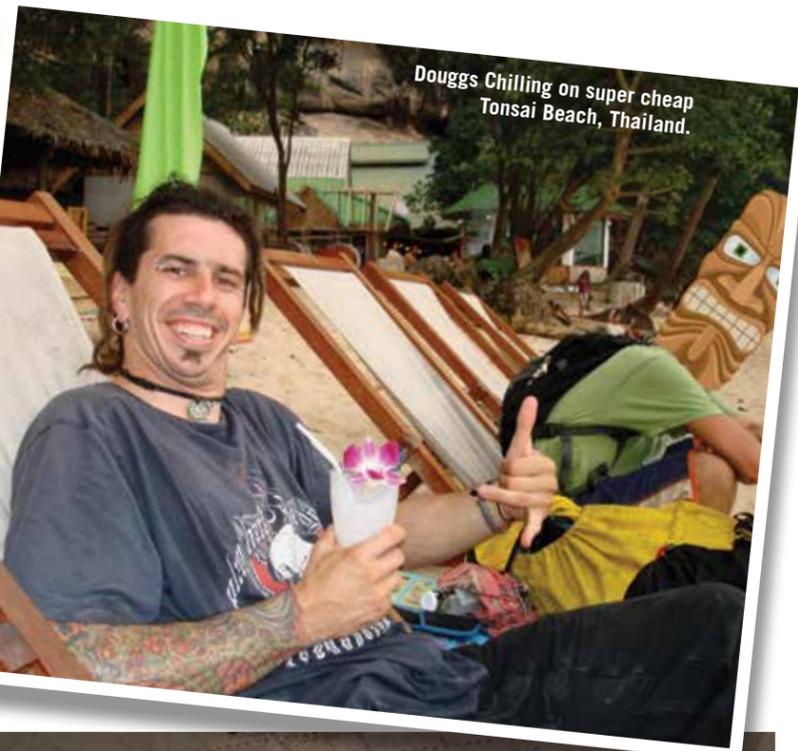


A Scumbag's Guide to Adventure Living

BY CHRIS "DOUGGS" MCDUGAL



Douggs Chilling on super cheap Tonsai Beach, Thailand.

For way too many years now I have been travelling the world trying to have more fun than anyone else on the planet. People think that I must be robbing grannies or selling smack to school kids but unfortunately that is not the case—well, at least not yet!

A lot of people also tell me how lucky I am to be able to travel so much to which I reply, it's not about luck, it's all about choice, want, will, and sacrifice.

Anyone can do anything if they really want to but if you want to do it all and in style then you need to be one of those motherfucking trust-fund kids that I wish I hated but I am actually just super jealous of. They are the exception but most of them never really appreciate it!

As you read on you will discover some of my trade secrets for extensive adventure living for long periods of time because after all, what is more fun: 10 months of work with two months of holidays OR two months of work with 10 months of holidays. I know which answer the almighty Charlie Sheen would give!

Sacrifice

How bad do you want it? How much are you willing to sacrifice? How far will you go to make your dreams come true? This can be a tricky one when it comes to family but it's your life to live, not theirs. Do you live for others or do you live for yourself? This is something every individual must choose and live with. For an example... my mum had cancer for many years and she encouraged me to travel and live my dreams, which I did. I was home in between trips for only six days when I said goodbye to my mum for the last time. I left to go jump the Cave of the Swallows in Mexico and mum passed away two days into the trip. Although I had her blessing I have to live with that decision. Can you? What will be your biggest regret...not doing anything in life or missing out on family birthdays? The choice is up to you!

Saving money

Until you're at least 30 years old, forget saving to go on holidays. It is pointless and you will never get as much money together as you really need. You will end up spending your so-called savings on partying with your mates or buying meaningless crap that you can't take with you when you die—and if you're hardcore into action sports that could be sooner rather than later—so forget about the future, think about the now.

If you're calling bullshit to what I just said, here is another option: Don't eat out for any meals or drinks. In just one week of not buying your morning coffee and bacon and egg roll, not eating out for lunch, not going out for dinner, not having after-work drinks and not going out clubbing, you will save a shit ton of extra cash at the end of the week so imagine this over six months!

Credit Cards and Personal loans

They are there for a reason, so bloody use them! Get as high of a limit as you can and then max it out. In the worst-case scenario you can call bankruptcy. I managed eight years of using credit cards and personal loans before it all got a bit much. I set my personal debt limit at \$45,000; this was my limit but \$30,000 is no big deal. Just do it because it will open lots more opportunities than if you sat at home saving.

The way I used to do it was to leave the country with zero dollars, two credit cards and a personal loan, go spastic around the world for six months and then come home and pay as much as I could back for six months and then leave again with the debt that I had. As I said, this dream run lasted



Robbie McMillian (cow) & Reddy, Funny Farm Boogie, Westmar, Australia, 2005. Photo by Douggs.

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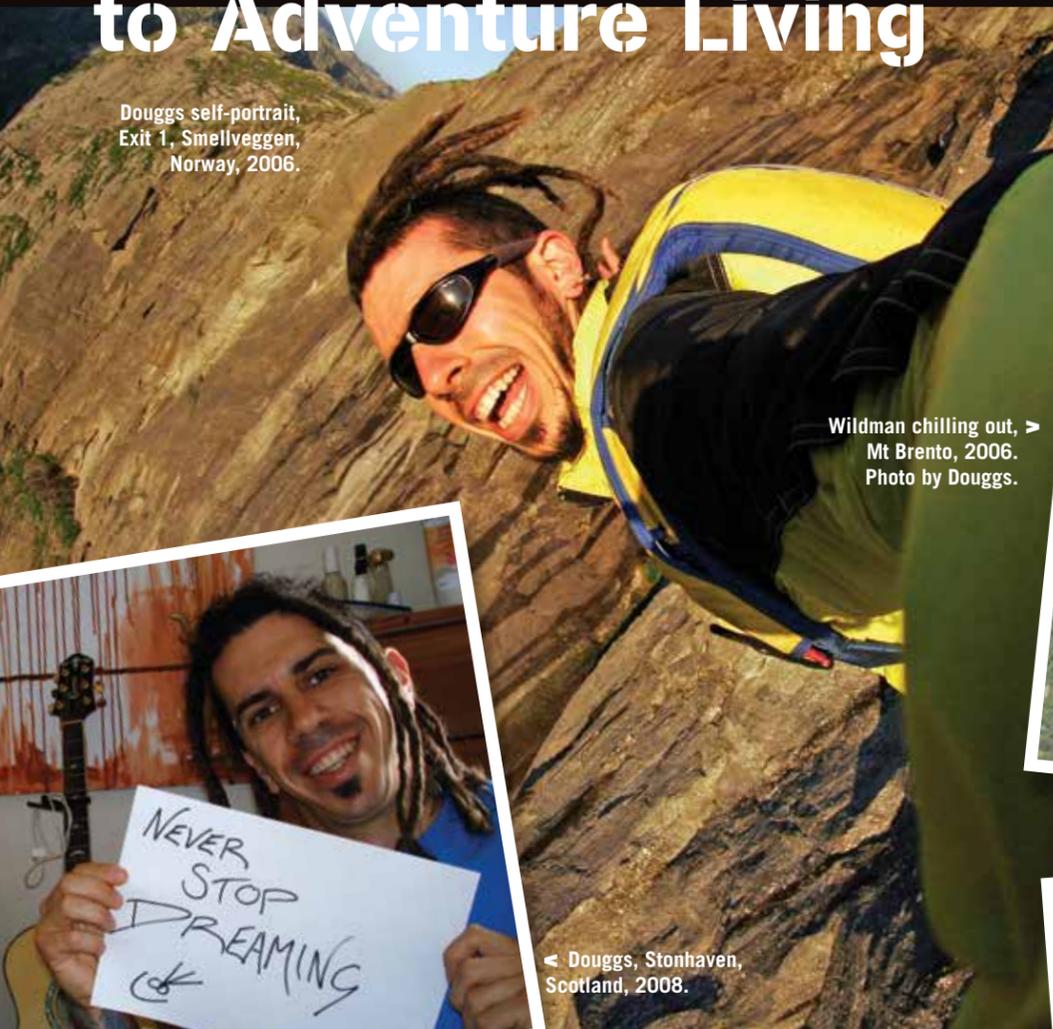
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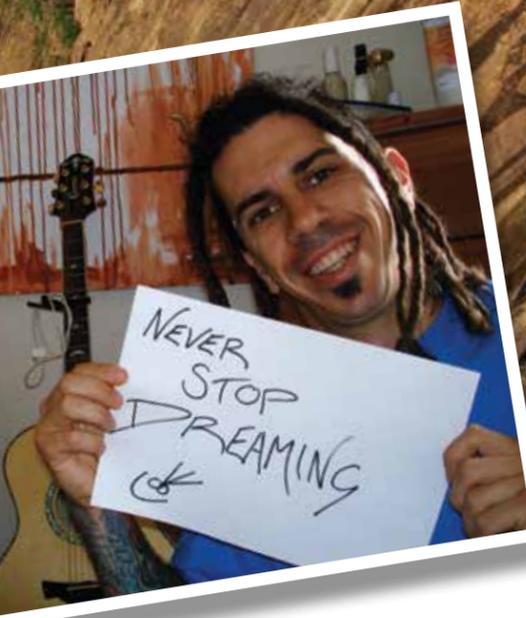
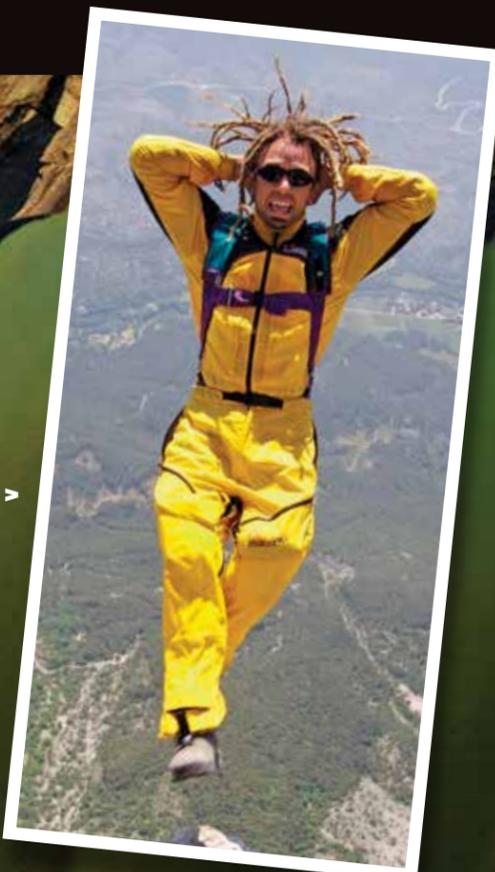
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Douggs self-portrait, Exit 1, Smellveggen, Norway, 2006.



Wildman chilling out, Mt Brento, 2006. Photo by Douggs.



◀ Douggs, Stonhaven, Scotland, 2008.

DISCLAIMER: Blue Skies Magazine does not necessarily endorse or recommend any of Douggs' scumbag tips, hence the "scumbag" label. Your use of his tips may or may not land you in any number of federal detentions, lock-ups, pound-me-in-the-ass prisons, or worse—or better, who knows. Point being, this column is for entertainment only; follow at your own perilous risk.

just use the simple math above and you will feel much better about it. Note: Felony offenses not included in above equation.

eight years—that is 16 summers in a row, ladies and genital men! It was only injury that stopped me in the end, which was probably a good thing ha ha!

Getting busted

There is nothing worse than getting busted BASE jumping, it sux and it normally costs you money, a lot of it. I should know, I have been busted on four continents—three more to go and I win the game don't I? The positive way to think about this though is as follows: Add up every BASE jump you have ever done, add up the costs of all the times you have been busted. Then divide the costs of getting busted by your jump numbers and you have your answer!! For example, I have probably racked up about \$15,000 in fines and legal costs over the years. I have about 2,300 base jumps, which equals \$6.50 per jump. How awesome is that!!! Way cheaper than skydiving still and way more stories to tell. It's all how you look at it, so get out there kids and go day blaze your local, super illegal object. If you get away with it then coolio and if you don't, well

Never Stop Dreaming

Although some of the roads have been rough, I feel that I have had an amazing life so far in my travels. Sure it's not all rosy and life on the road can be tough, and even a little lonely but any goal is reachable if you really want it. The key is to "Never Stop Dreaming" especially when you are at work, it's what will keep you going out there in the down times.

Another thing is to never say no and to always try everything once. You may find your original goal has completely changed and you have embarked on an even more amazing journey than you first thought. Life is a journey and you never know what is around the corner. As my friend Gatsby once said, "Every time you step out of your comfort zone, you will be rewarded." Never a truer word spoken.

If I never went to Norway in 2001 and met the instructor JJ and the Colorado crew, I may have never gone to the U.S. the next year and gotten on the 300-way world record. I may have never gone and jumped the cave in Mexico where I met the owner of Stavanger Base Klubb who gave me

a job teaching in Norway because I knew JJ, then I wouldn't have gone to Norway for the next four years and met nearly every jumper on the planet and on and on and on if that makes sense.

So get out there and have a go, everyone! These are just a few tips I have picked up over the years and what a life it has been.

Keep chasing rainbows,
Douggs

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Chris "Douggs" McDougall is one of the most experienced, hard-core BASE jumpers on the planet, and the author of the book "Confessions of an Idiot: A Colourful Tale of a Life in Freefall." Douggs' BASE jumping, speedflying, paragliding, climbing and surfing missions have taken him around the world 100 times over... and it's all been captured on camera. Watch it all at www.basedreams.com.



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