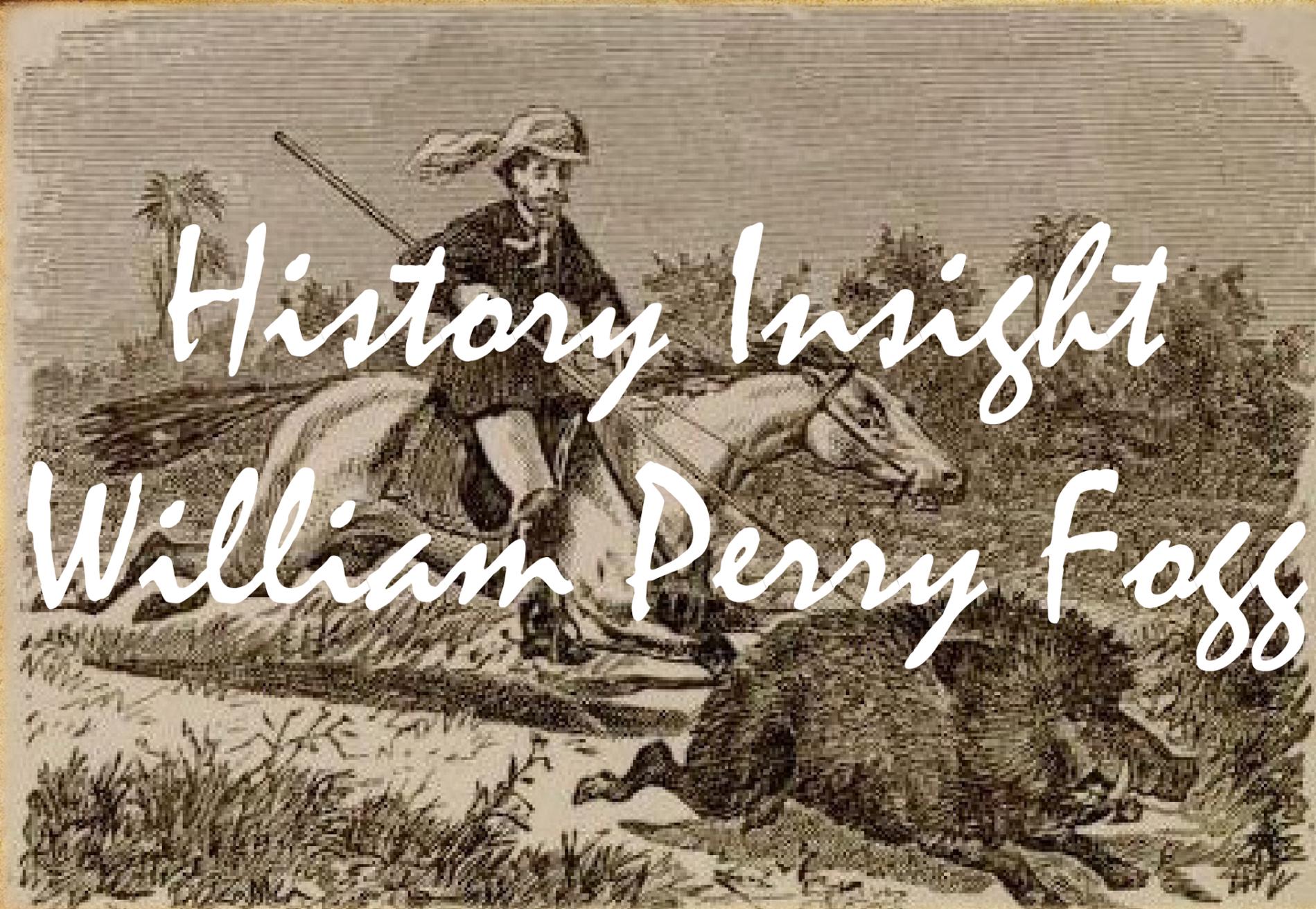
For a start it's a good film to kick back and relax to, the plot is simple enough to follow and gives us the privilege of taking us around the world until we end up on a tropical island off the coast of the Philippines. Lush, tropical islands are a must for any Uncharted product.

The rapport between Drake and Sullivan was a delight to listen to. Much like the video games, the movie is littered with the quips and sarcastic humour that have the corners of our mouth rising. There was also the humours addition of a huge Scottish brute that Drake faces off against and fans of the game know how important it is to have Nate punching up against someone twice his own height.

Moreover, speaking of dynamics that exist in the video games, the movie is, to a large extent, faithful in implementing these. We have the money heists, bustling city chases and falls from aeroplanes. Not to mention against the odd shootouts.

While it would be cruel for us to spoil the film before you watch it yourselves, we were pleased to note that the ending was left open for a sequel that will be worth watching. Although hopefully with some cast alterations before then.

Sometimes it's a lot easier to sit back and watch adventure unfold in front of our eyes, especially during the cold winter months when getting out ourselves might prove a bit more difficult, which is why we've handpicked what to go in see in cinema this season that will satiate your appetite for adventure. In this issue we go treasure hunting with Nathan Drake in Fleis-



History Insight

William Perry Fogg



On the head of BBC's new series, *Around the World in 80 Days*, we explore the inspiration behind Verne's eccentric character of Phileas Fogg- William Perry Fogg.

Expeditions and science are akin, in that, modern explorers stand upon the shoulders of the great explorers who came before them to fuel their flame for discovery, and this fuel can manifest itself in the form of inspiration.

Perhaps you have already watched BBC's new adaption of Phileas Fogg? If not the miniseries, comprised of 8 easily consumable swashbuckling episodes, is available to watch now on iPlayer. Its premise is this- gentleman Fogg makes an expensive wager in the reform club that he can travel around the world in no less than 80 days.

Whilst the character of Fogg is entirely fictional, did you know that Jules Verne got his inspiration for Fogg from the real-life adventurer William Perry Fogg? And what's more is

that he wasn't British but American.

Perry Fogg was born in 1826 in Exeter, New Hampshire before he moved to Cleveland where he became engrossed in New England society and city affairs, helping to draft the Metropolitan Police Act of 1866.

Initially a chinaware merchant, adventure boiled in his blood, and he travelled to San Francisco where he boarded a Pacific Mail Steamer to Japan and so began his travels that would take him around the world.

Fogg ventured to several destinations including Singapore, China, Hong Kong, and Egypt. He also became the first American to travel to the interior of Japan. This might seem like a simple feat, but contextually, with limited transportation available, this would have required an abundance of determination.

His journey was documented in colourful descriptions that were transcribed in letters that were sent home to Cleveland to become serialised in the Cleveland Leader Newspaper. In 1872, this collection was published in a book 'Round the World Letters from Japan, China, India and Egypt.'

However, Fogg's spirit never dwindled and soon after he returned home, he set off again to Arabia where he ventured across the Middle East and from Persia to Baghdad resulting in the publication of his second book *The Land of the Arabian Nights* which can be purchased online today.

Unfortunately, Fogg passed away in 1909 but his spirit found immortality in the work of Jules Verne, the creator of Phileas Fogg, who himself travelled to many European countries and America. Ultimately, what Verne has made us realise through Fogg is that travelling is less a question of practicality but more so of courage and determination.





Tidal Venture: Sailing the World with Miss Ramm

In an exclusive interview, Expedition Pursuit gets a glimpse into the life of 21-year-old yacht sailor Melissa Ramm who shares with us her wander splashed experiences and how she gets paid to travel the world.

When I was piecing together ideas for this magazine I knew, from the outset, that I had to have Melissa involved. She is, in the modern sense, the epitome of youth adventure having submitted that competitive mountain which is realizing a profit from travelling.

However, she is also characteristic of the virtues of Expedition Pursuit in that she is representative of capturing adventure in unique ways. Melissa, essentially, is part of a crew that services and sails yachts for private owners.

As I write this, Melissa is in Palma de Mallorca refitting the yacht for the next season. To Melissa, Palma has become a surrogate home and in her crazy yearly schedule, Palma is a place of respite as her and the crew make their preparations.

But how did this sunny part of the world become a second home, and how did she get to where she is today? After achieving 3 A levels at high school and a youth spent with the sea cadets, Melissa decided that university was not for her and applied to join the UK Sailing Academy where she did her yacht masters.

“The one thing that has always inspired me is my family’s love for the sea. How much my mum and dad love it and how much my grandfather loved it. Whatever is going on in anyone’s lives you can go out in a boat and go sailing and everything just feels normal.”

Qualified as a professional sailor, Melissa then flew from the Isle of Wight to Palma Majorca where she carried out contract work on different boats until she landed her first permanent two months later.

In the two years that followed Melissa sailed around the around the world visiting a vast sum of exotic destinations that included the South of France, Ibiza, Minorca, Greece, Gibraltar and then over to Italy where she toured the Amalfi Coast and visited Venice.

But her sailing did not just encapsulate Europe, it also spanned across the Atlantic and included the Islands of the Bahamas.

“We did go to every single one of them which was amazing and incredible to see. The water was so clear, not many inhabitants and the wildlife were spectacular. At one point I got to swim with a dolphin.”

Reminiscing about life at sea, Melissa recounts another fond maritime memory,



“We were sailing from Scotland to Norway when we saw 12 orcas swimming around our boat. They are the most incredible whales ever; I’ve never seen anything like it in my life.”

However, when asked about her favourite memory what stands out from the others it belongs to the country where she was raised in- Northern Ireland.

“One of my absolute favourite things I ever did was bring the boat Athos into Stratford Lough during lockdown. My mum and little sister were able to come and have a look around the boat. We even got a pub open for the boss to have a pint in. We had to do a few illegal things to get that to happen but anyway,” Melissa laughs.

The Ramm family is a tight knit clan which regularly keep in touch. I asked if she ever gets home sick being away from home.

“The longest I’ve been away from home was a year, and to be honest it doesn’t really bother me. I get agitated if I’ve been at work for too long, but I don’t get home sick. It’s not like that with

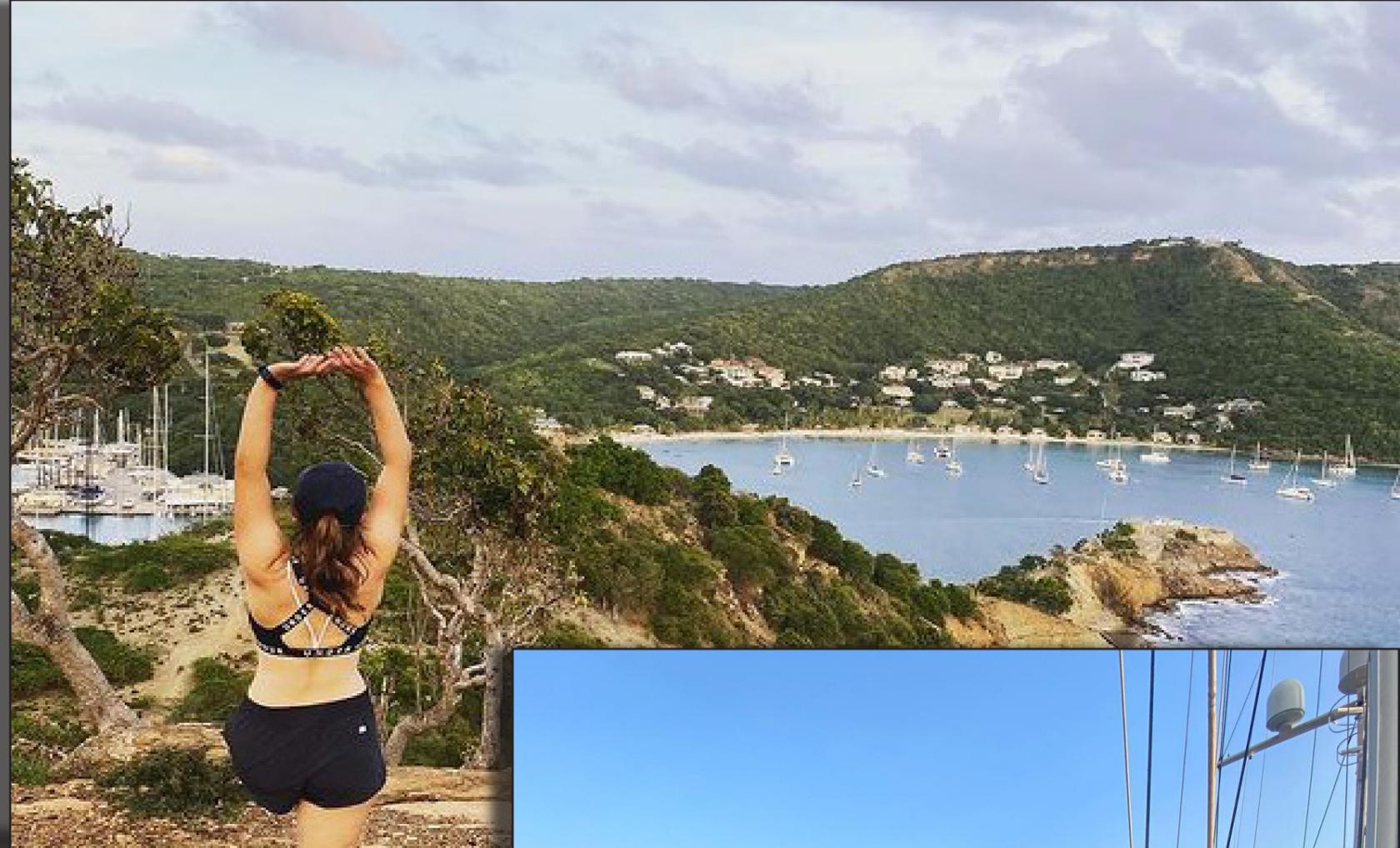
me. I like the adventure and I like travelling. I like seeing new places.”

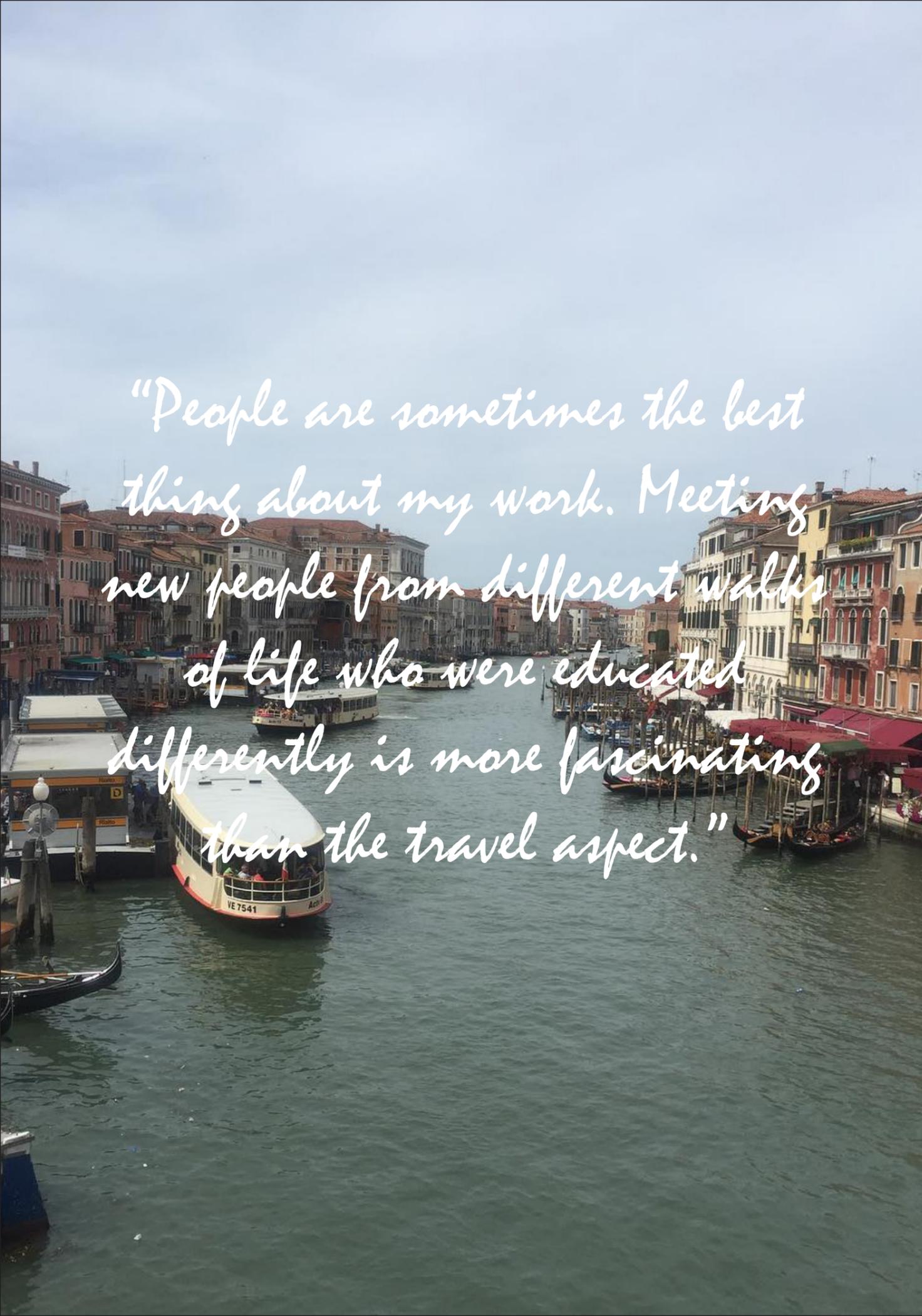
Yet, as the coined naval expression goes, it’s not always plain sailing as Melissa recollects some of the difficulties about sea life. “You work on a boat with ten other people. You know me and people from Ireland, England, Spain, and New Zealand. So sometimes language barriers are a problem.

“And because you are working, living, and socialising with the same people all the time, there’s no break, you don’t get to go home after work because you live at work. Therefore, it can be difficult to draw the line between how much time you spend together with your crew.

“But people are sometimes the best thing about my work. Meeting new people from different walks of life who were educated differently is more fascinating than the travel aspect.

“Working with people from different generations, as well as with people who are older and sometimes younger- to learn from and teach each other





"People are sometimes the best thing about my work. Meeting new people from different walks of life who were educated differently is more fascinating than the travel aspect."

can be so inspirational."

So, what is on the horizon for young Miss Ramm, who has already accomplished four Atlantic crossings?

"My career progression is my drive. I want to hone my skills to become a better sailor. I just want to be better at what I'm doing and take all the right steps to progress my career. I eventually want to be the person captaining the boat. It's a long way off but that is what my goal is eventually."



Who's Talking?

Melissa Ramm is a 22 year old sailor from Northern Ireland. She grew up sailing having spent fond memories exploring the Copeland Island where her Dad resides. For more amazing photography of her life at sea be sure to follow her instagram @shapedbythesea!





MONTBLANC



EXPLORER ULTRA BLUE

THE NEW FRAGRANCE FOR MEN



Literature of the Season

Wilbur Smith: Ghost Fire

With the release of Storm Tide around the corner we look back on its predecessor Ghost Fire to get us prepared for the storm ahead.

If you're anything like me, then popping into WHSmith anytime you are in the departure lounge of an airport is one of life's simple pleasures, and without fail, the works of African adventure novelist Wilbur Smith will be on display.

Unfortunately, the widely acclaimed novelist passed away at the end of last year, but that's not before he could team up with Tom Harper once again for another swashbuckling tale on the high seas.

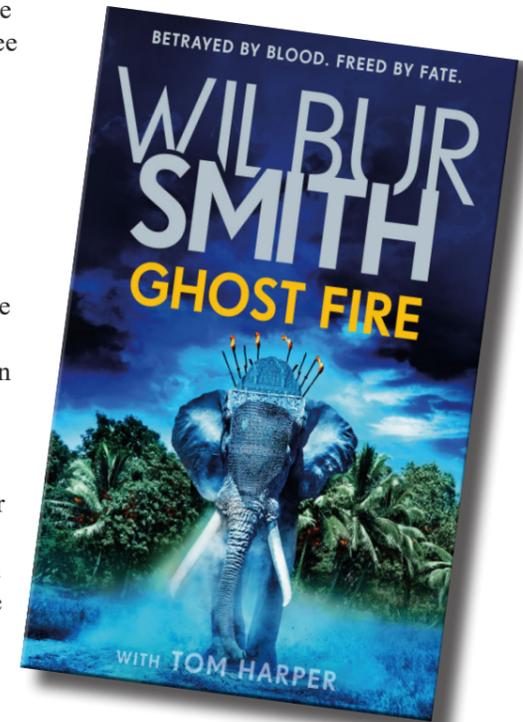
Whether or not you're a fan of the ghost author sequels is down to preference, but there is something about Tom Harper's style that leaves a lasting impression. Maybe it's the shorter books. Maybe it's because he works with the legendary Birds of Prey trilogy. Maybe

it's the conflicted but highly intriguing characters. Who knows? But Ghost Fire is unputdownable and we are glad to see him return for Storm Tide.

Ghost Fire follows the children of Mansur Courtney- adventure craving Theo Courtney and his dearly beloved but rebellious sister Constance Courtney. Separated by tragedy, the siblings find themselves on opposite sides of the earth. Constance flourishes amid the high society of Paris while Theo falls in with the wild Indians of the frontier in the new world.

Yet, the complexities of the Seven Year War between Britain and France intertwine the destinies of the siblings in an adventure that will have us on the edge of our seats and consuming endless amounts of coffee.

If you are looking for the perfect adventure that will suck you in this spring then look no further.



Bear Grylls: Never Give Up

Sitting tight this year? Need some motivation? Then buckle up because Bear Grylls is back with his much-awaited sequel to Mud, Sweat and Tears for another roaring ride through the wild.

If there is any adventurer out there who has mastered communicating the majesty of the wild it is Bear Grylls and his fresh new autobiography does not leave us unfulfilled.

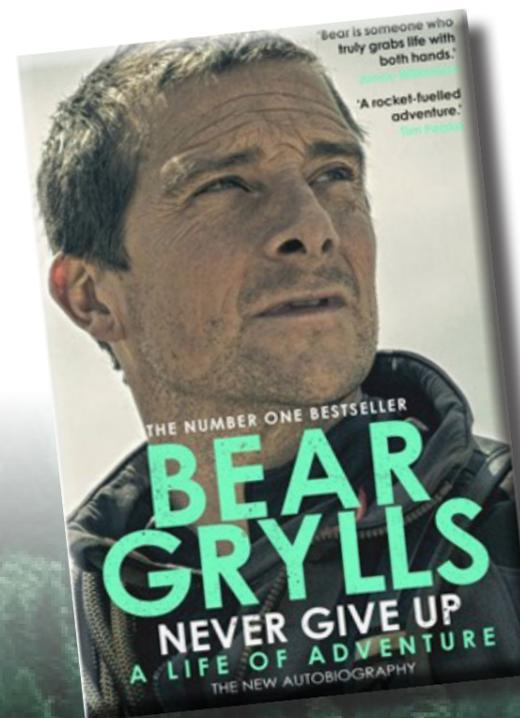
Those of you have read Mud, Sweat and Tears will remember that Grylls took us up to before his filming days and now we have finally, the much-anticipated insight into the television shows that made his name.

From Man vs. Wild to Running Wild and then You vs. Wild on Netflix we

get to grips with the many exclusive stories that took place behind the camera as well as get to meet the extra ordinary people that battled alongside him.

Action packed with short, digestible chapters- Grylls shares with us the many personal battles he had to face whilst remaining incredibly humble throughout to teach us what got him through and the true values of life.

Fame aside, we see Bear as never before- as a family man with his own struggles and failures- and that is what makes this such a beautiful read. Those of you who need inspiration, not just for getting out there but for life in general, should have this book on your bookshelf.



Christopher McCandless The Accidental Martyr of Exploration



The Mystery of McCandless

It can be difficult to speculate as to whether McCandless would have taken pride in the romanticism that followed his odyssey had he survived. Indeed, as Krakauer discovered, McCandless had an infectious, charismatic personality that haunted the people he left behind following his death.

Some would argue that he was inherently selfish, but I would argue that McCandless, in himself, was more of a paradox. He craved human company but quickly found it irksome. He was attracted to women, yet they paled in comparison to the intoxicating fruit that only the isolation of the wilderness can provide. He inspired various individuals but did not want the burden of attachment.

In essence, McCandless preached a nomadic existence that was given flame by his favourite romantic novelists such as Jack London, Henry David Thoreau, and Leo Tolstoy but he was no survivalist and the practical mistakes he endured proved fatal.

The mystery of his odyssey lies with his death. There can be no doubt that embarking on this great Alaskan adventure was a personal mountain for him to climb. Critics have been particularly harsh in this regard, but their barbed words lack perspective. *"The very basic core of a man's living spirit is his passion for adventure."*

For a start, McCandless had a turbulent family background that living in the confines of civilisation could never help him come to terms with, especially for one whose heart always housed a passion for nature exercised through the enjoyment of early childhood camping trips.

This passion built until it was begging for a release and with the catalyst of youthful vigour it exploded. Had McCandless denied himself this release, had McCandless not removed his cog in the machine that was society... That, arguably, is a far greater punishment and even greater folly than traipsing into the Alaskan wilderness unprepared.

Perhaps, after the call of the wild had been exonerated from his spirit through his Alaskan odyssey McCandless might have returned to society and re-inserted a more purified cog. Perhaps, after facing death, he would have found it within himself to forgive his parents and live in harmony with them. Or perhaps not, perhaps he would have returned to civilisation only to resume his nomadic existence some other time. No one can be certain of his intentions.

In June of 2020, Bus 142 was airlifted from the Alaskan wilderness for preservation in the University of Alaska Fairbanks. The bus is now a tourist attraction in the Museum of the North also in Alaska.

The bus, which was previously situated off the path of the Stampede Trail, was in fact the final resting place of Christopher McCandless. On the 18th of August 1992, an emaciated 24-year-old backpacker from the suburbs of Washington DC crawled into his sleeping bag and breathed his last.

It was day 112 of his 'Alaskan odyssey'. An odyssey that the boy had fantasized over for days on end. An odyssey which was to be the true test of man's endurance against the wilderness.

Since his death, the tragedy of McCandless has been cemented into legend by his biographer Jon Krakauer in 1996 and polished into mythology by film maker Sean Penn in 2007. Across the world many young adults resonated deeply with their hero.

They sympathised with the backpacker's desire to sever his connection with society, abandon modern living and to be liberated in the wilderness. They made him a martyr.

And so began the era of McCandless pilgrims. Hundreds of young adults putting their lives at risks to travel to Alaska to seek the tomb of Alexander Supertramp (Chris's exploratory alias) to pay respects to their idol but on a deeper level- to find meaning within themselves.

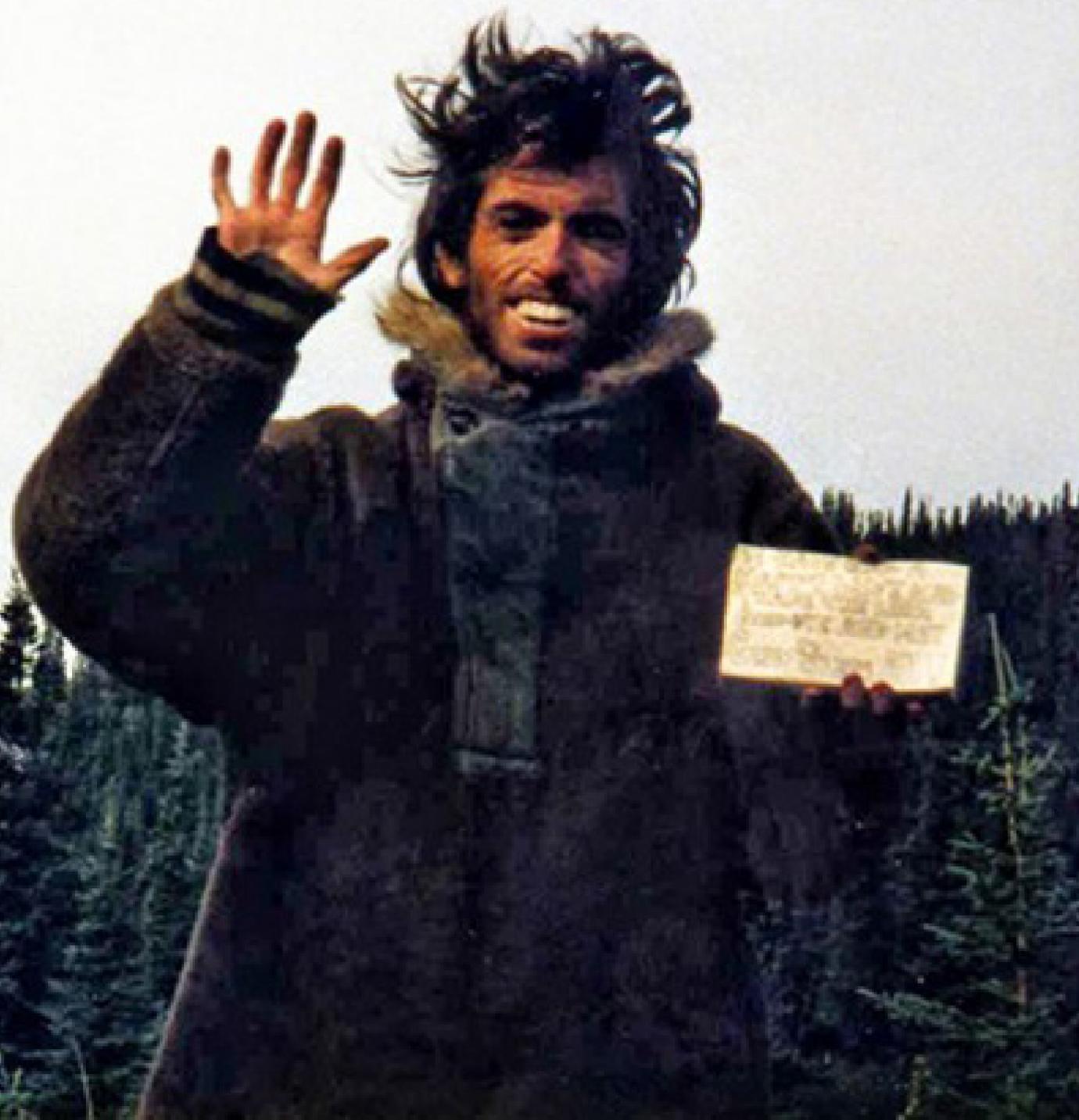
The 'magic bus' pilgrimage has so far cost the lives of two

backpackers while having injured another fifteen. Their quest for spiritual meaning strained Alaskan authorities until an evacuation of the bus was necessary.

However, the cult that McCandless unintentionally birthed still finds substance and the emotional turmoil they leave in their wake continues. Recently Samuel Thompson, a McCandless inspired teenager, disappeared into the Australian bush to live off the grid much to the consternation of his loved ones. He has since been found.

In this exclusive article I will attempt to analyse the mystery of McCandless and explore the dangers of his legacy that I believe has been misunderstood. I will then bring to light the meaning of the wild that McCandless tragically discovered only when it was too late.

"Happiness is only real when shared"



The Danger of Natural Philosophy and Primitive Masculinity

McCandless's personal struggles are often overlooked. People see the surface of his odyssey and see it as a vehicle through which to express their own discontentment with society and to then act upon it. Moreover, his innocent infatuation with the wilderness evokes primitive masculinity from his male followers.

Like a petri dish in a laboratory, such emotions are cultivated. A healthy society is a product of the hard work of those who came before us. Its development surged through historical periods such as the renaissance, the industrial revolution and of course, war. Traditionally, men were at the forefront and the women occupied a more domestic role.

However, in an age of growing gender equality times have changed and during peace time, especially as direct consequence of the 'baby boom', the job market is flooded. Increasingly, it has become more difficult for a man to prove himself.

This desire to prove himself, often weighs itself heavier in a young man who would possess a stronger imagination, his romanticism breeding expectancy. The archetypal quiet gentleman who finds it difficult to prove himself against more domineering men may even cherish the comfort of solitary in the wilderness

From this perspective, it can be easier to understand why McCandless, who stemmed from a comfortable middle-class background in the suburbs of Washington DC and, might I add, a reluctant university graduate with a father who had a high-flying career, felt an urgency to test himself in the Alaskan wilderness.

Inadequacy, a life without a mon-

umental test to look back on, is a powerful deprecating guilt that can spur even the most languid first world man.

In no manner am I condemning this emotion. In fact, I consider it to be a crucial, healthy emotion if not motivating. As much as I would like to write with impartiality, like Krakauer, I cannot refrain myself from doing so.

My own father was a soldier, his challenges impaired upon me a desire to test my own masculinity. It is why I solo backpack and enjoy camping in the wilderness alone. In the end of the day, it is something which I feel is masculine to be proud of whilst being a simultaneously restoring hobby that everyone, regardless of gender, should do.

The danger with natural philosophy, however, is when one seeks the primitive world with a murky sense as to why they are seeking it and when one does not recognise their limitations or does not see merit in placing them.

The wild is an unforgiving domain, testified by the death of McCandless. At best, the isolation that it offers- and its seemingly perennial existence- offers endless time for reflection. A place where one could gather their thoughts and conquer old demons as they emerge.

This is true in the case of Cheryl Strayed, a former heroine addict who was suffering from the loss of her mother and a broken marriage who went into the wild and emerged a stronger, more confident character with a successful post wilderness life. Like McCandless, she is an idol with both a book and film made about her.

The difference between Strayed and McCandless, however, was that

Strayed had limitations. Her time in the wilderness had an obvious end point in the form of the last mile of the Pacific Coast Trail. McCandless's limitations were opaquer, it is questionable as to whether he knew when he was going to emerge from the wilderness and rekindle his connection with loved ones.

Therefore, at worst the wild is an executioner. Unlike our ancestors, we are no longer accustomed to its ways and to go unprepared into her seemingly tantalizing reaches is ultimately suicide.

Contradictory to claims that McCandless was seemingly naïve in this regard there is eery evidence to support that he was aware that he might be walking to his death in the Alaskan frontier in his letter to Wayne Westerberg, a friend in South Dakota-

"It might be a very long time before I return South. If this adventure proves fatal and you don't ever hear from me again, I want you to know you're a great man, I now walk into the wild"

Regardless of what critics have to say about McCandless, if he was clouded by the romanticism of natural philosophy, there is catharsis from the dignity that Krakauer affords him when describing his last moments when McCandless knew that he was on the verge of death.

"It's not apparent from the photograph. He is smiling in the picture, and there is no mistaking the look in his eyes. Chris McCandless was at peace, serene as a monk gone to God"

Krakauer's powerfully poetic but unmistakable religious imagery marks the birth of the accidental martyr and the many pilgrimages that follow.

McCandless's Revelation

As mentioned previously, McCandless was a paradox and in the face of death the social recluse discovered the greatest truth that contradicted his entire idealism. He wrote, "Happiness is only real when shared"

This gives further cause for belief that McCandless intended to return to civilisation had he more time. However, his revelation did not mean that his wanderings were in vain for McCandless embraced death in a manner of acceptance. He had finally satiated the thirst for adventure within himself.

Therefore, if he knew that death was ominous then this message about happiness can only have been addressed to the people who discovered his corpse- to us. It is more than likely that, deep within himself, McCandless cherished the time he spent with society, especially the strangers he met while in pursuit of his odyssey.

There is more that can be gleaned from the philosophy of McCandless. In a letter to Ronald Franz- another of McCandless's friends he met in his wanderings- he writes

"The very basic core of a man's living spirit is his passion for adventure. The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun."

This and McCandless's final revelation about happiness, are what I believe to be the most moving passages. McCandless was right to reject the rat race of life- the pursuit of wealth- for it is a corrupting idealism. To have little money but to have an endlessly changing horizon whilst being surrounded by good people is a much better way to sustain oneself.

He was wrong to reject society outright, however. Society is evolutionary and what we call modern living is to its basic core survivalism. In conjunction, the wilderness, providing we make every effort to preserve it, will always be a restorative force that can cleanse and purify the soul. But true happiness can only be found in each other.



Your Thoughts on the Magic Bus

"I'm torn because I think it's a good thing it is going to be preserved for all to see. It would have rusted to nothing if it was left. Now that it's gone however, removes some magic of the story."

"Removing it is fine for preservation. I think they should have replaced it with a survival shack since that was once the intention of leaving the bus there. It was a refuge for anyone who was lost or hunting and had been used by many others for that purpose"

"Normally I'm a huge fan of abandoned items like that. There's something to be said for earning a look at things like that by being willing to put in the work to find them.

And people die attempting to fulfill their life goal of climbing certain mountains..so there's that.

But yes...to echo a lot of these comments, it's actually kind of cool that it's preserved somewhere safe. I would love to see it in its original setting but probably never would have. Now I have a chance to see it, safely."

"I'd say never touch it as it's putting rescuers in dangers trying to save others...so it's for the best."

"As someone who's been to the bus twice as a young adult, I think it's good to remove it. We were lucky to have survived after building a Huck Finn raft and floating the Teklinika, out of control and dumb. Young and lucky."

"The removal took away a dream of mine. But I understand it sort of. I feel that people who undertake such a thing know it's a risk. It's like anything. If you ride a motorcycle you know you'll crash one day. If you rock climb you know you'll fall one day. And when you hike into back country you know you can go missing or get hurt at anytime. We all take the risks we want. And so did he and everyone that went to visit the spot."

Hike Spotlight: The Corfu Trail

It's that time of year again. The planning season. January has come and gone, our banks are beginning to hydrate from Christmas and we're thinking to ourselves... "What adventure will mark this year?"

In our spotlight feature we draw potential hikes up against our three values of affordability, accessibility, and of course how amazing they are. We found that the Corfu Trail hit all three.

Spanning 220 kilometres in length on the tucked away island of Corfu north-west of Greece, the Corfu trail is the perfect Mediterranean adventure beginning at the southernmost tip of the island in a village known as Kavos to finish in the lush beach of Agios Spyridon to the north of the island.

While suggested travelling periods are from May to October, Corfu is so nurtured by the sun that the hike can be accomplished all year round. Yes- t-shirts, shorts and light jackets are the way forward in Corfu as well as swimming gear- for the island provides ample opportunity for dipping in its shimmering, turquoise waters.

Founded in 2001, what makes the trail unique is how untouched it is by the currents of tourism. A diverse landscape incorporating sparkling beaches, rolling juniper dunes, spectacular olive groves and rocky gorges- you're not hiking just anywhere, you're hiking in paradise.

Ultimately, we grade this hike a low-medium difficulty and classify it as being more of a holiday hike than a challenge. We estimate that the hike should take a fit walker up to 10 days to complete, but we recommend spending 11-12 days to absorb the island's glory. Historic sights you will pass are monasteries, manor houses and quayside tavernas, so take the time to enjoy them.

The hike is fully waymarked therefore sharp navigation skills are not necessary, but as always, we suggest purchasing a map of the island and a travel guide to reinforce your confidence.

So how do you reach this exotic Greek getaway that is commonly referred to as the Emerald Isle?

Many capital airports will have available flights that will take you straight to Corfu. We recommend booking well in advance



for the cheapest rates.

Then, when you arrive at Corfu airport, hitch a ride in a taxi to the neon lit Kavos or, depending on your time of arrival, jump aboard a bus.

A thing to note about Kavos- it is celebrated for its nightlife- so if you are a clubber you may want to book yourself a night in one of the many affordable hotels Kavos has to offer. Again, booking well in advance on a website such as Booking.com is advised.

Excluding the cost of hiking commodities, such as food and water, that can be purchased along the trail in some of the sleepy villages you will encounter, and assuming that you are camping along the trail AND assuming you haven't booked last minute, we calculated that the cost of this expedition should value around £500.

Have you hiked this trail before and would like to share your experience? Be sure to email expeditionpursuit@gmail.com for a chance to be included in next seasons issue!



Editor's Experience: Hadrian's Wall



About This Trip

This was a joint trip that I planned and did with Felix Poblozki when I was 18. Felix's recent van trip across France and Spain can be read about on pages 8-13!



On the second anniversary of my Hadrian's Wall expedition, I reflect on the wild and hilarious trip that set 2020 off on an unforgettable start.

This Day Two Years Ago...

It's Monday evening. I have just returned to Newcastle Upon Tyne to resume my final year at university after a Christmas of food and drink. I start back to work at the bar tomorrow evening. I have class again the following week. Back to life.

My phone beeps. It's Felix- he has shared a memory over WhatsApp- of a tent on a riverbank and it hits me that this day two years him and I had embarked upon the historic hike from Newcastle to Carlisle.

I have never written about Hadrian's Wall before. I always think of it as the Expedition Pursuit prelude days, and I always dismiss the thought of even attempting to. It has been too long, and I can't remember it in detail enough to write an accurate travel piece. Such things must be encompassed that very evening.

Nevertheless, the experience stays with you- as well as the wild and hilarious moments that define it- and they at least are worth writing about.



An Unlikely Journey

Any time I reflect upon Hadrian's Wall I always smile. Even the circumstances that preceded the trip were precarious.

It was in the middle of a bleak January; preparation was minimum and yet some undefinable force of nature within me defied common sense and we set off.

There's not much that can be said for the first two days of our trip. We left the city behind us, camped outside of Prudhoe on the first night and then outside of Hexham on the second, refuelling at both these towns.

There's something magnificent about winter dawns. A rising sun that casts brilliant colours on the sky and melts the frosty dew under your boots. You feel privileged to witness

it as the world around you holds its breath. It's the only thing that makes waking up so early in January worth it. It was on our third morning with this cold morning sunshine on our backs that we finally began to see remnants of this ancient wall. And as we neared Housesteads, these remnants turned into long stretches of crumpled brick.

The ground at this point begins to elevate and you are greeted with undisrupted views over Scotland. For a period, you are no longer yourself- you are a Roman soldier in the days of wild and untamed Britannia patrolling the wall under Emperor Hadrian.

Housesteads truly is the peak of the Hadrian's Wall expedition. In fact, a lot of hikers finish the journey here for there is not much to see of the old wall past this point. There's even a museum to mark the occasion and a gift shop.

The Road to Carlisle

Now that we had passed the pinnacle of our expedition the mission was simple- head west to Carlisle and try to stick to the trail as best as possible.

Of course, that wasn't always the case, and on more than one occasion we found ourselves having drifted away from the path and having to navigate back on to it again. Sometimes in darkness for the early setting sun was unfor-giving.

We were reaching the point of exhaustion and slept like rocks at night, well maybe not exactly for Felix. At one point he was convinced that a bear was sniffing around our tent, and I had to convince him that this was England not Germany.



Nonetheless, in our delirious state, even sheep put us on edge. It can be difficult to imagine, but at one point we were running away from a herd of more than a hundred horned sheep.

The next day we were even more off track than usual and found ourselves in private land. This was after crossing a fast-flowing river on a feeble fallen branch and fishing our rucksacks across to each other on another branch.

Finally, the Irishman and the German knew they were lost when we heard the echo of rifle fire reverberate throughout the trees. At one point Felix stooped and picked up the casing of a rifle bullet. "A souvenir," he joked. I pocketed it. Even now it sits on my desk as I type this. Emerging onto a long driveway beneath a farmhouse, we ascended the gravel path to meet a furious woman standing outside in her dressing gown with her

arms crossed.

"You do realise that you're on private land?" she reprimanded. We hastily apologized and explained that we were merely confused backpackers doing Hadrian's Wall. I asked for directions to Carlisle.

It was Friday, the final day of walking, and I must admit my patience with the whole trip was running thin. I was exhausted and hungry. Much to Felix's protestations about trying to relocate the path to take a more scenic route to Carlisle we tramped along the road.

Two hours later, we were back to civilisation in the town of Carlisle. My first port of call? An ice-cold pint and a tender steak. Only I was that exhausted that I forgot the different terminology of steaks and had to get the waitress to explain it for me.



Knoydart Spectral Seclusion Between Heaven and Hell



On the west coast of Scotland in the Lochaber Highlands lies a secluded peninsula. It's cut off from the mainland- can only be reached by boat, or through the rugged hills that hug it from behind. They call the Lochs that wrap around this remote peninsula Heaven and Hell. Welcome to Knoydart.

No one leaves Knoydart. Not really. The velvet green highlands that juxtaposition often with sheer grey rock hold a mystic allure over the spirit that captivate it forever. It is why a hundred souls have chosen to inhabit this primal, but enchanting land as their home.

“It's not like the Lake District. Its remoteness makes it different. With the lake district you know you're going to bump into people, but not Knoydart,” says Nathan Lee, a hiking enthusiast from Ashington.

Nathan spent a total of four nights in the Knoydart wilderness with his father. They had travelled in by ferry during the summer of 2019.

“It would have been impossible if not dangerous to travel there at any other time of the year. There is no phone signal. If something happens up there you're cut off. And the sea swells during the winter and that's the only other way in.

“It's like you're travelling 100 years back in time. It's just you and the wilderness with nowhere to resupply until

Inverie, and even then, a mediaeval feeling permeates the village.”

Inverie is Knoydart’s main settlement and is home to only 120 villagers. It is comprised mainly of people whose family roots are embellished in the peninsula and people who have come to settle after having grown tired of society.

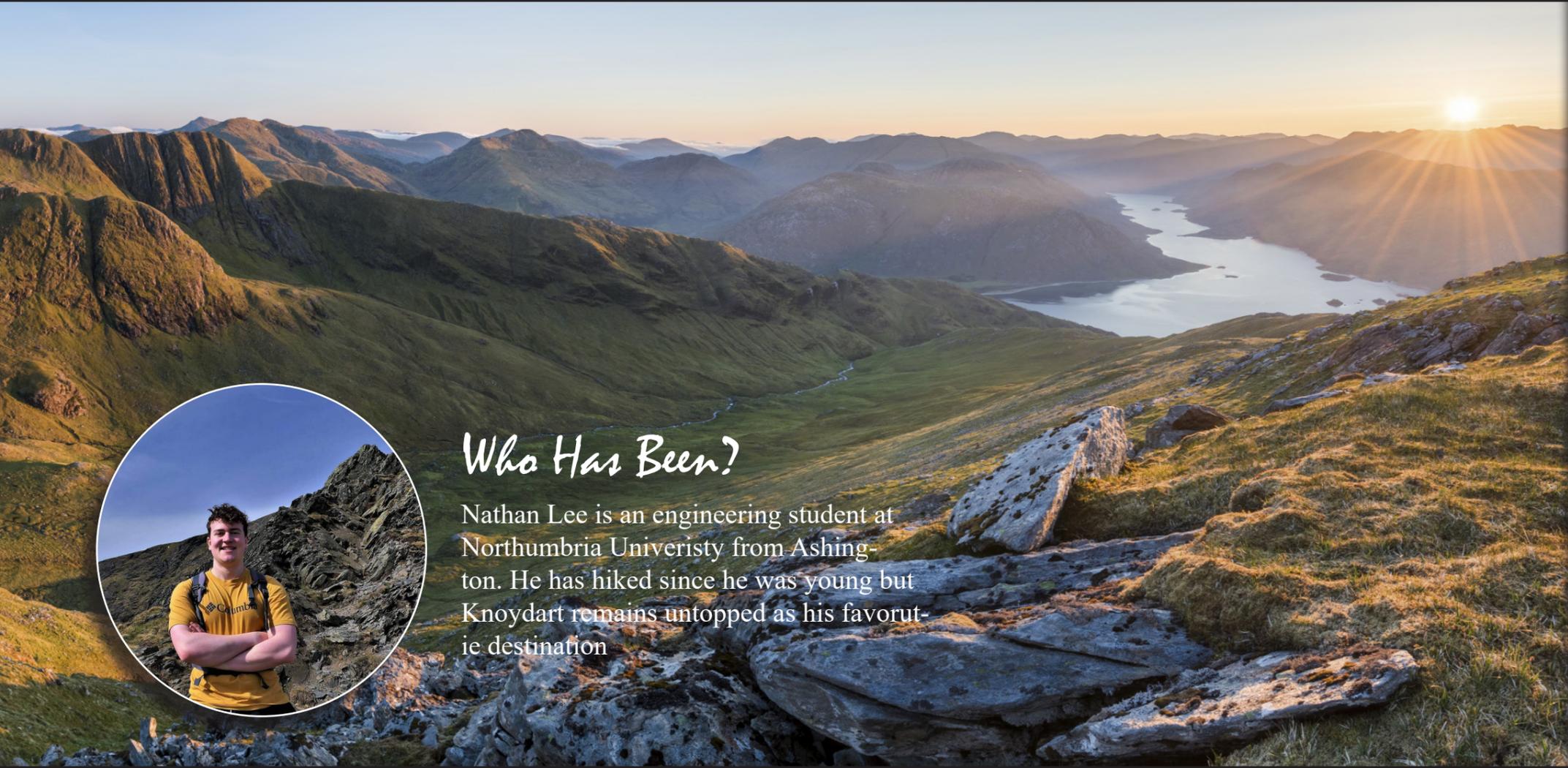
Its economy is part sustained by hikers and wanderers alike who pass through the isolated village. “It blew us away as to how friendly the inhabitants of this village were. At our time of visiting, the local pub was closed so a man who lived close by sold chilli to people who passed by. He then used the profit to purchase more ingredients so he could continue to do what he was doing.”

While having an astounding landscape, the peninsula is rife with wildlife that make Knoydart a popular location for hunters. On one occasion, Nathan encountered a herd of over 30 stags.

“It was a spectacular sight to witness and was something wild that I had never encountered until then.”

On speaking about rare occurrences while in Knoydart, Nathan’s father also got the chance to capture a Brocken Spectre that can be watched on his YouTube channel Blamhoff.

Brocken Spectres are rare yet beautiful optical phenomenon of a radical rainbow. The weather effect is created on a misty day when the sun is behind the hiker- their shadow is then projected forwards through the mist. The rainbow effect being caused by the sun hitting water particles in the air. Such a result can usually only often be witnessed through an exceedingly high elevation.



Who Has Been?

Nathan Lee is an engineering student at Northumbria Univeristy from Ashington. He has hiked since he was young but Knoydart remains untopped as his favorite destination



Expedition Pursuit

Take It Further this Season

Gear Highlight

Karrimor Orkney 5 Walking Boots



Tresspass Zip Off Cargo



Feet. To a hiker they are the war horses we ride upon and must be looked after at all costs. Fail to do so and they will act as your silent killer preventing you from finishing your trip. Therefore, investing in a solid pair of boots is worth your while and you will find no better than the Karrimor Orkney 5 Walking Boots.

The Orkney's possess a tough, waterproof leather exterior that will simultaneously keep your feet dry and protect them no matter what you put them through. While the breaking in process is always daunting for any hiker, your feet will always be comfortable with a cushioned midsole, padded ankle collar and waterproof

leather upper for a superior feel until the leather is at one with your feet. It is also of note that the leather is easy washed granting fashionable everyday use.

In addition, the valiant Vibram soul is welded professionally to the boot that will allow for extensive durability that will last for years. The soul provides excellent grip across uneven terrain and the rubber will absorb shock making those descents less arduous.

These boots can be found at a moderate price and is a proven investment that will last a lifetime.

Adventurers. The year is 2022 and cargo trousers, which were originally popular in the 80s, have once again become fashionable. And who can deny the aesthetic? They look loose, have a rugged appeal attached to them and are undoubtedly practical.

This makes it even more imperative that you own at least one pair in your wardrobe and what better pair to own than Tresspass's zip off cargo trousers. These Rynne trousers are convertible, feature a

mosquito repellent finish and have UV 40+ protection making them ideal for use in warmer, tropical climates. Perfect for the summer season up ahead.

The fabric is also quick dry which helps to manage sweat build up keeping you cool along your journey. The attached belt allows for easy adjustment and the trousers come fitted with six pockets offering excellent versatility. If you're going to hike, hike in style.

Expedition Pursuit

Take It Further this Season

Gear Highlight

Vango Orion 200 Trekking Tent



Deeplee Camping Mat

DEEPLLEE



In the outdoor market, Vango maintains a proud reputation with its tents so much so that they are a staple in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. The Orion 200 is no exception.

This trekking tent is great for beginners with a set up time of only 10 minutes, and what's more is that it is a year-round tent meaning it is appropriate for almost any climate. The polyester exterior

offers fantastic water resilience, and the tent even comes with a porch where you can store your boots and rucksack.

The interior is lined with pockets on either side and the tunnel shape provides a cozy atmosphere that keeps the cold at bay. Overall, the tent only weighs 2.62 making it one of the greatest lightweight tents around.

One of the most underrated but most valuable accessories a camper could have is a comfortable inflatable roll mat. Something you can sink into after a long day of walking. What's more is that we all know a comfortable sleep is the key to the following day's success.

That is why we have tested, tried, and recommend Deeplee's camping mat. The mat is made with premium 40D nylon fabric and a TPU coating that provide water resistance, breathability, and easy cleaning.

The mat is air activated with valves, for both the attached pillow and mattress, and can be inflated within a minute. Once inflated, the camper will notice the hexagonal structure that adds to the comfort of its user.

But perhaps the most outstanding quality of this accessory is its convenience, once air compressed and packed into its casing, the mattress weighs light and shrinks to the size of a water bottle. Brilliant.

Expedition Pursuit

Take It Further this Season

Gear Highlight

Lowe Alpine Airzone Trek



The ultimate summer backpack. While having a lower capacity than most backpacks, Alpine's Airzone Trek compensates with supreme lightweight comfort making it suitable for an expedition ranging from a weekend to a week away. Suitable for both male and females, the material is 100% polyamide boasting water repellence and abrasion resistance. It is also tougher than other fabrics meaning it is less prone to tearing and comes with a water cover.

The Airzone is intricately designed with a round spring steel frame that will profoundly ease the strain on your back, but perhaps the most enamouring aspect of the Airzone is that which it was named

for, it's breathability most espoused in its 3D mesh back panelling and shoulder straps.

Moreover, the Airzone comes with other additional features that include; two side mesh compartments, a front compartment, an ice axe holder, a lid compartment, key clip, inner zipped pocket, adjustable lid and compression straps that include an emergency whistle.

Due to its lightweight nature, it is recommended that you pack accordingly with lightweight equipment that can easily be compressed.

Get In Touch!

Thank you for picking up this season's edition of Expedition Pursuit. We hope you enjoyed!

Have some feedback? Or maybe you have an idea for one of our next articles? If so we would love to hear from you!

Email: expeditionpursuit@gmail.com

Instagram: [@expedition_pursuit](https://www.instagram.com/expedition_pursuit)

Tel: 07752 114325



New
Renault **DUSTER ADVENTURE EDITION**

What's stopping you?





9 771234 567003