

A Scumbag's Guide TO ADVENTURE LIVING

BY CHRIS "DOUGGS" MCDUGAL



◀ The Poland trip with Coombes and Scatty was meant to be a BASE jumping event except we forgot to go BASE jumping. Ended up partying like rock stars the whole time. I fell in a hole on the beach that a kid had dug to make sand castles. This was the result!

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!

Last month Douggs gave you some money-saving tips, asked whether or not you're willing to give up the things it takes to really live the dream, how best to manage credit cards, and the true cost of BASE jumping, as averaged by legal fees per jump.

Travel Insurance

No one likes an insurance salesman but they are a necessary evil in this day and age—especially travel insurance, as you just never know what disaster lies around the corner. Half the time when something does happen they won't even pay you out and find some lame clause like paragraph 3 sentence 2 says blah blah blah so you get nothing and that just sux. That's why I firmly believe that each individual is entitled to a couple of little insurance scams in their lifetime!

Now you must plan this out and just go for it, as the consequences of a botched attempt can be bad. And if you pull a couple of scams off well, don't get greedy and keep doing it as you will get caught. Space them out over 20 years and you will be laughing and get some of your hard-earned cash back!!

The key is to be in a situation where it is very likely that your story could be true. Example, I was on a packed London tube [subway] once and I only looked away for a second and BAM! My bag was gone, I couldn't believe it, all my camera gear for my whole holiday was in that bag and now it's gone and my holiday of a lifetime is ruined!! The cops love that shit!! Great acting Gary, award winning actually!

On another instance years later, with yet more camera gear, I was so convincing to myself of what had happened that I was actually nearly crying by the time I left the police station because of the tragic act of my van getting broken into and all my stuff being stolen. Thank you very much, insurance company, for the new camera gear and the Academy Award for best actor!

Watch out for the karma monster though, he can get you on this stuff if you're not careful. I got my van broken into years later and the bastards took my stereo and broke my window. Bummer for me!

Nepal, 2004. On my way to Everest. It was a hard time in my life as I had just watched my girlfriend bounce and needed to get away. Got to see Everest on four different occasions. Ended up with more questions than answers but it was a good place to be.



◀ China, 2004. On our way to opening up the "Twin Cliffs" region. This little fella was crazy, running around the edge of the cliff chopping out bushes with no regard for his safety and all smiles. Apologies for the hair :)

board at times. I have my normal looking hand luggage bag with a rig and whatever else I can fit. Then I have a smaller computer style backpack on that you make look super light but really it isn't and most of the time the person doesn't see it on your back. Another good trick is keeping a large duty-free bag with you and you can easily put a rig in there as well. You can also stuff lots of heavy stuff into your helmet and helmet bag.

What is that, they ask? "That's my BASE jumping helmet," you reply. "Wow, you BASE jump? That's crazy! Where are you doing that?" and off the conversation goes in your favour. Combine that with a big grin and the excitement that looks like this is your first trip overseas can really help you get away with stuff.

With your normal luggage it's getting tricky now but for many years you could jam your foot under the scales and keep it right on 23kg (50 lbs); it takes some practice but it works almost every time!! I am going to sound really lame here but the last couple of years I have caved in and bought a luggage scale. This allows you to pack each bag to the exact weight plus one kilo and you get away with it every time!

Another one that worked on the "Loose Dudes" tour of 2006 was the neck brace! This little device takes up no room and weight and can be super handy in a group airport environment. Between five of us in Norway we got 120kg of excess luggage on the plane because of Adam Gibson

Always save your receipts when you travel, as you never know when something will actually go wrong or when you will need something to go wrong to replace that camera you lost when you went too low on a jump and landed in the fjord...again!!

The important thing to remember is not to hurt people. It's just a large corporation that doesn't care one little bit about the people. We are just numbers and dollar signs to them so fill your boots, I say!

Airports

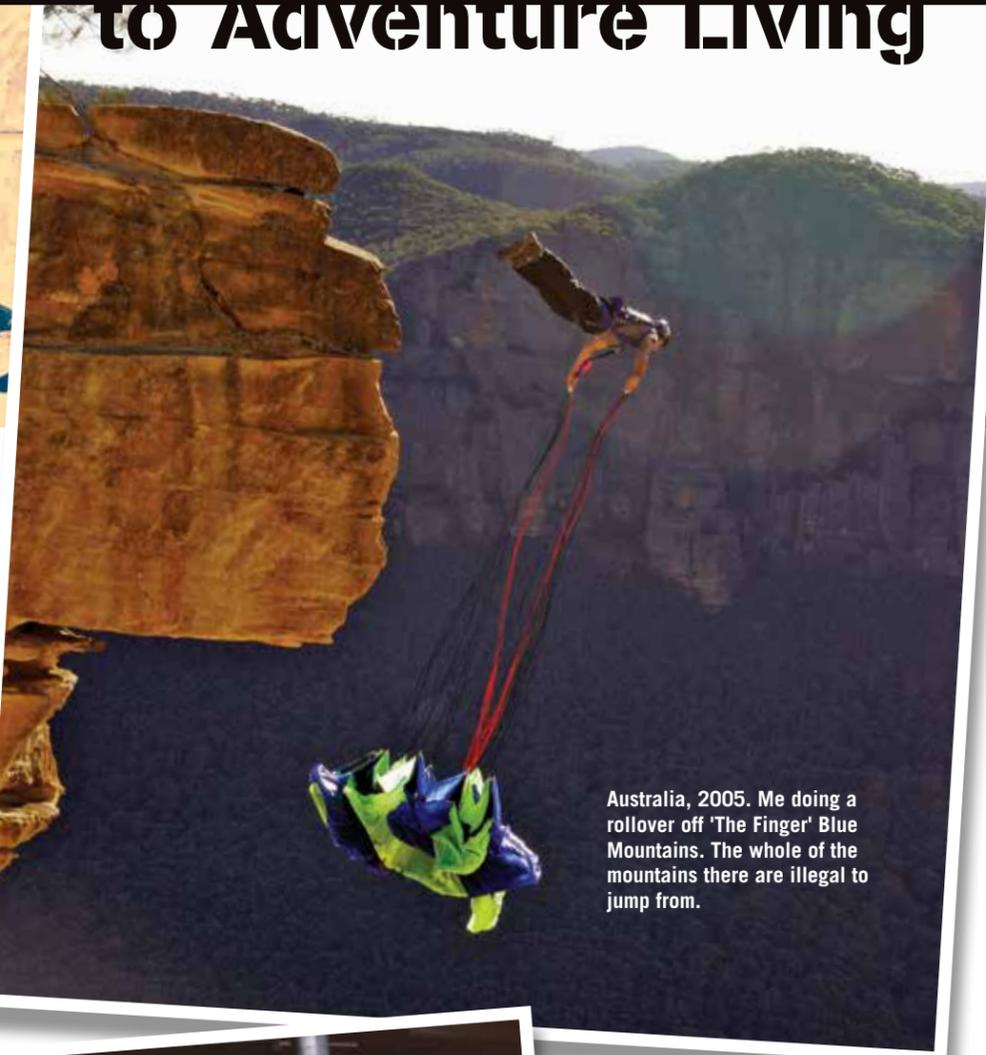
Airports are funny places. They seem to get people, including myself, very frustrated at times and they are getting worse with every bombing!

The most important thing never to do in an airport is scream out to your friend Jack who is standing on the other side of the hall. Saying, "Hi, Jack!" will not do you any favours at all. But there are a couple of things you can do to make your trip a bit less expensive.

Firstly check your airline out and their excess baggage rules as this can save you thousands of dollars. Never fly with the likes of Easy Jet or Ryan Air, as they will bust your balls. Sometimes it's worth paying a little more for the ticket and getting away with more luggage. The key is to pack as much stuff as you can into your hand luggage and divert the attention of the person at the check-in counter.

I have taken up to 35kg (78 lbs) of luggage on

A Scumbag's Guide TO ADVENTURE LIVING



Australia, 2005. Me doing a rollover off 'The Finger' Blue Mountains. The whole of the mountains there are illegal to jump from.



the chin. But remember, it's all part of the awesome travel experience.

Once on the plane always remember everything is free, so drink as much alcohol as you can and mix it with prescription drugs. Never get loud and always be polite and you will get served every time up until you pass out. Never eat before you get on a plane either—I don't care what people say, airline food rules. There is a good variety of it and it's free! There are always spare meals left over so use a bit of that charm and a polite smile and ask for another one! You will always get it!!

Also word up the person next to you and get them to get you extra food and booze. They often find it amusing and cheeky in their mundane lives so they will help you out as they feel like an accessory to a crime ha ha!

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

Next month: Douggs' scumbag tips on eating like a scumbag.

◀ Oslo, Norway, 2001. Me and Wildman camping out in the multi-story carpark waiting for our flight the next day. The next night we did the same thing at the Stavanger Ferry Terminal. The day after we got to live out our dreams and jump from the 3,000' cliffs of Kjerag!

(RIP) wearing the trusty neck brace. Everyone has sympathy for the injured!

A good key to getting heaps of carry-on luggage on board is to have someone come into the airport with you and hold your extra rig or camera bag while you check in. Once you're through check-in, they never check you again so you're styling!!

The key is to be super nice to the people and hope for the best; sometimes you have to flirt with the gay guy, sometimes you have to pretend to be stressed out by the whole deal and sometimes you need to be super naive and just plain dumb which is easy for us Aussies!

Unfortunately every now and then you get some grumpy old chick that hasn't had a root in five years and her dildo is broken; then you are just shit out of luck and have to cop it on

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.

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.



ALIEN COSTUME PARTY
WIN A FREE MIRAGE!

COME MAKE CONTACT

ALIEN INVASION 2012

JULY 28TH - AUGUST 5TH

SKYDIVE VIENNA CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

WWW.VIENNA-BOOGIE.COM

CP OPEN
VERTICAL RECORD
FREEFLY TOURNAMENT
TRAINING CAMPS FOR:
CANOPY CONTROL, RW, VFW, WINGSUIT

WWW.MIRAGESYS.COM
PH:386.740.9222