



# Introduction



I was hoping to write this book as a diary like the last one, but the day I tried to start it I woke up in my hotel room in Thailand with my eyes burning and my head completely numb. It was my own fault. I'd assumed the sachet on my bed in the hotel room was some kind of menthol stuff to put on the pillow to help me breathe more easily as I slept, but I later found out it was medical gel to ease aching leg muscles. It was at this point that I decided I wasn't in the right frame of mind to start a diary.

Looking back, it was no bad thing. I very rarely enjoy any of my trips at the time as my head is all over the place. I'm not always feeling my best, what with the flying and the throwing up and the stupid stuff that Ricky and Steve make me do. So the idea of writing the book once I was safe and sound and a bit happier back at home made sense. I've realised that coming back home is the best thing about going away in the first place.

This second set of trips was set up after a meeting with Ricky and Steve in their office. They came up with the idea of getting me to pick seven things that I would put on my Bucket List.

We'd actually had a similar conversation a few years ago as part of the podcasts. At the time, Ricky asked me what I want to do before I die and I said I wanted to kick a duck up the arse. It's just something I always have the urge to do when I see them sitting at the edge of a pond.

For the first series of *An Idiot Abroad* Ricky and Steve sent me round the world to see the Seven Wonders, hoping it would broaden my mind. This time it seemed like they were trying to flatten it.

'Come on. You can pick anything. Make your dreams come true! What about sky diving?' said Steve. 'That's a classic Bucket List experience.'

'Not for me it isn't. No. I'm not sky diving.'

'Bungee jumping?'

'Not a chance. Forget the whole idea.'

I've never been one for danger. I've done some daft things in my time like putting sausages in the toaster, and climbing out of the bathroom window to go and do my paper round when me mam hid the front door keys from me, 'cos she didn't want me going out delivering papers one bad winter. But they didn't really strike me as dangerous at the time, and they all served a purpose.

'Okay,' said Ricky. 'How about we make a big list and you can choose what you want to do from that?'

In the end it felt like I was going to be in control, so I agreed.

This book tells the stories of the things I chose to do, plus the extra things that Ricky and Steve threw in along the way. That was the plan anyway, but when I sat down to write the book I realised that between the first series and the second series, the latest Christmas Special with Warwick Davis, and all the other random stuff I've done in my life, I've actually ticked off more than 60% of the Bucket List. I reckon that's got to be some sort of record. So in the end I've decided to write about all of them and also throw in an opinion or two on the remaining things on the list. Most of these are things that have never appealed, like:

#67 Join the Mile High Club X 

This is when people have it away in the toilets on a plane. I guess this explains why there are always queues whenever I need the loo on a flight. I wish they'd use the system they use at the supermarket meat counter where they give you a ticket with a number on which the pilot could then read out when it's your turn to use the toilet. This has got to be safer than people stood queuing in the aisles.

I'm guessing here but I bet people only do the mile high club thing on the outward journey as after two weeks of being away with someone you're normally sick of them and would rather watch the inflight movie. Also it's the return journey when the toilets get blocked due to everyone having dodgy guts after eating foreign food. On my flight back from India there's no way anyone could have had a romantic moment in there after the state I left it in.

So that's the book. Sitting down to write it has been a nice way to sum up three years of travelling.

What follows is the original list of the 100 things I could choose from. As you can see, kicking a duck up the arse wasn't on it.

# 100 Things to do before you die

1. Fly in a fighter jet
2. Climb Sydney Harbour Bridge
3. Spend a night on your own private desert island
4. Drive a Formula 1 Car
5. Ride the Rocky Mountaineer train in Canada
6. Fly in a helicopter over the Grand Canyon
7. See elephants in the wild
8. Explore Antarctica
9. Climb Mount Everest
10. Travel into space
11. Ride a camel to the Pyramids
12. Travel the Trans-Siberian Railway
13. Catch sunset over Ayers Rock
14. Go wing-walking on a bi-plane
15. Climb Mount Kilimanjaro
16. Come face-to-face with mountain gorillas in their natural habitat
17. Gamble in Las Vegas
18. See orang-utans in Borneo
19. Spot a polar bear on the ice
20. Swim with dolphins
21. Get into the Guinness Book of World Records
22. Watch a Sumo match
23. Drink a beer at Oktoberfest
24. Participate in La Tomatina festival in Spain
25. Cross a country on a bike
26. Master a musical instrument
27. Spend a night in a haunted house
28. Meet someone with your own name
29. Ride the world's biggest rollercoasters
30. Scuba dive at the Great Barrier Reef
31. Complete a bungee jump
32. Paraglide from a mountain
33. Go ice-climbing
34. Skydive from a plane
35. Experience base jumping
36. Meet the Dalai Lama
37. Research your family tree
38. Go up in a hot air balloon
39. Try a jet pack
40. See a space shuttle launch
41. Meet your idol
42. Cycle a leg of the Tour de France
43. See the northern lights
44. See the glaciers before they melt
45. Learn a martial art
46. Get a complete makeover
47. Learn another language
48. Drive a Cadillac along Route 66
49. Leave a job you hate

# 100 Things to do before you die

50. Become a vegetarian for a week
51. Stand at the North or South Pole
52. Visit every USA state
53. Be part of a flash mob
54. Visit the Seven Wonders of the World
55. Explore the Galapagos Islands
56. Spend the night in an igloo
57. Spend 24 hours in a jungle
58. Stand on the international date line
59. Learn to fly a plane
60. Go storm-chasing in Tornado Alley
61. Get a tattoo and/or piercing
62. Invent something
63. Ride something bigger than a horse
64. Build your own house
65. Skinny dip at midnight
66. Run a marathon
67. Join the Mile High Club
68. Be an extra in a film
69. Protest at a demonstration
70. Run with the bulls in Pamplona
71. Canoe up the Nile River
72. Continue your gene pool
73. Write a novel
74. Visit Angel Falls in Venezuela
75. Trek the Inca Trail on Machu Picchu
76. Climb Mount Fuji
77. Sleep under the stars
78. Ride in a gondola in Venice
79. Have lunch with the Queen of England
80. Walk the Great Wall of China
81. Do some charity work
82. Experience a full moon party
83. See Mount Rushmore
84. Go on an African safari
85. See the statues on Easter Island
86. Touch an iceberg
87. Shake hands with the Pope
88. Climb an active volcano
89. Go to Burning Man Festival in California
90. Partake in a Japanese tea ceremony
91. Float in the Dead Sea
92. Jump from a cliff into the sea
93. Swim the English Channel
94. Take part in a fire-walking ceremony
95. Drive or 'mush' a dog sled
96. Spend the Fourth of July in the USA
97. Go whale-watching
98. Live with the Masai people
99. See the wildebeest migration in the Masai Mara
100. Hunt with a tribe

**PASSENGERS  
PLEASE  
COLLECT  
LUGGAGE  
HERE**



**Sea-ByAir - We Deliver? Not!**

