

# A Scumbag's Guide to Adventure Living

BY CHRIS "DOUGGS" MCDUGALL

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!

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**Last month Douggs discussed the scumbag's diet and provided a couple of handy recipes.**

## Vehicles

Depending on the length of your holiday it may be better to buy a car rather than to rent one, but you have to weigh up the options. Buying a cheap car or van can be awesome but it can also be more trouble than it's worth. I bought a cheap car in Idaho once from a pretty girl (mistake #1); it had a great stereo in it (mistake #2). I was living near Boise for 8 months helping to run a DZ with the purpose of learning low aerobatics from the Perrine Bridge in Twin Falls, which was about two and a half hours away. The car lasted me pretty well for a while, as I had the stereo cranking up loud which hid any of the noises forming in engine. But then one night it just totally blew up on the freeway and that was that. I then had to hire cars for the rest of my stay. I probably got away even on that one.

On our Loose Dudes tour of 2006, four of us bought a van which was super rad; it worked well and got us where we needed to be — a total success!! Then one of us kept the van and the motor blew up in it and cost him a few thousand dollars to fix so that was a fail. Then he sold it to a friend of mine for quite a lot of money so he could cover his costs, which he did. My friend who bought it had good intentions to stay in the U.S. heaps and make good use of the van, but being a foreigner in certain states in the U.S. makes it impossible to register. It cost her a few thousand more and about 2,500 miles of driving to finally get it legal, and all to only use it for three weeks — epic fail! It would've been much easier to just hire an awesome car for that time!



**A** Hanging with all the crew at Skydive Idaho back in 2002. Living cheap and having a ball.

Never buy a car off a good looking girl. A few weeks after this, the engine blew up completely. Photo by Freedom Salamonson.

**V**



**A** Bowie geeking his camera on the waterfall jump in Kjerag, Norway. Photo by Douggs.

Coy, Douggs, Holly (RIP), and Dan Aldridge doing a nice mixed 4-way from the Perrine Bridge, Idaho. Photo by Tracy Gibson.

To cut a long story short ... do some research into total costs of getting a car or van on the road in the country you're going to, or if you're like me and are shit at research but good at having fun, get your friend to do the research and you have the fun! Simple!!

Obviously it is cheaper to hire a car with a group of you, so spend a little more and get a roomy hire car. That way you're not super squashed for those long journeys and you can fit an esky (cooler) in there, so whoever is not driving can be drinking beer and rolling a big fat one, as these are key ingredients to any road trip.

## Jobs

The one thing I hate about life as a traveler is working. Working is fucked! But over the years I have found that we all have to do it, so why not find a job that works for your lifestyle?

I started out as a carpenter like Jibus! I worked 6 days a week for not much money and when I started skydiving I went to mostly 5 days a week so I could go to the DZ. I took heaps of

holidays and sick days, which eventually ran out so I took leave without pay. My bosses weren't happy and I wasn't happy so something had to give. I needed to find something more suited to the lifestyle that I desperately wanted. That's when I got into the skydiving industry as a cameraman and then as a tandem master.

For my 20s this was perfect; I would work in skydiving for 6-8 months a year which gave me air time even when at work and then traveled the rest of the year BASE jumping all over the world. It was perfect. But over time and after a million parties and as many girls my body and mind got tired of the monotony of my awesome life and I needed a change. But where do you go after a decade of awesomeness?

Well, a whole heap of ex-tandem masters found out about the rope access non-destructive testing (NDT) side of the oil industry. It was a scary road to take as you had to be smart and



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Thinking inside the box! Joorj and Chops enjoying life at Funny Farm 2006. Photo by Douggs.



Douggs on the Edge. The Dam, Switzerland. There is no feeling like it; it's a love/hate battle between fear and logic.



A Packing with Ronald, Tracy, and Beslan after a sick jump into a 300m remote canyon in Turkey.

Kip Frost doing an evening static line — Aussie-style using electrical tape — off Douggo's Bridge, NSW Australia. Photo by Douggs.



sacrifice a bit to get into it, but again, it's about stepping out of your comfort zone and just going for it! What's the worst that can happen — you just end up back where you were, right! And again, if you really want it you will find a way to succeed. So I packed up my life, moved to Scotland, and did all the courses. They were bloody hard but like all good scumbag travelers, me and Wildman found a way to cheat through all the exams and we passed!!

I then worked hard and sucked up to the right people and got a job in Africa where they would fly me to and from Lauterbrunnen, Switzerland. I was now getting good money, free food, accommodation, a decent shower, and heaps of time off. I mean heaps — I only worked 8 weeks last year, after all!! So in the end after putting in the effort and saying "No To Drogues" I got sorted and have been working very little for good cash ever since!

Now I am not saying that the oil industry is for everyone. Find your own niche that works for you and your lifestyle, find a job you can still do while you travel, find a job that's seasonal, find a job that you can travel with and gives you free food and accommodation, and finally, find a job that pays you good money to do not much!! You will be much happier for it.

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: The final installation of Douggs' scumbag tips, vacationing with friends and where to lay your weary head at night.**

**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](http://www.basedreams.com).

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