

## Fun, Random, Fits-No-Box Questions

- **Want to go to the gym?** (Darren)
  - Yes! For more than the last few months of our travels, we've been longing to get back to a fitness regime. How's 7pm sound?
- **Are you ready to come back to life here?** (Maureen)
  - Definitely, though there's always some uncertainty on the horizon when returning from any prolonged trip. During our travels, the first ten months or so were spent enjoying the world around us; over the last two months or so, this continued, but we began to think more and more of home, its inherent pleasures, and how much we were beginning to look forward to being in Vancouver once more. We always knew how good life in Vancouver was, but, as is always the case, we didn't fully appreciate it until we were deprived of it. Great friends, an amazing family, a beautiful city, a social system that we know, and so many other things began to look all the more attractive as time overseas progressed. So, as the last few days of our trip dwindle, we can't help but acknowledge that a longing so poignant is something to pay attention to. We're ready to come back to life in Vancouver. As for jobs, money, a place to stay, fuel prices, cell phones, bills, and all those other concerns, they have fallen to a very distant secondary worry. Life in Vancouver is good, and we're happy to be here.
- **Why did you go on this trip? And, did your reasons for going remain the same all year, or did they change as you travelled? (the basic question is: why did you go, and did this 'why' ever change?)** (Steven)
  - When we first read this question, we thought, "that's obvious!" But then again, of course, it's not at all. We first met while working for the same travel company, so it was almost a foregone conclusion that we were going to travel together at some point. It was just a question of when and for how long. We went travelling for many reasons: to boil it right down, we wanted to *learn* and *discover*... to see, hear, smell, and really experience the world, to meet people, chat, swap stories, and devour the lessons that these activities create. The world has so much to offer, and since we had the opportunity to get out there and *live* it, we thought we'd be fools not to. As for whether or not these reasons changed as we travelled, we'd have to say that no, in essence they remained static. It was our ability to ingest the lessons of our travels that vacillated because, under the right (or wrong) circumstances, fatigue and frustration can stand in the way of erudition.
- **Choose #1 theme songs for each of the continents you visited (or break it down a little more - countries - if you like). I'm talking about songs you heard everywhere, or listened to constantly, while you were in a country or continent.** (Steven)
  - [Africa](#): knowing how much time we'd be spending in the car in both South Africa and Namibia, we purchased a few cheap CDs. One of these was called NOW 51, and a few of the songs on this CD have become synonymous with Africa. For example, "Human," by The Killers, and "Love Lockdown," by Kanye West. For Martin, Kevin Rudolf's (featuring Lil' Wayne) song "Let it Rock" will always remind him of arriving at the Ngorongoro Crater, since it happened to be the song that was playing on his iPod when we arrived at the park gates (a momentous and memorable event).
  - [Europe](#): anything by Michael Jackson. It was while we were sitting at the main bus station in Sofia, Bulgaria, that we found out about Jackson's death. From that moment on, all TV and radio stations were essentially playing his music non-stop, which was great. Meeting Ivo in Slovenia, and the ensuing road trip, also exposed us to some new music, tunes that we continue to associate with that particular road trip. "We Don't Care" by Akon and Jaime Foxx's "Blame It" are two in particular.
  - [Russia](#): R Kelly's "The World's Greatest." This happened to be on Tara's iPod at particular moments in Siberia, but it's a song that remained on her iPod throughout our travels (so perhaps this is the song of the year for her). Also, standing in Moscow's Red Square, one can't help but hear the majestic Russian national anthem in the background somewhere.
  - [China](#): the Chinese national anthem. Don't ask us to hum this tune now, but while we were there, we heard this song over and over and over again. We were there during the uber-nationalistic National Day (their 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary), so it's only logical.

- [Thailand](#): Koh Phangan's Eagle Bar had a phenomenal mix of music, though we can't recall any specific examples. Along Haad Yao (same island), one of the nightly performers only knew three or four songs, and the one that would get stuck in our heads went something like this: "It's the reggae song, it's the reggae song, it's the reggae song...". Another of this local performer's songs was called "The Koh Phangan Song," but we don't remember the words at this point, only the tune.
  - [India](#): this might sound stupid, but Tata Docomo was running ads on TV non-stop while we were there. You *have* to watch these: [this ad](#) still gives us goosebumps, and this little [montage](#) sums up their basic tune. This catchy theme song continues to re-surface in our minds, even now.
- **How many photos have you taken (in total)?! Which ONE is your best?** (Helene)
    - We've taken 19,863 photos all in all. 3,488 pictures were uploaded to our website and put in one of 99 different galleries. Yup, that's a lot of photos, but keep in mind that we had two cameras and were taking photos almost every day for a year. We know, we know, it's still a lot of photos. As for which one is the best one... we can't really answer that at the moment. A very talented (and wise) photographer friend of ours said that we should wait six months or so before scanning through our photos; at the moment we're just too "emotionally attached" to them at the moment. We definitely have some favourites, and those are included in the "best of" photo album that you'll find in the "photos" category on our [website](#). Do you, reader, have a favourite? If so, PLEASE let us know which one it is!
  - **What should the top priority for the leaders of the world be?** (Paula)
    - Oh, so many options... humans are tearing apart this world, so basic recycling and waste removal programs should be a priority. As an off-shoot of this, clean drinking water would do wonders in terms of eradicating poverty as well as reducing the sheer volume of wasteful bottled water that is consumed. World leaders also need to stop playing the "politics game." They are the leader of their particular country, but we're also citizens of this planet, and as such should work together. It drives both of us to despair when global summits such as the [Copenhagen Summit](#) or various UN initiatives are unproductive because of ridiculous country-to-country squabbling.
  - **What is something that you have learned AT HOME that has helped you when you've been travelling? A phrase, attitude (that you learned here), lesson... anything that has helped you out there when you've been travelling.** (Alison)
    - Vancouver is a very multicultural city, and as such we developed a background knowledge of various international foods as well as a variety of cultural faux-pas... things like never sticking your chopsticks into your rice, or never pointing your feet at someone (or showing them the bottoms of your feet) in a Buddhist country. Before we got married, we also had great marriage counselling. 😊