

It's the journey not just the destination

Original overland adventures

Journey across: [Americas](#) | [Asia](#) | [Africa](#)



The screenshot shows the Dragoman website homepage. At the top left is the Dragoman logo, a bus icon, and the tagline "It's the journey not just the destination Original overland adventures". Below this is a navigation menu with links for Destinations, Special Offers, Overlanding, Family Overlanding, About Us, Booking, Community, and Careers. On the right, there are links for Member Login and Agent Login, and a contact number 0800 770 107. A search bar is also present. The main content area features a "SEARCH NOW! WITH OUR INTERACTIVE MAP" button and a large banner for "BECOME A DRAGOLANDER" with a photo of a bus in a desert landscape and the text "MEET YOUR FELLOW TRAVELLERS BEFORE YOU GO LOG IN AND GET SOCIALISING".

next



Dave is one of the most dedicated travellers Dragoman has ever met, having started [davestravelcorner](#) back in 1996. Davestravelcorner is a blog to lose yourself in, full of advice, guides and anecdotal accounts from travelling around the world. We catch up with Dave in between his travels

Dave started his blog site following a trek in Nepal close to Everest Base Camp. After reading his accounts from this Nepalese journal we're surprised to hear that he wanted to carry on travelling: it certainly demonstrates his true dedication to exploring the globe. During the trek Dave was struck down with exhaustion, rendering him unable to walk for parts of the expedition. Dave refused to be put off, and since then has continued to have new, exciting experiences all over the world, working to a number of different budgets.

1. On your travels, you've taken in some stunning locations, and you seem to be a genuine aficionado of the great outdoors. Where would you say holds the most awe-inspiring scenery? Argentina looks pretty spectacular to us.



I love mountains. In my travels, some of the most incredible mountain beauty I've come across have been in parts of the Canadian Rockies, the Peruvian Andes, the great Himalayas and some of the European Alps. With that said, parts of Argentina are spectacular – in a different way though, than say in Peru. In Argentina these mountains are more massive looking – not as jagged as in parts of Peru.

2. Was there anything you hoped to discover by travelling?

After my first trip to Nepal (which turned me on to International travel) I craved an environment that was different than the one where I grew up. I craved the sensory overload that travel sometimes brings especially in countries that are inherently different from the "west" - in their customs, religions, food and way of life. I wanted to enrich my perspective on the world, and travel certainly does this.



3. What items went in your backpack/suitcase the first time you went travelling, and which ones turned out to be completely useless?

Too many clothes! Over numerous trips to both cold and warm weather destinations I learned to pack accordingly, especially the types of clothing for colder environments so that I limit the number of items I brought, yet still stay warm. I would rather do laundry more often than carry a heavier pack or check in luggage on flights.

4. What are the best and worst things about travelling the world?

The best are meeting people from a diversity of cultures, customs, interests and perspectives. The worst for me is having a weak stomach combined with a desire to try all sorts of cuisine. Fortunately, my stomach seems to have caught up to my palate over the years and I rarely have problems with street food anymore!

5. What is the most unusual place you've ever slept in?

In the living room inside the home of a village chief of police in North East Yemen. Without a formalized transport system between villages/towns in this part of Yemen - the local chief of police would transport us in his vehicle. When we walked into his home - we saw weapons lining the floor standing upright against the walls. He asked us which weapon we wanted to sleep with! Umm, "I guess I will take that AK47 in the corner".



6. The Australian outback is one place that has captured many people's imaginations and one area that has certainly intrigued us. What were your experiences there and do you have any tips for those about to embark on an adventure to that part of the world?

My advice is don't rush through the Outback! It is such a huge part of Australia that you will have to pinpoint where and what you want to see. Highlights for me included Uluru, Kata Tjuta, Kings Canyon National park and riding the Ghan through the interior of the country (one of the world's great train rides). In Uluru, be sure to visit the Aboriginal Centre for the local's perspective and stories about the region. You can certainly join any of a number of organized tours that explore this region but there is a certain

freedom in renting a 4wd and exploring on your own.

This region is so vast - with a population in the entire area less than 700,000 people. Culturally, the Aborigines who have lived in the Outback for thousands of years are very diverse - with language, customs and traditions. I would love to explore more of their heritage on another visit. If you look at a colourful Aboriginal language map of Australia, it will make you dizzy – the country is a patchwork quilt of language diversity.

And the wildlife, which is a mix of introduced and native species. Did you know Australia actually has about one million wild camels?!

7. Which places would you visit again, and which will you never go back to? Why?

I never turn down a trip involving mountains and glaciers. This type of rugged raw beauty has always inspired me. I have not been inspired by parts of Central America during my travels there. But inspiration often comes from experiences and people you meet and I'm never one to totally write off a destination.

8. What should you mentally prepare for when taking up a world travel expedition?

Do not rush a trip like this. Being on the road for month after month can wear on you if you don't take time to stop along the way and recover from the "go, go" that travel brings from a trip of this length. Also bring an open mind for having experiences, some will be good, some will not be but all are an inherent part of travel.

9. What was the first experience that really made you think twice about the way we live life in the West?

Spending some time in Varanasi India. Watching bodies burn next to the Ganges, watching ashes placed in the river, watching people drink this water. Seeing cows and monkeys wandering around the city. Seeing naked people meditating in the middle of roads with people just walking around them. Listening to sitar music in the late night next to flickering candles on the banks of the Ganges with hundreds of people gathered around. Watching kids covered in cow poop attempting to form this cow dung into "cakes" to dry and then use for fuel. Daily life here is so different from what I am used to in the "west".

10. Tell me one thing I'd be surprised to know about you.

I am a fruit fanatic! When travelling in tropical countries I seek out tropical fruit - whether at orchards, growing wild in a rainforest or if in a large city, at local markets.

Log in to see where Dave will be transporting you to next. www.davestravelcorner.com