

**PRESS
KIT**



Vagabond Journey Travel



Vagabond Journey Travel was founded in the spring of 2005 by perpetual traveler Wade Shepard. Beginning as a daily travel blog for Wade to share his experiences roaming five continents, Vagabond Journey Travel quickly expanded into an extensive budget travel guide offering a wide range of real world tips and tricks for fellow vagabonds and adventurers. Today, in addition to the award-winning blog that started it all, Vagabond Journey Travel is home to a thriving travel forum, dozens of reviews of the latest gear for the road, advice for seeing the world with kids in tow, and a Q&A with Wade covering reader quandries and questions. After six years and 47 countries, Wade and the Vagabond Journey team of travel bloggers have established themselves as the go-to source for trotting the globe on a shoestring and a dream.

Vagabond Explorer Magazine

debuted in 2011 as the answer to every plucky pathfinder's prayers—a travel magazine with bite. *Vagabond Explorer* magazine reaches readers on the road and wanderers at heart with a blend of adventure and utility, its stories ranging from eyewitness reports of history in the making to interviews with wayfaring cubicle ditchers and insights on all the best tools for your next trip. Written by travelers for travelers, *Vagabond Explorer* magazine is travel writing with a shattered lens—a kaleidoscope of expression, opinion, and experience that is as close to world travel as you can get from an armchair while providing the irresistible impetus to leave the armchair behind.



**VAGABOND
BASICS**



Vagabond Journey Travel

Wade Shepard: VagabondSong@gmail.com or 585.454.9117



You may have heard about Vagabond Journey here:



Our stats:

- 4,000+ unique visitors daily, 100,000+ monthly
- 150+ travel tips
- 250+ travel questions answered
- 1,700+ travelogue entries
- 6,000+ travel photos
- Alexa traffic rank: 82,000
- Google page rank: 4/10
- Twitter followers: 1,200

Our awards:



**AWARDS
& PRESS**



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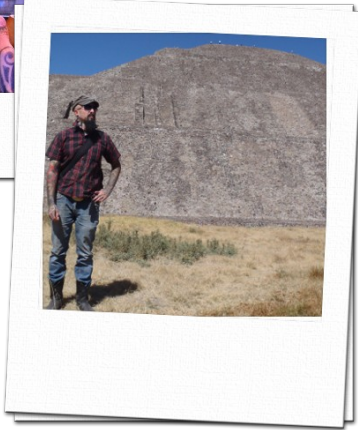
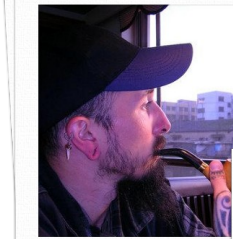
Wade Shepard has been traveling the world for over 12 years through more than 47 countries on five continents. A university trained archaeologist and journalist, Shepard plies both of these trades regularly as he travels around the globe, editing the *Vagabond Journey* eMagazine and writing a daily travel column at VagabondJourney.com/travelogue. In the autumn of 2008, Wade paired up with Chaya in New York City and since then they have traveled together through Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Middle East, and beyond. They were married in June of 2009 and welcomed their newest travel partner, their daughter Petra, in August of the same year. Wade is now traveling the world with his family.



Highlights from 12+ years of world travel

- Two months deep in the Peruvian Amazon along tributaries of the River Huallaga
- Excavation at the Copan Archaeology site in Honduras
- Living in a Tibetan monastery in the Qinghai province of China
- Tramping in the Himalaya on the border of India/Nepal
- Riding a bicycle across Europe
- Researching and publishing articles on Tibetan refugees in India, Portugese graffiti artists, traditional tattooing in Japan, Guatemalan civil war refugees, Mayan archaeology, and Indian woodcarvers
- Traveling in Iraq and across the Middle East with his pregnant fiancé
- Beginning his travels as a family man

For more on Wade's adventures, go to VagabondJourney.com/adventures/



ABOUT THE
VAGABOND



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Chaya Shepard

began her international travels at the age of 14, when she decided that she would trek from her family's home in Maine to France—alone. With a hard head of stubborn steam, she pulled off her first journey and set herself on a course of world travel that she has continued ever since. Chaya made her way through five continents before meeting up with Wade in 2008. Most recently, Wade and Chaya have been wandering around the American Southwest, the Dominican Republic, Central America, and Mexico with their young daughter, Petra. In 2011, the world's favorite vagabond family is set to land in Puerto Rico, Colombia, Brazil, and Patagonia. Chaya writes a travel blog on **VagabondJourney.com/MommyTravelBlog**, which covers traveling while pregnant, with an infant, and with an incorrigibly stubborn husband.



Petra Hendele Adara Shepard was born on Chaya's family's living room floor in August of 2009. At the time of her birth, she had already logged an impressive record of in utero travels: going from Budapest through the Balkans to Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Israel, and Egypt, all while growing inside her mother's belly. Since birth, Petra has traveled across the USA by car from Arizona to Maine, the Dominican Republic, Central America, and Mexico. Petra is roaring to visit South America with her mom and dad in 2011.

Highlights from Chaya's 4+ years of world travel

Teaching at a multi-cultural girls school in South Africa · Working on an oral history project with a youth group in El Salvador · Whirling with dervishes in Konya, Turkey · Drinking chai with women in the Himalaya at the mountainous apex of India, Tibet, and Nepal · Hitchhiking with a goat in Munsyari, India · Trekking into the Ecuadorian Amazon · Hitchhiking across the Western USA while wearing a bridal gown · Beginning her travels with a husband and a baby

MEET THE
FAMILY



Vagabond Journey Travel

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Q&A with Wade

How did you decide to become a full-time vagabond?

I always knew that I wanted to live my life drastically differently than my peers, so I hit the road as soon as I finished high school in 1999. The next year, I discovered archaeology fieldwork in Ecuador, which gave me a way to travel *and* work at the same time. That's when I realized I could make money while seeing the world without ever having to go home. In addition to archaeological training, I became TEFL certified, enabling me to work as an English teacher, and I have dabbled in farm work, gardening, and grunt work of all types in order to make a buck. Today, *Vagabond Journey* and *Vagabond Explorer* magazine are my bread and butter and I'm happy to say they keep my family fed and on the move.

What do you really mean by *budget travel*?

Each member of my family lives comfortably on \$10/day—an average that hasn't budged since 2001.

What is your craziest travel story?

I have eaten roadkill to save money, hitchhiked across China from Mongolia to Vietnam, built a hermitage in the mountains of Japan, found myself in the middle of a cockfight in Honduras, hung out with a gang of Turkish bikers, and followed the love of my life from Costa Rica to Nicaragua to Brooklyn to matrimony—ultimately adding a wife and a baby girl to to my vagabond journey.

What sets your magazine, *Vagabond Explorer*, apart from other travel magazines?

Vagabond Explorer is a magazine that is written for road warriors who aren't just interested in going off the beaten path but who want to completely blaze their own trail. We cover all the nooks and crannies you might not discover on your own as well as the real dirt on the well-worn sites found on everyone's list. The *Vagabond Explorer* magazine is meant to enthrall you, excite you, and expose you to the world as is. We want your wheels turning, your teeth gritting, and your face laughing. If, after reading an issue, you're yelling at the screen, pacing the floor, and ready to grab your knapsack and head out the door—we've done our job.

Are you available for interviews?

Absolutely! No matter where I am, I'm happy to jump on Skype or email and, if you can catch me, I'm a big fan of doing interviews in person. Plus, my readers love me for helping them with all their travel jams—I'm always up for answering vagabonding questions of every kind, from visa overstays to traveling careers to how to best fill your gap year. See Contact Wade for my contact details.

ASK THE
VAGABOND



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“I want to publish secrets. I want to put stories of prostitutes next to digressions on religion. I want the world as it is, not a fairytale.”

-Wade Shepard, editor of *Vagabond Explorer* magazine

Most simply, *Vagabond Explorer* magazine is about the world, what is in it, and how to get there. Think *National Geographic* written by travelers. It is an exploration of global culture, current events, opinion, and philosophy, spoken from the apex of experience.

We believe that the value of travel is not found on pristine beaches drinking little cocktails with umbrellas—it happens when your own world view crashes directly up against another, when you must evaluate your position on this planet and come to terms with the fact that the way you have programmed yourself to think may or may not be so.

Vagabond Explorer breaks all the journalism rules. Our agenda is no agenda, so don't expect us to be polite. In its first issue, *Vagabond Explorer* exposed the struggle for survival in post-earthquake Japan, toasted sex and beer in Ethiopia, showed readers how to ride the rails in Australia for free, and flipped the bird to life in a cubicle.

In true vagabond spirit, *Vagabond Explorer* is a magazine that lives on the edge. We pose the questions you wouldn't dare ask and we inspire you to find the answers.

**VAGABOND
EXPLORER**



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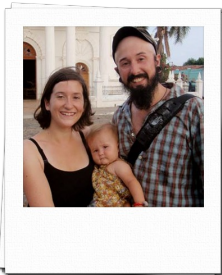
Get in touch with Wade and Chaya

for an interview or general inquiry at VagabondSong@gmail.com, through Twitter at [VagabondJourney](https://twitter.com/VagabondJourney), or through Facebook at [Facebook.com/Vagabond Journey](https://www.facebook.com/VagabondJourney)

Possible Story Ideas



- **How to travel the world cheaply in times of economic crisis** – The travels of VagabondJourney.com are typically funded on a budget of under \$10/day per person. We can share budget travel tips as well as our experiences in an article about how to travel in the midst of a global economic recession.
- **How to fund travels by working on the road** – Wade has worked internationally as an archaeologist, English teacher, gardener, journalist, farm hand, hostel receptionist, and traveling webmaster. He can share tips and tricks for living and making a living on the road.
- **Living the Indiana Jones fantasy** – What the life of a real archaeologist is like. How to become an archaeologist and fund travels through fieldwork.
- **How travel has changed in the past decade** – The changes we have noticed in the world from when we began traveling until now.
- **How to begin traveling: a newbie's guide to vagabonding the world** – Suggestions for those who wish to travel but don't know where to begin.
- **Is it safe to travel the world as a solo female?** - Chaya has often traveled internationally as a solo female and can offer tips and encouragement to other women who also want to travel the world solo.
- **Is it OK to travel while pregnant?** - Chaya traveled through 13 countries in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East during her pregnancy with Petra. She would love to share her experiences with other pregnant travelers.
- **How to travel with an infant** – Wade and Chaya are now on the road with a baby and can contribute a world of information on family travel.



Media photos for publication available at [VagabondJourney.com/press-photos/](https://www.vagabondjourney.com/press-photos/)

CONTACT
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Walk slow.

**ONWARD
HO!**



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