# BITÁCORA OFF ROAD

AUGUST 2026

## THEY MADE IT TO ALASKA! AFTER MORE THAN 7 YEARS AND THOUSANDS OF KILOMETERS

Mauri and Mica of “Viajando para Vivir” reached Alaska from Argentina in Megancete

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Disfrutando el Camino




A la aventura Van



WELCOME TO

# BITACORA OFF ROAD

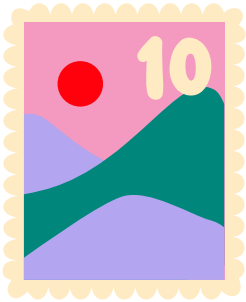
**A Moving Shelter: Our Editorial Vision**

From the outside, nomadic life is often mistaken for an endless vacation. People romanticize the image of a vehicle against the perfect sunset, overlooking what lies just beyond the frame: fatigue, hours of driving on uncertain roads, and, often, hands stained with oil after an emergency repair.

Deciding to hit the road is not running away from responsibility. It means trading predictable comfort for a life in which adaptation is the only routine. Along the way, we quickly learn that our home on wheels is an invaluable companion and our shelter, but it remains a tool; the real engine of the journey is our own resilience in the face of the unexpected. Sooner or later, a forced detour, harsh weather, or a mechanical failure in the middle of nowhere will make us scrap the original plan and reinvent ourselves.

And it is precisely there, when certainty falls apart, that the real magic of overlanding appears: the community. This way of life strips away the barriers of the city and brings us together around a shared campfire, where we realize that other travelers' stories of survival and genuine smiles are worth far more than any landscape. At the end of the day, the best equipment for the road is not the most expensive spare part, but the humility to ask for help and the willingness to keep moving forward together.

Macarena Orozco
Gabriel Jara




**"The best thing to carry on the road is a simple life and the willingness to share it. Everything else, we will find along the way."**



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## IF YOU TRAVEL AND WANT TO GET IN TOUCH

**Want to introduce your project?**
Send us a short biography and a photo so the community can get to know you.

**Want to introduce your book?**
There is room for you in the magazine.

**Created an app that helps the travel community?**
Send us the details so thousands can start using it.

**Taken a photo you would like others to see?**
Send it with your name and Instagram handle so people can follow you. You can also include the photo's technical details and a short description.



*Just good vibes*

& send to bitacoraoffroad@gmail.com

# ICONIC PHOTO




One of our dreams on reaching Alaska was to see Christopher McCandless's famous Magic Bus. We knew it was no longer in its original location, but we hoped to see it someday… and the experience surpassed every expectation.






# VIAJANDO para vivir

Mauri and Mica, the team behind "Viajando para vivir," left Argentina years ago with a clear geographic goal: crossing the continent to Alaska. They have recently reached that milestone. In this interview, we look back over their journey, tracing their steps, the logistical milestones they reached, and the defining experiences that give meaning to years of life on the move.



Photography courtesy of Viajando para Vivir

**What part of the Mauri and Mica who left Argentina had to die for you to make it to Alaska?**

Mauricio: At first, we thought the trip would be, I don't know about ideal, but pretty close. From the little travel information available when we left in 2018, which was mostly blogs rather than videos, you didn't see much of the other side.
So we had this idealized idea of the trip. As time went on, I would say even in the first few days, we started breaking away from that perfect journey and realizing there would be things about it that were far from ideal. The incentive of reaching Alaska, or having a goal, would always be what pushed us through the difficult situations along the way.
Fear had to die, too: fear of the unknown, fear of what people would say. It had to die in us because we left carrying that, too. We came from a framework, a way of thinking shaped over years or through our upbringing. We had to start losing our fear of cities, crossing borders, meeting strangers, not knowing where we would sleep, and figuring out how to solve problems.
We also had to break down, or let die within us, those rigid structures. The belief that our way was the right way. We had to understand that different cultures see things differently, and even from one province to another, often within the same country, things changed. For this journey to mean what it means today, we had to let those things die so we could adapt and begin to understand the dynamics of traveling. In our case, the journey has been, and still is, our life.



**What particular encounter with a local person or community completely redefined your idea of home?**

Mauricio: Our idea of home used to be more of a closed circle, with our own people, in a physical space of our own. During the journey, through different situations and encounters, that idea expands. You begin to feel part of many families who welcomed us, supported us, and made us feel part of their family at a celebration or a special moment meant just for them. They opened the door so we could take part, too.
I remember a family in Cuenca, Ecuador, who invited us to stay in their home. They knew us through our videos, but when you meet people, you get into deeper conversations and share things that don't appear in the videos. That was how they found out our wedding anniversary was coming up.






We were going to spend our anniversary with them. When they realized the date fell during our stay, they organized a family celebration. In that highland part of Ecuador, people traditionally eat cuy, guinea pig. To us, it is a pet, but they raise them and eat them on special occasions, whether Christmas, New Year's, or a birthday. So, in secret, together with their children, parents, siblings, and nieces and nephews, their entire inner circle, they organized a dinner that wasn't just about eating cuy, but cooking it. They prepared the guinea pigs, put them on sticks, and we all began cooking together around the fire, turning them in a circle. Each of us had a stick and kept rotating our cuy to roast it on the spit.
It is an intimate family moment, and they did it for us. It was a celebration just for us. Being part of it made us say: how powerful that they are opening not only their home, but also inviting us into their most intimate customs. It is one of the many things that have happened on this journey, situations in which people include you and make you feel at home. Home is no longer a small space with a defined circle. Over time, over the journey and the years, that circle keeps getting bigger and the physical space becomes enormous. Wherever someone shares their heart and customs with us, we feel they are making us part of their family and community.



**How do you maintain a sense of purpose and mental stability when the journey stops being an adventure and becomes the routine of everyday life?**

Mauricio: When we started traveling in 2018, we moved very fast, wanting to visit one tourist attraction after another and passing other places by. Over time, as we understood more clearly that we weren't on vacation, that at least in our case we had set out to live on the move, we had to slow down a little to do things that weren't necessarily sightseeing.

Like working. In the first few years, we sold handmade crafts; a few years later, we added content creation. So it wasn't just visiting tourist attractions. We also had to work and find somewhere to do it. We had to wash clothes, rest, do other things. That was when we understood that we wouldn't be visiting extraordinary places or having extreme experiences every day. There would also be days when we were bored or stuck inside because it was raining outside,

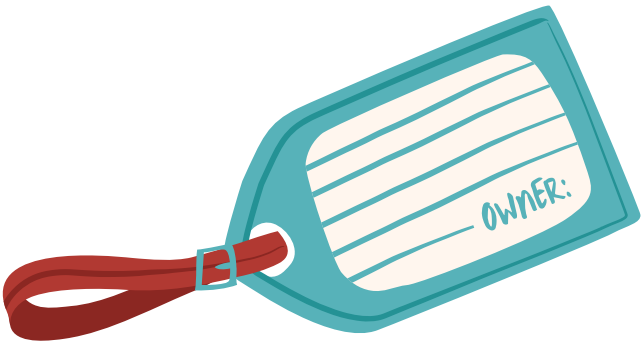
struggling to find a spare part or materials for our crafts, or moving from place to place looking for a shower.

That was when events began shaping the rhythm of our lives and what was possible for us. We stopped living what might have been a structured or routine life, but other little routines appeared. They aren't very strict, and we can skip them, but overall we adapted to them depending on the weather, the country, and the conditions.

For example, at first we might move every two or three days. As time went on, we started staying five days in each place, and then we wanted to stay a week, choosing comfort and emotional stability over visiting places. There was also the financial side: we couldn't visit every tourist site, because they require admission fees or logistics. So we chose only certain attractions, giving ourselves the chance to get to know places that weren't tourist destinations. Maybe that is what draws us most to this journey: sharing life with people from other places without necessarily being in a tourist environment.

That was how we found what you might call this travel routine, although it is never quite the same because it depends on so many things. What we have gained, I think, is an ability to adapt to different places, climates, and situations.

Sometimes we have also found ourselves caught up in social conflicts or situations that change those routines, and if you aren't prepared, it becomes incredibly stressful. That was our way of finding the adaptability we needed for this rhythm and this journey.









**When did a stranger's hospitality save you from turning back?**

Mauricio: We have been through everything, because we travel in a 1999 car that needed a lot of work, and we knew nothing about mechanics. We set off imagining everything would be easy to fix, and it wasn't. We never thought of ending the trip, never thought of going back, but at one point we did think about leaving our car behind because it was giving us so much trouble.

There came a time when we had already been through a string of mechanical problems, but we were determined to get our vehicle across to Panama. That meant putting it in a container and the container on a ship. It is incredibly expensive, logistically complicated, bureaucratic, and difficult. The car began having all kinds of problems; it no longer wanted to start. We visited mechanics and auto electricians, and no one could figure it out. We ended up seeing more than 15 mechanics. Many not only charged us and left us without money, but our energy was running out, too, and we were feeling low.

We had met some Chilean travelers we were going to cross to Panama with. We would share a container to make the crossing cheaper, and we had committed to doing it together. We already had a shipping date, because that has to be coordinated well in advance. When the time came, our car was broken down and the day we had to ship it was approaching.

We were in Bogotá and had to get to Cartagena, a long way, about 1,000 kilometers, and the car wasn't running well. It would stall, and once it stalled it wouldn't start. When it did start, it ran terribly.

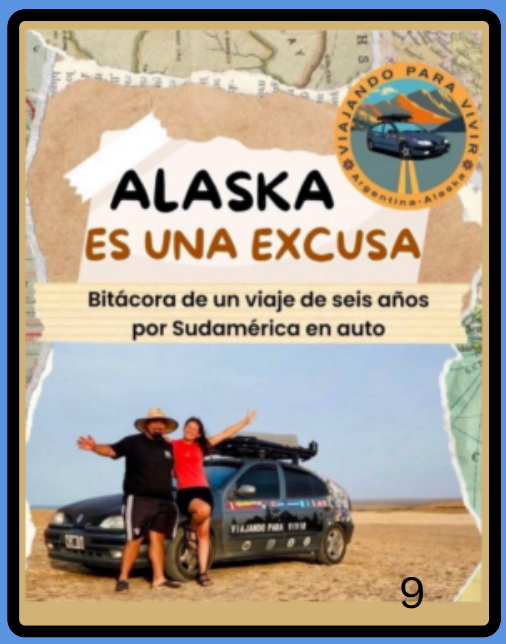
We reached a point where we decided we weren't going to cross to Panama because no one could find the problem. We were making that decision, but we felt guilty because we had committed to our friends. We had made all the plans to cross together and didn't want to leave them on their own. So we set out to find another travel companion for our friends to cross with, so we could step out and end Megancete's journey, not ours.

When we told them, obviously it wasn't a happy moment. But they told us to think it over carefully, that they were willing to tow us if necessary until we could get the car into the container, that a solution would come. They encouraged us and gave us the motivation to do it even though the car wasn't in good shape. They were the ones who gave us the push to make the crossing because, honestly, we had already decided that was as far as the car would go.

We left like that, with the car running badly, reassured that if it didn't make it, they would tow us. It made it, barely, to Cartagena in Colombia, but we managed to get it onto the ship.

We got it across to Panama, and there we found a mechanic who identified the problem and fixed it. In the end, all those fears and uncertainties fell away. Everything came together so it could be repaired in Panama, and it all worked out.

We are incredibly grateful to Seba and Amparito, who gave us the push we needed when we were on the verge of ending the trip with Megancete. That wasn't something we would have wanted, but at the time we couldn't see a solution, and we needed their help to keep moving forward.



**What country or culture shattered your most deeply rooted prejudices?**

Mauricio: Without a doubt, Venezuela was the country that broke down our prejudices the most. Before going there, we were terrified on the one hand; on the other, we had made a plan to stay a month. Although we had already learned to travel without plans, we decided to make one because of what we read in the news and what people told us, people who perhaps had never visited the country. The people we met spoke very badly of Venezuela. We wanted to go anyway, but we made a plan to stay a month and a budget so we wouldn't have to rely on selling crafts. We could travel around and then leave.

Without a doubt, when we arrived, our perception of the country changed completely, 100 percent. We found an extraordinary country, one of the warmest, most supportive, and most humane. People opened their hearts to us. Families gave us not only comfort or the food they had available, but their time, and opened the doors to their hearts. Many people whose children had left the country because of the situation there welcomed us. Those parents saw their children in us, knowing, too, that our country had welcomed them warmly.

Yes, we encountered a country with problems, because it was in crisis. But the humanity, friendliness, generosity, and joy of Venezuelans, despite everything they were going through, blew us away. We had prepared for a hostile environment where we would have to watch our safety and practically just survive. We were willing to experience that to get to know the place, but instead we found a country with some of the kindest, most generous and humane people we have ever met.

That was when we understood that, although the journey had already been teaching us that news headlines and what people say aren't always the whole story, perhaps we needed to enter Venezuela to confirm that everyone has to have their own experiences. Everyone needs to go to places, however badly people speak of them, live their own reality, understand it from their own perspective, and form an opinion based on what they experience.




Our experience in Venezuela was wonderful, ten out of ten. It is a country we learned to love and now value enormously, because something clicked for us. What we expected and what we found were completely different. We are very grateful to that country, which completely changed our thinking about prejudice and hearsay. Being in crisis or going through particular circumstances does not define a country. To us, a country is defined by its people, and that is what happened in Venezuela.




**What was the heaviest mental or emotional baggage you had to let go of?**

Mauricio: Well, without a doubt, what we had to let go of were the family expectations deeply rooted in us. Not because our families are bad, but because of the society we grew up in. Owning a house, having children, working in one place all our lives, retiring and spending all our time there: I think those were the things we had to break away from, or gradually stopped placing so much importance on, as we understood that we were going to build something different, and that it was still okay and possible.

I think many of our relatives felt the same way. At first, some of them struggled to understand that we weren't taking the conventional path of buying the best car. In fact, we had intended to travel as backpackers. We bought this car with our savings and in the end didn't sell it. A traditional life wasn't in our plans. We wanted to explore a different kind of life, something like nomadic living, and see how we felt.

We weren't willing to do something we didn't enjoy, either. We wanted to explore and see whether our own way worked. I think some members of our families must have felt the same, because at first they didn't know any other way of life. No one in our families is or has been a traveler. We were doing this for the first time, and we were their only reference point.

So it was about breaking with the structures of the society we grew up in and focusing our lives on other things, rather than what we had been taught, and finding a different direction.

# More than 7 years in Megancete

**How did your perception of time, urgency, and success change?**

Mauricio: The journey itself and our occupations, the things we had planned to do along the way or adapted to doing, came to define our time. We realized we were moving, and still are moving, perhaps at a slower pace than society. Living in a car means everything takes time. You don't shower in five minutes, you don't make breakfast quickly. Doing laundry isn't just going somewhere, putting it in the machine, and being done. These are processes that take time. It feels as though you do everything in slow motion.

We also slowed down our traveling and did things more slowly because it tired us out less. Moving too fast exhausted us and made us miss certain things, especially what we had come looking for: sharing life with people. If we stayed only one or two days in each place, we missed that experience and the essence of the towns. So, as a way of being more present in places, we decided to start traveling more slowly. We had always been expected to go faster, but we decided the journey was about this: getting to know places through their people.

That was why we spent so much time in each country. We wanted to use all the time our immigration permits allowed to get to know its very essence. We experienced that essence in celebrations, in social events, whether conflicts or a soccer or baseball team's victory, in religious ceremonies, and in everyday life. To do that, we had to share people's lives and be present at particular moments. That was how the journey came to define a slower sense of time. I think slowness shaped our path, as we tried to keep things from becoming urgent. We try to live without urgency.

Obviously, there are always situations we give extra priority to on the road, such as family matters. Apart from that, we choose this pace because it suits us best. We understand that whatever makes you happy and brings you peace is what you need to seek out.

The same is true of success. Our success today isn't being in Alaska or having reached Alaska, beautiful as that is. Our success is everything we experienced in between. Getting to Alaska at a different time, or faster, wouldn't have been the same. Our time was now. We had to live everything we lived, discover everything we discovered, and experience everything we experienced. That is our success: having the freedom to choose to spend time along the way, to see everything we wanted to see, although we certainly left plenty undone, and to live at our own pace.

And I'll say it again: wherever we feel peace, joy, or a sense of meaning in life, that is where our success lies. Being able to choose every day to seek those things, peace and happiness. That is our success.

That is why being here in Alaska means so much to us today. Being in Alaska isn't simply being here; it means looking back. When we became emotional at a sign that said Alaska, it was because we were seeing everything behind us, everything we had lived. That was what brought the emotion and the sense of success. That is what we call success: what we have lived, lived intensely and well. By well, I mean what brings you happiness and peace. Living well is our success.



# Viajando para vivir

explore




Photography courtesy of:

viajando para vivir




*"Living together is not about finding someone perfect, but about learning together with each other's imperfections."*

**What difficult aspects of yourselves has this confined life on the move forced you to face?**

Mauricio: We travel in a small car, but we don't feel confined. We practically live outside. Our car is, you could say, our place to sleep. Maybe what we had to give up was a little comfort to gain so many other things. So we don't really feel it as a loss; although you could see it that way, we have gained a great deal. As for living together, the journey has forced us to share many situations, let's call them critical ones, and to make many decisions. That has increased the moments of tension. But the journey itself has taught us that we have to apologize, acknowledge our mistakes, and learn to live together. Living together isn't living with someone perfect; it means learning together with each other's imperfections. Once we understood that, we tried to do the best we could to make every day the best it could be. If at some point there is a problem or an argument, and there are, we always try to find a solution rather than ending the day still at odds.




adventure




**What place made you feel completely insignificant, yet at peace?**

There are places that really do make you feel insignificant. In our country, we have El Chaltén, Perito Moreno Glacier, and Iguazú Falls. Standing in front of such imposing places makes our knees tremble. We get goosebumps and often even shed tears. Those are places where you feel small, yet at peace and fulfilled. Reaching them is a deeply personal, epic feeling that brings peace and satisfaction.
Other places have given us that, too, such as the Torres del Paine in Chile. Those immense natural monuments are incredible to stand before, especially because getting there involves a long, tiring hike; the last kilometer is brutal. But when you stand in front of that monument, you ask, "How is it possible that this exists?" And that feeling of being a tiny ant is exactly it, completely.

Bolivia's Salar de Uyuni, that white immensity… feeling so insignificant and so fulfilled at the same time, seeing how the salt forms hexagons on the ground. Those are places that leave you breathless. Reaching the Caribbean… Venezuela's Caribbean coast was our first encounter with the Caribbean Sea, on the beaches of Morrocoy. It was incredible. Those are places that make us cry; we arrived in tears. It is an epic place. You have seen those places on television or online, and standing in front of those beaches, that color, those palm trees, is truly wonderful. Those are feelings we have experienced in certain places, not everywhere. And traveling in our car, already so far from home, being at the Arctic Circle in that vast white expanse of ice… being there, too, makes your hair stand on end, gives you goosebumps, fills your eyes with tears. You say, "Look where I am. Look how big the world is and how small I am," and it leaves you breathless.

**When you reach Alaska and turn off the engine, what happens the next day?**

Reaching Alaska has crowned almost eight years of beautiful madness, an incredible experience, and a life filled with wonderful things. But reaching Alaska doesn't turn off our engine; it motivates us to keep exploring. We have already set ourselves the challenge of driving back, too.

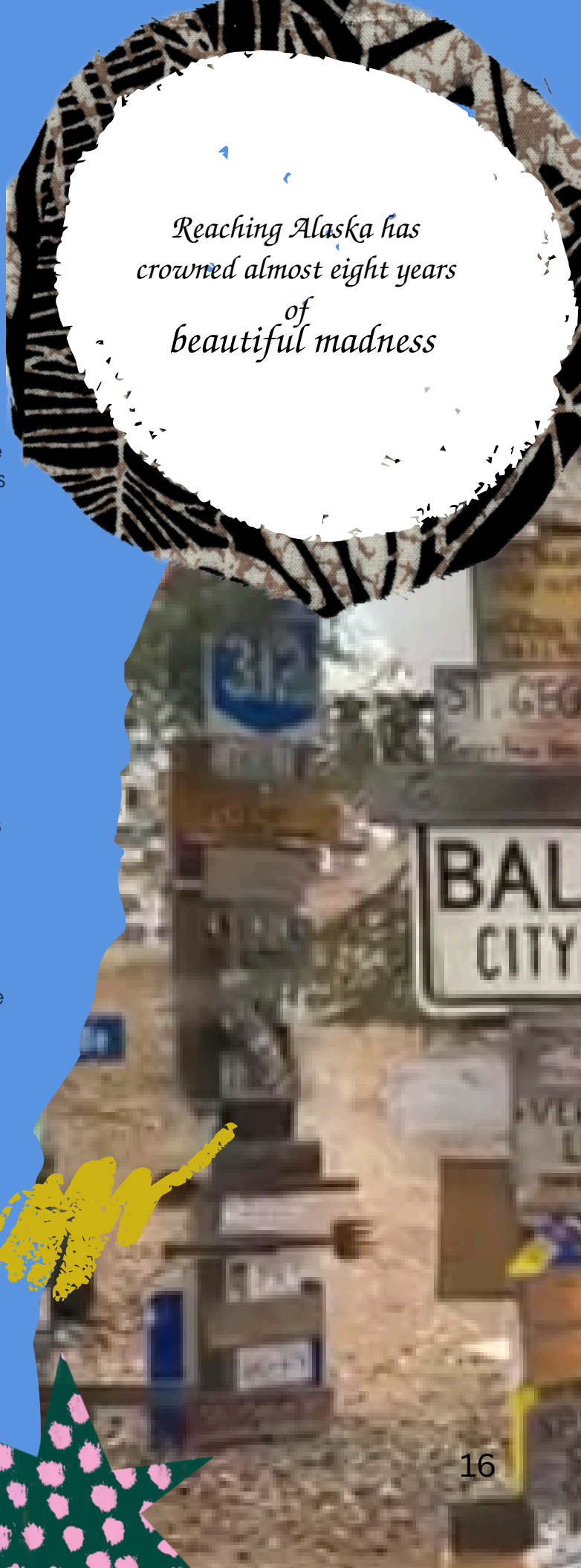
The thought of seeing our car entering Argentina or returning to the places we visited will be a wonderful goal. We are taking time to get to know Alaska, but the idea is also to drive back. That is how we have always done things. When we reach a goal or objective, we immediately set another so we can live with motivation. Sometimes the goal is big, sometimes smaller. Sometimes it is as big as Alaska, but along the way we set smaller goals to reach, so we always have something pushing us further.

Now the idea is to drive back. It is an uncertain road, just as the whole journey here has been. Different things will surely happen to us. Even if we pass through the same places, or not, there will be new experiences. Places we first visited as newcomers to traveling, we will now approach with a little more experience, and everything will be different.

That motivates us to keep going, to keep traveling and keep living. From the day we set out, we said this wasn't going to be a vacation or an expedition, but a change in lifestyle. To this day, we are convinced that the life we chose is the life we like. So we will keep traveling. With Megancete or without Megancete, we will keep going.

The idea would be to return, arrive with our car, leave it in Argentina, and once we are there, see what else we are going to do. That is how our life has always been, and that is the plan. Living with the motivation of always having something ahead helps us get through difficult situations, knowing something beautiful awaits us further down the road.

*Reaching Alaska has crowned almost eight years of beautiful madness*




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*To this day, we are convinced that the life we chose is the life we love.*











discover

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## LONG WAY ROUND (DOCUMENTARY MINISERIES, 2004)

- *Creators: Ewan McGregor, Charley Boorman, David Alexanian, Russ Malkin.*
- *Starring: Ewan McGregor, Charley Boorman.*
- *Country of origin: United Kingdom.*
- *Episodes: 7 (original version) / 10 (extended version).*
- *Running time per episode: approximately 45 minutes.*

A documentary miniseries rather than a film, but the definitive overlanding handbook. A journey from London to New York across Eurasia. Direct encounters with border bureaucracy, broken frames and emergency welding in Mongolia, river crossings in Siberia, and the management of extreme fatigue. Pure logistics and problem solving on the road, without scripted scenarios.

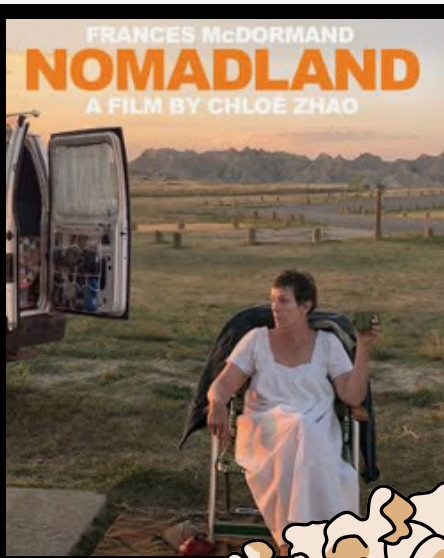


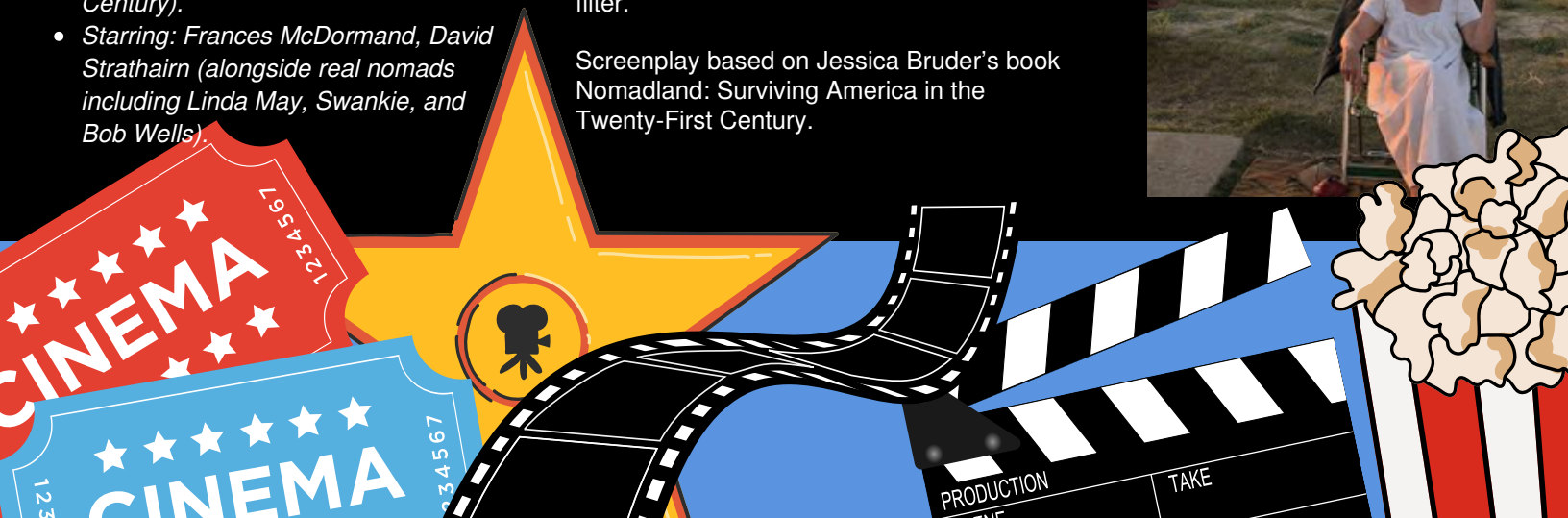
## NOMADLAND (2020)

- *Director: Chloé Zhao.*
- *Director of photography: Joshua James Richards.*
- *Screenplay: Chloé Zhao (based on Jessica Bruder's book Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century).*
- *Starring: Frances McDormand, David Strathairn (alongside real nomads including Linda May, Swankie, and Bob Wells).*

A raw, realistic portrayal of life on the road in vehicles across North America. It shows the daily logistics of nomadic living, the demands of keeping vehicles running, and the realities of the people who inhabit the road, without a romantic filter.

Screenplay based on Jessica Bruder's book Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century.






# THE HUMAN CONNECTION: THE SYMBIOSIS OF TRAVELER AND HOST



*Macarena Orozco / The Nomad Journalist*

Long-distance overlanding is unforgiving. Behind the accumulated miles, topographic maps, and rigorous technical logistics lies a variable that cannot be measured in liters of fuel or payload capacity: hospitality. On the road, the meeting between someone who lives in constant motion and someone who offers a home becomes more than an anecdote. It becomes a fundamental pillar of any expedition. The machine is repaired with tools; the driver, with shelter.



The long-term traveler, someone who lives on the road for months or years, inevitably confronts the vulnerability of nomadic life. Mental and physical fatigue are sources of wear as real and corrosive as rust on a chassis. Driving across borders, dealing with bureaucracy, searching daily for safe campsites, and keeping a vehicle running create cumulative strain.
At this critical point, the host enters the picture with incalculable importance. Local families, four-wheel-drive enthusiasts, or former travelers who have settled down open their doors. They do so not merely out of social courtesy, but from an almost tribal instinct to shelter someone in transit. They understand that the road wears you down, and that a safe space is the scarcest resource.

This connection rests on a premise of wholehearted, practical, mutual benefit that transcends any formal financial transaction.

- For the nomad: It means a strategic refuge. Access to the reality of a place without the glossy filter of a tourist brochure. Firsthand local knowledge: closed roads, dangerous areas, trusted mechanics, and a secure place for the vehicle. Above all, it offers a necessary break from the perpetual vigilance that life on the move demands. A borrowed patch of driveway for adjusting the suspension is worth more than the finest authorized service center.

- For the host: The traveler becomes a connection to the wider world. In exchange for a few square feet of grass or a place at the table, someone who opens their gate receives a direct window onto other latitudes. Domestic routine is briefly interrupted by stories of border crossings, crises resolved in inhospitable terrain, and the panoramic view of the world held by someone exploring it in real time.

Hospitality in overlanding takes very basic, direct forms. The traveler is not looking for Egyptian cotton sheets or room service. A “good host” in this context is someone who offers a hose with drinking water to refill tanks, an outlet to charge auxiliary batteries, access to a washing machine, or simply the reassurance that no one will force a lock at three in the morning.
These refuges take many forms: isolated ranches in Patagonia, coffee farms in Central America, or driveways in North American suburbs. Each location offers relief precisely matched to the needs of the moment, allowing the traveler to reorganize their logistics before returning to the harshness of the road.



In an era dominated by distrust, hospitality on the road is an act of rebellion. Crossing the threshold creates a pact that is sealed within hours.
The host knowingly takes the risk of bringing strangers into everyday life, trusting their instincts. The traveler, in turn, lowers their guard, gives up control of their surroundings, and adapts strictly to someone else’s schedules, rules, and household dynamics. This ecosystem of mutual respect is fragile and depends entirely on the integrity of both sides. The code of the road is clear: a traveler who abuses trust, leaves a campsite dirty, or demands more than is offered closes the door for everyone who comes after.



In this ecosystem of pavement, mud, and dust, hosts are not background characters. They are not simply a GPS waypoint for replenishing supplies. They become part of the expedition's very structure.
Today, this network of homes is shared through discreet coordinates, overlanding forums, and word of mouth between travelers heading in opposite directions. It is an invisible, decentralized infrastructure supporting thousands of expedition travelers around the world, operating beneath the radar of conventional tourism.

An expedition is defined as much by the technical and topographic obstacles a vehicle overcomes as by the doors that human connection opens. The families and local people who form this support network are the invisible fabric that makes continued progress possible.
They do more than make the journey easier; they become the journey itself. They are definitive, tangible proof that, in an environment naturally inclined to wear down metal and break resolve, hospitality and the human instinct to welcome others remain the strongest source of traction for discovering a place, getting to know its people, and breaking down prejudice.

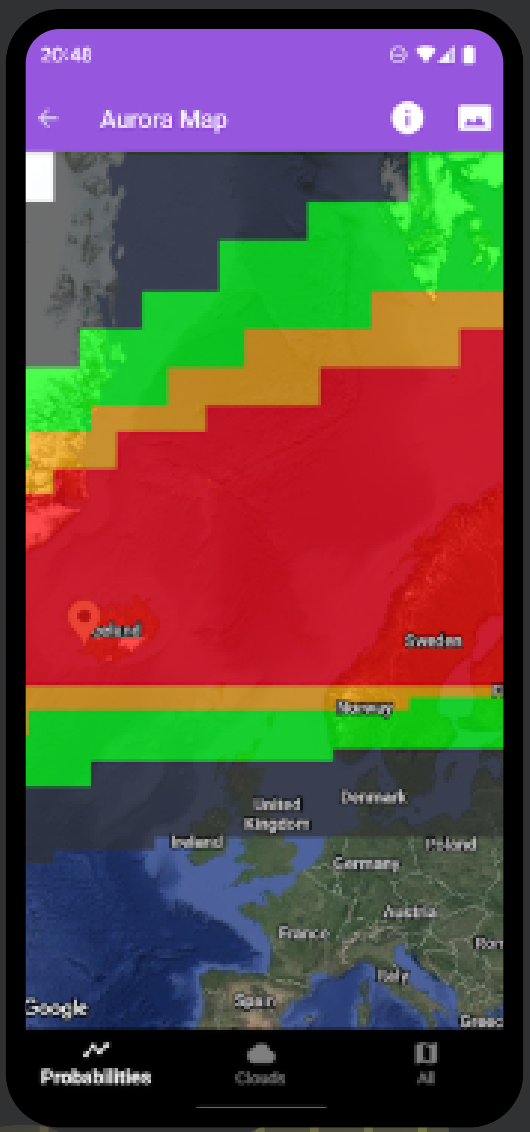






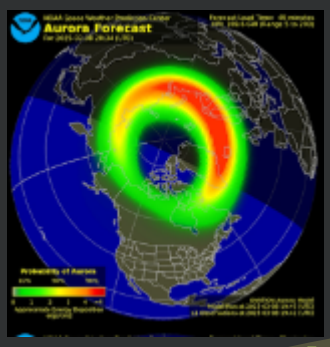


# AURORA APP




My Aurora Forecast is the best app for seeing the northern lights. With a sleek, dark design, it appeals to tourists and serious aurora watchers alike by telling you what you want to know: your exact chances of seeing the northern lights, or details about solar winds and high-resolution solar imagery. With this app, you will be watching the northern lights in no time.

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# A LA AVENTURA *Van*



Leaving Chile to map the continent in a VW bus takes planning and adaptability. Karen and Marcelo of "A la Aventuravan" turned that idea into their everyday reality. In this interview, we trace their progress on the ground, from breaking free of inertia to their present location, exploring the milestones they have reached and the real rewards of the road.



Photography courtesy of A la aventura van

# Starting Point

***The origin of the dream: Every journey has a mental starting point. When did you decide conventional life in Chile was no longer your path and a Kombi would become your new home?***

Karen: The mental starting point was around 2019, before the pandemic. We shook hands and committed to doing everything within our power to make this dream trip happen. Financially, we agreed to save half of Marcelo's salary and half of mine in the same account, so we could start the journey or buy the vehicle we chose. But the story begins earlier. I'll let Marcelo tell it.

Marcelo: Well, a long time before that, I had been telling Karen we could do a Working Holiday program. We had both finished university and were working in the fields we studied. Karen shot the idea down because she didn't want to move to another country; she is very close to her family. So I left it there and said, well, okay, let's see what else we can do.

Karen: I should add something. We were talking about countries like the Netherlands, Sweden, or Australia.

Marcelo: Yes. Later, in between all that, we watched Christian and Claudia's documentary "De Alaska a la Patagonia." That was when I discovered another way to travel and live. From then on, I asked Karen, "What if we lived like this?" Again, she was interested, but also hesitant, and in the end she sidestepped the idea again.

Karen: I didn't say anything then, but I kept thinking about it. What happened afterward? Work stress hit me. I suddenly lost my voice. I'm a teacher, a special education teacher, and I worked at a very good but very demanding government-subsidized private school. I'm also very demanding of myself, so I reached a point where I was extremely stressed. Marcelo brought up his idea again. I thought it over and said yes, but with conditions.



That was when we shook hands and both agreed to build a financial cushion. I needed some financial security in case things happened. As part of that agreement, we discussed traveling around South America, through every country in South America. That was when the excitement really took hold. Those butterflies in your stomach… we were born again. I think all my stress disappeared because we now had a big shared goal. We looked at each other and started watching all the…
Marcelo: YouTube videos. By travelers.
Karen: Yes, we watched them all. I would get out my notebook and we would write down what we needed, what not to bring, and all the advice the YouTubers were giving at the time.
Marcelo: Some of those travelers were in Kombis. That gave us a kind of preview of what traveling in a Kombi was like, the good and the bad.
Karen: And we liked that. We went to see several…
Marcelo: Vehicles. Different kinds.
Karen: When we found the Kombi, it was on Facebook Marketplace, very close to our house, a neighbor's. When we went to see it, we fell in love. It was like a beautiful little vintage dollhouse.
Marcelo: It had that iconic feature: a roof that popped up. This Kombi was originally converted into a camper in Chile. Later, after buying it, we redid the conversion to get it just right.




***Choosing the Kombi***

Marcelo: We chose the Kombi because, watching other travelers' videos, we realized they have a support network. Kombis and Volkswagen Beetles were driven and sold throughout South America, so in almost any small town or reasonably sized city you can find someone who has seen one before, or a mechanic who works only on these vehicles, because their mechanics are quite distinctive. We fell in love with that: the support network and the vehicle's character. The fact that the roof popped up was an attraction all on its own.
Karen: The windows are special, too. When it rains, you can open them without letting water in. In our "mechanical love affair," I think we have had one complicated event during these four years of travel: the last time we had to completely rebuild the Kombi's engine.

We had to do it twice because one rebuild wasn't done properly. I think that was when we felt most uncertain and insecure. Our time in Ecuador was running out, we had to leave soon, and this had happened. We were very afraid we wouldn't be able to fix things, and it became quite complicated, but in the end we came through it.
Marcelo: And the Kombi has never, ever left us stranded because of the engine. Somehow, we always figure it out and it gets where it needs to go.
Karen: All the other breakdowns we have had have brought us friends and stories. There are always people who stop to help; lots of people stop because it's a Kombi.




***You combine travel with digital design and collaborations. How do you balance the discipline of remote work with the freedom and unpredictability of life on the move?***

Karen: You definitely have to balance work with travel and being on the move. Experience helps you build a system. For example, we know we never leave or drive on Mondays. On weekends, we know we will sell things or try to find somewhere to set up a stall. Marcelo is a designer and handles the digital side. He enjoys it, so he is very enthusiastic about it. We also manage social media, and I handle collaborations. Each of us has our own area to develop. It is difficult, but we are responsible, so we always get it done.
I think we struggle most when we are in a group, because we are very sociable people who like spending time with others. We make great friends on the road, and then finding balance is difficult. We do manage it in the end, but we have to leave room both for friends and for work. This is what we like; this is life.
Marcelo: If we have a lot of work, we stay as long as we need to in places where we feel comfortable.
Karen: And where we have internet.
Marcelo: Yes. We are travelers who stay in places for quite a while. We use as much time as each country gives us. We enjoy it, and if the conditions are right, we simply stay and work.

***You have traveled through Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, and Ecuador. So far, what place has left you speechless, somewhere you would return to tomorrow?***

Karen: This was the hardest question. It took us a long time. It made us travel through all of South America again, and we can't choose just one place. But between us, places like Chiloé came up, places where we were very happy for different reasons connected to the Kombi, and Salvador de Bahía in Brazil.
Marcelo: Yes. In Chiloé specifically, I remember a place called Palqui on Quinchao Island. It had a special magic because you could drive right down to the beach, where a narrow strip of land would fill with water in the afternoon, forming a little lagoon. We looked toward an inland lagoon and the island on one side, and on the other toward the mainland, especially the volcanoes. I remember having breakfast outside the Kombi one morning, on a cold but sunny day, with dolphins and the mountains in the background. A wonderful place.

***Your "Jabones en ruta" section caught our attention. How did this handmade soap business begin, and how important is making physical products while traveling?***

Karen: What a great question, guys. You touched on something I mentioned earlier about the Kombi. Despite the problems it has had on the road, it brings us friends, experiences, and new things to learn. When we had to do that complete engine rebuild twice, we ended up at Álvaro and Paola's house in Puyo, Ecuador, in the Ecuadorian Amazon. One of my dreams was to learn to make soap and candles. I knew I would do it someday, and it happened there. The family welcomed us into their home, and she was an instructor who ran candle- and soap-making workshops. I offered to be her assistant and help with those workshops. Then I had to choose which to make: candles or soap. I love candles. For as long as I can remember, I have always had them around my house and in my room. I chose soap, which I also loved making, for convenience, space, and speed.

Marcelo: Selling on the road has different sides to it. First, it lets us earn money to cover basic needs and supplement our other income. It also lets us show what we make and what we like, in the way we want to present it, in formats we enjoy and have seen people respond to. Making custom stickers, making soap, and so on also helps us connect with local people in each place.

Karen: And in the end, those local people give us the best tips and open doors to another little corner of a place that we might never have discovered without them.

Marcelo: Yes. Invitations and friendships come out of that, too, and in the end it creates a beautiful kind of synergy. Opening the Kombi's doors really captures people's attention. It is almost as though we park it there and it becomes a mobile shop; in that sense, it sells itself. But what we enjoy most is seeing people's amazement that a little home can fit into so few square meters.

Karen: That you can live like this.



**OPENING THE KOMBI'S DOORS REALLY CAPTURES PEOPLE'S ATTENTION**

***You are currently in Medellín, Colombia. What has the cultural contrast been like on reaching the Caribbean and northern South America, compared with your first miles in the Southern Cone?***

Karen: In short, the south, the Southern Cone, is magical to us. And the north, coming toward the Caribbean countries, is full of flavor.
Marcelo: All this change has been very gradual over these four years. Traveling slowly through each country has allowed us to see why we live the way we do, how human beings adapt to different climates, geographical conditions, and so on. Those constant changes help us learn much more about our neighbors and their ways of life.
Karen: Being flexible is incredibly important. A traveler has to be flexible.




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***Living in a small space takes real coordination as a couple. What is your secret to keeping the peace and making important decisions when the road gets tough?***

Karen: For me, the most important thing is that each of us has our own space. By space, I mean physical space: inside the Kombi I have my seat, and Marcelo has his. I have my space, he has his. And space for activities, too. There are things I enjoy doing; I go outside the Kombi and have my space. Marcelo does, too.
On the road, you often have to make many decisions, almost every day. Before setting out, we agreed that whenever there was a decision to make, we would make it unanimously; otherwise, we wouldn't do it. For various reasons, one of us might not want to do something while the other does. So we talk it through, back and forth, and if after that conversation one of us still doesn't agree with doing that activity, going to that place, or making that decision, we don't do it.
That has been very important on this journey and has worked well for us in every sense. Sometimes it is just intuition: one of us doesn't feel right about something and we don't really know why, but we say, "No, better not." Later, we hear something happened in that place. That is why we agreed that if something doesn't feel right, it is better not to do it.

***The journey keeps unfolding. Is there a destination or project on the horizon that has you especially excited right now?***

Marcelo: We have just completed four years of travel and nine countries. Soon we will enter the last country we plan to visit, Venezuela. In a way, we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel in terms of the countries we want to explore and what we want to do. We hope to return to Chile soon to build a project that lets us keep living this travel lifestyle, perhaps in a different way. We don't know exactly what yet, but we know something will come along.
"And we won't stop traveling."



*Facing Fear and Staying Safe*

Marcelo: Deciding to leave and cross that threshold of fear, once you pass through that imaginary doorway and drive those first miles, have your first experiences on the road, those fears gradually start…
Karen: Fading.
Marcelo: Exactly. That also needs to go hand in hand with preparation, both general knowledge and financial and safety matters, to avoid difficult situations. We are in South America, and what happens here in Chile, in Colombia, or elsewhere happens throughout South America. So you have to be…
Karen: Prepared.
Marcelo: Alert. You have to…
Karen: Not "dar papaya," not make yourself an easy target.
Marcelo: Exactly, not "dar papaya."
Karen: Every country has its own expression for that.



# @alaaventuravan




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# Roadside Cooking

## *Recipes and Healthy Eating*

SHARE THE RECIPES YOU ENJOY MOST
ON YOUR TRAVELS

POTATO

TORTILLA

### INGREDIENTS (SERVES 4)

- 500–800 g potatoes (such as Kennebec, Monalisa, or Yukon Gold)
- 4–6 large eggs
- 1 medium onion (optional)
- Salt to taste
- Extra-virgin olive oil

### Step by Step:

1. Prepare the potatoes:
Peel and thinly slice the potatoes, or cut them into evenly sized pieces so they cook uniformly. If using onion, cut it into thin strips.
2. Cook the potatoes and onion:
Heat a generous amount of olive oil in a skillet over medium-low heat. Add the potatoes and let them cook slowly in the oil until soft and lightly golden. If using onion, cook it separately over low heat until soft and caramelized, taking care not to let it burn.
3. Mix with the eggs:
Drain the potatoes and onion and place them in a large bowl. Beat the eggs and add a little salt, then gently combine with the potatoes and onion. Let the mixture rest for a few minutes to allow the flavors to blend.
4. Cook the tortilla:
Heat a couple of tablespoons of oil in a nonstick skillet. Pour in the mixture and cook over medium heat, gently moving it at first to distribute the ingredients. Once the bottom is set, place a plate over the skillet and carefully turn the tortilla over. Cook the other side to your preferred doneness: less time for a soft center, more time for a firmer tortilla.
5. Rest and serve:
Let it rest for a few minutes before slicing so it can set. Serve hot, at room temperature, or cold, with salad or bread, or as a tapa.







# DISFRUTANDO el camino



Sofía and Facundo of “Disfrutando el Camino” challenge assumptions about space by traveling in a Ford Ka. We explore their journey, growth on social media, the vehicle’s technical adaptations, and the challenges of solving problems in an ultra-compact vehicle on a real expedition.

***When exactly did the idea of traveling stop being a dream and become a reality in the Ka?***

Sofía: It was precisely one night when Facu came to me and said, "I'm going traveling. I don't know what you're doing. Are you coming with me? Otherwise I'm going alone." He put it to me that way because we had already been thinking about traveling, but we hadn't had the courage to take the leap and make it happen. Facu had already left his job and everything else; all that remained was for me to leave mine. That night he gave me that ultimatum: "I'm leaving. I really want to travel. I want to change my life. Are you coming with me or not?" I don't know what else I can add, but that really was the moment.

***What has been the most difficult situation or biggest scare you have had to deal with on the road?***

Sofía: The worst and most complicated moment we experienced was in Bogotá, Colombia. We had gone out filming with our new, almost brand-new GoPro. Coming down from the Monserrate lookout, it was already getting dark. It was six in the evening, but the sun was setting and it was practically dark. We asked the police whether it was safe to walk down, and on that stretch we were robbed. They attacked us from behind, kept throwing Facundo to the ground, and fought for the backpack. Our passports were in it because we had used them to get into a museum for free; otherwise, we never recommend going out with your passports.
During the struggle over the backpack, I went rolling down a slope. I was scraped up, hurt, and very shaken. Facu, my boyfriend, bravely ran after the thieves. They hadn't threatened him with a knife or a gun. We were actually told we had been unbelievably lucky, because robberies in Bogotá are very violent. They had just kept grabbing him around the neck from behind and throwing him to the ground. In that rush of adrenaline, he thought, "If they haven't pointed a gun at me or threatened me with a knife, it must mean they really don't have a weapon." So he chased them. The thieves fell and dropped the backpack. People around us in Colombia began shouting, "Thieves!" and "Help!" They got scared and left the backpack on the ground. Luckily, everything turned out okay because we recovered our belongings. They ran away and the backpack stayed there. Sadly, when we reported it to the police, because we had recovered our things, they took no action.





*He made up a mattress in his living room for us, and that night he and his wife prayed for our journey… Honestly, telling this story still moves me.*






***If you had to choose one image or landscape from the entire journey that captures why you are doing this, what would it be?***

Honestly, it would be the moment we shared with you in Bacalar, when we were traveling with Petrapera, Nelson and Maura, the Brazilian travelers. Bacalar is, I think, one of the places we loved most, most, most on the trip. Sharing it with friends and other travelers, enjoying something as simple as a meal beneath the stars in the Mexican sky, toasting with beer and tequila with fellow travelers. We spent a beautiful Easter together: that lake, that dock, and above all the friendships, right? The people we had been traveling with for so long, and having the honor of meeting you there. It was without a doubt an unforgettable moment that will stay with us forever. At least so far, it has been the highlight.

***Beyond the mechanics, what has the car taught you about patience and adapting to whatever comes?***

The car has taught us that life is much simpler than we imagine. Sometimes you don't need an enormous motorhome with every comfort to get out there and do what you really want, and that applies to any dream in life. Our car is small. We have converted it into a camper, but it still does its job. We are in the same places as other travelers, seeing the same landscapes as the millions of tourists who travel during those 15 days a year they get with a steady job. Being so small obviously has its pros and cons, but it has taught us to go out and do as much as we can with what we have at the time. Later, if you can and the opportunity is there, of course you can move up to something bigger if you want. But if you want to start pursuing a dream, you always begin with what you have.

***Do you remember an encounter with a stranger who changed your perspective or helped when you needed it most?***

Yes. The first person who comes to mind is a Panamanian man, Luis Rovira, and his wife, Icela, both from Boquete. They are so lovely. At that time, Facu and I were doing social media exchanges with hotels because we didn't have the bed set up inside the car. We went to Boquete partly because roads were blocked in Panama, and the truth is no one was answering us. Not a single hotel replied. It was raining the way it always rains in Panama, as though the sky were falling. I was crying because we had nowhere to sleep. Sleeping inside the car was an option, reclining the seats, for example, but we didn't have the bed set up. Then Luis appeared through another contact in Panama who told us, "Look, guys, you're there, talk to my friend Luis. Maybe he can help." We wrote to him without knowing him because it was literally our only option. The sky was falling, we had nowhere to sleep, and no way to continue.
He was so, so kind. He opened his home to us and invited us to eat. His house was small, and that worried him. He said it was very humble, that his bathroom didn't have all the comforts, and that his living room was tiny. But to us, it was one of the warmest, loveliest homes we had stayed in. He made up a mattress in the living room for us, and that night he and his wife prayed for our journey… Honestly, telling it makes me emotional, because we are still in touch today. That is one of the most beautiful things travel gives you: meeting so many people who, without knowing you, open their doors and their hearts.




***What has been hardest to leave behind in Argentina, and how do you handle the distance from loved ones on the gray days?***

Sofía: The truth is, when we left Argentina, we were very aware that we were leaving our homeland. The first question or thing Facu said as we set out and crossed into Chile, because we went straight from Argentina to Chile without traveling around Argentina, we were desperate to discover other cultures, was: "You realize we aren't leaving for 15 days and coming back, right? You realize we don't know when we'll be back?" I told him yes, I was completely aware. Sometimes we try to live one day at a time and remember that the people in Argentina, our families, friends, and loved ones, really support this journey, and think of them as being present with us. That also helps us cope with missing the people we love every day. Sometimes, exactly as you say, it is very hard, especially on the gray days. Luckily, technology now lets us make a video call, send a message or a photo. We upload videos to YouTube, too, and they tell us they feel more connected because they can see us, even if it is through a screen. But I'll emphasize it again: trying to live one day at a time makes knowing they aren't physically with us feel less heavy.

***What is the most valuable lesson the road forced you to learn, one you would never find in a travel guide?***

Sofía: What a difficult question. One thing that comes to mind is that travel, like life, is always changing. Sometimes you are up, sometimes down. What always matters is how you adapt to the situations you face every day, and no life manual or travel guide tells you that. Without a doubt, I think the most valuable lesson this whole journey has given us, besides resilience, is to be very flexible. To adapt as much as you can to whatever the road brings, whether the day is sunny or cloudy, whether good things or bad things happen. That is life in general. The greatest lesson this journey and this road have given us is to stay flexible and adapt to circumstances. If you expect to control everything, the frustration will be enormous. What matters is being okay with yourself. Obviously there are always ups and downs, but the most important thing is to try to be at peace with yourself and stay flexible about what happens around you.





***How do you keep your motivation up when things don't go as planned, with weather, borders, or bureaucracy?***

Sofía: The truth is that sometimes it is very hard to stay positive and upbeat when things don't work out as you hoped. But everyone who follows us plays a part in that. Sometimes, for example, we feel unmotivated and don't upload videos to the channel, especially because of the difficulty we are dealing with now: Facundo was denied a U.S. visa. It is, you might say, an obstacle to fulfilling our dream of connecting Argentina with Alaska. But many people write all the time saying they miss our videos and asking why we haven't uploaded anything. Sometimes we go two or three days without posting on Instagram and people write, "Guys, are you okay? Why haven't you posted?" People we don't even know. That is what really strikes you: people looking forward to it, or writing to say traveling has always been their dream and they travel through us, that they admire us, and so on. That is definitely a driving force and motivation to get out and film, to face the day with a smile. When you aren't in the best mood, you say, "Well, in the end there are people on the other side waiting to see what we post, because they want to join us in fulfilling this dream." That is certainly a driving force when we are feeling a little low.




*"In the end, there are people on the other side waiting to see what we share, because they want to be part of this dream."*

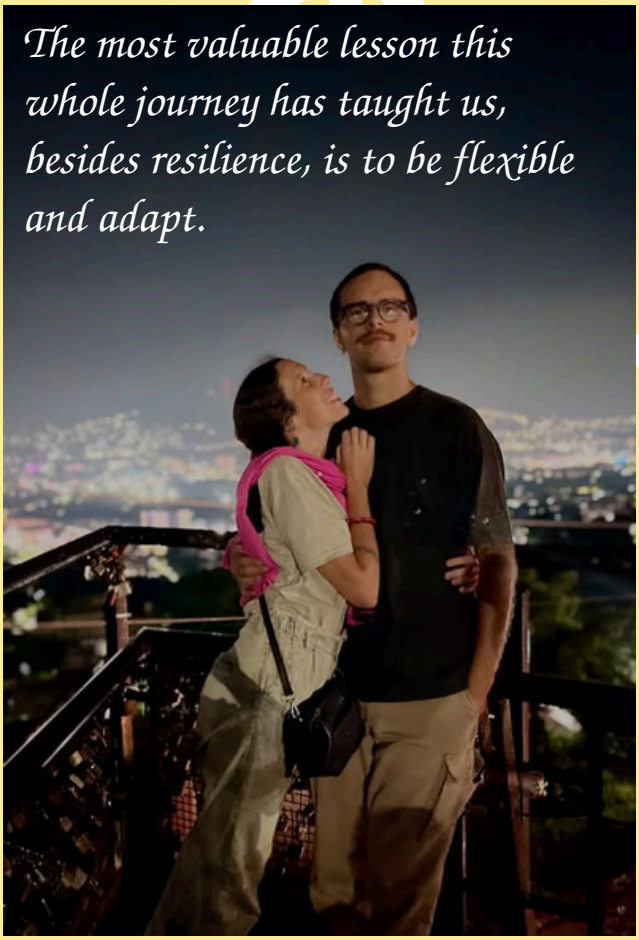






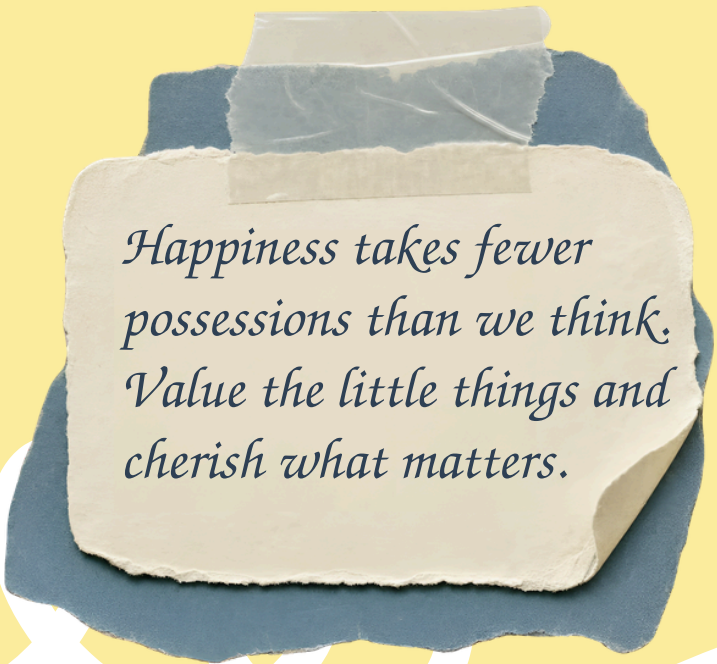

***How do you feel the two of you have changed since that first mile?***

Sofía: I think both Facu and I have learned to value the little things so much more. Having hot water for a shower, for example, light after dark, a comfortable kitchen to cook in, a nice clean bathroom, a warm bed… We have learned to value moments with the people around us much more, to open our minds and ask, "What does this person enjoy?" To enjoy seeing how others appreciate life and things. We definitely appreciate small details more. We have learned to value drinking water, water for washing our things, our clothes… And we have also learned that in everyday life you can have so many things in a house without knowing why you have them, what they are for, or sometimes even where they are. You don't need so many possessions to be happy. You need to value and cherish the little things, to have just a minimum. The essentials are enough for us. Before, we might have accumulated things or said, "I'll buy this just in case," and then never used it. So yes, that is definitely it: with very little, if you keep an open mind and appreciate the little things, you can be happy. You don't need much to be happy.




***Looking Ahead***

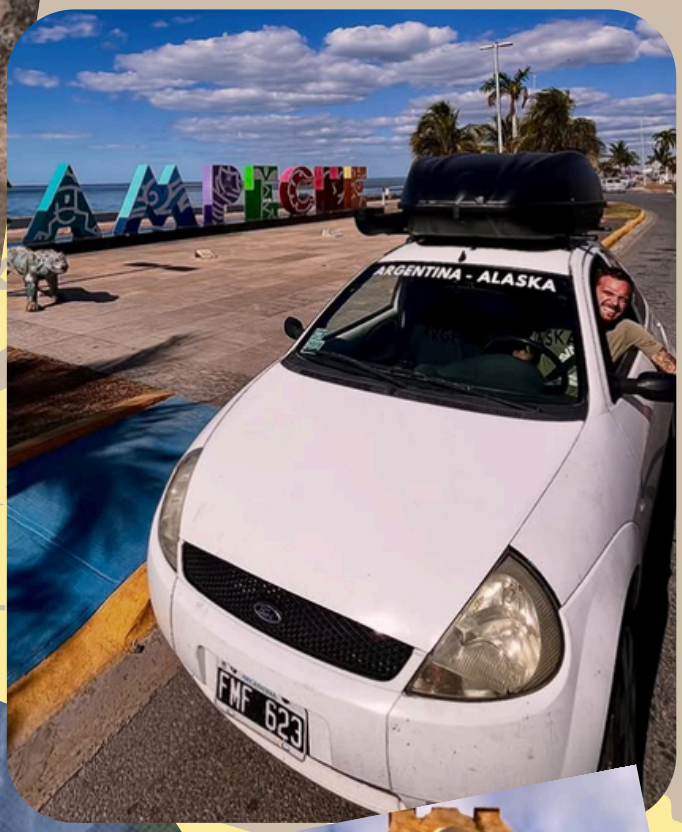
SOFÍA: It excites us to say that the journeys will continue, that there are endless places to discover and endless cultures. I don't think a lifetime would be enough to see everything on this planet. Our goal of reaching Alaska is still there, of course. We are excited about overcoming the challenge of getting U.S. and Canadian visas so we can reach that goal. After that, why not explore other continents? Or even if we can't reach Alaska, why not go to other continents? We also love the Caribbean. We really want to create a section on YouTube devoted exclusively to Caribbean beaches, because we love sharing the culture, the beaches, that whole Caribbean atmosphere, the food, coconut rice, plantains… we love all of it. But without a doubt, what excites us most is that you will never have enough time to see every country in the world. There will always be something else to discover, and that keeps us motivated and excited. For everyone, right? There is always something else you can do, something else to experience or live, and that is what excites us. At least for now.





# @DISFRUTANDOELCAMINO










*We have learned to value the little things so much more.*

# @DISFRUTANDOELCAMINO



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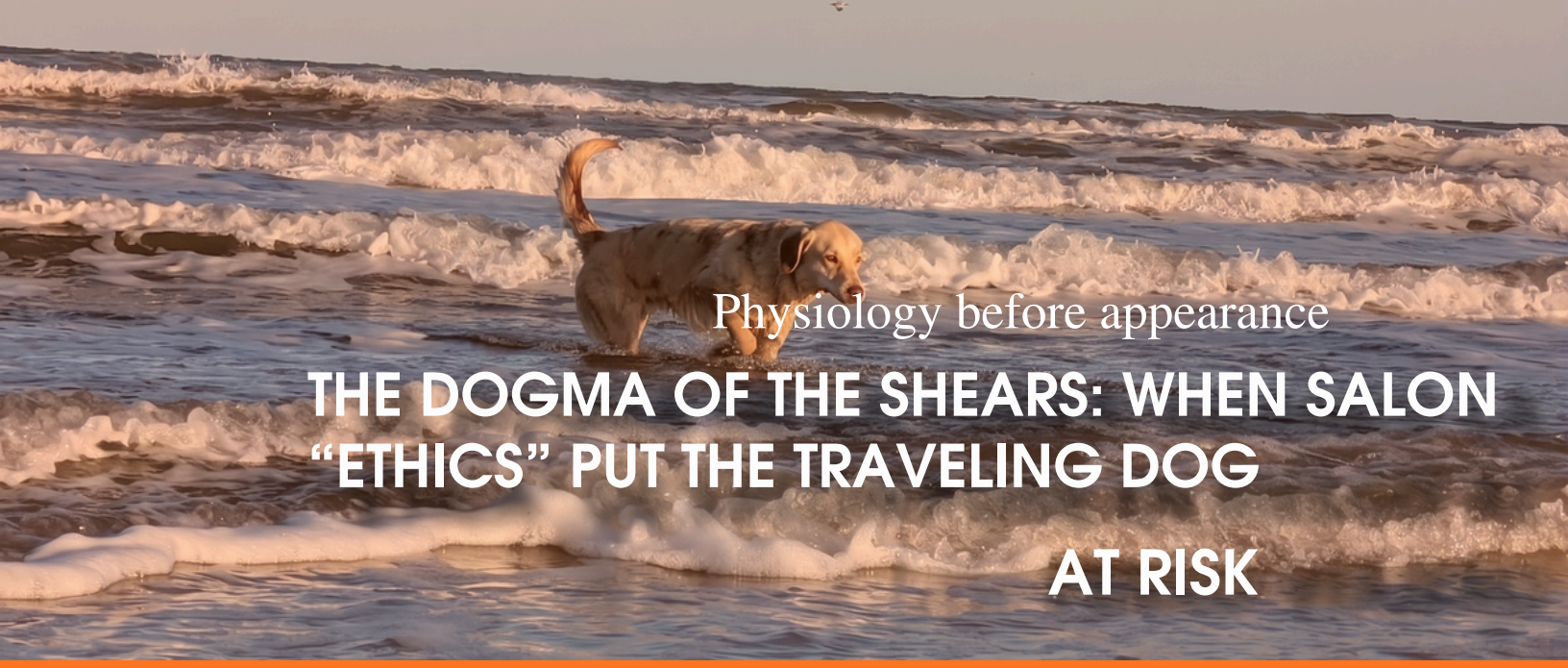
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BITACORA OFF ROAD



Physiology before appearance

# THE DOGMA OF THE SHEARS: WHEN SALON "ETHICS" PUT THE TRAVELING DOG AT RISK



Dr. Gabriel Jara
Veterinarian /
Traveler

**Textbook rules fit stationary lives. Nomadic life calls for understanding biology on the move.**

In Monterrey, we hit a wall: an outright refusal to cut Maya's coat on "ethical" grounds. The classic grooming-salon argument says a double coat acts as natural insulation, protecting against both cold and heat. For an urban dog living in a controlled environment with predictable seasons, the rule holds. But on the road, crossing latitudes and changing climates dramatically, applying it blindly is negligence.

Textbook rules fit stationary lives. Nomadic life calls for understanding biology on the move.

A disrupted body clock and constant shedding

A dog's body has an internal clock programmed for its place of origin. Maya was born in Canada; her biology is designed for long, subzero winters. Hair growth and shedding do not happen randomly. The body reads daylight hours and ambient temperature to determine the season.

When you travel and change latitude in a matter of days or weeks, that internal clock becomes confused. The dog moves from Canadian cold to Mexican heat without enough time to acclimate. The body detects extreme heat and triggers emergency shedding, but daylight hours (longer or shorter, depending on the route) send conflicting signals. The result is constant, exhausting shedding. The dog desperately tries to shed its coat to avoid overheating, but the natural process is too slow for the speed at which its surroundings change.

**The myth of natural insulation in humid conditions**

The untouchable "never shave" rule rests on the idea that fur traps air and insulates against heat. That is true in dry climates, where the coat blocks the sun's direct impact on the skin. But in hot, humid climates, the physics changes completely.

Dogs do not sweat through their skin the way we do. They cool themselves mainly by panting and releasing heat through less hairy areas, such as the belly. If a traveling dog carries a dense coat full of dead undercoat, that coat traps moisture from the environment. It stops acting as insulation and becomes a sealed greenhouse. Body temperature rises, the effort to cool down through panting becomes chronic, and trapped moisture macerates the skin, creating ideal conditions for infections, fungal growth, and severe dermatitis.

The deshedding trap: microtrauma disguised as a solution

To avoid breaking their ethical code, groomers offer the familiar alternative of deshedding, carding, or deep brushing. This involves using metal tools and rakes to mechanically pull out dead undercoat. It sounds harmless in theory, but for a nomadic dog, it is like putting out a fire with gasoline.

When an animal has been shedding continuously for months because of climatic disruption, its skin is already sensitive. Subjecting it to repeated pulling to remove retained hair places severe mechanical stress on the epidermis. Excessive traction causes microtrauma, inflames the follicles (folliculitis), and weakens the skin’s protective barrier. Instead of quickly and cleanly relieving the dog by reducing coat volume with a haircut, the animal is put through a painful physical process that leaves its skin red, irritated, and doubly vulnerable to infection in a warm, humid environment.



**Temporary Appearance vs. Real Welfare**

Dog groomers' great fear is "post-clipping alopecia": the risk that after clipping, the coat may take time to grow back or return with a different texture. That is a real cosmetic risk. But the fundamental question is: which is worse, a dog with an uneven haircut for a while, or a dog subjected to chronic heat stress, inflammation from deshedding, and the risk of heatstroke?

Projecting human values onto veterinary ethics means caring more about a dog's appearance than its physical welfare. If a dog's body is struggling because its genetics cannot cope with the tropics, clipping its coat to help it cool down is not a whim. It is a medical and practical necessity. On the road, keeping the dog cool and its skin intact matters infinitely more than any salon rule about appearance.




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# Traveler's Horoscope

Aries (Mar 21–Apr 19) Mars has your blood boiling, but customs officers couldn't care less about your hurry. The stars point to heavy bureaucracy this month. A border formality or police checkpoint will test your nonexistent patience. Turn off the engine, roll down the window, smile, and hand over your papers. Your greatest victory will be not arguing.

Taurus (Apr 20–May 20) Venus demands that you stop punishing your stomach. You have spent too many days driving on instant noodles and stale crackers. The universe decrees it is time to fire up the stove. Stop at the next village market, buy fresh meat or vegetables, and cook properly. Your morale on the road depends on what goes into that skillet this week.

Gemini (May 21–Jun 20) Your two sides will battle to the death over navigation. One half will blindly trust the GPS voice; the other will know that dirt track leads nowhere. Mercury retrograde in your mapping sector warns that technology will betray you this month. If the road narrows and the mud gets deeper, trust your instincts and turn around.

Cancer (Jun 21–Jul 22) The crab needs to clean its shell. The lunar alignment reveals excess emotional and physical baggage in your vehicle. That corner of the camper is full of things you thought you might use "just in case," gathering dust for months. This month, destiny demands a purge. Give away, sell, or discard what is useless. Both your engine and your mind will feel lighter.

Leo (Jul 23–Aug 22) The Sun lights up your house of digital ego. You want to film everything, photograph every rock, and post it so the world can see your adventure. But the stars bring you back to earth: you will reach a place with no reception for several days. Don't panic. Use that time to see the landscape with your own eyes, rather than through a screen. The real journey happens when no one is clicking "like."

Virgo (Aug 23–Sep 22) Your obsession with control will collide head-on with the chaos of the road. A new noise will appear inside the vehicle. You will drive yourself crazy trying to work out whether it is the suspension, the axle, or the engine about to die. The stars spare you the stress: it is just a loose dashboard screw or a pot rattling in the cupboard. Don't dismantle half the vehicle out of paranoia.

Libra (Sep 23–Oct 22) Your travel finances are tipping into the red. You have paid for too many private campgrounds or indulged too often over the last few miles. This month, the universe pushes you toward the austerity of serious boondocking. Find shelter in the desert or mountains, without services, without paying a cent. The best view has no admission fee.

Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21) Pluto brings intensity from above. A brutal change in weather is coming. If you are used to sunshine, prepare for a storm; if you were fleeing the cold, it will catch up with you. This month is about facing the elements, not dodging them. Secure the awnings, check the window seals, and enjoy the wild spectacle of nature pounding on the bodywork.

Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21) You are driving too much and walking too little. The stars warn that your legs are wasting away and your energy is stagnating. Jupiter demands sweat outside the cab. Park, put on your boots, and climb that mountain or hike that long trail. Get your blood moving so ideas for your next great route can keep flowing clearly.

Capricorn (Dec 22–Jan 19) Saturn, your ruling planet, tests your solidarity. This month, the main character will be someone else's vehicle. You will encounter someone stranded on the shoulder: a blown tire, a dead battery, or someone stuck in sand. Stop, get out the recovery strap or tools, and get your hands dirty for a stranger. Road karma collects in cash and repays in kind.

Aquarius (Jan 20–Feb 18) Uranus revolutionizes your routine. Your rhythm is too predictable for a nomad: wake up, drive, sleep. Break it all up this month. Drive under the stars if the road is safe, or spend three days in a town on no tourist map just because you liked the local baker's vibe. Pure improvisation will be your best compass.
The community on wheels will answer your call. The stars sharpen your ingenuity but remind you that you are not alone. If you need a tool, an adapter, or simply company, the universe will conspire to make another traveler appear at just the right moment. This is a month for building connections and sharing knowledge.

Pisces (Feb 19–Mar 20) Neptune, god of the waters, gives you a literal, direct warning: check your fluids. There is a strong chance of an annoying leak this month. It could be the gray-water tank, a seeping radiator hose, or a leak in the camper roof. Get ahead of disaster. A little sealant and duct tape in time will save you from swimming inside your own home.





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