

Travography 2007

As every year passes, I continue to be amazed at what our wonderful, yet delicate planet offers. So much is changing and even disappearing; I can't help but feel a sense of urgency.



Africa **Natural Born Killers – A Lion's Tale**

Come face-to-face with killer lions in the wilds of Africa – then hold their tail and wander through the bush. True. Rod joins the volunteers at Masuwe Lodge while they rehabilitate lions to the wild. One minute it's a tummy tickle, and then they're off tearing into a buffalo.



Japan **The Ainu - Japan's Native Race**

The northern island of Hokkaido is known for winter sports and natural beauty, but who were the original inhabitants? Meet the Ainu, a handsome and energetic race of hunters who worshipped the bear and lived a life similar to the Inuit. Visit their recreated village museum near Sapporo.



Thailand **Farewell the Last True Mahouts**

Say goodbye to the last of the true mahouts. Trained in the ancient and dangerous art of wild elephant capture, these stoic men of the jungle are a dying breed as harvesting of animals from the dwindling jungle is a thing of the past. Rod travels to Surin to meet these remarkable men.



Australia **Land Rover Goes Outback**

Every 4WD should take its owner outback. We take three of Land Rover's new Freelander 2s for an excursion beyond the black stump and remind ourselves why offroad driving in Australia can be a rewarding and achievable adventure within everyone's reach.



Italy **Palermo, a City at the Crossroads**

The city of Palermo on the island of Sicily has been the leading edge of culture clash for centuries. Europeans, Africans and Arabs have all staked their claim at one time or another. Rod explores the ancient ruins and ventures underground to the ghastly Capuchin Catacombs



Australia **Lord Howe – the Last Paradise**

Tiny Lord Howe Island, just two hours by air from Sydney, could be the last genuine South Pacific paradise. The handful of cars are limited to 25kmh, yet most residents and visitors prefer to cycle or walk. UNESCO World Heritage listed, is this the last true paradise?



Vanuatu **It's a Pirates Life for Cap'n Harry**

In the middle of Port Vila's harbour you'll find the modern resort of Iririki. At anchor a few hundred metres away is Captain Harry and Cassiopeia, a close as you'll find to real pirate in these parts. The sun's always over the yardarm, so hoist the mainsail and pass the rum!

Planned for 2008:

This coming year is going to be full of adventure at sea as I get aboard a whole range of new vessels, big and small. Expect to hear tales from Dubai and Oman, Cape York and other locations near and far. Watch for the Essential Guide to Expedition and Adventure Cruising.

Also from 2007:

- NZ Bay of Islands aboard Oceanic Discoverer
- Victoria's Mornington and Bellarine Peninsula luxury
- Turon Gates – Family Weekend Away
- Cruising Italian Style – Costa Serena
- Classic Cruising aboard the Saga Rose

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