

Making tracks

A chance meeting inspired a successful TV producer to quit his job and head off on a year-long world odyssey

WOULD YOU QUIT YOUR JOB TODAY to travel around the world for a year? It sounds risky, but that's exactly what Emmy-winning TV producer Brook Silva-Braga did. The result is the insightful documentary *A Map For Saturday*, which premieres on Nat Geo Adventure this month.

After meeting a couple of backpackers while he was on a business trip in Thailand, Brook decided to see the world. He went on to visit 26 countries in 341 days, taking over 8000 photos as he went.

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"When I quit my job, my boss suggested that I should go to places two weeks at a time over 20 years," recalls Brook. Instead of taking a couple of weeks off, he set off for 12 months – and the first place he headed was Australia.

"I'd never set foot in a hostel until I got to the Original Backpackers Hostel in Kings Cross, Sydney," he says. "Australia was where I realised how much fun the year would be. That was because Australia was warm when New York was cold, and the people I met were so friendly."

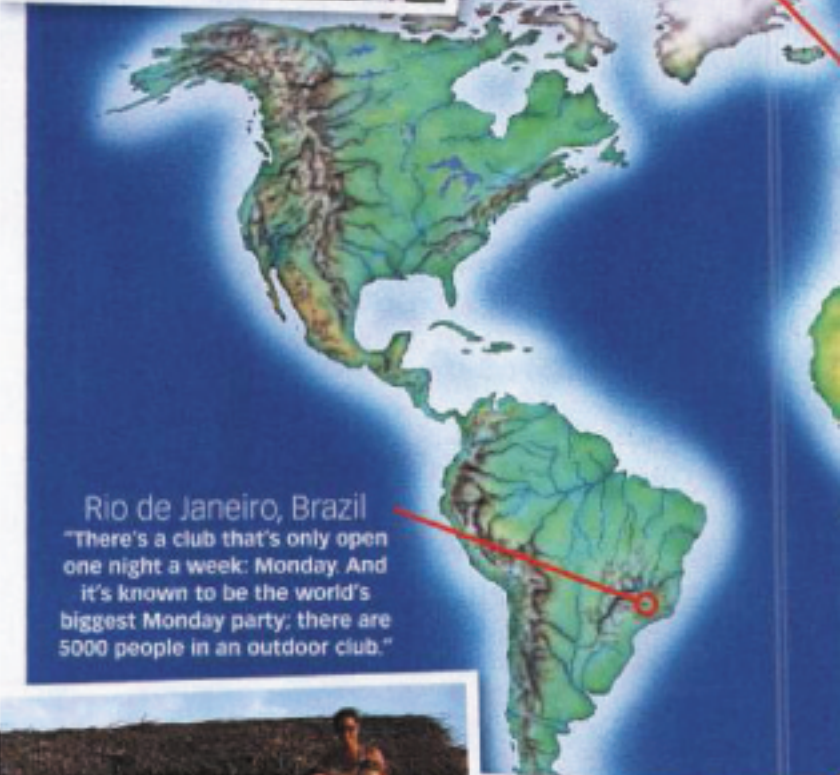
During the two-part series, Brook visits a variety of places including India, Vietnam, Brazil and Nepal. The people he meets along the way give a comical insight into what life is like when you live out of a bag and how to survive in hostels. "Things are unbelievably valuable, and when you have them you can't imagine living without them," laughs Brook.

The burning question is, "How could he afford this?" The total cost for Brook's trip was US\$20,000 (\$22,400), which he'd been saving for over a year. Brook's advice to keen travellers is, "Just go. Don't sweat the details – they always work themselves out." **AMBER GILES**



Italy

"If you could only travel to one country I think Italy might be the one to choose. It has such a range, from the mountains to the beach. It has amazing art and amazing food."



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

"There's a club that's only open one night a week: Monday. And it's known to be the world's biggest Monday party; there are 5000 people in an outdoor club."



India

"The way you get around and just the volume of people on the street is really kind of crazy. But it's fabulous because it's so crazy and different."

A MAP FOR SATURDAY

PREMIERE Thursday 3 @ 8pm, Nat Geo Adventure [517]