

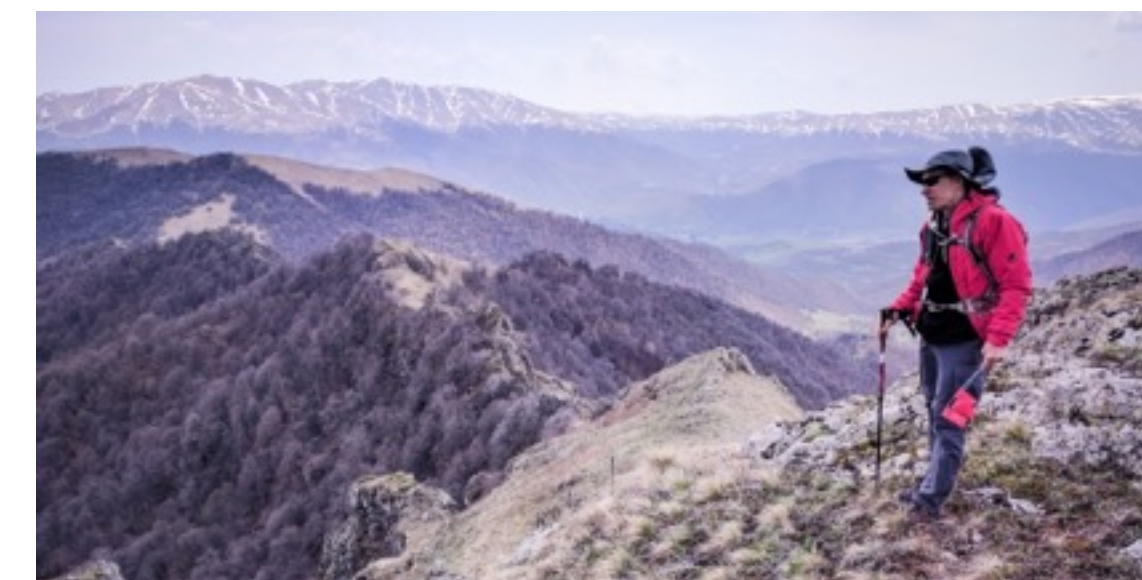
TRANSCAUCASIAN EXPEDITION

EXPEDITION PURPOSE: To drive to Armenia and create a hiking trail from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea.

DESCRIPTION: Tom Allen lead a team of Adventurers, Geographers and volunteers to map a hiking trail across the Lesser Caucasus Mountains in Georgia and Armenia to bring Sustainable Development to rural areas through adventure tourism.

CHALLENGES: The Caucasus is not well developed for tourism. The team spent a lot of time creating maps and meeting with villagers to ensure that the trail was built around their needs.

HIGHLIGHT: Designing a journey that has never been made is the real highlight.



EXPEDITION PURPOSE: Storytelling. I believe that in a fast-paced world where everyone is increasingly busy and distracted, we sometimes can lose the thread of meaningful human connections that comes with slowing down, with observing and listening carefully. My long walk slows my life down to the pace of my own footsteps. I learn new things by not rushing. I hope my writing and photography reflect this.

DESCRIPTION: The great thing about walking through the world is that there is no typical day. Each day is different, depending on whether you are crossing a desert, a city, a farmer's field, or a border. Endless variety. A walking journey is filled with surprises and novelty.

CHALLENGES: Paperwork. Visas. Permissions. Many governments are unused to a request from a foreigner asking to walk across their territory. It takes some explaining. And patience.

HIGHLIGHTS: At least one occurs every day. Walking across the Hejaz desert of Saudi Arabia along old pilgrim's trails towards Mecca was special. So was the homemade yoghurt in the rolling hill farms of Anatolia. So was sitting for months in a quiet office in a museum in Georgia, writing. So was being detained by security forces in Pakistan, who later gifted me a wool scarf. You get the picture: The world is filled with wonders.



EXPEDITION PURPOSE: To explore glacial processes and geomorphology in the temperate glaciers of South East Iceland.

DESCRIPTION: We investigated the glaciers' response to climate change from current dynamics compared to evidence of past behaviour and collected data about subglacial processes like regelation and supercooling at the ice-bed interface.

CHALLENGES: Iceland's weather is notoriously changeable, gauging how serious bad weather could become was important; we had to be extremely flexible to collect all the data we needed and make the most out of each day.

HIGHLIGHTS: It was fascinating to witness the dynamic nature of the glaciers in real time. It was nice to just sit and watch the glacier while eating lunch and notice the tiny ways in which the glacier was constantly changing.





BOHUNT STUDENT EXPEDITION TO MONGOLIA 2017

PURPOSE: To visit remote nomadic communities to understand more about their cultural geography and the role of the young in creating change.

DESCRIPTION: 14 students and 3 adults from Bohunt School spent 3 weeks getting to and from Hatgal in the Lake Khovsgol region of Mongolia by truck, canoe, horse and foot. Whilst there they spent time living and working with nomads.

CHALLENGES: Two accidents meant that the adult leader was hospitalised. This loss of a team member, along with the resultant itinerary changes and a flood, meant the team had to work really hard to maintain positivity at points.

HIGHLIGHTS: Sitting with the Wranglers and drinking tea, singing and chatting about life into the small hours. Seeing nomads going about their day to day lives as we paddled or rode by. Seeing wild horses and eagles and hearing wolves.

