



## ***EXTRAORDINARY TRAVELERS CLUB DISPATCH - ISSUE #6***

### **Don't Let Comfort Kill Curiosity - Why Embracing Adventure Is The Antidote to Boredom...**

by Richard Bangs

There is a common misconception, one that lurks in the shadows, whispering lies: that adventure is dangerous, while routine is safe. Bosh. There is a truth far bolder: **routine, not adventure, is the silent assassin, the thief of aliveness.**

Of course, scaling an unclimbed peak or rafting uncharted waters carries inherent risks. But after the scrapes and triumphs, it becomes evident that true danger often hides in plain sight. The slow erosion of the spirit, the gradual numbing of the senses, the comfortable cage built around us – that is the real threat. It's the insidious routine that saps curiosity, leaving a hollow shell, sleepwalking through predictable days.

**The peril lies not in facing the unknown, but in succumbing to the numbing embrace of the familiar.** Routine is the silent killer of the human spirit – a slow, insidious force that saps vitality, dulls the senses, and robs the opportunity to truly experience life in all its richness and complexity.

Remember our younger selves, eyes wide with wonder, chasing fireflies and building forts? Every turn revealed something fresh and new. Where did that spark go? **Drowned in a sea of "coulda, woulda, shoulda."** **Adventure rekindles that flame. It's the unexpected detour, the spontaneous interaction with a stranger, the "yes" uttered instead of the usual "no."** It's the jolt that reminds us of being alive, not simply existing.

I'm not advocating recklessness or heedless pursuits of trouble. Calculated risks, sure, but not blind leaps. Adventure thrives on preparation, on honing skills and expanding knowledge. It's the thrill of pushing limits, not exceeding them. Even Everest starts with a first step.

Oh, and the rewards, the riches to be plundered! **Not gold or portfolios or acquired things, but experiences that weave the tapestry of life.** The laughter shared around a campfire with newfound friends, the vista that takes the breath away, the quiet moment of connection with nature's symphony. These are honest treasures, far more valuable than any material possession.

While the trail to adventure may be fraught with challenges, uncertainties, even blood, it is also a path that leads to growth, discovery, transformation and, ultimately, a deeper understanding of ourselves and the world around us. It is a call to embrace a mindset of openness and resilience in the face of life's trials. Only by reaching high can we climb the heights of our capabilities and unlock the potential of our humanity.

**So, I urge, step outside the comfort zone; step outside.** Don't let the fear of the unknown paralyze. The greatest risk is not taking one at all. Embrace adventure, in whatever form it takes. Hike a new trail, color in the map, strike up a conversation with that interesting person in the corner, learn a new skill. Let curiosity be the compass, courage the fuel, and live a life that resonates with the vibrant hum of enchantment and brio.

The only true danger is living a life devoid of the blaze that fires us with wonder. The world awaits, teeming with the sublime, the magical and the many wild mysteries to be unpuzzled. **In the end, it is not the hazards of adventure that we should fear, but the lethality of a life lived without it**





## **Invitation 1 - Richard Bangs' Private Rafting Alaska Asek Exploration**

A Wilderness Float Through the Last Frontier



**Decades ago, I made the first raft descent of the lower Asek, and now Laura and I have chartered a July 6<sup>th</sup> departure for a custom 8-day eye-popping adventure.**

"The Most Visually Stunning Corridor In the World"

I wrote that when rafting the lower Asek River in Aslaka, a stretch as pure a wilderness as can be found.

And the description holds true today.

It usually takes 13-days to traverse the Asek, but Laura and I have put together a special 8-day charter that uses helicopters to transport around the less scenic

upper section and the notorious Turn Back Canyon, optimizing the time to experience the most awesome elements of a pageant-filled trip.

As we journey down the Alsek River, we'll ride through the largest contiguous protected wilderness in the world - including Kluane National Park & Reserve in the Yukon and Glacier Bay National Park in Alaska. Purl past a galaxy of glaciers, by the largest concentration of grizzlies, and beneath the greatest wheels of bald eagles in the world.

Here I am below with our son, Jasper, and Laura on his left.



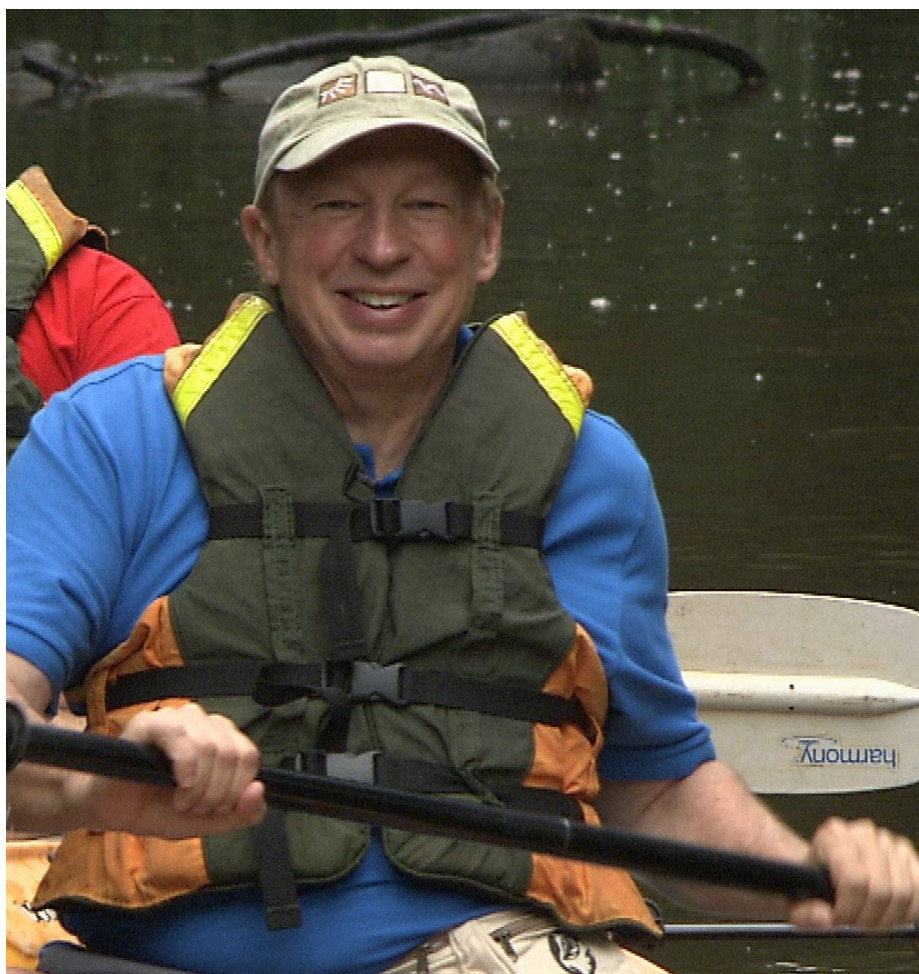
Raft past stunning glaciers and keep an eye out for spectacular wildlife, from grizzlies to marmots and moose. Camp riverside and enjoy delicious meals while listening to river lore around the campfire.



We're seeing high levels of enthusiasm from those signing up -- it's clear that we'll have a fun-loving group. It's filling, so now is a good time to jump in.

**I invite you to join us for 8 glorious days as we immerse in raw primeval nature that pulls you into the present moment. It will be a life-memorable experience and we can't have too many of those.**

- Richard Bangs.



**Details or to Join**

**Richard Bangs' Alaska Alsek Private Rafting**

**Please contact: Seth Heald, Sr. Director North America**

## Invitation 2 - Edward Windsor, Lord Downpatrick The Splendours of Scotland



Knowing very well that I've led private bespoke expeditions for some time, when Jack Wheeler asked me to design and lead my "dream" Scotland trip – I dove right into it!

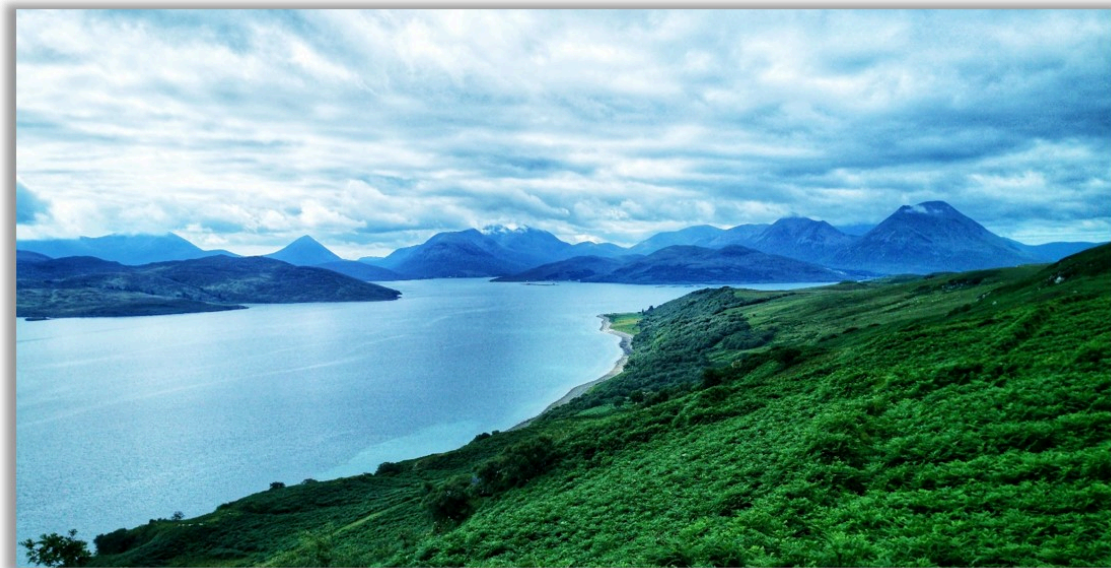
What emerged is a journey called, "The Splendours of Scotland".

Here you will find a capital city set amidst the the home of the famed Scottish Enlightenment, the period between the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries characterised by a spate of intellectual and scientific achievements, including those of the great Adam Smith.

This is a land that at its narrowest point is but 25 miles wide. She is a land of bounteous wildlife, natural beauty, hundreds of islands, thousands of lochs (lakes), and consequently, rarefied light. A land of druids, warriors, saints, and brilliant minds, she is imbued with a magic hitherto undimmed

On this expedition you will discover the true brave heart of Scotland, her line of clans, kings, and queens, alongside her most celebrated heroes. The land of *Outlander*, *The Highlander*, *Outlaw King*, and *Braveheart* themselves brought to

life. Here you will uncover lost ways of life, traditions and relics many thousands of years old, and the source of one of the great migrations to what was to become the United States of America.



In short, this is a land storied in song, fabled in history, replete with natural beauty. What you see in these photos reflects the world inhabited by all those famous songs and stories, but it is only a teasing glimmer of what actually lies in wait.

Meet us in Edinburgh, Scotland for **The Splendours of Scotland from May 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024.**



**CLICK FOR  
ITINERARY & DETAILS TO JOIN  
*THE SPLENDOURS OF SCOTLAND*  
MAY 12 - 22, 2024**

During the years that I lived in the Scottish Highlands I developed a love of all that we can see, enjoy, and discover here. This will be a truly extraordinary journey as where we go and who we meet can only be achieved because my longstanding friendships and history in this part of the world.

We'll have special visits in Scotland's most iconic monuments, among which is Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish Kings, and whose owners are old friends. The other places barely need mentioning, but believe me, they're on the special side of things.



Jack Wheeler and Rebel Holiday will join us as I lead our small group of 10-12 to some of my favorite spots. I invite you to join us! Eddy

## **The Splendours of Scotland from May 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024.**

### **Experiences of Prior Scotland Clients**

“Our trip with Edward Downpatrick was truly once in a lifetime. Every day was special in its own way. Edward planned an action-packed trip replete with Scottish history, cultural and natural wonders, and of course fantastic dining experiences. We still talk about our trip often and could not recommend it more!”

*Mary-Bell Browning of Houston and NY*

“Edward Downpatrick gave us a front row seat to the Scottish Highlands way of life in 2019. We went on castle tours, breathtaking hikes and learned something new at every turn. One highlight was a day trip to Isla for a private Scotch whiskey tasting, an activity which no one on the tour will soon forget.”

*Gregory Clement of Dallas and NY*

---

## **Invitation 3 - Jack Wheeler & Rebel Holiday Atlantic Paradises - June 28 - July 8, 2024**



**Explore the Portuguese Islands Madeira & 3 of the Azores Islands**

Meet Jack Wheeler and Rebel Holiday in beautiful Funchal, Madeira on June 28, 2024 to begin our exploration. It's a stunning volcanic island, that today is lush and green. We'll enjoy oceans, natural pools, scenic drives, quaint villages to explore, delicious Portuguese cuisine with their own twist, good wines, and hospitality.

Each of these Atlantic Paradises is an Eden in its own distinct way. Each is a blissful wonderland of joyful surprise. After four days we depart for Ponta Delgada on San Miguel, where we learn a lot about the people and customs.

One unusual thing about Madeira and the Azores is that they were all entirely uninhabited when the Portuguese discovered them, so there was no one to conquer and the Portuguese who came to live here saw it as a great opportunity.



We stay in well-located, upscale properties and dine at outstanding restaurants..



We'll take a short flight (included) and head over to Horta on Faial and ferry to Pico Island to go whale watching -- and you can swim with dolphins if you like!

You will enjoy full days of interesting activities that highlight the culture, music, celebrations. All with a relaxing pace to experience the energy of life!



Our prior guests on this very special, exclusive exploration have reported feeling enlivened and rejuvenated. In a small group of 10-12, you will find others like you who embrace the world.

Jack and Rebel have spent a over a decade in Portugal and the islands -- still feel there's plenty more to explore. They invite you -- delighted to share it with you!

Click the gold button below for details and photos!

Contact: Rebel Holiday - [holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com](mailto:holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com)

**CLICK FOR DETAILS & ITINERARY**

**ATLANTIC PARADISES**

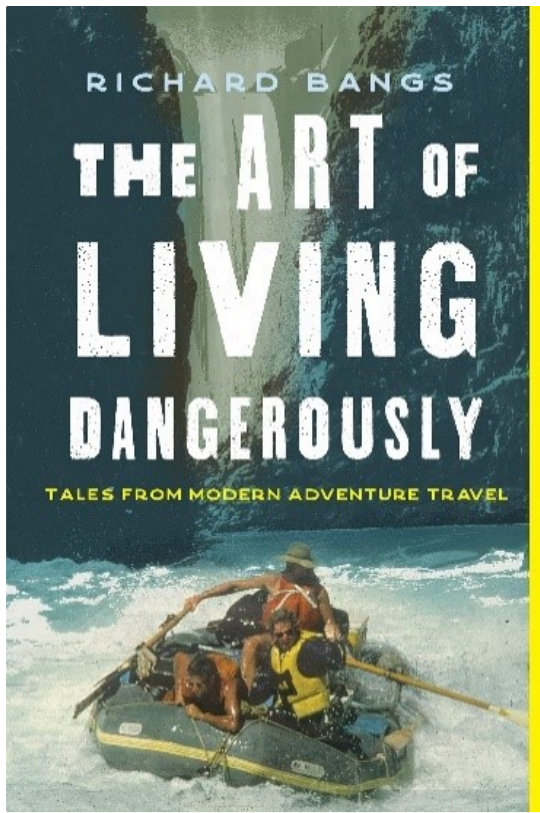
**June 28 - July 8, 2024**



---

## Extraordinary Travelers Bookshelf

**The Art of Living Dangerously**, on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The thrilling new book celebrating Sobek's 50 years of insane exploration is available. Just click the book image below to get started!



## The Art of Living Dangerously by Richard Bangs

Be swept away by these awesome and implausible tales from Richard's 50 years of insanely great explorations.

### **What reviewers say:**

Thom Beers, creator of *The Deadliest Catch*, says ***“Richard Bangs is the epitome of living life to the fullest. Danger is and has always been his comfort zone.”***

*Paul Maritz, conservationist, tech investor, former senior exec at Microsoft and VMware* says, ***“Richard tells great stories, some of them true.”***

[The Art of Living Dangerously.](#)

**Submit Your Review**

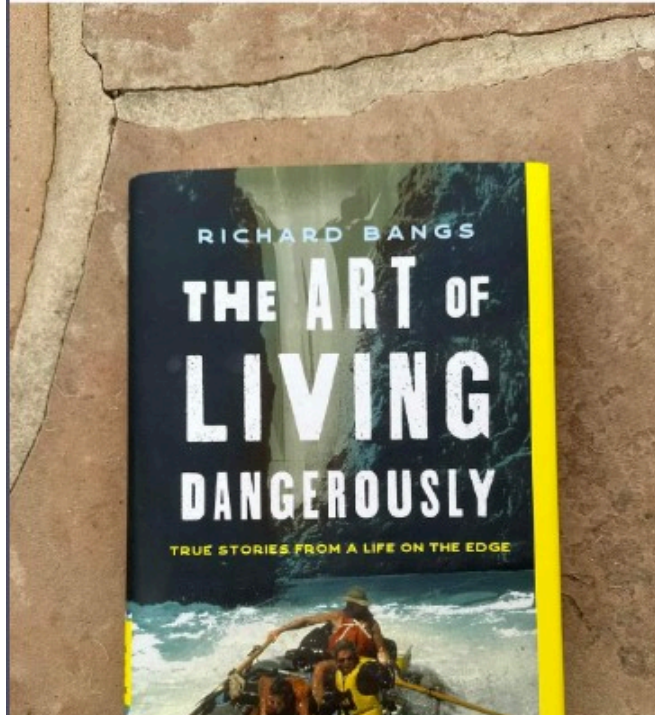


**Greg Thomsen**

2d · 🌐



I Just finished reading [Richard Bangs-Trover](#) new book "The Art of Living Dangerously" . Riviting! What a Life (so far!). No one I know has traveled more, explored more, adventured more and lived to tell the stories!! Richard's writing is superb, clever and beautifully crafted! A must read!!!!



**Yes, Let's Go There!**



Jack Wheeler and Richard Bangs reaching for the stars. (photo by Jasper Bangs)

### Connect with Richard Bangs



Join us in the [The Extraordinary Travelers Club](#).

Your comments are welcome, email [richardbangs@extraordinarytravelersclub.com](mailto:richardbangs@extraordinarytravelersclub.com)

Share with us your Extraordinary Travel experiences!  
Just email: [RichardBangs@ExtraordinaryTravelersClub.com](mailto:RichardBangs@ExtraordinaryTravelersClub.com)



The Extraordinary Travelers Club is a celebration of extraordinary travels and those who pioneer and partake. Each month we offer commentary, interviews and opportunities to explore our remarkable world, to turn unturned corners and breathe rarefied air.

This is a club for the bold, the curious, and those who seek exceptional experiences in the hidden scapes and the back of beyond. There is no membership fee; just the currency of curiosity. We invite you to be a part of this wayfaring League, a community within which to share the insights, codes and secrets with like-minded travelers from around the globe.

---

### Special Thanks To Our Fellow Travel Pioneers...





## Extraordinary Travelers Club

2598 E Sunrise Blvd, 33304, Fort Lauderdale

This email was sent to {{contact.EMAIL}}  
You've received it because you've subscribed to our newsletter.

[Update your preference](#) | [View in browser](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)