



THE RANDOM NEWSLETTER

# UNDER THE RADAR TRAVEL

MAGAZINE FOR THE MINIMALIST TRAVELLER





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How you can start now and take the first steps towards your Dream Life.





DREAM

# LIFE

By Robin Thirlwell

Stacey Law has already packed more into her last 5 years than many people have in a lifetime.

Stacey was my scuba diving instructor in the UK in 2021. We got chatting after the course and I realised Stacey had a fantastic story to tell, of courage, transformation and ultimately success and happiness.

Stacey is 27 and from the UK. About 6 years ago she started a course at university in Travel and Tourism, but she didn't feel as though she was learning anything, so she upped sticks and went travelling.

But... where to go... many people she knew had been to Australia or America, but for her it was all about a different destination, so she booked a ticket to New Zealand with a friend. A fairly tame location for an english speaking person, not much of a culture shock. But. Stacey had never really travelled that distance before and was always nervous to be away from home, so she travelled with a friend for comfort and safety. This was a big step for her.

Little did she know at the time, but this one decision would transform her as a person. This first trip would be the start of a journey to an alternative life that she could never have dreamed of.

Stacey was well and truly bitten by the travel bug.

For the next 6 years Stacey travelled through more than 20 countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam and the Philippines, mainly as a solo traveller. Staying in hostals and quickly making friends with other travellers she fell into the rhythm of a young person enjoying true freedom for the first time.

Each new experience was embraced in a positive way, as an experiment in finding out what she was capable of. Constantly moving the needle up a notch to become more and more confident and at ease with uncertainty.

Travel would offer her the challenges that university never could and ultimately lead to her dream life.







EXPAND YOUR

# HORIZONS

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By Robin Thirlwell

Stacey didn't start out super confident. When she was growing up she didn't like to be away from home and took comfort in being in familiar surroundings.

So, how did she make the transition to the super confident person she is now?

One theme that runs through her story is the ability to just say “yes” to opportunity. When asked if she wanted to work on a cattle ranch in Australia, the answer was “yes, why not”, when her friend said she was in Vietnam and that Stacey should travel over to see her, the answer was “What a great idea, yes”.

When we travel we often do stacks of research and plan out in meticulous detail exactly where we're going and when. This stifles spontaneity and freedom. At home we generally live a regimented lifestyle - get up, go to work, come home, cook dinner, watch tv, go to bed, which is why we tend to apply this approach to travel – shouldn't we at least have some time “off” with no plan, no destination, no place to be?,

Stacey says that she grew her confidence one step at a time. Being open to new opportunities and surviving any mishaps along the way giving her an inner strength that allowed her to deal with life's knock backs.

Travel provides daily challenges. When we solve each one we become more confident in our own abilities and that in turn makes us more resilient and able to bounce back.

Stacey's story could have ended like many others, with a few months off to see the sights in South East Asia and Australia and then a return ticket back to the UK to take up her University place again. But it didn't... Stacey made the decision to continue travelling.

She got a call from a friend in Australia and booked a ticket to the next part of her adventure.





MAKE A

# COMMITMENT

By Robin Thirlwell

Getting comfortable with uncertainty is a life skill we should all learn. Change is inevitable.

Once on the road and travelling Stacey became even more sure that she was on the right path.

Stacey learned to embrace uncertainty early in her travels. She had not been to Australia before but was able to adapt to the country quickly as it was English speaking. The first thing she had to do was find a job so she could fund her travels. She made a commitment to herself that she would make this work and would not give up her dream of more travel without a fight.

Her travel allowed her to live in the moment. As long as she had enough money in her pocket to get to the next destination there was no need to worry about the next steps and the future. The pace of life on the road could be as fast or slow as she wanted.

Not once did Stacey feel like she wanted to return home. She had made a commitment to herself that as long as she could support herself financially she would continue to travel.

After doing some basic jobs in the city she got tired of doing the same thing and wanted more adventure. As luck would have it she saw a job advertised for a live in cook on a cattle station about 1,000 miles into the outback. Ideal. Although Stacey said that she could cook okay it certainly wasn't on the scale expected at the cattle station, this would be on a whole new level. Undaunted, she took the job and ended up at the loneliest airport she had ever seen, in the middle of nowhere. There was no backing out now - total commitment would be required to make this work.

She committed to her dream of continuing her travels and would not let any obstacle block her path.

Although the work on the cattle station was hard, the pay was good, and with board and lodge included and nowhere to spend her money it was the ideal way of saving money quickly.

It was the commitment to saving this money for more travel that ultimately led to her most life-changing decision.







**START**

# NOW

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By Robin Thirlwell

Many people ask if there is a good time to make big decisions in your life. Most of the time the answer is “no”. There will always be hesitancy when you are making a big decision, but most decisions are reversible. Without much effort you can get back to where you started without too much effort.

In Stacey's case she made a big decision to leave the university course she was on to go travelling. At the time that may have felt like a huge decision, but on reflection how difficult would it have been to get back onto that course after a short break – not impossible.

What Stacey's story tells us is that sometimes clearing space and being open to trying new things can help you clarify what you really want. During her travels she ended up on the east coast of Australia and did a trial dive on the Great Barrier Reef. Could she have known that a few short years later and she would be working as a dive instructor on some of the most beautiful islands in the world?

When will you start out on the road to your new adventure?

Do we really need a detailed plan before we start, or can we embrace uncertainty as Stacey has shown us.

Big decisions like leaving the UK and a safe and secure University place.

Making a move to the other side of the World and dipping into different jobs and careers until something catches us.

For Stacey a trial dive on the Great Barrier Reef changed her life and opened up a new direction for her to follow.

Start Now... or start never...

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the ultimate

# MINIMALIST PACKING SOLUTION

Super secure and extremely stylish travel pack for minimalist travel. Light weight, compact, weatherproof and ultra secure, this cross body pack is ideal for high risk travel locations.

Big enough to hold a minimum of clothing options, together with your essential toiletries and electronics. This is true light weight minimalist travel at its best.

The main access area is secured by a 3 digit TSA approved combination lock. A secret pocket also accommodates your credit cards keeping them hidden from sight, with a secret rear security pocket for securing valuable items, like your passport and documents.

The external material is slashproof, durable and water resistant, ideal for higher risk travel environments.

Lots of pockets for organising your travel gear inside the main bag. If you can't be without some bigger tech this sling style bag will house a 9.7 inch iPad in a padded computer interlayer

You can connect your phone to the external charging port and ensure you always have access to a fully charged phone. (Internal charger is not included).

Made of water resistant Oxford material on the outside and hard wearing but light polyester on the inside this bag will serve you with stylish travelling for many years.

The swappable strap allows you to switch from right to left and you can wear the bag on your front for more security or on the back with little effort. The beauty of this bag is the easy take on and take off which is significantly easier than a double handle rucksack, particularly if you have to negotiate multiple airport/other checks on your luggage.

This bag is small enough to meet all current airline carry-on baggage restrictions, and will fit under most airline seats.

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