

# Nomadic lifestyles – full time travellers share their lives as nomads | Skyscanner Australia

There was a time when travel was a luxury available only to the well-heeled or retirees no longer burdened with pesky full-time jobs. Things have changed. The Digital Revolution turned travel and the travelling lifestyle on its head, making a nomadic lifestyle a real option. [Skyscanner Australia](#) sat down with travellers who never quite made it home and asked them what it's like being a full-time traveller.

**Nomad:** *a member of a people that travels from place to place to find fresh pasture for its animals and has no permanent home (Oxford Dictionary)*

Today's nomad has exchanged the search for 'fresh pasture for its animals' to 'explore foreign cultures'. For these travellers, being nomadic has morphed into a rewarding lifestyle, whether by design or serendipity.

## Lara – travel and food writer at [Grantourismo](#)

**Q: How long have you lived a nomadic life?** A: My husband and I moved from Australia to Abu Dhabi almost 20 years ago and explored Europe and the Middle East whenever possible. Before long we hit the road full time and have been nomadic ever since.

**Q: What's the attraction of being nomadic?** A: Having the freedom to travel whenever and wherever we want at a moment's notice. So too the ability to prolong our stay if we find somewhere we're smitten with. I blame that Imperial Leather ad from my childhood – I so wanted to be that little girl flying to Tahiti!

[Tahiti looks nice](#)

**Q: Describe a 'rock your socks off' day as a nomad** A: Working in pyjamas at my laptop in a Brussels penthouse as snow fell upon the city. But so too impulsive days on the road, being able to hop off a train at a strange station with no hotel booked, no plan, just the thrill of freedom. That's what being nomadic is all about.

**Q: How have expectations met reality?** A: Travelling light isn't easy when you're a writer/photographer team with tools of trade to lug around. It doesn't help that I like to buy things from artisans to remind me of the places we've been.

**Q: Things you love about being nomadic?** A: The freedom of choice coupled with the privilege of holding Australian passports. Being able to say to Terence, shall we go to Scandinavia and the Baltic States for a couple of months? And off we go.

**Q: Anything you loathe?** A: I desperately miss family and old friends though we've now got friends scattered around the globe. And as crazy as it sounds, we haven't had a proper flop and drop holiday for 12 years.

**Q: Where is the best place you've visited?** A: Planet earth and the people who live on it. I love this world that we've been so lucky to have travelled.

## **Kerry – sailor and Communications Professional**

**Q: How long have you lived a nomadic life?** A: Most of my adult life with the last five years cruising on my own boat

**Q: What's the attraction of being nomadic?** A: I've worked on charter and private yachts, crossing the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and had always dreamt of cruising on my own boat

**Q: Describe a 'rock your socks off' day as a nomad** A: At Chesterfield Reef I had an entire tropical island all to myself. Surrounded by nothing but ocean and, with my friends off snorkelling 400m away, tens of thousands of fearless birds hovered above me as I lay on the sand. Spectacularly beautiful!

**Q: How have expectations met reality?** A: As an experienced sailor I had a good idea of what was involved but I didn't anticipate the loss of independence, relationship conflict nor the stress of owning a boat, rather than being crew.

**Q: Things you love about being nomadic?** A: Making lifelong friends, getting to know locals on a personal level and travelling to incredible places.

**Q: Anything you loathe?** A: The worry and expense of maintaining a boat

**Q: Where is the best place you've visited?** A: Chesterfield Reef and South Georgia Island in the South Atlantic



## **Ulrike – freelance writer**

**Q: How long have you lived a nomadic life?** A: 30 years ago, after

finishing school I left Germany to study in the UK and never returned.

**Q: What's the attraction of being nomadic?** A: Starting afresh in a new country allows me to reinvent myself with every move.

**Q: Describe a 'rock your socks off' day as a nomad** A: In Australia my daughter got into an argument at school after standing up against an ignorant racist. I knew then that by living in foreign cultures our daughter had become a tolerant and accepting person, a true world citizen.

**Q: How have expectations met reality?** A: I laugh when people think that because I live near a beach, or like now, in Paris, that I'm always on holiday. Instead I do all the normal things like shopping, working and school runs except I'm doing it in a foreign country.

**Q: Things you love about being nomadic?** A: I love the challenge of starting afresh, being surrounded by people who have different traditions, learning from them and incorporating new friends into my life.

**Q: Anything you loathe?** I hated making my daughter miserable when we moved from Dubai to Melbourne.

**Q: Where is the best place you've visited?** A: Brazil, Iguassu Falls, Sao Paolo and Rio blew my socks off with their beauty. Yemen was one of the most beautiful places I've ever been to.

## **Nora – [Professional Hobo](#)**

**Q: How long have you lived a nomadic life?** A: I have been travelling the world full-time for 11 years

**Q: What's the attraction of being nomadic?** A: A lifelong dream of immersing myself in cultures, to proverbially 'break bread around dinner tables' around the world.

**Q: Describe a 'rock your socks off' day as a nomad** A: I have an evangelical love of long-distance train travel which has led to epic rail journeys across Canada and Australia, the Trans-Siberian and 30 days on a train from Lisbon to Saigon.

**Q: How have expectations met reality?** A: I never expected some of the things that came my way, like free accommodation in unbelievable spots around the world or to be apprenticed with a shaman for two years.

**Q: Things you love about being nomadic?** A: I love that I have no idea about where I'll be or what craziness I'll be involved in next year.

**Q: Anything you loathe?** A: I despise the logistics of travel such as booking flights and finding accommodation

**Q: Where is the best place you've visited?** A: I resonate with Latin American culture and some of my favourite places have included Peru and New Zealand. [Tip: Cheapest Month finds cheapest time to travel](#)

## **How does a typical (perfect!) nomadic day look?**

We discovered that there is no such thing as typical, nor perfect day when it comes to nomadic lifestyles. For some it is the thrill of finding something new and exotic. Seagoing nomads said that weather usually determines if it's a fantastic day or one you'd rather hide from.

House sitter Julie starts her day playing with the pets she's currently taking care of before riding, hiking or visiting a farmer's market.

'At the end of the day when I close my computer I have a different destination to explore on my doorstep', said Nora. Though she also confessed to occasional contempt for her suitcase too.

Not surprisingly, for sailor Kerry a perfect day involved calm weather and water activities like diving, snorkelling, kayaking or hanging out with new local friends. Another cruising nomad Anne thought that catching her first fish (after 18 months at sea!) would one day make her perfect day. Former crew, now Captain Cherylle, made the tough call to carry on solo after her husband died suddenly.

For Ulrike a perfect nomadic day involves exploring a new neighbourhood, finding a decent supermarket with familiar brands and tracking down other nomadic friends.

Lara said that 'there is no typical nomadic day and that's what I love about it.' Travel blogger Kach loves that everything she owns fits into one suitcase so that she can travel to Antarctica or the Caribbean at the drop of an eticket.

The one thing these nomadic lifestylers have in common is the detachment they have with clutter and 'stuff'. That and the desire to live by their wits and to enjoy life in the moment.

**Are you considering a travelling lifestyle? Skyscanner Australia has all the tools to help you find the [cheapest airfares](#), [hotels](#) and [car hire](#). If you're already living a nomad lifestyle, share your nomadic stories with us on social media!**

<b>About the author</b>	
	<p>Fiona Harper // <a href="#">@travelboatinglifestyle</a></p> <p>Fiona Harper is an Australian travel writer who likes to get offroad and offshore. Follow her at <a href="#">Travel Boating Lifestyle</a>. Widely travelled, highly acclaimed and much published, Fiona's articles &amp; images are published across the globe. When not writing she's probably running a marathon or exploring the world by foot, bike, kayak, camel or boat: whatever mode of transport she can get her hands on!</p>