

# **Neil Barnes from backpacksandbunkbeds.co.uk Travel Blog**

**Our interview with Neil Barnes from [backpacksandbunkbeds.co.uk](http://backpacksandbunkbeds.co.uk) travel blog:**

## **Why did you start travelling?**

I was lucky enough to be taken on holiday a lot by my parents when I was younger, but my first bought of what I was now call actual 'travel' was in 2005. Fresh out of University I enrolled in a 6 week volunteering project out in South Africa, which would see me teach sports and English to young children in the Port Elizabeth area. I enjoyed myself so much over the course of those 6 weeks, that I actually changed my flight home and ended up travelling the Garden Route from Port Elizabeth to Cape Town with a few of my volunteering buddies.

## **What is the most important during your travels?**

Escapism, by which I mean escaping from the stresses of 'everyday' life, and meeting new people, whether it be locals or other backpackers. Everyone has a story, and I like listening to stories.

## **What is the most important experience that Neil Barnes had during his travels?**

Probably that same 6 week volunteering project experience I wrote about in question 1. It opened my eyes to a new way of life, and showed me just how much existed outside of my little corner of the world.

## **What is the most beautiful place that you have been to?**

Ouch, tough question! Sri Lanka will always be a special place in my heart, but it might just have been outdone by Iceland, where I saw the Aurora Borealis last year. As you can imagine it was really something very special ... and beautiful ☐

## **What do you avoid when you travel?**

I can't think of too many things I would avoid whilst travelling, apart from crime hotspots and hostels with bad reviews. I need a decent hostel and certainly do my research when it comes to finding a bed for the night.

## **What is your biggest travel dream?**

I have a couple at the moment, hopefully that's not cheating?

Canada has been the big one for a while now, working my way from Calgary to Vancouver via the Rockies would be magic. Lately though, having been told about it in detail at a friend's wedding, I have been dreaming of riding the Trans-Siberian Railway.

## **What are Neil Barnes' favourite travelers? Which blogs do you read?**

I read a whole host of blogs, I love getting stuck into other people's travels and learning from their experiences. Some favourites include ...

[backpackerbanter.com](http://backpackerbanter.com)

[headforpoints.com](http://headforpoints.com)

[thetravelhack.com](http://thetravelhack.com)

[vickyflipfloptravels.com](http://vickyflipfloptravels.com)