

"WHEN YOU LOVE WHAT YOU DO, YOU NEVER WORK ANOTHER DAY IN YOUR LIFE." — MATT MORRIS

YOUR CONNECTION TO WHAT'S NEW IN WORLDVENTURES

VOYAGER

VOLUME FIVE, ISSUE FOUR

MATT & RHONDA
MORRIS

FOR THE
LOVE
OF THE GAME

THE CULTURE
OF CONVICTION

GO FOR THE GOLD
WITH MARC

RISE TO THE
CHALLENGE WITH
OUR NEWEST
IMDs & NMDs



WHY IT **PAYS** TO TAKE A VACATION



by Zac Garver

All the science in the world won't build you a better vacation, but if you're looking for a way to change the chemistry of your next travel cocktail, we can help, using some good, old-fashioned research. The idea of a vacation is pretty simple: Get out of town and have fun while you're at it. Don't think about work, don't worry about report cards or cutting the grass, and most of all, don't pay too much for your vacation.

"Right," you say, with a smirk. "Don't pay too much for vacation? Isn't that like saying politicians always reach unanimous decisions on... everything?" We hear where you're coming from. It's true—most vacations will eat up much of your hard-earned income, but let's take a break from the financial microcosm of your wallet and consider an economy of scale. (Hint: What you are about to read will provide you with ammunition to convince your boss that you need a vacation, even if that boss is *you*.)

According to a study conducted by Harris Interactive, the rate at which Americans use their vacation time is downright dismal, "About 57 percent of working Americans had unused vacation time at the end of 2011, and most of

them left an average of 11 days on the table—or nearly 70 percent of their allotted time off." Based on income data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, that percentage of unused vacation time translates into an estimated \$34.3 billion "saved" by employers; however, further investigation reveals that this apparent boon to businesses is actually a net loss. Dr. Mel Borins indicates in his book *"Go Away, Just for the Health of It"* that for every dollar of vacation time left on the table, an employer will pay \$7 to compensate for increased health care claims, absenteeism, worker burnout, crippled productivity and work force turnover.

The global outlook on vacation usage is mixed, according to another survey by Harris Interactive. Although it may not come as a surprise, Asians' propensity for overwork actually outpaces Americans' (the Japanese fail to take nearly 55 percent of allotted vacation time and South Koreans left 30 percent of theirs untouched). And Europe is at the opposite end of the spectrum, with most European employees taking all but a few of their total vacation days. Setting aside stereotypes, there is a lesson to be learned, and it's a counterintuitive one at that: If the world's economy is shackled by costs related

to underutilized vacation time, perhaps the road out of the global recession will be marked with more time spent dozing in beach chairs, instead of sleeping at a desk.

So, to be fair, the fact remains that vacations do cost money, but at the end of the day, it costs you and everyone else more money not to take a vacation. That's where WorldVentures and the DreamTrips concept come in to play. Our company was founded on the belief that the trend of overworked, "under-fun-ded" living must come to an end. No longer held back by outdated concepts of what a vacation should cost and how much fun you can have, we're ushering in an "enlightened" era of travel. This brand-new territory belongs to you, the WorldVentures Reps and DreamTrips Members who enjoy top-dollar trip packages purchased at bottom-dollar prices.

It's time to spread the word and excitement to everyone in the world. We're on a mission to change the way people take vacations and how they pay for them! This isn't just about spending a few extra days on the beach; this is about changing people's lives, and ultimately, the global economy. ●



For the **LOVE** of the Game

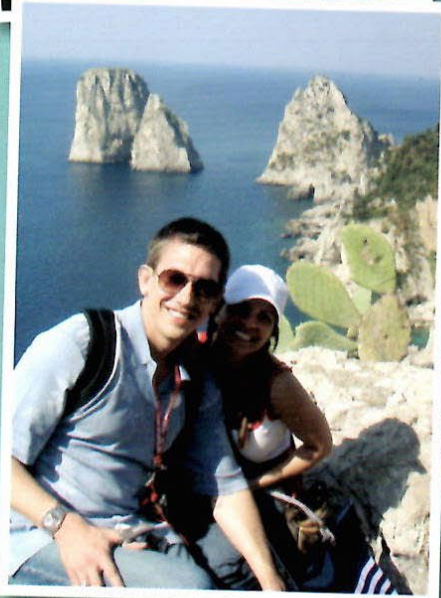
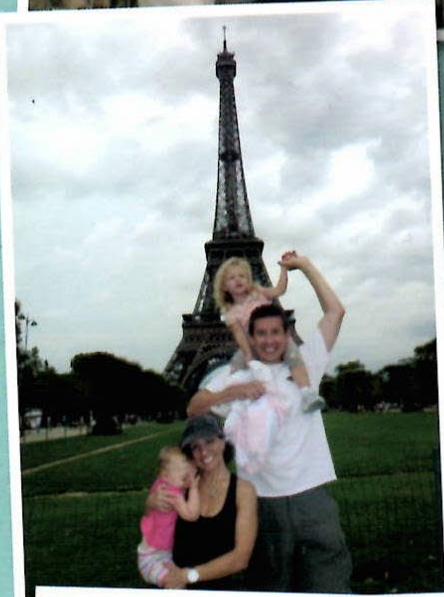
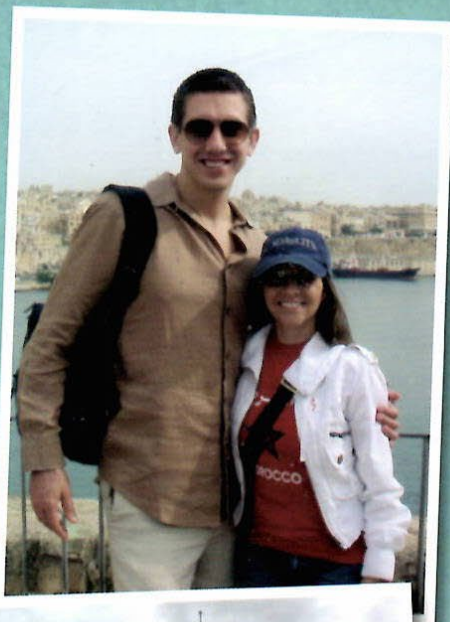
HOW MATT MORRIS WENT FROM ZERO TO HERO

by Zac Garver

Luck may be something bestowed on the few and fortunate, but success is earned by those with determination and vision. Just look at WorldVentures International Marketing Director Matt Morris, a man whose success belies his meager beginnings and early personality. Matt's commitment to WorldVentures is unmistakable, something borne out of an arduous journey that has blossomed into a labor of love.

"My childhood did not groom me at all for network marketing. In fact, it did the opposite," says Matt, referring to a string of tragedies beginning with his parents' divorce, his father's imprisonment for murder, and culminating in his father's suicide when Matt was 13. An only child living with a single mother who juggled multiple jobs to pay her way through college, Matt was no stranger to food stamps or a free lunch pass. Alternatively, he found little solace in friends or school activities. "I almost consciously didn't make friends because they would want to know about my life. I was so shy, I took a zero on a book report project in high school because I didn't want to get in front of the room and share the story."

Shy and introverted, Matt still thirsted for competition, but struggled with the idea of a better future for himself. "Where did I see myself at 25 or 30? I didn't. I was more concerned with getting through the moment." That is until he got involved in network marketing at age 18. "I really believed money was hard to come by. I didn't realize there was a lot of wealth out there, and I certainly didn't think it was possible for me to attain it. Network marketing opened my mind to the possibilities for my life."



The top earners in the first company he joined inspired Matt to believe that wealth and success were within his reach, but his first endeavor as a direct sales representative left him holding a newfound vision and little else. After two dedicated years, he had three direct sponsorships, two of which he paid for out of pocket—not exactly an ideal financial vehicle for a young man looking to alter his fortune.

Nevertheless, Matt's belief in the power of direct sales took root, despite the setbacks, and he solidified one of his "whys": the time and financial freedom to "world-school" his future children. "I wanted the time and financial freedom to teach my kids history, not from a history book, but to take them to places in the world where history happened." For instance, learning Roman history from the floor of the Colosseum, or learning about French Impressionism by visiting the gardens in Giverny where Monet painted his famous water lilies. At the time of this interview, Matt's wife Rhonda was at French language summer camp with their oldest daughter, Zara, presumably prepping for just such a trip. However, back in those

days, Matt was still years away from a lifestyle and income that could support his ambitions for his family.

But ambition, like a sprouting seed, requires deliberate cultivation, and Matt was beginning to cultivate the mindset that would allow his ambition to reach its full potential. "Becoming a millionaire was, by far, not the most difficult thing I've done," he says. "Believing that it could happen to me was the most difficult thing I've done."

Matt went on to assemble a network marketing company of his own, a venture that had the trappings of the success he craved, but in the end, became just a trap. "I was stuck in the office 60, 70, 80 hours a week. I was burned-out, stressed-out and missing my little girl growing up." Then the recession hit and the walls began to close in. In debt, Matt gave WorldVentures a chance. The message of fun, freedom and fulfillment was a welcome change after years of striving against a lifestyle that had held him under water and left him gasping for freedom and a fresh source of income.

THE ENTREPRENEUR WITHIN

Although it would be easy to mistake network marketers for independent salespeople, Matt sees himself as an entrepreneur at heart. "The biggest lesson is to get up when you've been knocked down," he says. "Everyone gets knocked down, is disappointed, has people quit the team, has dips in their business, but the whole key is to keep getting back up." And he did get back up, along with his best friend and teammate, Johnny Wimbrey. At the beckoning of Matt's longtime mentor, WorldVentures Chief Visionary Officer Wayne Nugent, both Matt and Johnny joined WorldVentures in 2009 to become top earners and fixtures on training stages around the world.

"A lot of times, people who are new in WorldVentures look at the top leaders and think that we must have some kind of dynamic personality that they don't, or that we didn't have to go through the struggles, but almost every leader in our company has; in some

cases, it was before WorldVentures. By the time we got into WorldVentures, we had done a lot of personal development. We had a little bit of a jump on the game." Jump or no, Matt models what he teaches. A voracious reader with more than a thousand books in his personal library and a copious note-taker, he puts great stock in John C. Maxwell's Law of the Lid, i.e., your results will never surpass your level of leadership and personal growth.

Reflecting on the transition to WorldVentures, Matt says, "I chose WorldVentures because of the lifestyle. I really believe that to become wealthy, you've got to have the time and the money. If someone just has the money, that doesn't mean they're wealthy if they don't also have the time to enjoy it." This is the crux of WorldVentures' mission; the WorldVentures lifestyle is embodied by a richness of life that transcends money and time. Matt takes his role as an ambassador of this lifestyle very seriously.



"I REALLY BELIEVE THAT TO BECOME WEALTHY, YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE THE TIME AND THE MONEY. IF SOMEONE JUST HAS THE MONEY, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE WEALTHY IF THEY DON'T ALSO HAVE THE TIME TO ENJOY IT."

—Matt Morris

A STEWARD OF DREAMS

"I feel that I'm a steward of other people's dreams," he says. "In a way, it's a heavy responsibility, and in another way it's very fulfilling. It's really rewarding that, because of my influence, simply sharing the opportunity with someone who shares it with someone else, a person can end up leading a life of fulfillment—and that's our responsibility as leaders: to empower other people to go out and live their dreams."

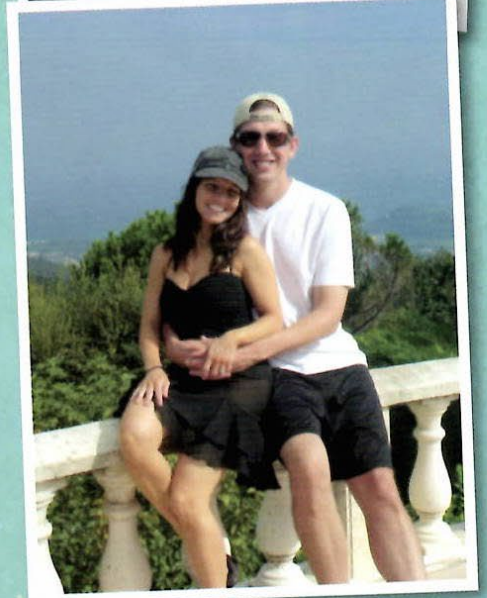
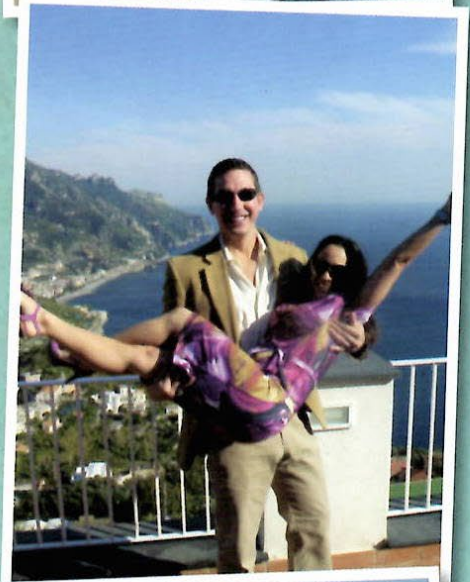
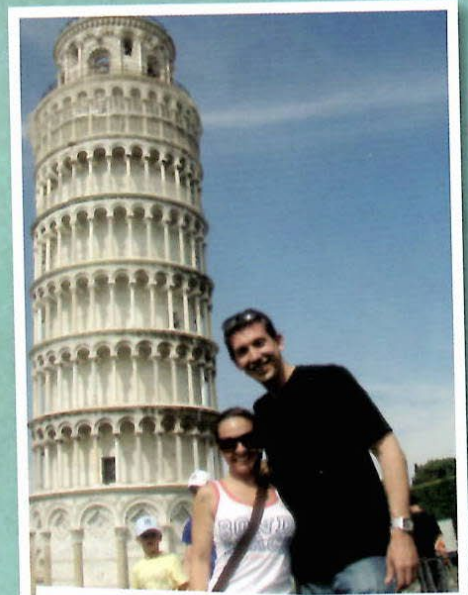
Although the dream of traveling to exotic locales has become a reality for Matt, his wife Rhonda and their daughters, Zara and Angelina, there was still a mountain to climb for Matt's mother, a mountain named Machu Picchu. "My mom turned 60 years old last year. So for her 60th birthday, I told her, 'I'll take you anywhere in the world you want to go. Where do you want to go? What's your dream vacation?' Her dream had always been to see Machu Picchu, in Peru, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We stayed at the nicest hotels I could find, including the Sanctuary Lodge overlooking the ruins. That was amazingly fulfilling. We went white-water rafting, mountain climbing and visited animal parks with llamas and alpacas."

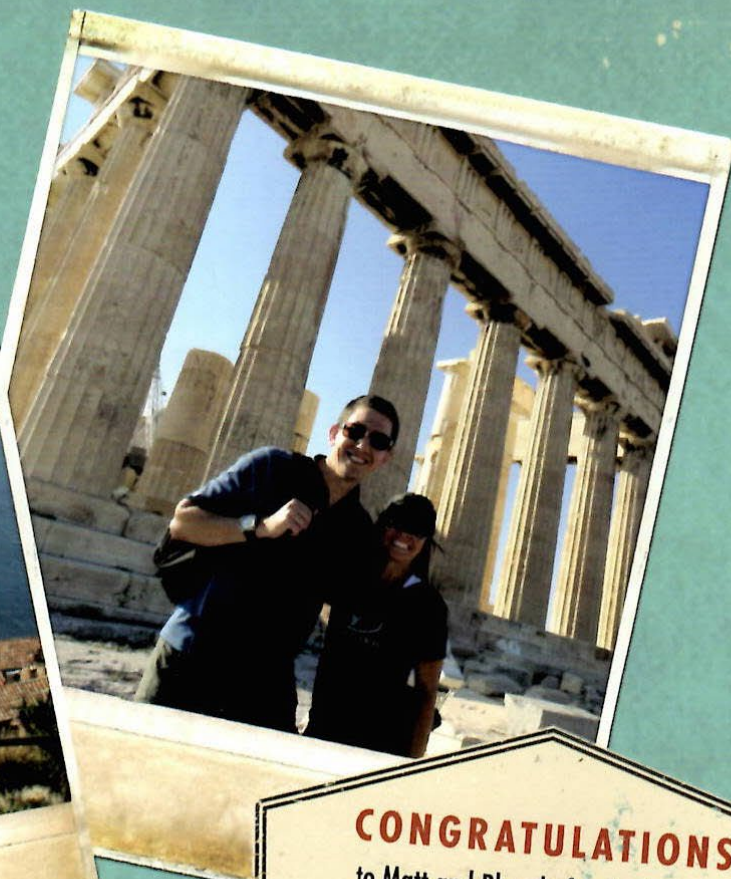
For Matt, it was the best vacation he'd experienced with WorldVentures, and it served as a gesture of gratitude and respect for his mother. "She raised me as a single mom and sacrificed a lot," he says. "She gave me everything she could. That's why I have so much respect for single moms building

this business, because I know how difficult it is. It was great to give back, and if it weren't for WorldVentures, none of that would have been possible. I wouldn't have had the time or the money."

For a man whose annual income surpasses many Americans'; Matt is not only humble about his success, but you also get the sense he's dodged the pitfalls of greed and conceit, and is free to live life on his own terms. "It's neat that after all these years of going after the network marketing business model, it's finally come to fruition that we have the residual income where we could literally go off the grid and move to Italy, France or Germany and we'd still have way more passive income than what our expenses would require."

You might well ask what keeps Matt from making such a move. Why does he continue working so hard? For Matt, an aspiring master in the art of living, as novelist James A. Michener defines it, he can hardly tell the difference between his work and his play. "The way I look at WorldVentures, I'm totally retired. And being in retirement, I only do things because I absolutely love to do them. So if I'm going to a travel party or training, I'm going because I want to do it and I love it, not because I have to. It's pretty simple, why does a professional football player, who has made \$10 million over the last two years, keep playing football? Because he loves the game. I really love the game in WorldVentures; it's a passion for me."





CONGRATULATIONS
to Matt and Rhonda for climbing the
ranks—again! Their second business,
Ariel Enterprises, reached National
Marketing Director in May!

A REWARDING COMBINATION

As a man whose success has manifested from a constant journey of self-development, Matt breaks down the key difference between training and the practical application of knowledge (while giving a nod to one of his best-selling books, *"The Art and Science of Success"*): "I believe there is an art and science to success. The science involves personal development and learning the 'how-to's.' If success were as simple as reading a manual on how to be a success, we would all be living our dream lives. But the science is only a third of the success. The remaining two thirds is the art, which can only be learned from doing. For instance, a lot of people get involved in WorldVentures, which in my mind, is the ultimate financial vehicle, and they'll work really hard and do the numbers, but they won't attend our trainings to get the knowledge and the skill. The skill is a multiplier to their success. There are also a lot of people who do personal development, listen to all the audios and come to all our trainings

but still aren't producing results because they aren't willing to actually go out and do the work, which is a multiplier as well. The people I see become unstoppable are the ones who do a tremendous amount of personal development and a tremendous amount of practical application. It's combining the two that really makes you powerful."

For Matt, the combination is one that applies across the board, regardless of country or personality. "What I look for above all else is someone who has the willingness and desire to work," he says. "No matter where you are in the world, if you have a burning desire and willingness to work, you'll achieve success. You'll figure out everything you need to. You'll do the personal development and the numbers."

That could be seen as a stern admonition to buckle down and get serious—one of the surest ways to miss out on the beauty of the

WorldVentures business proposition. Instead, Matt recommends something far more appealing to veteran and novice Representatives alike: "Focus on the fun, freedom and fulfillment. Sometimes people get involved and look at it as work. If you can look at what we do in WorldVentures as fun, freedom and fulfillment, then it won't feel like work."

Matt plays a crucial role in the international expansion of the WorldVentures opportunity. "I love building internationally, because it's such a diversified group. What's neat is that all over the world, people are people, and they really resonate with fun, freedom and fulfillment. No matter where we go, people are passionate about it. It's inspiring to see how many leaders have planted the WorldVentures flag in their market and helped grow that market. People like James Lee, an International Marketing Director in Singapore, went from Senior Rep to IMD quickly. I see us doing that all over the world."



GIVING HIS ALL

A big piece of the fun, freedom and fulfillment message for Matt is the Manifest Foundation and its spin on the WorldVentures tagline. "I love WorldVentures' commitment to give back," Matt says. "We've got our tagline, *Make a living... Living!* but what inspires people more than that is *Make a living... Giving!* In life, it's not what we get that creates fulfillment; it's what we give that creates fulfillment. At the end of your day, at the end of your life, you're not going to remember how many yachts you've jet-skied behind. It's going to be the contribution that you've given to the world."

Never one to shy away from an opportunity to lead by example, Matt committed to help lead the Manifest Foundation's voluntourism DreamTrip to the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. "Kibera is one of the largest slums in Africa, and we're going to refurbish orphanages and install a raincatcher tech, so the kids will have clean drinking water. We'll also help them create a business out of that, so they can bottle and sell the water. We're going to volunteer at Feed the Children's abandoned baby center outside Nairobi, which I've been to before. It was one of the highlight experiences of my life. Although DreamTrips offer great memories that people take with them—I can promise you, because I've experienced voluntourism before, the level of fulfillment you get from a voluntour is head and shoulders above anything you get from a vacation."

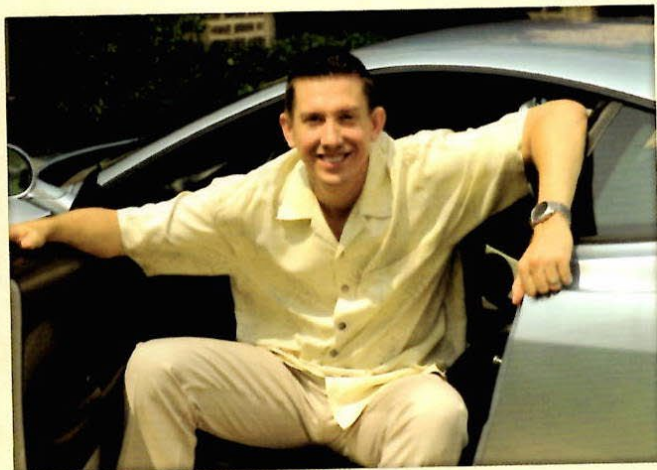
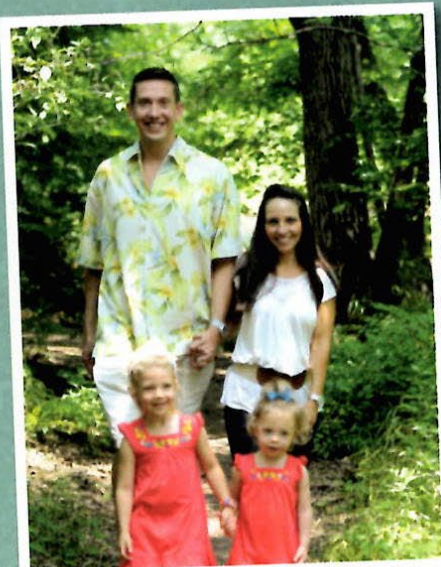
Matt sees voluntourism as a major value-added component of the WorldVentures

experience, something that draws prospects in and motivates them to get involved.

"People will do more for a cause than they will for the money," he continues. "The cause is important. It makes you appreciate the lifestyle we have. I think it even helps people in the business, when they see what other people have to go through just to survive. It makes it seem pretty easy for us to live our dreams compared to what some people have to do just to survive."

Of course, Matt's understanding of basic survival goes deeper than most people's, though his hardships seem only to have strengthened his resolve. A living tribute to the rewards of perseverance and personal development, Matt remains a man in love with his work. "I think a key to building the business is falling in love with WorldVentures, falling in love with what you do, falling in love with the people in your organization and giving them a reason to fall in love with you. When you love what you do, you never work another day in your life."

For Matt Morris, there can be little doubt, as Michener would say: "He simply pursues his vision of excellence at whatever he does, leaving others to decide whether he is working or playing. To him, he's always doing both." Matt's love for life lived richly, not necessarily with money, is unmistakable. He has earned his place as WorldVentures' top earner in more ways than one. ♥



Matt's Recommendations for Reading Into Success

- "As a Man Thinketh," by James Allen
- "The Dream Giver," by Bruce Wilkinson
- "The Magic of Thinking Big," by David Schwartz
- "The Unemployed Millionaire," by Matt Morris
- "The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership," by John C. Maxwell
- "Think and Grow Rich," by Napoleon Hill
- "What to Say When You Talk to Yourself," by Shad Helmstetter

HELLO

my dream is...

If you were at *UNITED! 2012* in Las Vegas, Nevada, you had the chance to share your dreams with more than 4,000 WorldVentures Representatives. The theme this year was "Living the Dream," and we asked each of you to tell us your dream. The response we received was nothing short of amazing.

We discovered Reps eager to achieve dreams not only for themselves, but also for their family and extended families. Some dream of providing relief to those less fortunate around the globe. Others want to be financially free, spend more time with their loved ones, fire their boss, travel the world and retire early.

At WorldVentures, our objective is to help you realize your dreams, no matter how big or small. Together, we're one step closer to changing lives, providing everyone with the opportunity to live the life they've always dreamed.

Here are just a few of the dreams we saw from the thousands shared at UNITED!



What's your dream?

One of the most effective ways to keep your dream alive is to never forget your goal. Share yours with us by sending an email to voyager@worldventures.com, and we may feature it in a future issue of Voyager.



HELLO
my dream is...

When you introduce yourself at *UNITED!*, we want you to be recognized by more than your name, because at WorldVentures if you aren't pursuing your dream, you might as well be chasing your tail.

If you feel like it's time to start *Living the Dream*, attend *UNITED!* April 12-14 at the **Paris Las Vegas Hotel**, in Las Vegas, to hear the hottest news, meet rising stars and learn from the legends.

This is an event you can't afford to miss.

UNITED!
LIVING THE DREAM

Visit the Events page in your back office to register today!



**Every child needs
a strong foundation.**
Help us build it.

Children thrive when they feel safe, loved and free to explore the world—and our future depends on their success. The Manifest Foundation is building a legacy of caring for underprivileged children around the globe. We're looking for people who are ready to share their time and resources in this effort.

Be the change you wish to see. Build the foundation.

Have questions or want more information about how to support the Manifest Foundation? Visit the ManifestFoundation.org and click "Contact Us."



MANIFEST
FOUNDATION



Facebook.com/ManifestFoundation



LET YOUR **PASSION** LEAD THE **WAY**

by Zac Garver





When Rovia sets out to build a first-class travel product, it doesn't mess around. It's no secret; there are lots of reasons to love Rovia's products: great locations, dream-quality experiences, no hidden fees or funny business, and a rock-star customer service team. Of course, not everyone is a leisure traveler seeking a pampered escape. Some are looking for a thrill. These adrenaline junkies and adventure addicts live for the chance to pursue their hobbies and favorite pastimes unhindered. Enter a whole new type of DreamTrip, focused on individual activities outside of the usual spa-and-thaw leisure travel options.

WorldVentures Representative Bob Schick has been the lead developer of this new breed of DreamTrip, and although his initial involvement has centered on Sportsman's DreamTrips, he sees a huge opportunity for members eager to experience new adventures. "Sportsman's DreamTrips are part of a bigger goal for Rovia DreamTrips," he says. "We're adding a wider variety of trips."

Evidence of this can be seen in a sampling of recent DreamTrips that include cage-diving with great white sharks, adventure weeks in a Costa Rican rain forest, Formula 1 races, professional athletic events and more.

Many of these activities, just like hunting and fishing, are increasingly costing more than many thrill seekers can afford. That's why trips taking you to the edge and back are becoming a regular fixture in the Rovia family of DreamTrips. They're phenomenal opportunities for passionate DreamTrippers who crave escapes with more hot pursuit than hot-stone massage.

Hence the addition of Sports DreamTrips, a product line that targets high-profile sporting events and the thousands of fans who flock to these gatherings every year. One can only imagine the huge potential for growth as more and more people are exposed to the possibility of attending their favorite championship for the price of a DreamTrip.

The 2012 Super Bowl XLVI package exemplifies the type of trip that's coming down the pike. It's more than tickets to the game and reservations at a nearby hotel. Pigskin-loving DreamTrippers will find themselves caught up in five unforgettable full days of football and NFL activities, all coordinated by DreamTrips agents. With opportunities to snag autographs from hall-of-famers; tour Indianapolis' renowned museums; participate in the NFL Experience; and watch the game from terrace-level end-zone seats, this trip has been arranged down to the yard line.

On top of all the budget-stretching gallivants that DreamTrips Members already love, Bob has also helped build DreamGear equipment and apparel. Through exclusive vendor partnerships, DreamTrippers can outfit for their favorite excursions at a fraction of the retail cost, making it even easier to pursue their outdoor passions. And, as the variety of trips grows, so will the selection of merchandise (think scuba, mountain biking, hiking, tennis, golf and more).

"The excitement of being able to offer people the ability to do something they love at a price they are shocked to see... that's what fuels me," Bob says.

This sentiment is at the core of Rovia. Whether your passion is fly-fishing in the Appalachians,

pedaling full-tilt down remote ravines and mountainsides, or just watching titans of AstroTurf battle for the trophy, DreamTrips Members now have more avenues to discover and further their passions, while ensuring bigger, richer experiences that come with a DreamTrips Membership. 🏆

Which Adventure Will You Take?

Costa Rica Week of Adventure—\$1,439



Ready for eight days in a Costa Rican rain forest, kayaking through the jungle, mountain biking down a volcano and riding a zip-line past squawking parrots? When you're ready for a break from one of the world's most lush, verdant forests, hit the surf, or just surf—whichever you prefer. This all-inclusive trip includes everything you need for the perfect adventure!

La Paz Fishing, Scuba & Golf—\$964.99



There's a little bit of everything in this trip: deep-sea fishing, kayaking, exquisite scuba diving, serene fairways and accommodations sure to melt away your every stress. Located on the Sea of Cortez, this Mexican excursion is the kind of trip that puts a tan in your skin and a smile on your face without quieting the jangle in your pocket.

Kansas Pheasant & Quail Hunt—\$579.99



If you're looking for quality bird-hunt in the Kansas grasslands, then look no further. International Marketing Director Byron Schrag will be hosting this fabulous trip. Included in the price are accommodations for four days, three nights and two full days of guided hunting with trained bird dogs. This may be your best chance this season to snag pheasant, quail, and maybe a chukar or two!

These are just a sampling of the DreamTrips available. Please check your DreamTrips website for complete availability and listings.

Where Will Your Passion Take You?

If you'd like to see a trip offered, visit WorldVenturesDreamTrips.com and click on the suggestions link at the top left-hand portion of the window. Tell us about the places you want to go and the things you want to do. If enough people speak up, the possibilities are wide-open.

Also, if you know of a vendor or outfitter who would like to get involved with the program, refer them to PartnerWithRovia.com, where they can get more information. Member input plays a crucial part in the process in the product-development process, so share your ideas today! Who knows? The next DreamTrip you take really could be your personal fantasy adventure!



Beneath the Linden Tree,

Where Slovenia Thrives

by Zac Garver

Contrary to popular belief, the greenest corner of Europe may not be that clover-studded shamrock bobbing along beside the British mainland. It may not be nestled on the Atlantic edge of the Iberian Peninsula, and it isn't a secluded vintner's paradise hidden in the lower Loire or upper Rhone valley. Slovenia is the name of the unexpected haven in question; and though it echoes Ireland, Portugal and others, with its vivid landscapes and rich culture, Slovenia carves its own niche into the European terrain.

Through the early part of the 20th century, the Austro-Hungarian Habsburg Empire encompassed the territory of present-day Slovenia, as did Yugoslavia in the post-WWII era. Eventually, as the Yugoslav federation dissolved, a culturally (both by language and history) distinct assembly of Slovenes emerged, an independent nation, firmly establishing Slovenia as a voice of democracy in southeastern Europe.

A year later, in 1992, Slovenia became a member of the United Nations, and then 12 years on, the Slovenes celebrated their acceptance into the European Union as well as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Hardworking and self-reliant by nature, Slovenes make up the majority of the population, with leading minorities of Italians and Hungarians, alongside token contingents of Croats, Serbs, Bosnians, Macedonians, Montenegrins and Albanians. The primary language is Slovene, followed by Italian and Hungarian, respective of the demographic areas.

For all their challenges as a young country, the Slovenes are the protectors of a deep-seated tranquility and cultural heritage. The linden tree symbolizes these virtues with an enduring grace. In fact, one of the first gatherings of Slovenian statesmen, following their



declared independence from Yugoslavia, took place beneath the sun-dappled branches of the Najevnik linden tree, which is said to be more than 700 years old. These trees are iconic of primal village gatherings, and saplings are planted to mark significant occasions.

Just as the roots of the linden tree are metaphorically wound around the foundations of Slovenian political identity, they also form the basis of a national commitment to natural resource conservation. Slovenia is the third-most forested country in Europe, and more than 30 percent of that land is protected from human development. Furthermore, visitors can experience four distinct geographic landscapes with such near proximity as can only be found in Slovenia, including the Alps, the Mediterranean, the Pannonian Plain and the Karst, which is the name for both a region and the singular geological formations found in that area's caverns and sinkholes. The Karst region hosts the Postojna Cave, the most visited cave in Europe, and the Škocjan Caves, which are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Perhaps while spelunking in the mineral cathedrals below Slovenia's surface, tourists may catch a faint, echoing rhythm, one that mimics the clip-clop of hooves above. Such a sound (if it could be heard

in the caves) would be the work of a unique breed of horse, none other than the famous Lipizzaner stallions, descended from a storied pedigree dating back to the late 16th century. These magnificent, white creatures catch their stride at the Lipica Stud farm, which has reared the stars of the world's most famous equestrian ballet for centuries (originally they learned the dance of battle), and although the performers themselves may be away on tour at the time of your visit, the majesty of these animals is evident from their early days as foals prancing in the rolling Karst meadows.

Just as visitors may find that the refined characteristics of these beautiful horses harken to an older, more noble era, so also will they find serene reminders of a more medieval time in the rock-covered hills and castles birthed from their quarries. Emerging from the sylvan landscape, these monuments of man and mountain appear like barnacle-encrusted whales breaching a verdant sea.

Of course, Slovenia's amenities extend beyond its raw, natural beauty. Consider the town of Bled, situated on an Alpine lake in the southwestern corner of Slovenia. Laying claim to the country's only island, this community is a sanctuary to travelers and natives alike, with a cliff-dwelling castle standing guard 328 feet (100 meters)

above Lake Bled's surface. The town is renowned for its beautiful, healing spas, which are generously supplied by the restorative waters of the lake itself. This idyllic lakeside locale boasts an array of tourist attractions and activities, including walking trails and hiking paths throughout the surrounding mountains, as well as skiing, golfing, hunting, fishing and gambling accommodations.

Without the ostentatious landmarks and touchstone monuments of Europe's most well-known towns, Slovenia's communities allow guests to immerse themselves into the fabric of Slovenian life as well as the habits and pleasures of its people, not the least of which is a passion for literature that earned Slovenia's capital, Ljubljana, the title of "World Book Capital" in 2010.

All in all, Slovenia is a remarkable combination of antiquity and modern development, a characteristic shown by Slovenian wine itself. While today's native Slovenian vintages rank among the best in the world, the Slovenian town of Maribor also maintains a vine that has produced fruit for more than 400 years, making it the oldest-known grapevine in the world. The wine-road tour that details this veritable specimen of ancient viticulture is an absolute must for anyone wishing to taste the full bouquet of Slovenia's riches.

Travelers are sure to find not only a country steeped in history, but also a country that is both modern and sophisticated. While its cities boast an urban nightlife fitting of any European nation in the 21st century, Slovenia's itinerary, filled with festivals and cultural events, belies a country that knows how to stay in touch with its origins.

For those seeking new horizons within the European Union, set your sights on Slovenia as an undisturbed corner that also promises world-class accommodations, prolific outdoor activities, and cultural vibrancy unmatched in more heavily treaded destinations. It seems that this newly matured gem, nestled in the heart of Europe, is bound to embrace generations of newcomers into a love that is hidden within Slovenia's very name. 🍷

Did You Know?

WorldVentures launched in Slovenia in September 2011, making it our newest market.

You can now travel to Slovenia on a DreamTrip—check your DreamTrips website for the latest offerings.

Even though this is a new market, the Representative base is on fire!

