

1. Is this your first Adventure Travel Film Festival?

This is our third ATFF; we've been there from the beginning! We met Lois and Austin at a motorcycle show in London in 2010 and they told us about the festival they were putting together; such a great concept we couldn't miss it. It's been great to see the festival develop and attract a bigger and more diverse crowd.

2. How did you get involved this year?

Having been inspired by the festival in previous years we are now in a position to share some of our adventures with fellow adventurers. Even though we haven't travelled very far compared to others, we feel that we wouldn't have left had it not been for others sharing their stories. We want to inspire people to make their own adventures and therefore were honoured to be asked to contribute to the festival this year.

3. Your talk was about blogging on the road, what top 5 tips do you have for anyone wanting to set up a travel blog?

- a. Set up your blog before you leave and practise posting on the go (on a smartphone for instance).
- b. Be honest about what you describe; there is no need to be sensationalist to impress the people back home; you never know who reads your blog and base their decision on your reports.
- c. Post regularly; In order to create a following you need to take your readers on your travels with you. I suspect that most followers read your posts while sitting at their desk at work. They want/need a regular source of escapism!
- d. Be inspiring. Your blog needs to be inspiring in order to "add value" to everything that's already on the web. It needs to convey your personal experience of your trip and focus on feelings, people you met, funny moments, hardships etc. That makes for enjoyable reading. Nice pictures are also a source of inspiration so don't forget them.
- e. Be targeted and relevant. This is the more difficult one because you need to understand who your readers are. You can do this by looking at your blog's statistics and/or asking your mom what she likes to read about on your blog ;-)

4. Have you talked at any other events?

We have spoken at the HUBB meeting (Horizon's Unlimited) and at the London-based Moto Adventure Nights (google it) about our London to The Gambia trip. We have also written a long article in the Adventure Bike Rider magazine about our tour of South Africa. This is something we really enjoy doing because, in a way, it prolongs the trip for us...

5. How do you juggle travelling and day jobs?

Quite frankly we're just like everyone else and we use our holidays to go travelling. Since our last big trip though David has left his office-bound and has become self employed, like Louise. One of the reasons for doing so is that it allows much more flexibility. Armed with an iPad and a phone we can work just about anywhere; there's always a way to catch up with work on the road if necessary. The longest trip we did was 5 weeks when David was still employed in an office; that was just a case of negotiating with the employer. That being said, an adventure can very easily fit into a 1 week holiday and that's something most of us can afford.

6. Would you like travelling to be your day job?

Yes. Like everyone else! The problem is how...

7. How would you make that transition? Blog, book, product reviews, film, magazine articles, etc?

That is very difficult to say as I don't think there is much money to be made in that line of work. It would have to be through some cool and inspired project, but we haven't yet come up with the killer idea! In the meantime we will continue what we're doing. We are working on producing films of our trips; that's the next challenge.

8. Which is your favourite country to overland in?

David = For me it has to be South Africa; it's unbelievably beautiful and so much safer than anyone would have you believe.

Louise = it has to be western sahara. It was so different to what I had imagined, yet full of dunes, camels and huge open roads that I'd dreamt of. A really magical place.

9. You mentioned you might move from twos wheels to four, why?

We won't move from 2 to 4 wheels; we might just add 4 wheels to our options. We both love motorcycle travels and will continue to do so, but we would really like to share our passion for independent traveling with our kids when we have some. At that time it will probably have to be on 4 wheels, which will be lots of fun too; www.aroundtheworldin800days.com has certainly made us discover how fun overlanding by 4x4 can be!

10. Do you have any more trips planned?

With the recent purchase of a house and a wedding next year we have little time to plan a trip at the moment... But it also means that there is a honeymoon coming up! We still need to discuss this but so far Namibia has been mentioned...