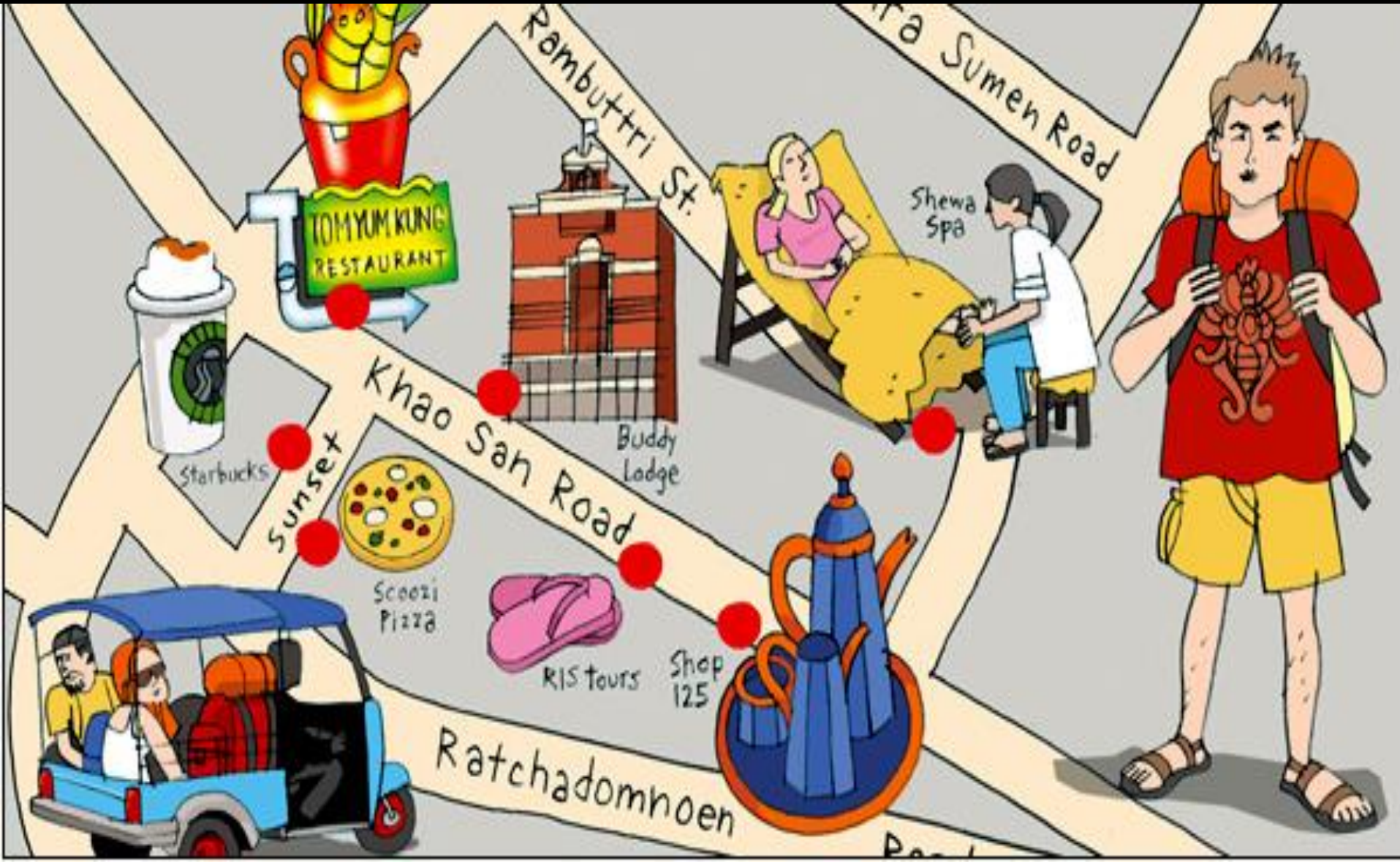


Mobilising identity in a Restless Mobility Environment





Mobility is defined as the ease of movement, and can refer to the movement of individuals, goods, capital, and information in the form of text, other signs, or images.

Sager, T (2006: 466)

Backpackers

are a subset of the tourism market, bounded by similar motivations & sense of purpose. They are a highly visible group whose priorities are said to include authenticity, low-cost, travel and attaining novel and varied experiences. Backpacking carries an image and a cluster of symbolic meanings attached to it which can be easily aspired



This presentation takes a critical and reflexive mobility analysis of their everyday lives and their movement through space and networks of mobility.



15,000 to 20,000 hostels globally

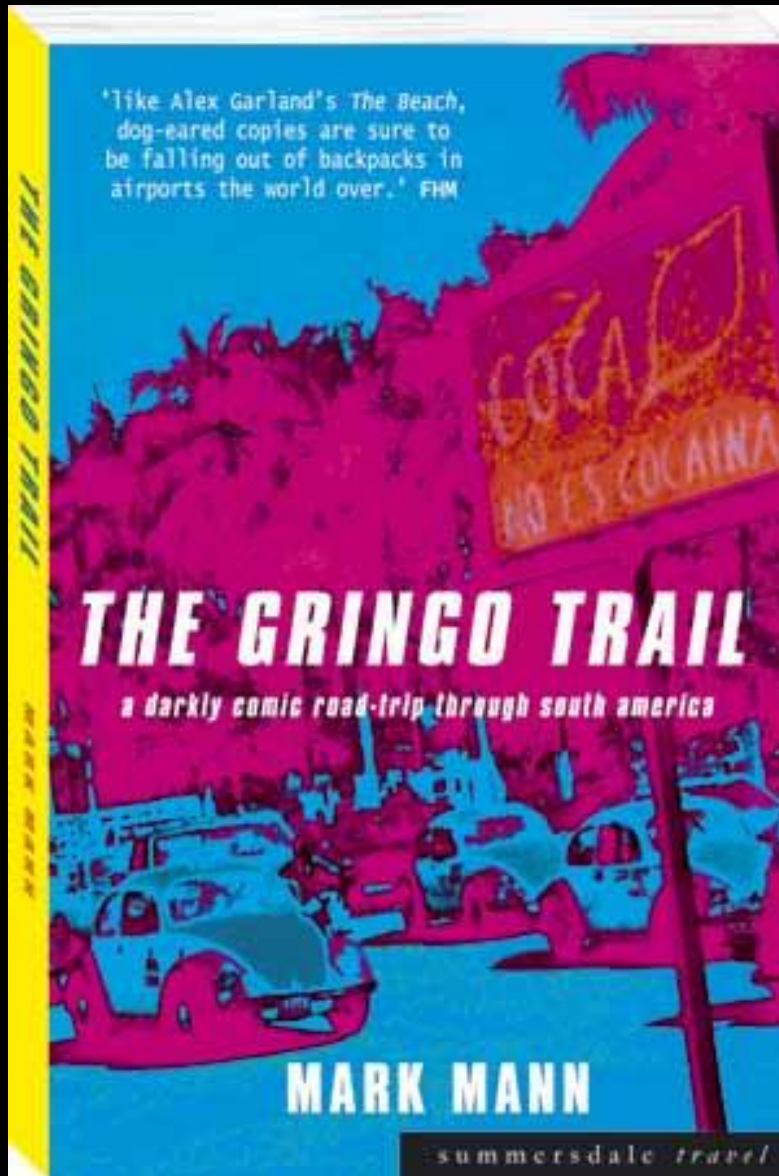


Tel: (001) 915-532-3661 Fax: (001) 915-532-0302



Places leave their mark. They are a school of seeing, they have effects on the habitus and the routines of the traveller. They constitute a symbolic place full of rituals and meaning.

Buying an entire lifestyle



The nature of a certain lifestyle is reflected upon to a much higher degree though, than the use of mobility to achieve these lifestyles'

Freudental-Pedersen, 2005:32

This mobility both constructs communities and becomes a performance through which we make statements about ourselves and acquire status.

Mobility system

Like hotels, airports, rail stations, hostels have become an 'mobility system' of 'interconnected nomadism' (Braidotti 1994) – part of a system of backpacker infrastructure to which travellers are becoming increasingly dependent upon.





Networks of Mobility

going beyond a particular and singular analysis of hostels

- All places are part of networks – i.e. religion can forge networks of pilgrimage.
- Some symbolic networks become Commodified and replaced through travel & tourism (pilgrimage tours).
- Backpacking creates facilitating greater speed of movement
 - those places / hostels outside the popular network (beaten tracks) are not so connected
 - Backpackers not only inhabit ‘a network of mobility’ corporeally but can fully integrate within the flows of information, images
 - space-time compression has changed the daily time-space patterns creating backpackers who enact mobility as a performance differently.



new
nomadism

A.K.A
THE HYPERMOBILE

A.K.A.
KINETIC ELITE

A.K.A
FLASHPACKERS



New Nomads are affluent, sought after practicing pre-planning, micro co-ordination on the go (with the help of technologies of the self), and the necessary infrastructure to facilitate 'seamless, frictionless mobility' and rapid orientation on popular networks. They are capital-strong individuals; people who are on the move even when they temporarily stand still.

These 'new nomads' exploit all the existing forms of mobility and mobility systems designed specifically for their needs to speed up the pace, as they manage multiple lifestyles



Our frenzied building of roads, our restless mobility, our taste for the standardized fare of franchises are all expressions of this anxiety about wide open spaces - Sanders, S.R. (1997: 158).



As older rituals tied to backpacking die out (hitchhiking, exchanging addresses, poste restante, notice boards) new forms of connection are replace them, illustrating the fact that old forms of connection become 'inadequate to the maintenance of daily cycles of connection' for mobile elite where the world is small.

Routines

The idea of 'home' refers to routine sets of practices helping travellers feel at home wherever they are.

Backpacker Transport

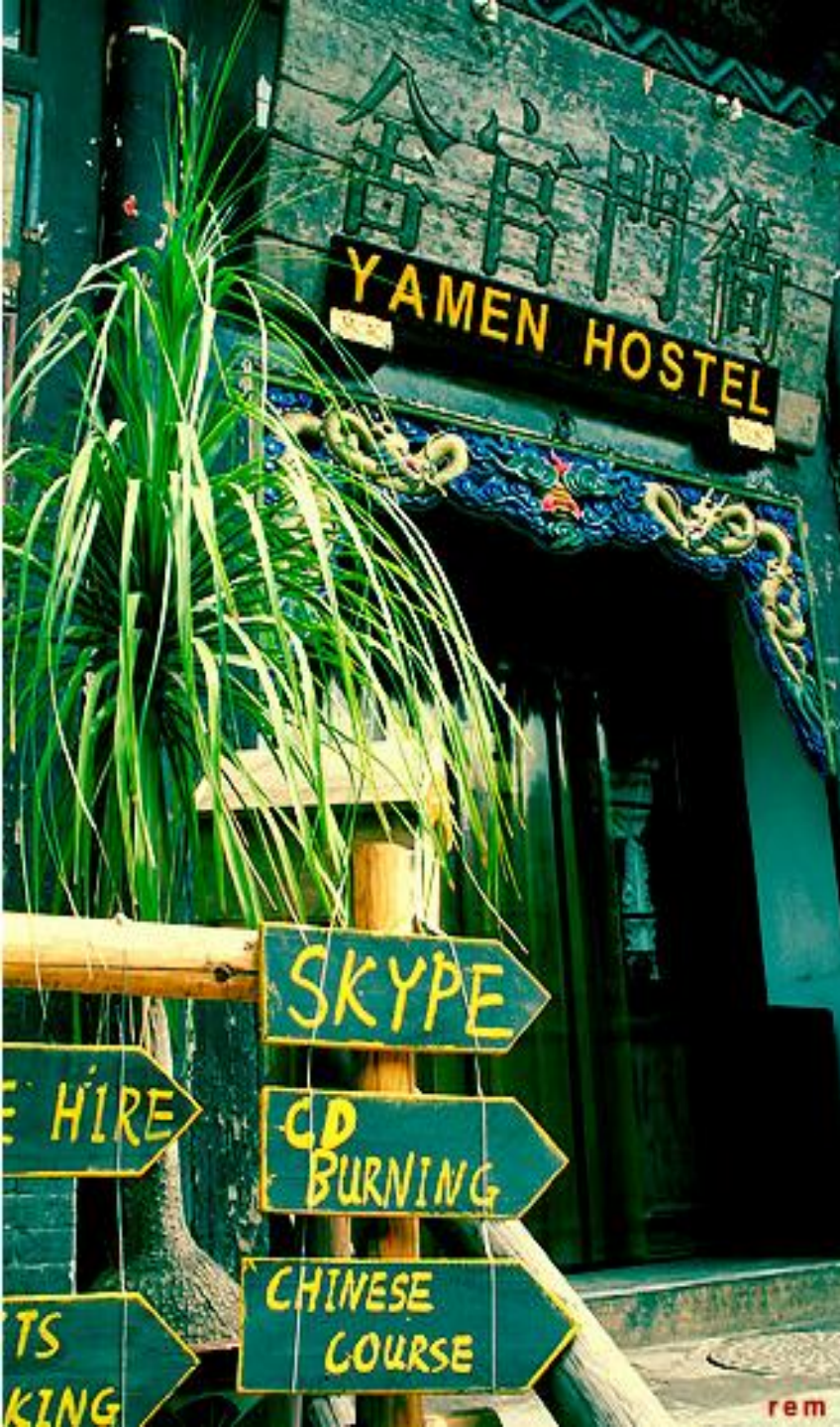
Local, National and translational level – (seamless travel, hyper orientation, point to point, packaged). It can undermine local transport / attract the affluent locals.

Amenity Creep

Air-con, plasma TV's, private ensuite rooms, night club, tour office, post office, money exchange, employment office, Internet access, cafe, restaurant's, book exchange, games room, pool. Etc

Guidebooks:

In 2007, Lonely Planet introduced pocket guidebooks called "Encounter," designed for short visits to cities around the world . Shoestring accounts for less than 2% of Sales.



Technologies are becoming intricately woven into the social fabric of their everyday lives; any many will not see any problem into the integration of everyday life and routines into their travel lives, not just with everyday items makeup, clothes, mobile phone and suitcases.

They utilise technology to manage multiple lifestyles as well as helping to facilitate a frictionless mobility so as to orientate them continuously while on the move.

Hostels that don't facilitate them will appear constraining and static.



IMMOBILITY

- Increased Speculator investment along 'proven' networks of mobility.
Reduced local involvement.
- increased Segregation (more backstage areas) so as to reduce conflict.
- The rejection of marginal groups or those that disrupt - in order not to break the spell.
- Increased Surveillance.
- Increased Commercialisation.
- Increased in Hyper-congestion (bottlenecks).
- Increases prices.
- Increased Franchising - Interpub owns the St. Christopher's hostel chain operating 14 backpacker hostels in the UK. Increasing theming and branding.
- Engineered interaction.
- Increased regulation and control producing enclavic space in order to facilitate large numbers of transient travelers.

In the absence of informal public life, living becomes more expensive. Where the means and facilities for relaxation and leisure are not publicly shared, they become the objects of private ownership and consumption.

Ray Oldenburg

San Francisco Chronicle

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008

"The San Francisco coffeehouse is the new Palo Alto garage.
It's where all the innovation is happening."
By Bruce H. Wilson, Staff Writer

Women no sure bet for Clinton

Thought her appeal
for attention
would be a sure bet

WASHINGTON —
Barack Obama
is a political underdog
in a crowded field of
candidates. But he
has a unique advantage:
He is a former community
organizer who has
built a grassroots
movement from the
ground up. Obama's
strategy is to win the
support of voters who
are disillusioned with
the political establishment
and are looking for a
change in leadership.



Kevin Surfan, who runs the Internet startup Tailrank, works after lunch with his lead engineer, Jonathan Moran, at Small Roaster.

WHERE NEO-NOMADS' IDEAS PERCOLATE

**TWO SIDES
OF ROMANCE**
From the author of
"The Love Hypothesis"
comes a new novel
about a woman who
pretends to be a
biologist to get
close to a man.
By Jane Green
\$19.99



**ALL IT'S
THE WORLD**
A collection of
short stories
about the world
we live in.
By Jane Green
\$19.99

Neo-Nomadism



CouchSurfing is a worldwide network for making connections between travelers and the local communities they visit.



SEARCH FOR A COUCH NOW!

Find an available couch from the list below

- Find out more
- Is this safe?
- Signup Now!

Quick Links

- FAQ's
- Signup Now!
- About CouchSurfing
- What members say
- Interesting statistics
- New CouchSurfers
- CouchSurfing tips
- Latest News
- Surf Shop

Latest News

CouchSurfing Statistics



CouchSurfers	296,330
Successful Surf or Host Experiences	208,908
Friendships Created	251,514
Positive Experiences	362,089
Countries Represented	220
Cities Represented	29,933

Testimonial



Paula Bialski
North Bay
Ontario
This is not just good use of the internet. This is not just good use of a couch. Essentially what we have here is humanity working at its finest. People helping people, with no strings attached. I've ...

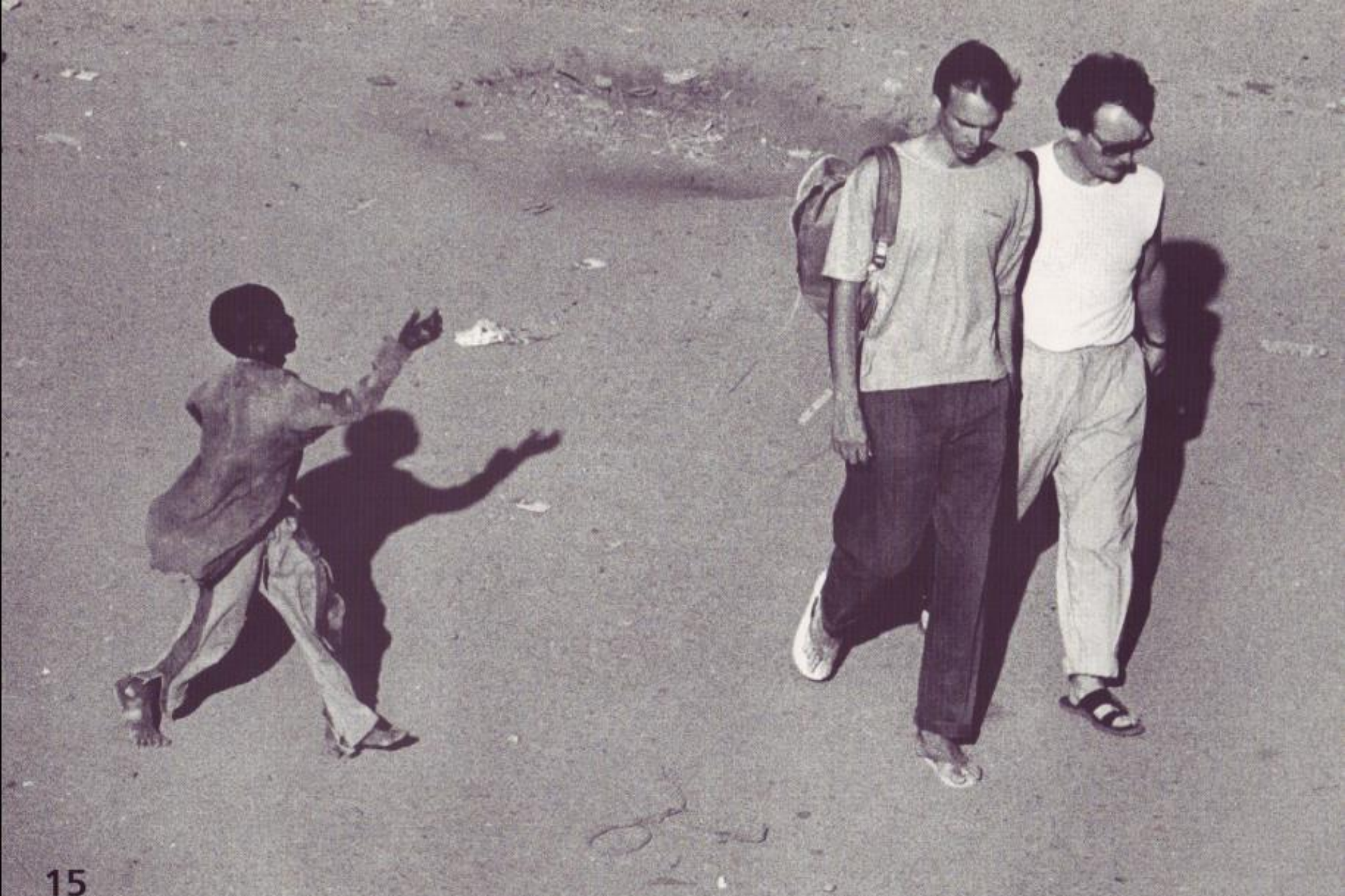
more testimonials »

Users Online

- United States In Spain
- Philippines
- Spain
- Australia
- Turkey
- Ireland
- United States
- United Kingdom

Neo-Nomads reject home/work routines, dominant space, engineered spectacle, backpacker infrastructure; strive to travel the 'right way', amongst the everyday lives of 'others' but also searching for the authenticity of, and between, *themselves*.

- Resistance to over-predictability.
- Escaping from ones routines.
- Resist flaunting ones social and economic status.
- Value use of language and bargaining skills.
- Use of accommodation in the informal sector providing an escape from habits and routines and other travellers (home stays, couchsurfing).
- engaging in non-ordinary activities
- Utilising spaces where tourism doesn't dominate (public transport, Street food, local bars)
- Living in unfamiliar settings – local networks - getting closer to the life of the locals .



15

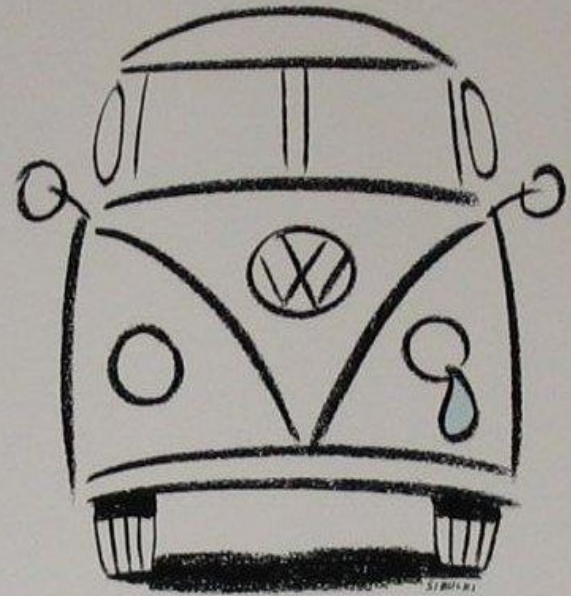
Mobility of Avoidance



‘how we move...may become a statement of class, identity, personality, environmental values and wealth (amongst other things), as well as a practical means of simply completing everyday tasks’ Pooley and Turnbull, 2005: 14/15).

"If the beaten track is created for the tourist, the tourist herself creates an 'off the beaten track' to reassert her own autonomy and independence. Having discovered how attractive this toe dipped in freedom is to most people, the tourist industry has also gotten into the off-the-beaten-track business, usually more expensive and fundamentally more snobbish in its appeal for places where 'the rest of them' won't be."

-- Lucy R. Lippard, *On the Beaten Track* (1999)



Jerry Garcia. 1942-1995.

THANK YOU.

