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STEPHEN LIOY

Stephen Lioy is a photographer, writer, hiker, and travel blogger. A ‘once in a lifetime’ Euro trip and post-university move to China set the stage for what would eventually become a semi-nomadic lifestyle, based on sharing his experiences and helping provide that initial push out of comfort zones and into all that the planet has to offer. When Stephen isn’t at home in Kyrgyzstan, which is more often than not, he can usually be found leading very large tour groups of very small children or, in between work periods, out in the mountains sleeping in a tent and eating the sort of things your stomach warns you about. Follow Stephen’s travels at www.monkboughtlunch.com or on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest, YouTube, or Google+ for regular photos and occasional witticisms.

CHRISTOPHER PITTS

Chris’s first expedition in life ended in failure when he tried to dig from Pennsylvania to China at the age of six. Hardened by reality but still infinitely curious about the other side of the world, he went on to study Chinese in university, living for several years in China and Taiwan. A chance encounter in an elevator led to a relocation to Paris, where he lived with his wife and two children for over a decade before the lure of Colorado’s sunny skies and outdoor adventure proved too great to resist. His website is www.christopherpitts.net.

BENEDICT WALKER

Ben was born in Newcastle, Australia, and grew up in the ‘burbs, spending weekends and long summers by the beach whenever possible. Japan was the first gig he got for Lonely Planet, in 2008, and he’s been blessed to have been asked back often since then. He really is someone who is living his dreams, though life on the road can have its ups and downs. He’s also written and directed a play, toured Australia managing the travel logistics for top-billing music festivals and is playing around with photography and film-making. Join him on his journeys on Instagram: @wordsandjourneys.

CAROLYN MCCARTHY

Carolyn McCarthy specializes in travel, culture and adventure in the Americas. She has written for National Geographic, Outside, BBC Magazine, Boston Globe and other publications. A former Fulbright fellow and Banff Mountain Grant recipient, she has documented life in the most remote corners of Latin America. Carolyn gained her expertise by researching guidebooks in diverse destinations. She has contributed to over 30 guidebooks for Lonely Planet, including for Colorado, USA, Argentina, Chile, Panama, Peru and the Trekking in the Patagonian Andes and USA’s National Parks guides. For more information, visit www.carolynmccarthy.org or follow her Instagram travels at @masmerquen.

RYAN VER BERKMOES

Ryan Ver Berkmoes has written more than 110 guidebooks for Lonely Planet. He grew up in Santa Cruz, California, which he left at age 17 for college in the Midwest, where he first discovered snow. All joy of this novelty soon wore off. Since then he has been traveling the world, both for pleasure and for work – which are often indistinguishable. He has covered everything from wars to bars. He definitely prefers the latter. Ryan calls New York City home. Read more at ryanverberkmoes.com and at @ryanvb.
Hugh McNaughtan

A former English lecturer, Hugh decided visa applications beat grant applications, and turned his love of travel into a full-time thing. Having also done a bit of restaurant reviewing in his home town (Melbourne, Australia), he’s now eaten his way across Europe and North America, and found the best way to work up an appetite for the USA’s great, gut-busting food is spending all day cycling through its stunning landscapes. He’s never happier than when on the road with his two daughters. Except perhaps on the cricket field …

Amy C Balfour

Amy practiced law in Virginia before moving to Los Angeles to try to break in as a screenwriter. If you listen carefully, you can still hear the horrified screams of her parents echoing through the space-time continuum. After a stint as a writer’s assistant on Law & Order, she jumped into freelance writing, focusing on travel, food, and the outdoors. She has hiked, biked, and paddled across Southern California and the Southwest. She recently criss-crossed the Great Plains in search of the region’s best burgers and barbecue. Her top picks for US adventure include the cables of Half Dome, the South Kaibab Trail to Phantom Ranch, the road to the Racetrack Playa in Death Valley, the Gauley River during dam release, and the doorbell at LA’s Museum of Jurassic Technology.

Our Story

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing, and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.