



EXTRAORDINARY TRAVELERS CLUB - ISSUE #5

The Tyranny of Inertia...

by Richard Bangs

In the metaphysics of identity, the ship of Theseus is a thought experiment that raises the question: If a boat, battered by storms, rotted by salt and barnacles, reaches the state that all its original components have been replaced, is it then the same object?

If but a safe voyage is sought, the boat should never leave the harbor, and there will be no quandary of essence or self.

However, sailing into a raving sea opens the mind to all sorts of stray thoughts and possibilities. The affair is to lean into the world with appetite to know it, to move, and to seek wonder. Wonder is an offensive against the repetition of what we know. And it is the gateway to re-imagination and discovery. To wit:

Richard Burton, the 19th century explorer, was among the first Europeans to penetrate large parts of Africa. Though commissioned by The Royal Geographical Society, Burton really set out to satisfy his own insatiable curiosity about foreign life, languages, and erotic practices. He was an adventurer who sought out perfectly unnecessary hazards in the name of inquisitiveness, and pursued the unknown not for empire or some larger good, but for his own love of discovery.

For his ill-conceived plan to cross Antarctic Ernest Shackleton had major sponsors, and promoted his "Imperial" expedition as scientific, though he had no interest in science, even scorned it...the real reasons for the extreme endeavor were personal: he loved a good adventure; loved the romantic notion of searching for fortune; and loved to sing, jig and joke with his mates in the field. Everything else was an excuse.

Others came to personify this type of passion pursuit in a more direct way, such as Wilfred Thesiger, who loved the desert, and spent forty years exploring its inner reaches, including a crossing of Arabia's Empty Quarter. When Teddy Roosevelt decided to explore the River of Doubt in Brazil, he said, "I had to go. It was my last chance to be a boy."

Richard Branson did that, setting records for the first hot air balloon to cross the Atlantic, and the oldest person to cross the English Channel by kiteboard; Robyn Davidson became the first woman to cross the

Australian desert by camel; Yvon Chouinard, Jimmy Chin, Hadley Hammer, Lynsey Dyer, Bill Briggs, Jack Wheeler...they all personify this indomitable spirit of exploration, following some irresistible inner call to shred the limits, to step into *terra incognita*, and prove their passions. They dogged their dreams and generated awareness and support for their interests and causes.

This is the good truth...that it is better to go forward than to never step at all and wither on the inside. If you can resist the temptation to stay in the safe harbor, if you can take the ambiguity of the open seas or steep slopes, you can make a difference, for yourself, and for those with whom you come in contact.

When you engage in a new adventure, that is when you are most alive; that is when the envelopes are ripped, the blood runs fast and existence is validated.

So, we invite you to break from the dockside bonds, to voyage into new waters, and join us in a grand adventure this year!



Richard Bangs, 2023



**You're Invited by Richard Bangs & Jack
Wheeler: *ADVENTURE*
*ALBANIA***



Most travelers know about Greece and Italy, but few know delicious details about neighboring Albania. The Ancient Greeks and Romans certainly did, who built cities, villas, and resorts, some of which still stand. Today, it is but the cognoscenti of world travel that know what a wonderland of magic beauty and great adventure Albania is. We invite you to become one of them.

Albania's Vjosa River, for example, possesses the qualities to be a legend. Just this past March 2023, Vjosa was declared Europe's First Wild River National Park. In late Spring, April 20-30, 2024 we'll raft through its exciting Class III rapids with the most experienced river explorer in the world, our own Richard Bangs!



Experience the thrills of clear-water rafting with magnificent World Heritage Site history, charming hotels, great food, marvelous wine, and wonderfully hospitable people along the banks and byways.



This is the medieval walled city of Berat, one of the World Heritage Sites to explore.

Oh, did we mention gorgeous beaches on the little-known Albanian Riviera?
We'll enjoy this beautiful coast at our resort for several days at the end.



These are just highlights -- to join Richard and Jack Wheeler on this life-memorable experience, get all the info and details with lots of photos here:

**ITINERARY & DETAILS TO
JOIN**

ADVENTURE ALBANIA

APRIL 20-30, 2024

The Call of the World

by Jack Wheeler



The Map of Jack Wheeler

As you may know, I've had memorable experiences in every country in the world. Ever since I was a teen, the world has been calling me to explore it – and I've been responding deeply to that call for well over sixty years now.

And yet... and yet... I must confess to you that I've barely begun, barely scratched the surface of the wondrousness of our Earth.

There is a literal endlessness to what there is to learn, witness and infuse your soul about the history, culture, people, and sheer magical beauty that surrounds our planet.

Can you feel it – the world calling you to experience and explore it? The call may be loud and persistent. It may be faint, drowned out by the daily humdrum of life – or under the illusion that you're too old or somehow unable. But however loud or faint, it's there in most of us – for how else did we humans populate the entire globe? To seek, to know, to experience, to explore is a very deep part of what it is to be a

human being.

The Call of the World is part of the *glory* of being human. It's using our unique life, capacity for self-consciousness, ability for appreciation, and to live in gratitude for being a part of this glorious Earth and Universe.

You know that for almost a half-century now I've made a living enabling people to respond to the Call of the World. In 2024, that response will be in Africa's Serengeti, Albania, Scotland, Mongolia, Central Asia, the Himalayas, Bhutan, the South Pole, and Atlantic Paradise Islands.

I am hoping, of course, that you will join me on at least one of these explorations. More than that, however, I want you to answer the Call of the World that most resonates within you.

Is there a forest, a scenic wonder, a historical town or place near you that you haven't been to and wondered about? Bet there is. What about somewhere nearby that your kids or grandkids don't know about and would think is very cool?

Whether the Call of the World in you is to the back of beyond or around the corner, life-memorable experiences await once you answer. In all history that's been or will be, our earthly existence happens only once for a tiny moment in time. I urge you to answer the Call of the World while you still have that time. *Carpe diem*.

(Glimpses of Our Breathtaking World #187 photo ©Jack Wheeler).

An Invitation from Richard Bangs: Float the most stunningly beautiful river in the world: The Alsek of Alaska & Canada



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

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. - Richard Bangs

Details or to join, please contact: **Seth Heald, Sr. Director North America**

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How Happy Can A Young Boy Be?



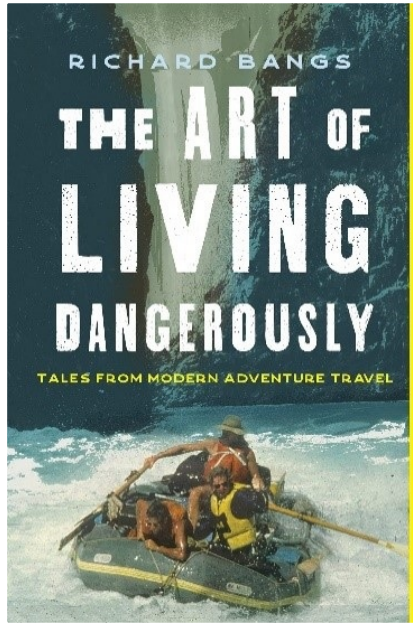
And his father too. I started taking my son Brandon on expeditions with me at age five. Here we are in the Serengeti during the Great Migration. He saw three lion kills happen yards away, a baby born in a Masai hut - he's never forgotten his first great adventure to this day, over 30 years later.

I encourage you in every way to take your children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces on an exploration of one of our planet's many wondrous places when they are young. It will be formational for them, a founding experience of awe for what a magically extraordinary world they are privileged to live in.

And your seeing it through their eyes will be a shot of youth elixir in your veins. It will be a life-memorable bonding experience for you both.

Extraordinary Travelers Bookshelf

Holiday Read: The Art of Living Dangerously, on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. The thrilling new book celebrating Sobek's 50 years of insane exploration is available now. 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](#)

Explorers' Club Invite - January 8, 2024

If in town, you are invited to The Explorers Club in New York, Monday, January 8th to celebrate fifty years of adventure with Richard Bangs.

If you can't make it, the event is streaming live on YouTube and Facebook. Click [here](#) for details: [The Art of Living Dangerously | The Explorers Club](#) *

Portugal Exploration - May 3-12, 2024



Explore Portugal: Lisbon, Sintra, Coimbra, & Porto

Join Jack Wheeler and Rebel Holiday who have delighted guests with this very special, exclusive exploration since 2012. This is a brilliant experience that showcases the beauty, charm, and history of Portugal with a small group of 10-12 travelers.

You'll be immersed in the natural scenic beauty, discover the culture and long history, while enjoying high-quality hotels, delicious food and wine. You'll see castles, palaces, fortresses, and points of interest, including standing at the most Westerly point of Continental Europe.

We begin in the capital, Lisbon, to see the best sights and attractions of historic Lisbon, Cascais, and Sintra. Next, we drive along the Portuguese Riviera to the Silver Coast, and ultimately visit Porto, the second largest city and home of port.

You will enjoy full days of interesting activities -- yet with a relaxing pace to experience the energy of this beautiful country. We stay in well-located, upscale properties and dine at outstanding restaurants. (*You choose your meal off the menu, no pre-set menus.*) Your hosts have been residing in Portugal for over a decade -- and are delighted to share it with you!

Contact: Rebel Holiday - holiday@wheelerwindsorexpeditions.com or click below for details and photos.

**Click for Details to Join
Portugal Exploration**

May 3-12, 2024



Town of Cascais at night, on the Portuguese Riviera, Portugal



Quinta da Regaleira, Sintra, Portugal



Douro River, Porto, Portugal (*our hotel on the bank*)

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

Share with us your Extraordinary Travel experiences: email to
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
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