No matter where you’ve been around the world, there’s nothing that compares to the first time you set foot in a new destination. This is a celebration from the first time you step outside your home country, to a brave adventure where few have gone before you, to the inaugural trip with a camera that you know will become your constant companion across hundreds of miles.

So join us as adventurers from all walks of life tell us the stories of their journeys into unfamiliar territory.

TINY DIFFERENCES FEEL PROFOUND, EVERYDAY LIFE IS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF WONDER, AND WRONG TURNS QUICKLY BECOME STORIES THAT YOU KNOW YOU’LL CARRY WITH YOU FOR THE REST OF YOUR DAYS.
I am a Perth-based photographer, filmmaker and part-time Steve Aoki impersonator. I work across a variety of genres and industries, though if there’s one running theme in my work, it’s travel. I’ve had the pleasure of capturing and creating imagery across the world, from the plains of the Serengeti to the volcanic rivers of Iceland, to the cobbled streets of Europe to the backstage of the world’s biggest concert arenas.

@jarradseng | www.jarradseng.com
There was something incredibly special about photographing these amazing dead trees under a blanket of stars. Here I used a wide angle lens to ensure that plenty of the night sky would fit inside the frame - with the added touch of a manually triggered speedlite to separate the trees from the background.

My maiden journey through Namibia was a truly surreal experience, filled with good company (both in animal and human form), long drives through vast desert plains, other worldly explorations through ghost towns, and sand, lots of sand.

I’m always drawn to colour, whatever the place may be. Namibia had the entire spectrum. From the golden tones of Swakopmund’s sand dunes, to the endless green of Erindi’s game reserve fresh after weeks of rain, to the striking black and white of a Zebra’s coat, to the flashes of purple lightning blasting the moody night sky.

We would drive for most of the day to get between our locations in the limited time we had. Regular sleeping patterns were thrown out the window, as we tag teamed driving down empty desert highways, sometimes stealing sleep for a few hours parked on the side of the road only for the alarm to wake us up a couple hours later to shoot deserted buildings under the stars. It was crazy, hectic and exhausting - but to me this was what photography was all about. Our passion to capture imagery taking us to the ends of the world, forcing us to push our boundaries and get out of that comfort zone.

OF ALL THE PLACES WE VISITED, I’LL NEVER FORGET THE EXPERIENCE OF PHOTOGRAPHING THE SKELETON TREES OF DEADVLEI.
IT'S NOT A SIGHT ONE WOULD EVER EXPECT TO BEHOLD IN THEIR LIFETIME, AND HERE IT WAS UNFOLDING IN FRONT OF US.

How is this happening, how am I here, how did my life lead to this moment?

Rehoboth
Kalkrand
Windhoek
Okahandja
Maltahohe
Namib Naukluft
Kalkrand
Nomtjas
NAMIBIA

AND AS USUAL, I HAD THE CAMERA IN MY HAND TO THANK.
Giraffes are one of my favourite animals. Peaceful, elegant and ever curious.

Exploring and shooting inside abandoned ghost town Kolmanskop, was an otherworldly experience. Once a small diamond mining village, the once deserted town has been overtaken by sand, making an incredibly unique environment for portraiture.

When the shadow from the dune behind us finally crept up across the dead trees, it was like someone had lit a match inside us. We madly dashed from place to place, shutters going off like crazy as we tried as many different compositions and angles in this limited window of light.

From the golden tones of Swakopmund’s sand dunes, to the endless green of Erindi’s Game Reserve fresh after weeks of rain, to the striking black and white of a zebra’s coat, to the flashes of purple lightning blasting the moody night sky.

Giraffes are one of my favourite animals. Peaceful, elegant and ever curious.
If it were easy, everybody would do it. It’s cliché, but it’s true. If the image you’re capturing seems like a piece of cake, it probably means that thousands of other photographers have stood in the same spot and taken the same shot too. But how many people are willing to hike up that sand dune, wander around abandoned buildings at three in the morning, drive throughout the day and night, or get up before the crack of dawn to shoot the location before the footsteps of tourists taint the scene.

WORDS OF WISDOM
3 TIPS FOR SHOOTING NAMIBIA

Pack wisely
It’s a tricky art, choosing what camera gear to pack for a travel assignment. For an incredibly diverse place like Namibia, at the very least ensure you have a solid telephoto lens for wildlife capture and compressing in large landscapes, as well as a wide lens for more dynamic perspectives.

Fill the colour spectrum
It can sometimes be overwhelming shooting in a totally new place with seemingly endless choices in when, how and what to photograph. Break it down in colour—try to craft your itinerary around capturing shades of green, gold, purple, blue, red, and so on. You’ll be surprised how that kind of approach can take you.

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WHAT THAT WORD DOESN’T PREPARE YOU FOR  
IS JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN.

I’m Matt Cherubino, a lifestyle photographer based in Melbourne, Australia. Aiming to document and tell a story through my imagery, I’m heavily inspired by travel and its unpredictable nature. For me, my images are an extension of my experiences, both influenced by culture and climate. The more abstract and obscure, the greater I find creative clarity amongst the environment surrounding me. Each trip leaves its impression and forever influences the way in which I perceive my surroundings.

@mattcherub  |  www.mattcherubino.com
Iceland’s coastal alpine environment in winter is a spectacle, a stark contrast to my time in summer. Zebra patterns cut out from the ocean on the left to the sand on the right. Iceland’s East coast slips under the radar, sheltered from the crowds, which can be a refreshing change.

Bleak complexity is how I would describe the Icelandic landscape. At first glance through the window before touch down, it was apparent the barren plains carving their way up to the mountains, dusted in a layer of volcanic rock with minimal vegetation, was suggestive of its harsh Arctic climate.

As my time there progressed, the intricate details joined, forming what was a mix of contrasting tones and visually clean cut outlines.

To date, the trek from þórsmörk to Landmannalaugar remains the most otherworldly landscape I’ve stepped foot in. Constantly mistaken for its Mars like features, the trek cascades through the highlands over a distance of fifty-five kilometres. Each day an advance in topography and too many times left without answers.
Stumbling across Gunnuhver while passing time before an international connection was a well-received send off to a humbling journey through Iceland. Although the smell of sulfur vents, I'm happy to leave that in Iceland.

Afternoon flight on the ever-shifting Jökulsárlón lagoon. Constantly changing from tide, weather and the slow destruction of the glacier creating a maze of ice. Each week different from the next. Millenary ice formations and mountain backdrops go hand in hand.

What especially startled me alongside the landscape was the summer solstice. Sunset and sunrise would become a blur of colour and light extending golden and blue hour to a period of over 4 hours. This had quite a profound effect on the trip, reversing our sleeping pattern from night to day. A surreal experience to say the least, not to mention empty roads and a few, if any people around. Walking away from Iceland with no one around except for the power of water that resonates of my time spent road tripping its shores. Taking with me a handful of experiences and memories which are hard to forget in time to come. For the traveller or photographer for that matter, Iceland has something for all. As for me, I'm already anticipating my return.
THERE’S SOMETHING REALLY SPECIAL ABOUT SAMOA’S COASTLINE.

My love for travel has always revolved around summer. The hot sticky days and the balmy tropical nights have been a recurrent theme throughout my life for as long as I can remember. It was out of this passion that my blog, This Island Life, was born where I follow summer around the globe to bring my audience warm-weather inspiring travel, fashion and adventures. Being able to share travel stories and photography that makes people happy and inspire them to enrich their lives through travel is truly rewarding.

@ThisIslandLife | www.thisislandlife.com

L A U R A  M C W H I N N I E
The traditional culture of Samoa is a communal way of life that is based around 'Fa’a Samoa', which translates to "The Samoan Way". It describes a unique socio-political and cultural system that all Samoans adhere to. There are three main parts to the Samoan culture – faith, family and music.

One of my favourite days on the island of Savai‘i was visiting the Alofaaga Blowholes where I was so taken by the palm trees on the way to the blowholes, it took me about an hour to make my way to the rocks. I took a few shots of the blowholes, then it was straight back to the palm trees - there was an energy about that spot that made it hard to leave.
This trip was my first time shooting underwater with the 5D Mark III and AquaTech Housing. Usually I have a photographer I travel with who shoots my underwater photography, but on this trip I wanted to give it a go myself.

Le Lagoto had some of the best sunsets I’ve ever seen. This was just one of the pastel-hued sunsets that happened right out the front of my cute little bungalow.

THE BEST THING ABOUT ISLAND LIFE IS THAT THE MAIN MODE OF TRANSPORTATION IS ALWAYS BY BOAT.

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Le Lagoto had some of the best sunsets I’ve ever seen. This was just one of the pastel-hued sunsets that happened right out the front of my cute little bungalow.
EVERY BEND OF EVERY ROAD REVEALED A NEW EXCITEMENT.

Melbourne born and raised, my adventure started off as a music photographer – which has now led me across the world and across many styles. From the sold out stadiums as a football photographer for Melbourne City FC to foggy morning road-trips seeking a sunrise.

@aleksandarjason  aleksandarjason.com
Sam wake up call, we board our 2 man jet plane and depart Queenstown for Milford Sounds. Heavy winds and a slight chance of a snow storm was what we were heading for.

NEW ZEALAND DRAGGED ME IN DEEP, EVERY ANGLE WAS CAMERA WORTHY.

A leksandar Jason / NEW ZEALAND
As a creative, we always keep one eye open to everyone around us – everyone in our field. We compare everything we do with everything they do, in the end we need to remember one thing. Someone else is watching you, so why not shoot the way you do.

The best way to make something your own, is to be you – basically be free minded and document everything from your own perspective. Your first shot will not be the best, but over time, you will have your own style – your own body of work.

I spent hours looking over my gear. I had everything from fixed lenses to zoom. A tripod that weighed more than me and a drone that hated wind.
Over our 8 day trip, we set to visit locations across the South Island; Wanaka, Aoraki, Glenorchy, Milford Sounds and more. Every bend of every road revealed a new excitement, witnessing every horizon change by the minute.

FROM A SNOW COVERED AORAKI MOUNT COOK AFTER A BLIZZARD WHICH BROUGHT WINDS UP TO 40KM/H TO A STILL NIGHT IN GLENORCHY WITH A LOW TEMPERATURE OF -1 AT 1AM.

Heading off for Queenstown, we had no clue what we were heading into. Hearing tourists talk about a potential snow blizzard on our way was a little scary but also a thrill, an unknown experience. "Cabin prepare for landing" look outside window and a sight I will never forget - mountains, and more. Snow everywhere, lakes with a clear reflection - I was thankful the blizzard never hit!

CAPABILITIES AS OVERWHELMING AS NEW ZEALAND’S LANDSCAPES.
EVERY TURN REVEALS SOMETHING EYE-CATCHING.

I am a textile designer by day and blogger by night, which I use as an outlet for my other creative passion - travel photography. I love travelling the world and visually capturing what I see and experience with my camera. The excitement of somewhere new, the generous people I meet and the wonder I feel from these encounters is addictive and has me constantly planning the next trip.

@lineshapecolour
www.lineshapecolour.blogspot.com.au
I spent two weeks exploring the country starting in the metropolis of Mexico City, before making my way down to colourful Oaxaca and finally to the cruisy coastal town of Puerto Escondido.

Being a textile designer I’m naturally drawn to colour, pattern and texture, and Mexico served this up in abundance.

Walking around the neighbourhoods of Mexico City and Oaxaca, I was lapping up the brightly coloured facades, crumbling paint and hand-painted signage.

Walking the streets of Oaxaca before sunset is magic. The light illuminated this basket seller so perfectly.

Frida Kahlo’s Casa Azul (Blue House) cannot be missed when in Mexico City. Her garden is especially beautiful, with lush greenery against that famous blue backdrop.

Any local market Where you can meet friendly locals and capture the colours, smells and tastes of the region. In La Lagunilla flea market in Mexico City, you can experience the hustle and bustle of the market, and you might also walk away with a unique treasure.

The surrounding towns of Oaxaca Where you can visit weavers, artisans and small business owners, seeing them work first hand and getting an insight into daily life.

The Coyocan and San Angel neighbourhoods of Mexico City Are full of colour and beautiful streets, as well as Frida Kahlo’s and Diego Riveras residences.

Some of my favourite photography spots

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BEING A TEXTILE DESIGNER I’M NATURALLY DRAWN TO COLOUR, PATTERN AND TEXTURE, AND MEXICO SERVED THIS UP IN ABUNDANCE.
THE OVERWHELMING NATURAL BEAUTY LEFT AN INDELIBLE IMPRESSION ON MY HEART AND SOUL.

I have a passion for new experiences and love being outdoors. Being able to combine travel and photography is the perfect way for me to keep those passions alive. Working with the Canon Collective community is an incredible experience – being able to share my knowledge with photographers from a wide range of backgrounds, and being able to travel with them to remarkable destinations such as Antarctica is beyond words.

@jenn.cooper
The wildlife was both diverse and abundantly rich, and – other than the cranky fur seals – they seemed unfazed by our presence.

I’ve been so fortunate to travel the world, from Malaysia to Indonesia, Europe to Africa, the UK, USA, Turkey, Greece, Morocco and all over the South Pacific... but my trip to Antarctica with Aurora Expeditions left an indelible impression on my heart and soul.

WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES, I AM INSTANTLY TRANSPORTED BACK TO NUMB TOES, FROZEN FINGERS, 7 LAYERS OF CLOTHING AND MY TRUSTY CAMERA GEAR SLUNG OVER MY SHOULDERS AS I STEPPED OUTSIDE TO WATCH THE ENORMOUS ICEBERGS SIMPLY FLOAT BY.
Making landfall on Salisbury Plain in South Georgia was one of the most extraordinary highlights for me: the large coastal beach is home to over 500,000 breeding pairs of King Penguins. As far as the eye could see were gorgeous little brown balls of fluff, all singing and moving about in the hustle and bustle of the colony.

I couldn’t decide if I wanted to shoot long and isolate a single penguin out of the colony, or shoot wide and include as much of the landscape as I could? I knew that I wanted to capture a unique perspective of Salisbury Plain – every step upwards was a struggle, and yet I knew I was edging closer and closer to the shot that I was now desperate to capture.
WORDS OF WISDOM
TOP TIPS FOR ANTARCTICA

What to pack
You only need 4 sets of clothes that you rotate: warm thermals, merino layers, a few fleeces, ski pants and one really great jacket. Beanies, gloves and sunglasses were key essentials that I used everyday, as were the small disposable heat packs that you can buy at all good camping stores. Tripod was completely unnecessary. Forget filters – the light is already so beautifully soft.

Photography tips
Photograph the wildlife while they are interacting with each other. I wish I had invested in photographer’s shooting gloves that exposed 2 fingers – they would’ve come in handy in the freezing conditions. Have a good waterproof backpack or drybag to protect your gear in extreme weather you might encounter. Always have your gear handy – remember that an overcast or snowy day is great moody light to shoot icebergs.

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Journey to unfamiliar places and a truly unique photography experience.
HEARING THE STORIES OF THE PEOPLE IS A HUMBLING EXPERIENCE.

The small coastal town of Yamba is where I grew up, developing an interest in customs, rites of passage, community and the natural environment. The intent of my photography is to create engaging and sincere portraiture of a diverse range of people throughout the world. I’m also fascinated with surreal and majestic landscapes – travelling to some of the most remote and obscure corners of the globe to capture beautiful scenery.

@elisehassey | www.elisehassey.com.au
Cambodia is such an interesting place to photograph as there is such a variety of subjects and landscapes throughout the ‘Kingdom of Wonder’. You can explore villages with locals practising their craft of silver smithing, rice growing or fishing – with little recourse to modern technology, to the contrasting chaos of motorbikes zooming past the beautiful colonial buildings in Phnom Penh, and then of course the hundreds of monkey populated temples, notably the UNESCO Angkor Wat. One consistency is that wherever you are in Cambodia, you are greeted with smiles.

My favourite Cambodian experience is walking through the villages and meeting the incredibly warm and friendly people.

Young families gather in the square as children chase the pigeons and eat candy floss, teenagers play shuttle cock with their feet and young couples relax/catch up.

It was incredible to sit outside the temple at dusk and photograph the monks relaxing with friends.

The markets are an explosion of senses, filled with live fish and crabs, to crickets, frogs and snails, even fried tarantula. It’s definitely an experience in itself.
One of the most amazing people I met was Oum Son Thou who is 82 years old. There were 20,000 teachers before the war, and he is one of 20 who survived.

The largest ancient temple complex in Kampong Cham Province and one of the most beautiful that I visited.

Oudong is a series of temples and stupas on a picturesque hillside setting.

WORDS OF WISDOM
TIPS FOR VISITING CAMBODIA

If you can manage it, bring school supplies.
Cambodia is exceptionally poor, so if you can manage it, bring school supplies, as so many children don’t have access to tools for education. Today, no one wants to become a teacher, as during the Regime teachers were targeted and killed. Very few teachers are in the country and kids can only go to school for half of the day.

Read up on their heavy hearted history, and bring empathy to their hardship of life, it’s one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world, and it will make you mindful of the things you take for granted.

Smile and you will be greeted with incredible warmth and friendliness
Cambodia is a great place for portraits as people are just so friendly. Speak to the people as they always have remarkable stories, often quite heart breaking.

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I moved to Sydney, from Johannesburg, South Africa in 2010. I am an Art Director by trade and have always had a strong interest in photography, travel, music and surprisingly to some, small fluffy Pomeranians.

@shotsbycc
Italy is one of those places that has a bit of everything, and can change quite drastically within a short distance. A place you can experience colour, culture, cuisine and breathtaking natural beauty. Getting that photo onto a printed format creates a lasting memory.

TRAVEL IS AN AMAZING OPPORTUNITY TO SEE AND FEEL COLOURS THAT ARE AWAY FROM MY NORM.

TRAVELLING TO A NEW LOCATION IS EVEN MORE EXCITING.

Printing, like photography, is a process of discovery and is a bit of art vs. science. I’ve always enjoyed playing around with different techniques to get my desired outcome. I consider it a part of the creative process and in some cases, it is almost as important as being able to take the photo itself.

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