



**OneLife Adventure's newsletter brings you trip reports, equipment reviews, travellers tales and topical news from the world of vehicle dependant expedition travel.**

### **View from the office window**



Currently heading south on the A1, bound for Dover and then onto Calais and Marseille. But this time next week, the scenery will be very different as we'll be in Tunisia, approaching the Algerian border on the start of our Hoggar and Tissili Explorer.

Yet again, having been the first company to explore Mauritania, we believe we've the first UK expedition company to lead 4-wheel drive expeditions into Algeria for many years. The expedition will take us deep into the south of the country to explore the heart of the Sahara around Tamanrasset and the superb Hoggar mountains.

Keep an eye on the website in January for pictures of this exciting trip, and our Fezzan Explorer in Libya immediately after it. We are featuring Algeria again in our 2008 program so don't miss out on this amazing destination – dates for this and all our other expeditions are included at the end of this newsletter. And for those of you who have been following Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman's Long Way Down and have travelled to Tunisia and Libya with us in the past, you'll have recognised many familiar sights, including the Star Wars set, the Troglodyte homes and the incredible Leptis Magna ruins.

.....so with our Fezzan Explorer guests planning fancy dress in the dunes for a New Years Eve party, the only thing left for us to do is decide who's going to be the back-end of the fancy dress camel !

### **LandRover Gear at Xscape**



If anyone's been to Xscape at Castleford recently and glanced at the Land Rover Gear shop, you may have seen your car in the window. OneLife Adventure were asked by Land Rover Gear to help design a new shop window – we were happy to supply a range of great images from our extensive photo library along with a wide range of artefacts that we've collected from a range of countries and cultures we've visited.

The articles ranged from undressed goat skins worn by the Hama in Ethiopia to mud dyed cloths from Djenne in Mali, not to mention the rancid butter dressed Himba head-dress from Namibia – Louise, LRC Merchandising Manager says her car still smells, 3 month after she collected the articles ! We have further events planned with LandRover Gear such as an expedition evening so we'll keep you updated.

### **2008 Shows**



Come and see us at the: British Indoor 4x4 Show at Donnington Exhibition Centre, Sun 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

#### **Other Dates for your Diary:**

10<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> May 08  
18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> July 08

Land Rover Spring Adventure (LRO) – Driffield Showground, East of England  
Billing Land Rover Show, Billing Aquadrome, Northampton

## **UK Weekends**



The weekends have become increasingly popular this year, so much so, we regularly have to turn people away. And with more and more people planning to travel abroad with their vehicles, they've become a great place for meeting like-minded travellers. Shall we go down the east coast or west coast of Africa; do we ship into Cape Town or Johannesburg? How long will it take us to get to Beijing? These are all conversations going on around the campfire.

If you're interested in joining us in 2008, don't miss out. Call now to book. The weekends are still very much family focused, in fact, on our July Welsh Explorer we had more children and dogs than we had adults !

## **Product Review**

We get asked many questions during the year about all the bits and pieces we carry in our truck, so we've decided to write occasional product reviews featuring some of the products that have earned a space.

### **ARB EZ deflator**

Its hard to miss this well engineered tyre deflator in its bright orange case, but we were initially sceptical that such a precision product would survive the rigors of being dropped in sand or mud. But we're glad to say that we've been proven wrong and in the course of the last year this product has earned its place in our door pocket.



This deflator does away with the need for a bit of stick or blade of your penknife to deflate your tyres when the going gets tough, so there's no risk of damaging your tyre valves. The body of the ARB tyre deflator screws securely onto the valve stem and the inner spindle is used to unscrew your valve core. Now by simply pulling the collar, you can dump air from the tyre very quickly indeed. Push to close the collar and you can very quickly check the pressure on the gauge. Once the correct pressure is achieved, you use the inner spindle to re-secure your valve core. Simply unscrew the device, replace the dust cap and repeat on the 3 other tyres.

Total time for 4 tyres approx 2 mins.

Rating: Wouldn't leave home without it, especially for desert trips  
Cost: Approx £35  
Where: Frogs Island 4x4

## **Ideal Christmas Present**



Got your 2008 calendar yet ? In May this year, we travelled with LandRover Gear to Iceland to organise a photo shoot for their latest catalogue and calendar. For those of you who'd like a taste of our forthcoming expedition to Iceland in July 2008, the calendar has lots of exciting images to tempt you. A company with many skills, not only can OneLife Adventure look after all your location management requirements, Anne can be seen on the front cover of the calendar, modelling LandRovers latest winter collection. To buy your calendar, go to [www.landrovergearshop.com](http://www.landrovergearshop.com) - price £15.00

## **Trip Report** **Reflections of Transylvania – by Beth Howard**



I had been fortunate enough to travel through Romania 10 years ago when the Lonely Planet warned of roaming stray dogs and filthy toilets but had not mentioned the horses and carts, pot holes big enough to swallow buses, and the Wendy houses posing as hotels. I was looking forward to seeing how it had changed.

A holiday to me needs to be fun, exciting, spiritual and adventurous. It's about learning a new culture, meeting people, sharing experiences and losing weight and getting fitter. It's about forgetting your identity and listening to your own body about when to eat and sleep, rather than being governed by the clock. It's about finding out a little more about yourself, pushing yourself to try new things, laughter, fun and ideally getting a sun tan.

On the drive through Hungary, I realised how few reminders now exist of how the borders used to be - now just the concrete booths, empty of people and with a blue European flag alongside the national one - old enemies united under a blue flag. I was pleased I had travelled when the borders existed. In Hungary, home was never far away - we could not believe how many Tesco stores there were for those forgotten items - and yes, the Clubcard does work !



The first day in Transylvania was our 29th Wedding Anniversary and OneLife invited us out to celebrate - thank you again, it was one of the best anniversaries Roy and I have shared. While many things appeared to have changed in Romania, I marvelled that the pace of life was slow and methodical, just as it was 10 years ago. We soon found it was easy to adopt this pattern too. However Roy needed all his skills to miss the potholes and sheep or cows that just happened to be round the next bend. For me, I took heaps of photos to capture the moment. I felt privileged to be here now because it felt like a re-birth.

The dullness and oppression was being shaken away, change was happening but for the correct reasons. People's lives were improving and new luxurious homes were springing up. Even the stray dogs seemed well fed and happy to watch us, eagerly awaiting scraps.

Transylvania was beautiful - stunning scenery whether it was mountains, forests or grassland. Water was everywhere - rivers, lakes, dams, streams, water falls and wild flowers carpeted every meadow, fringed by trees so tall and slender. Loggers would stop to acknowledge our passing - it seemed a shame to chop these elegant trees down, but wood is obviously required as the construction booms.

Road works were very much part of our day - the old roads were abysmal, but instead of getting irritated, it was a chance to study the people. The elderly ladies seemed to wear black, their backs were stooped and scarves covered their heads. I wanted to stop and engage these ladies, to discover more about their lives, aspirations, hopes and fears, but I do not speak their language nor would it be a short chat – they have seen so many changes. Part of me would like to live in their culture, experience their way of life, listen and learn from them. Families travel together on carts, I wonder what it feels like to be sat on the cart, your life regulated by the clip clop of the hoofs, your world as far as a horse can travel.



Occasionally, I'd stop and ask permission to take a photo - they were proud to have been chosen, hair was combed, chests puffed out, collars straightened. A curtsy and thank you was enough to complete the moment with none of the requests for money that we'd seen else where in the world. It was usual to see people sitting outside their homes on communal benches talking to each other, how many times have I rushed indoors to by pass my neighbour because I have not much time – how much have we lost in our quest for a better life ?

I can truly say I have been privileged to visit to see Transylvania during this re-birth, the old and new seeming to exist in harmony. I revelled in my freedom in this formerly oppressed country - even the air felt free, fresh and full of hope.

Beth Howard

## OneLife Adventure Diary 2008

Would you like to share similar experiences to those of Beth.....or Ewan and Charley?



**20<sup>th</sup> Dec to 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 08**

### **Fezzan Explorer**

**Libya** - misunderstood, isolated, barren, home to m dogs ! ..... This is what many think when Libya is mentioned but they are very wrong - vast breathtaking desert vistas are our backdrop to this stunning country



**15<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> Apr**

### **High Atlas Explorer**

**Morocco** - our nearest neighbour, in the most fascinating continent in the world - timeless Africa. Morocco provides a superb introduction to the exciting culture and varied scenery of North Africa. While many rush south we take the slow track to find the real Morocco – its diverse and ancient cultures, its great plains, deserts and soaring mountains.



**25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> May**

### **Pyrenees Explorer**

**The Spanish Pyrenees** - the least visited part of the dramatic Pyrenean Mountains guarding the border between France and Spain. The whole region is immensely beautiful - thickly forested foothills, secret plunging valleys and soaring snow capped mountains make for some of the best mountain driving in Europe.



**31<sup>st</sup> July to 14<sup>th</sup> August**

### **Summer Ice Explorer**

**Iceland.** Come and see Europe's largest ice cap, powerful waterfalls, geysers, puffin colonies, volcanoes, not to mention spectacular scenery and some of the most challenging off-road driving in Europe.



**16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Sept**

### **Transylvanian Explorer**

**Romania** - this little visited country, poised to enter the European Union this year, seems little changed from the Middle Ages. Bears and wolves roam its woods and mountains, buffalo bask in warm valleys while eagles and vultures soar above its glistening schist peaks.



**1<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> Nov**

### **Hogar and Tissili Explorer**

**Algeria** is the Sahara. It covers more than 80% of the country and with 90 percent of Algerians living along the northern coast on 12 percent of the country's land, it leaves a lot of sand and rock for us to explore!



### UK Explorers 2008

These popular, UK based mini expeditions will take you into some of the most remote and beautiful areas of Wales and new for 2008, Yorkshire.

2 <sup>nd</sup> to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Wales
15 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Wales
17 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Yorkshire
21 <sup>st</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Wales
12 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> July	Wales
23 <sup>rd</sup> to 25 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Wales
11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Wales
13 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Wales

For more information or to make a booking, call us or visit our website

0161 265 5799

[www.onelifeadventure.co.uk](http://www.onelifeadventure.co.uk)

We look forward to seeing you in 2008

And best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

*Paul*

*Anne*

If you have any comments or don't wish to receive this newsletter, please email us: [info@onelifeadventure.co.uk](mailto:info@onelifeadventure.co.uk)