

Be inspired by...

THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

Two Aussie mates follow in the **footsteps of a young Che Guevara** and make their own version of the film *The Motorcycle Diaries*, only... minus the motorcycle.

Many of us aren't too dissimilar from Bilbo Baggins, the main character in the recent film, *The Hobbit*, in that we just can't say 'no' to an adventure. Lawyer and former sports reporter, Peter Furst and filmmaker Garnet Mae have much the same problem. They have taken a leaf out of Bilbo's book and have put their best foot forward into the unknown to follow the iconic journey of Che Guevara and Alberto Granado's travels through South America, which is portrayed in the 2004 film *The Motorcycle Diaries*.

Peter says that his affection for South America began during the years he lived in Peru and it was here that he learnt more about 'that guy you see on t-shirts,' the South American icon, Che Guevara.

But why Che Guevara? 'I like his philosophy and he really did live his life for the people. He was a socialist but in a practical sense, he used to go out on the weekend and help harvest the corn and the sugar,' Peter says. 'The great thing about retracing Che, was that he was someone who could do anything. He really embodies the idea that you can do anything if you actually decide to do it.'

Combining their skills of filmmaking and sports reporting, Peter and Garnet have created a documentary about their journey and Peter has published *Road to Revolution*. The book documents

their experiences from Buenos Aires to Havana, and includes original diary extracts from Che's memoirs along with the history of the continent. 'We followed the same route as *The Motorcycle Diaries*, the big difference is in the heart of the jungle where the journey ended we flew on, otherwise we pretty much copied exactly the same route,' says Peter.

An adventure is not complete without its hiccups. Peter describes a harrowing night when he and Garnet decided that walking the 43km Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in 24 hours would make a good story. 'It took us a lot longer than we anticipated because although you have the train tracks to follow, they are on shales so it's incredibly hard to walk on, so it was quite slow and we also had to continually dodge trains all night. It was exhausting and considering it was over 3,000m high makes it harder work.'

Amongst it all they hadn't anticipated being shot at by a man who preferred solitude to company. 'Basically we did a marathon in one night, got shot at, and got there and couldn't even see the thing [Machu Picchu],' he says when their view of the famous Machu Picchu ruins in Peru were obscured by fog.

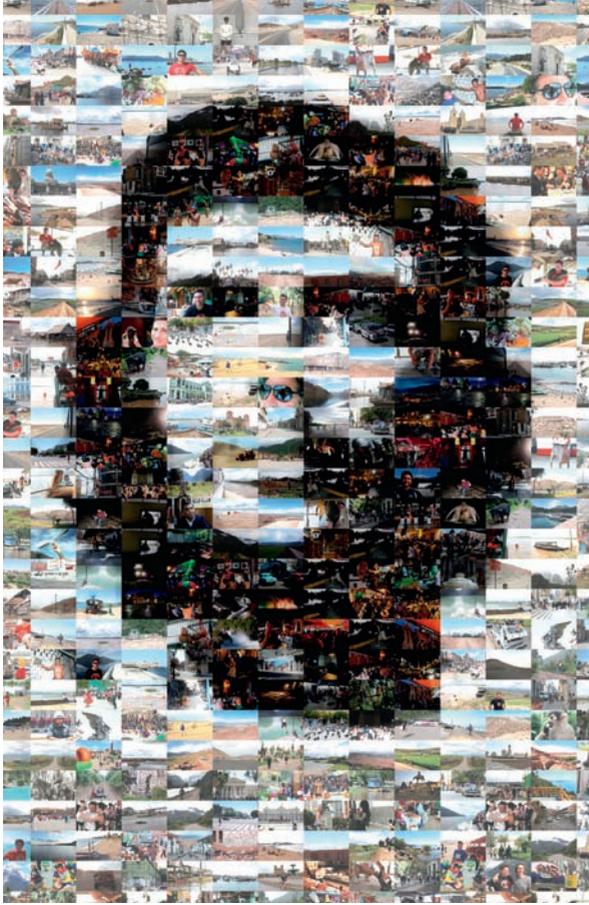
Peter lists his top three highlights as the sight of the volcano towering over the oasis of San Pedro in the middle of the

Atacama desert, seeing the mighty Amazon River and the wildlife, and experiencing the vibrancy of the people, music and dancing in Havana, Cuba. He describes the impromptu street parades in Havana as 'busking on steroids: you've never seen anything like it. It's like seeing a Cirque du Soleil troupe marching down the street,

If you're looking to take off on your own adventure Peter suggests that 'the main thing is to not be scared of the unknown but embrace it, and get out there and do it, because generally, if you're just trying to do something ambitious then people along the way embrace you and embrace what you're trying to do and help you as much as they can. And make sure you take painkillers and antibiotics with you!'

For more information about Peter and Garnet's journey, check out www.facebook.com/road2revo or pick up Peter's book *Road to Revolution* at www.lulu.com





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