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BY AMANDA THURSDAY TRAVELER MARCH 7, 2013

THURSDAY TRAVELER: DAVID THOMPSON

*Every Thursday, A Dangerous Business will be shining the spotlight on a world nomad, travel blogger, armchair adventurer, or just someone really cool in the travel world. This week, the traveler is **David Thompson** of [Dave's Travel Corner](#). Dave is an international travel writer who founded Dave's Travel Corner in 1996. He enjoys the outdoors, writing, photography, mountain climbing, meeting people, the Internet and experiencing other cultures. What could possibly combine all these varied interests... why, travel of course!*



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1. How do you define the word “traveler,” and why would you consider yourself one?

I define the word “traveler” as one who is constantly exploring — whether it’s in their hometown or across the planet. A traveler maintains a keen sense of interest in experiencing new things, whether it be cuisine, culture, or landscapes (urban and rural). A traveler does not just “visit” a place — rather he/she spends quality time there and looks for experiences and an understanding about a region. This is how I enjoy traveling.

2. What has been your favorite travel experience thus far?

It has been exploring the world’s greatest and most picturesque mountains from the Andes to the Himalayas. I love trekking and climbing with friends — the bonds that are created between people through hardship when trying to obtain a goal of summiting a peak are invaluable and last the rest of your life. Specifically it has been trekking to Everest Base Camp in Nepal and climbing a 6,000 meter peak in the high Andes of Peru.

3. How about your proudest travel moment?



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This would have to be reaching the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro a few years back. I reached a high point and was so weak with exhaustion and altitude sickness that I turned back. But there is a spot near the summit where you have a second chance to try for the top and I summoned the last of my energy and will power to actually reach it!

4. Have you had any travel mishaps or bad experiences? If so, have these influenced how you view the place where they happened? Would you go back?

For the most part my travel experiences have been positive — there is always the day to day wear and tear of travel — especially logistically getting from one place to the other. I have a weak immune system to the rigors of travel — so there have been a number of times where being really sick ruins the experience of being in a certain area.

There have been random bad experiences; like the time I looked away from my old laptop in the Johannesburg airport and within a minute someone had taken it. It wasn't the value of the computer but rather the data on it that I lost. Any bad experiences in my travels have been isolated, though, and I don't let those experiences influence my decisions on whether to return.

5. Name one thing you can't travel without.

My ultrabook. This lightweight computer is a lifesaver. My desktop is the most important “thing” that I own — whereas while I'm on the road, it is the ultrabook. I need this to update my website and manage content (photos, videos, text etc); it is how I maintain my travel lifestyle and income while abroad.

6. Name one thing you wish you COULD travel without.



My heavy SLR camera and lens. I've always been a proponent of traveling light — and regardless of my destination, I always travel with a small school size backpack (carry-on only). However, I'm a photography enthusiast and my camera is the heaviest thing I always have with me. You can't beat the quality of photos from a good camera with good “glass” (lens) and unfortunately these are both heavy.

7. What do you think has been the biggest thing you've learned while traveling (about yourself, a destination, a culture, travel itself)?

To never judge a country based on pre-conceived notions or stereotypes built up before I actually visit that country. When you visit a country and spend some in depth time exploring, you discover the realities of the location and get to know people (I enjoy doing homestay and couch surfing).

8. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be and why?

There are two places and I would like to live in — each one about half of the year. One would be in the hills immediately to the north of Santa Barbara, California. You are generally above the fog,

the weather is typically very mild year round, and you have a rural living experience but are within a short drive of urban Santa Barbara and less than 2 hours to Los Angeles for world class events, cuisine and diversity across cultures.



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The second place (which I get a taste of several times a year) is Thailand. Ultimately I would love to live here (where I am currently) about 5-6 months of the year, effectively missing any cold weather in California. The lifestyle here is laid-back, the weather is warm, the food is amazing, so is the tropical fruit (one of my passions), and living is cheaper than in California.

9. Name one place you'd like to see or one experience you'd like to have before you die.

That would be Antarctica — and I hate cold weather! With that said, the natural beauty and harshness of environment that life clings to in a place that remote and that cold is appealing to me to experience at least once. Plus it is the only continent I have yet to visit.

10. If there was one thing you wish somebody would have told you before you started traveling, what would it be?

I have found this out on my own through a lot of traveling and overseas experience — fear is often blown out of proportion when it comes to discussing certain countries. Whether it's fear of the unknown, fear of logistics once you arrive, or fear from media reports. Even countries that are marked as “dangerous” often have certain regions that are quite safe to visit.

Visit Dave's site: [Dave's Travel Corner](#)

Follow Dave on Twitter: [@davedtc](#)

Are you a travel blogger who has something to say on these topics? Do you know of somebody really interesting in the travel universe that you'd like to see interviewed? [Speak up!](#) The Thursday Traveler needs some interview subjects.

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- [HANNAH @ GETTING STAMPED](#)

MARCH 7, 2013 AT 11:40 PM

Great interview and questions! Let us know if you would ever be interested in interviewing us, or/and letting us interview you for our website!

REPLY



- [DALE](#)

MARCH 8, 2013 AT 3:50 AM

It's funny how more and more people are listing a computer of some kind as their one thing they couldn't travel without. Is that because there are just more & more travel writers or that people are as likely to carry a computer with them as they travel as much as someone a hundred years ago would have carried a typewriter or a pad of paper and their favourite fountain pen.

Admittedly, I'm typing this on my netbook which I'd be hard-pressed to be without, but it does certainly make me think.

BTW, you 'Speak Up!' link towards the end is a 404.

REPLY



- [DANGEROUSBIZ](#)

MARCH 8, 2013 AT 9:09 AM

It's a very good thing to ponder. I think it just boils down to how connected we always are these days, whether at home or while traveling. I know plenty of people who AREN'T writers/bloggers who travel with netbooks or iPads in order to be able to hop online when they're on the road. A sign of the times, I think!