

## Transcript of Podcast 094 : Reddit Travel Topic Discussion

{INTRO:

*SOUNDS FAKE BUT OKAY: On this episode - Reddit Rabbit Hole}*

*{intro music - jaunty, bouncy}*

*{Intro standard announcement:*

*Hello. Thank you for tuning in. You're listening to Travel Tales From Beyond The Brochure, a podcast looking at unfamiliar places across the world, and aspects of travelling you may never have thought of. I'm your host, The Barefoot Backpacker, a middle-aged Enby with a passion for offbeat travel, history, culture, and the 'why's behind travel itself. So join me as we venture ... beyond the brochure.}*

*{Music fades. Podcast begins}*

Hello :)

This podcast episode is again later than I had anticipated. This was due to SOMEONE not remembering to talk to me late last week. But, eh, these things happen, and it was quite fun when we eventually managed to have a natter. But I'll come onto that in a couple of minutes, because first I have a bit of housekeeping.

The main one is that I'm going away to South America for a two week jaunt. I leave on Friday, this Friday, and I'm back in the UK on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>. This means you won't hear much from me in the interim, if you follow me on the soch meeds. At the time of recording this pod, I also don't know if I'll be able to get an episode written and recorded before I go - I know what the episode will be \*on\*, I just have quite a bit to do to get it completed in time.

South America is a place I've only ever been once; ten years ago I had 11 days in Chile. I liked it as a country, but I was also very self-aware that my lack of knowledge of Spanish was evident. I mean, I got around okay, but I felt quite tense about it, and it's the reason I've never been back to Latin America as a whole. However, Laura set me the task to visit 100 countries by the time I'm 50, which felt achievable, and this was the most convenient way of getting closer to that target. And by convenient, I meant 'not going to give me skin cancer' and 'not going to turn me into even more of a soggy muddy grumpy mess than I already am'. Or in some cases, both - hot wet season is a great time to be backpacking along unsealed roads, you know. I'll talk more about the background of my trip when I come back, as I feel there's at least one pod to be made out of it, but just to let you know, I'm a little angsty about it, for social anxiety reasons. And no, I'm not going to Bolivia. Or at least, I'm not planning on it, but I've not made any plans much further than day 5, so, you know.

Closer to home, I've been on a few long-ish walks around my neighbourhood and the nearby villages and towns, including up to Heptonstall, which I spoke about on a podcast a long while ago and I kinda wish I hadn't now, because I'm now living here and it would make a much more complete and rounded story. But of course I wouldn't have ever guessed that - at the time I think I was living in Sheffield and more likely than not going to move to South Wales. What I wouldn't have mentioned on that pod, because it wasn't on my radar, is that Heptonstall is a stop-off point on the named long-distance footpath the Calderdale Way, 80km or 50 miles long, that does a loop around the metropolitan borough of that name. And there's an annual ultra-marathon that covers the entire course, with a cut-off time of, if I recall correctly, 17 hours. Which ... doesn't feel like a lot, given my hiking speed. Although the section I ambled along last Saturday was only about 5 miles over the wily windy moors and it took about 3 hours and I was very aware of the terrain being quite ... it would be very easy to twist an ankle, especially if you're not concentrating. The jury's still out on that one.

I probably need trail running shoes, things designed for that very purpose. When I was a school cross-country runner, we had some races over mud-infested slopes but we wore shoes with 12-15mm spikes in them. They mostly helped, but were rendered useless over any sort of hard ground. I was wearing hiking sandals on that amble and it was dry and yet I was still very conscious I'm not good at descending hills. No, I wasn't barefoot - those long-distance trails are awfully fond of gravel and stony ground in places. I have now started doing my local running loop barefoot though, as I always threatened to do, and in one direction I do seem to be weirdly quicker than wearing the minimalist running things. Although by the time I get back from South America it will be almost November and I suspect the days of running barefoot will be past for the year.

Anyway, onto this episode. Now, this is an episode I've been meaning to do for about three years, and I don't

know if it went exactly as I'd intended it to – it was certainly longer than I anticipated it was going to be – and due to an error in not recording the conversation at both ends, the second half of the chat is likely to be audibly a lower quality than the first. But we've learned a lot from this experiment, and it's certainly better than the Twitter Spaces that me and V used to do together.

The original idea came from the podcast *Sounds Fake But Okay*, a lifestyle podcast where two people younger than my website talk about all things to do with love, relationships, and things that two people on the asexual scatter graph just don't understand. Whenever they get stuck for content they scour the AITA forums on Reddit, and similar content in other places, to highlight allonormativity and generally go 'NTA, dump him'. I figured I could do the same for this pod, but looking at things more travel-related. Now obviously there's a lot more content about relationships; they're on, I think, their 13<sup>th</sup> iteration, but I figured it couldn't help to try.

However it's not the sort of episode that works well with just one person as it sounds like I'm just being bitter and ranty. I know some of you like it when I'm bitter and ranty. I don't think it makes me come across that well, possibly arrogant, I'm not sure. Anyway, my friend V was more than happy to help get involved. Even though she's not an ardent traveller. Though her travel videos get more views than mine. Maybe more people are interested in a family holiday to Kessingland than an overview on why Falkirk is interesting. In fact this podcast was recorded through Zoom, so there's associated video, and I think her plan is to put it as a long-form video on her channel. So that'll be an interesting rivalry for hits.

I hope you enjoy it.

*{section separation jingle}*

V: Before we start though, can you hear my washing machine? Do I need to go and pause it?

BB: No.

V: No, I can't either. I think it might have finished actually. And I'm pretty sure that the delivery I was expecting has just come through the door. So we should be nice and undisturbed for the duration there. Which one did you want to start with?

BB: I reckon the order in which I sent them, I think.

V: Was the first one the reclining chair?

BB: It was. The first one was the reclining chair, which I found quite amusing.

V: Yeah. I mean, I think ...

BB: for the record, for people listening in, it's an article on the BBC News website, but I heard it elsewhere. It's a Cathay Pacific couple who started a row of reclining seat. And the basic bottom line of it was they were sitting behind someone that was reclining their seat. The person in front of them reclined. They, shall we say, did not react well. It was in China and the people behind started being quite racist towards the person who had reclined and then started to assault the air crew.

V: I think we can both agree that, you know, their particular behaviour in these circumstances was appalling. You don't just start being racist towards people because of a seat. That's ridiculous. It's like one inch of room. But what I don't understand. As you know, I haven't been on a plane since 1999. Maybe things have changed a little bit, but I was always told that the golden rule of flying is you don't piss off the flight attendants.

BB: I mean, they have the power. They are in charge and, you know

V: it's never going to end well for you if you're arguing with flight attendant on an aeroplane, is it?

BB: No, no, I mean, they do have the power to evict you from the plane, probably not at 30,000 feet, but they do have the power to evict you from the plane. And that particular coupling question in this particular article have now been banned from Cathay Pacific forever.

V: I mean, I'm pretty sure if you're causing a big disruption, even at 30,000 feet, they can hogtie you and stick you in an aisle somewhere and leave you there until you land.

BB: I mean, I've never tried that, but it is tempting. It's one way to cope with a boring flight.

V: You know, in the style of Reddit's Am I The Asshole where you can respond with everyone sucks here, as one of the things. And I do think in this particular circumstance, to a degree, everyone sucks here.

BB: Yeah, I mean, I'm one of those people. I mean, I quite like flying Ryanair because you can't actually recline the seats. And I mean, the way I see it is that you don't recline seats on trains.

V: Yeah, yeah. But also, the seats on trains can't recline. And so, the seats on aeroplanes being able to recline kind of suggests that you are allowed then.

BB: Yeah, I mean, I would personally prefer it if you weren't.

V: Yeah, yeah.

BB: I mean, on the opposites, I mean, I can see this from both points of view because, you know, I'm 1m90 tall. So leg room, I don't have much leg room on a plane, not at all. So the idea of reclining a seat is quite nice, except it doesn't actually give you that much more leg room when you do it. And obviously, if you're behind someone's reclining a seat, you get even less leg room, I would prefer it if you could not recline your seat at all, if it was physically impossible to do so. But this is a big but, Sir Mix-a-Lot likes these butts. I would prefer it if airlines gave you more room in the first place.

V: Especially for long haul flights, because sitting upright for between 12 and 24 hours is ridiculous. Well, I couldn't do that anyway. I don't know if other people were just very good at posture. But I couldn't handle being that upright for a long haul flight. But in that case, maybe we need fewer seats on the economy section of aeroplanes for long haul flights.

BB: Yes, I would say that was, how tall are you?

V: I'm only five three. So it wouldn't make a big difference to me height wise. But in terms of POTS, I kind of need to be able to put my legs up and stuff. And so I feel like aeroplane seats would be too narrow for me anyway to sit comfortably. I think if I was going to go on a long haul flight, I would probably try to save up for long enough to buy myself extra room and space to recline.

BB: Yes, I am going to fly imminently. I have a long haul flight booked for Friday, Saturday, overnight, that sort of time.

V: Is this to South America?

BB: It is to South America. And I have purchased an exit row seat. It may have been about 70 or 80 pounds more. But it's a 12 hour flight. And

V: yeah, you need to be able to stretch your legs out, especially because you've got very long legs, haven't you?

BB: I have very long legs.

V: You actually, before we started this Zoom, you sent me some other things from Am I the Asshole, and I feel like one of them sort of ties into this because you sent me the story of the woman that didn't want to put her designer handbag on the floor under her seat.

BB: Yes, let's have a look about this one. Oh, that was China again by the looks of it. This is an article from August 2024. A Chinese woman was escorted off a flight after she refused to stow her designer handbag under the seat in front of her, causing an hour-long delay. The handbag was a Louis Vuitton. I never pronounce that correctly.

V: Vuitton

BB: Vuitton handbag. She refused to put it under the seat in front and insisted on placing it next to her on the seat. The flight had to return to the boarding gate, causing a delay of an hour as the woman was taken off. And this also affected other flights.

V: So she actually, she inconvenienced quite a lot of people doing that. But she would have also inconvenienced the person in front of her who needed that bit of space as well.

BB: Yes. I mean, I'm absolutely not the target market for designer handbags.

V: No, I don't think I am either.

BB: So I don't know why you wouldn't put it under the seat in front of her unless she was scared of it being nicked or something. Who's gonna nick it?!

V: Yeah, and you couldn't walk away with it without somebody realizing. So she wasn't worried about someone stealing it. So I'd assume she was worried about it getting dirty on the floor. But if you're that worried, don't use that bag when you know it's going to have to be put on the floor.

BB: Or, don't use that bag.

- V: I mean, I don't personally see the point of bags that you don't feel able to use and shoes that you don't feel able to wear outside and things like that. Why are you spending money on something that doesn't fulfil its most basic function?
- BB: Because it's all show, darling. It's all for the gram. It's all for, oh, I'm so high quality, high quality. Oh, La Croix, sweetie, La Croix.
- V: But yeah, so I don't see the point of owning items that you can't use for their functional purpose. But also, I don't understand why you would want to disregard rules that are being made for your safety. Like the reason that you're told to stow your bags under the seat or in the cabinet is so that if we have severe turbulence or we crash or something like that, we've not got loads of bags flying around inside the cabin, knocking people out and blocking the entryway. You are also on that plane. Why do you not want it to be the safest journey that it can be? I don't understand.
- BB: Indeed. And obviously things like handbags as well. They have straps and you can trip over the straps if they're in the wrong place. They can get wedged on something and caught on something. It's like when you, when you get evacuated from the plane, they say, leave all your hand luggage on the plane. I bet she wouldn't have left that bag on the plane.
- V: No way. I didn't know that they say to you to leave your luggage behind if you're evacuated, but that makes total sense because like if there was a fire in a normal building, you wouldn't stop to grab your stuff.
- BB: And they say that in offices as well. It's all one of the things when the fire alarm goes off, a fire alarm test, it's always just leave as quickly as possible from a seat following the designated route, leave all belongings behind.
- BB: So what are we concluding then? Don't take a designer handbag on a plane.
- V: I think in terms of plane etiquette, this is another one of the you suck lady. You absolutely suck. Especially because not only have you delayed everyone on that plane, but you've delayed everyone else as well. So there's just thousands of people hating you specifically. I could never.
- BB: But of course, that handbag is obviously worth it. The handbag probably cost more than the plane ticket.
- V: Controversial opinion, Louis Vuitton handbags are not that good looking either.
- BB: I wouldn't know
- V: The very 90s, I think, very, very 90s, early 90s, sort of quite dated, I think. But then, yeah, I am confused as to why designer goods and stuff are still sort of in fashion because I thought people were going more towards a sort of thrifting, low consumption sort of as a form of status thing and that designer brands are a little bit gauche, maybe.
- BB: What you really need is designer brands to make stuff that looks like it's second hand.
- V: Oh, but they do. They do. They make like plastic bags and stuff that looks like a carrier bag. But you can get that for 20p from Tesco.
- BB: yep yep.
- V: What other problems have we got? Let's put the whole world to rights.
- BB: What else have we got? We have. The next one I've got is from a Reddit and it's from, where's it from? It's from the travel Reddit. And it's, what's the appropriate number of photos to take? Which I thought was an interesting question. Someone has written, I just got jokingly accused of not even travelling by a co-worker after she saw how few photos I took of a recent trip to Atlanta. I was in town for Dragon Con and I took a lot of photos of different booths and lots and lots of the amazing art and even got some taken of me and my travel pal with some amazing actors. But I took very few photos overall. Very few of the city on the two days I went sightseeing and eating at different places. I didn't even get a picture of an online friend who went out of the way to see me. I know she said it jokingly, but now I feel a bit of regret. Should I have taken more photos? I'm well travelled around the US at least, but I just never really take photos. I know it's not important to me to have these photos, but I might actually mean a lot to those I visit all the people who want to see what my trip was like. So I need advice. What is the appropriate number of photos I should be taking? Any particular subjects I should be capturing?
- V: Well, I hate how many 'shoulds' that person used. Like they're having a great time, they're enjoying their trip, they're present, they're in the moment, they're building memories and then this little flippant comment from someone who's got them feeling like I should be doing this, I should be doing that, I

should be doing the other and just taking all of the joy out of it. Just travel how you want to travel.

**BB:** The podcast that I listen to sounds fake, but okay, not the only podcast I listen to, but the sounds fake but okay podcast. One of their mantras is don't should for that kind of reason.

**V:** My foster parents had a coaster with don't should on yourself with a kid on a potty, it was very weird. But yeah, it was a big motto, don't should on yourself. And honestly, I think we put the far too much pressure on ourselves from other people. Like this person's talking about, oh, what about the people that are enjoying my vlogs and the people that want to see? Never mind those people, it's you that's travelling, it's you that's having the trip and you should have it the way you enjoy it. You shouldn't be having homework.

**BB:** I know quite a few people on travel Twitter who say that you should live in the moment more. And you shouldn't take so many photographs because it takes away from the act of being there. And I've always kind of got a bit weird about that. I mean, I see what they mean, but equally, it's like that photograph that I'm taking allows me; the reason why I take a lot of photographs, because I take a lot of photographs on, you know, sort of 200 odd a day sometimes. But the reason I take a lot of photographs is because I have a really bad memory. So I take photographs so that in the future, future me can go, oh yeah, I remember going there now, which I wouldn't do if it didn't have the photograph, there in front of me going, reminding me of where I went.

**V:** See, I think that that's totally different to taking photos because you feel you should for your audience. But that's a difficult one for both of us because we both vlog. So we're both probably when we go places feel like I should be recording this for the YouTube or whatever. But I think taking photos for your own personal memories. And I take a lot of pictures as well, especially because children grow up so quickly, I want to record it, you know. But if I ever felt like I had to do this for other people who are not my children, I would be disappointed in myself for feeling that way, I think.

**BB:** It's one of the reasons why I don't vlog very much, because it's a lot of effort to take video. And sometimes I'm just not in the mood. Sometimes I'm just, I'm literally only doing this because I feel I have to.

**V:** Yeah. So quite often I take a lot of video when I'm out and about with the children and try and make a vlog about it. But there have been times like where one or two of them will say, can you not? Because we want you here with us, not off doing like getting a shot of a peacock or whatever. And it has meant that there have been times where I've said, you know, yeah, no, I'm not going to vlog about this today because you want me to be here with you. But equally, I don't think that taking lots of photos and videos over place means that you're not present there.

**BB:** You can do both. You can certainly do both. You can take a picture and just stare at wilderness for five minutes.

**V:** I do feel like if you've hiked up some mountain because you want to get the perfect sunset frame on this particular bit of landscape and when you get up there, it's a bit cloudy and you can't get your picture and that ruins the whole thing for you, then you need to take a step back and think to yourself, why am I really here? Why am I actually doing this? Because if the answer is for Instagram, then that's maybe not the best reason to be travelling. But yeah, if you can go up there, do that, get your shot and still have a great time with the rest of your trip, then that's fine.

**BB:** Yeah, honestly, it gives you something to look at when you get old. I mean, I, as I say, I take lots of pictures. My flatmate takes even more than me. And it's great. It's fine. I have no problems with this. I don't think there is... One thing. I don't think there's a minimum or a maximum amount of pictures you can take. What I tend not to do is take the same picture twice. But apart from that, like, you know, not... I don't mean on the same day. I mean, over the course of...

**V:** You don't need 16 pictures of the Eiffel Tower.

**BB:** I don't need 16 pictures of the Eiffel Tower. Laura needs 16 million pictures of the Eiffel Tower. But then we have different relationships to Paris. But yes, I don't need to take the same or similar pictures more than a couple of times just to get it right. But equally, I will take lots of pictures of something from different angles. I will take lots of pictures from things in different weathers, potentially. It depends. Also, depends on where I'm going and why I'm travelling. If I'm only going to go to somewhere once in my life, then I will spend longer in that place and take more pictures and be in the moment more. And I give myself more time to do that. But of course, the way I travel is I travel kind of without too much planning. So not so much of an issue. So I know I can spend longer in a place if I need to and want to do. I'm not necessarily going to take, you know, three million pictures of Salford.

V: Because who needs two million pictures of Salford?

BB: Salford is interesting. It's my recent podcast. Salford is interesting. It's just not very aesthetic.

V: I mean, anything can be aesthetic if it's the right aesthetic. And anyone can find beauty in a place that is traditionally beautiful. I admire your ability to find something interesting and beautiful about every way that you go, even if it is Salford.

BB: I do my best.

V: See, over on BlueSky, there's a user called Wombat37 who is Twitter veteran of old who moved over to BlueSky. And so this started on Twitter, but it's now on BlueSky, where they do Sunday pics every week. And each week there's a different theme. And so I think last week's was Sunday pics bars or something like that. Sometimes it's Sunday pics pointy. Sometimes it's silly, you know, whatever just comes up with a word. And you search for your old photos to try and find something that fits the theme. And it is my favourite part of a Sunday morning, even though I often can't contribute because most of my photos have got my kids in, I don't post them online. But I love my Sunday morning little scroll through all of my photos to try and find something to fit the theme and having all the memories there of all the trips that I've had. So I do think that there is merit to taking a lot of photos when you go away.

BB: And I mean, I still am involved with a couple, but there used to be millions of travel Twitter chats using sort of hashtags. There were several on Thursdays, for instance. And a lot of those involved well they were answering questions, sort of like, you know, where have you found the best mountain view and things like that. So you would get a lot of pictures of places that possibly sometimes you'd never been, you went, well, that looks quite nice. And it gave you an excuse to just post pictures of places that you'd been, that you think people might find interesting.

V: I like getting inspo from other people's pictures, but I don't feel like people should feel they have to take photos so that other people can be inspired. And so I think that the only issue with that person that you just read out, isn't whether or not they're taking photos is that they're feeling obligated one way or the other. And that's a problem. Your travel should be for you. It's your experience and you should do it the way that works for you.

BB: Years ago, when I took one of my early solo trips to Southeast Asia, 2012, I was posting a few pictures. And one of my friends said something interesting. He said, you've taken quite a few pictures, but none of them are of you. How do we know that you went there? I mean, that's, it's a fair point, but the trouble I have obviously is when I travel solo, it's very hard to take a selfie. Or at least back then it was because you had sort of fairly decent size cameras and you had to, I mean, I still do this, put the camera down on, if you want to take a selfie, put the camera down on somewhere convenient and put it on to timer and then pose and then go, that was a bit pants and then do it all and then repeat for about seven times. It's slightly easier with a phone that you can see.

V: Selfie stick.

BB: Well, with anything, just a front camera. It's much easier if you've got a, you can actually see what you're taking a photograph of. But I still use proper cameras and I still take selfies like that. It's awkward. Of course, one of the options is I could ask someone to take a selfie for me, but let's not do that because that involves me speaking to people and we do not do that in this household.

V: And also, I always thought like, they could just walk off with your camera.

BB: Well, yeah, that's one of, I mean, they could walk off from that camera if I have it set up on a tripod.

V: But also, they might not be very good at taking pictures as well.

BB: That's one of the main problems.

V: Well, because I do absolutely everything on my phone. I record my videos on my phone, do all my photos on my phone, everything. When I want to take a selfie in a public place, I don't set the timer and run and pose because I know that that's too much pressure and my face will go, and so instead, I record a short video instead and then I screenshot when I look good.

BB: That's actually quite, I mean, the quality of the images isn't as good, but it's a lot easier to, I've done that myself many times because I've

V: I've got a really good picture of a bird landing on somebody's hand at the zoo by doing that. I would never have managed to catch by trying to take a photo.

BB: Yeah, nice. When I was in South Africa, was actually Lesotho. I was trying to take pictures of lightning

and I was trying to, because lightning is obviously very ephemeral, and I was trying to take pictures on really, really, really short shutter speeds. Had I been thinking correctly, I would have taken video and then just taken screenshots of that, because that would have been a lot simpler.

V: Yeah, I mean, I do admire the photography skills of anybody that can catch weather, animals, light or the moon. I'm just not one of those people.

BB: I've got decent pictures of the moon, but it did involve a telescope. Right. what next, if we've got one. Oh, that's an interesting one. This is possibly related. I've got one from Unpopular Opinion on Reddit, and it's travelling the world makes some people into huge assholes. And the post is, I love travelling I cannot understate the value in seeing as much of the world as people, its customs and natural wonders as possible. I really only spend my expendable income on video games and taking trips when I can. However, I have met so many people in my life who have become pretentious, self-important, arrogant dicks, largely contributed to by the God complex they have developed through their travels. Of course, this is not everyone, not even more than a vocal minority of people. I just happen to have met a lot of people who think and act like they are higher beings than those who have not seen 10 countries in the last five years. I don't even understand how people travel actually that much. Obviously, there are ways and good on you if you figured it out. I just thought travel is supposed to make people more humble, realizing they are such a small part of a much larger whole. That's just my opinion, though. That was from four years ago, but what do you make of that?

V: Well,

BB: As someone who doesn't travel much!

V: I mean, I do think that person sounds a little bit jealous, but I do think they have a good point in some respects. You and I have had a conversation before about travel and privilege

BB: One of my favourite podcasts!

V: and present company accepted, etc., and so on, and nobody that podcasts with you, obviously. But there are some people that do seem to forget that being able to travel at all is a mark of massive, massive privilege. The vast majority of humans on this planet will never be able to travel the world and see all the sights and all this sort of business, and there's a little attitude of, and I do find it directed mostly towards Americans, actually, you've never left your country, and so therefore you don't know anything about the world. And I think that's quite a narrow view, because I'm not sure that two weeks walking around a country in a tourist spot really makes you an expert on that place, either. I might know a lot more about a particular place than you from having just read a lot about it and spoken to people from there, and especially with the internet being such a global village now. You can connect with people from all over the world and listen to their actual lived experiences without having to leave your living room, which is quite amazing thing when you think about it. And so, yeah, I do feel like there's this sort of, not with everybody, obviously, but there is a strain of people within travel vlogging, particularly, who seem to think that having been to a place makes them an expert on a place, and if you haven't travelled a lot, that means that you must be ignorant.

BB: It goes, I think, with what we were previously talking about was talking about, about taking photographs. It's almost as if sometimes a picture didn't happen, and similarly to the woman with the designer handbag, it's like, I am showing the world that I can do this. I'm showing the world that I've been to these places. I'm showing the world that I'm superior.

V: Yeah, that you're the sort of person that goes to Borneo to look after orangutans rather than the actual experience of having done.

BB: Yes, it's that there's huge overlaps with things like white saviourism in that sense, and stuff like that.

V: I actually saw a tweet about that a while ago, where they were saying, you see a lot of white middle-class kids talking about how they went and built an orphanage in Africa, like there aren't any orphans in England that you could help, like there's no poverty here that you could work on. And I did think I was a bit sour grapes-y, to be honest, but because I'm sure that the people that are being helped don't care who's helping as long as somebody is. But they do have a point that it is more about getting your, I've been and done charity work in Africa badge than what you're actually doing.

BB: And there's the whole argument that actually doing it isn't really that beneficial anyway, to anyone involved, other than you.

V: I mean, I'm sure it makes you feel very good about yourself and gives you something interesting to talk about at dinner parties.

BB: Yeah, I mean, I talk about interesting, I don't go to dinner parties, no one invites me to dinner parties. But if I were to go to dinner parties, I could certainly talk interesting things about travel that are much more, well, much less show of privilege and much more, well, that was, how are you still alive? But hey, yes, there's a, the other thing it's related to is there's a very, people like to count countries. And they go, oh, I've been to like 126 countries, you've only been to 85.

V: Tickling it off on a checklist.

BB: Yes. Which is, I mean, whatever. And there's always competitions to be, you know, there was a couple of years ago, I can't remember when it was, there was a whole thing about, was it the first black woman to visit every country? And there was an argument between two of them. I can't remember the details, but it was something along those sorts of lines. And I'm just like, well, I mean, cool that you've done it. But ...

V: I wonder if we talked about, instead of how many countries you've visited, if we talked about how many carbon miles, maybe the attitude might shift towards it. Because although on the one hand, there's nothing wrong with travelling the world and seeing all the things and stuff. The same time you are contributing quite a lot to climate change by taking the flights and whatnot. And yeah, I don't know why that's never part of the conversation.

BB: Because it's easy to hide. It's easy to explore. And also, I mean, I'm only one person, there's a whole industry out there that's causing hassles. And let's be real, the amount of carbon that I am contributing to wasting by all the travels that I'm doing this year, or the many flights that I've taken, and the many countries that I've visited, I am not a billionaire pop star with their own private jet.

V: I wasn't going to bring that up because I thought you'd get annoyed.

BB: It's something that, it's the dichotomy that you have from being, you know, a fan of anyone really, whether that's a pop star or a sports team or, you know, even potentially a rich and famous author. It's like, yeah, we like what you do in terms of your creative output. But we have questions that we'd like you to answer and acknowledge even sometimes just the act of acknowledging it would be nice. So does travel make you an arrogant asshole um yeah probably, um, I do see it in some people that their entire raison d'etre appears to be to see places and not necessarily to see places because they're interesting but to see places because

V: to be seen

BB: they've seen places yeah to see and to be seen so they've got this tick list of places that they tick off and they go oh yes um and the others and I have an issue with counting countries right so I mean Laura wants me to visit 100 countries by the time I'm 50 which is doable um but

V: I can say you're quite close to that already aren't you?

BB: I'm quite close to both of those things but the issue that I've got with counting countries is always what defines as a country which is its whole separate argument but also what defines as a visit and you get people you see it on travel twitter quite a bit you get people going oh god you've only spent like three days in a country you haven't seen it and I'm here going how much of a country do you have to see before you say you've seen it

V: I would say probably more than an overnight stop in a travel lodge while you're waiting for your next flight

BB: I I mean for instance I mean this is slightly off the topic but for instance I spent 13 hours on a layover in Istanbul, I saw a lot of Istanbul I saw enough of Istanbul to make me go do I want to come back here again is there anything else I'm going to actually see that I missed first time that's probably not um so I'd say I've been to Turkey because I've spent 13 hours in Istanbul doing things um but I didn't even overnight there um because it was a stopover on the way to somewhere slightly more dubious um I'm sure you can guess where, but but equally I spent eight hours in Thailand on three ... on a coach two buses and a motorbike um so I saw a lot of the countryside of Thailand and I set foot in Thailand, have I been to Thailand? I got stamped in um I ate you know in a bus station um I've certainly taken public transport I have you know seen bits of Thailand that most people haven't from Britain anyway. have I been to Thailand? I don't know. And then you've got places that are really small like you know Vatican City it is I don't think you can overnight in Vatican City. I've been to Monaco you can overnight in Monaco but honestly why would you? um

V: Weirdly you said then was it 13 hours you spent in Istanbul

BB: yes



- V: and I've been to Turkey which is quite shocking because I haven't been anywhere um but I've been to Turkey I spent two weeks there and I would say that you have more claim to say you have been to Turkey than I do because those two weeks were spent sitting by a swimming pool in a very English resort eating very English food, we had a bus excursion for a couple of temples where I believe I've told you about this before, a British lady started a riot because her children wanted chips and she didn't like the Turkish food that was on offer in Turkey on a Turkish excursion and I don't feel like I really saw Turkey when I was there because I just saw this one resort in Dalaman
- BB: oh it's a big country there's a lot of various it's very varied you know sort of European side of Turkey and the Asian side of Turkey are different Western Turkey even the Asian bit is different from the Eastern Turkey the coastal resorts are different from the mountains the historical bit is different from the new builds um
- V: I felt like I mean I was a child when I went but um I felt like it could have been anywhere it was Butlins with sunshine it could have been in any country and so I don't really feel like when people are talking about travelling and countries you've seen I don't really feel like I can say oh yeah I've been to Turkey, I've been to Cyprus, because I haven't I've been to a resort that happened to be in Turkey
- BB: yeah yeah I mean I would argue you've still been there you've still been stamped in you've still done stuff while you were there so
- V: but I think you're 13 hours in Istanbul you probably saw more of actual Turkey than I did in my two weeks sitting in this resort drinking orange juice
- BB: potentially but we've both still been to Turkey on that what we've done is different it's like you know um if you're a visitor to the United Kingdom and all you do is spend a couple of days in London is that any more or any less different than if you spend two weeks travelling around Scotland
- V: I do feel though that my two weeks in Turkey hasn't given me any great insight that somebody couldn't have already gotten by reading about Turkey on Wikipedia or in blogs and things like that and so when when we come to like does travelling make you a bit pretentious then I do feel like I don't I don't have any extra insight that somebody who hasn't been to Turkey wouldn't have you know like I think unless you've lived in a country you probably don't have that kind of insight where you can sort of lord it over people
- BB: yeah um I Travel Twitter's full of oh no you you can't really get a feel for a place unless you've lived in somewhere and what they define as living is I don't know what they define as living that's another question but um you know sort of somewhere between a month and a couple of years um
- V: I feel like that's very abstract but I feel like if at the end of the evening you say to your friends I'm going home then whether you've been there for six weeks or six months or six years that's home so you're living there
- BB: yes
- V: if you'd be like I'm going back to my hotel or I'm going back to my rental then you're not really living there that's a very nebulous definition though that would vary from person to person
- BB: it will I mean I've never really thought about it so ... I know people that have strong views on what you find is living in a place but I've never really thought about it because I've never done it
- V: I don't know I guess if you've paid a bill there you live there like a utility bill or a council tax bill
- BB: if you're registered for some kind of admin in a place then you probably live
- V: yes but by that metric I can say that I lived in the States because there was a lot of paperwork involved for me to stay there including for like my health care and stuff like that power of attorney and all this sort of business because I was a minor when I stayed there but I only did stay for three months but I would still say that I lived there because I had to sort out schooling, healthcare all that sort of business yes
- BB: yeah I mean most tourist visas for anywhere well a month actually a lot of them are like two weeks some of them quite a few of them are a month occasionally get ones for like 90 days in some countries but it's very rare you get a tourist visa for longer than that so any longer than that you either have to do the visa run or you have to get a more substantial visa which is admin um we will not talk about the hordes of travel bloggers that are on tourist visas in parts of Thailand um that no one really mentions the fact that they're possibly there illegally because I mean yes I can't quite know what you mean um yes yeah and it's one of those unwritten unspoken things that be a be a be a digital nomad and a travel blogger and

and and live in Chiang Mai do the Thai do the Thai authorities know you're doing this seriously

V: I have always wondered about that like with van lifers and people who vlog full-time as their full-time job do you have to then get a work visa for every country that you visit because you intend to work there or is it is that only if you intend to be employed by people that are based there

BB: I don't know the rules and regulations but if I were sticking strictly to my interpretation of the rules and regulations anywhere if you're a full-time travel blogger or travel vlogger anywhere that you work you would need a visa for, in the same way that for example a billionaire singer would need a visa to work and do a concert in the UK if they're American yeah um and

V: so probably quite a lot of people are probably doing so a little bit illegally

BB: yes I would say so um where I don't know I mean it may depend on where you're actually officially resident as well like for instance if you are a full-time travel blogger and you go away to somewhere to film content and then come back, no one's going to know that you've done it. Where it becomes a crime is if you're living in a place on a tourist visa and working ... so I mean there's a difference there's a difference between as far as I I mean I don't know I am not a lawyer because snore, but I would say there's a difference between being a full-time travel blogger or vlogger and visiting a place for two weeks to record content and then going back home, and being a full-time travel blogger vlogger and a digital nomad living in a place where you're doing your everyday work in a different country

V: I suppose you can argue that when you went to Cyprus all the actual work got done after you got home

BB: yes it's a dubious statement but yes that's what I would argue um probably lose that argument but it's not one that would probably go very it's not an argument would probably be taken yet whereas if I was living in Cyprus on a tourist visa and doing the same thing or if I was living in Thailand and even if I went to for example Vietnam to do some vlogging and then came back to Thailand I would be working in Thailand regardless of the content that I was working at I would be working in Thailand and therefore regardless of that I would be working on my own as a solo entrepreneur self-employed I would still be working and therefore I would need a a Thai work visa

V: so it's almost like the people selling this aesthetic digital nomad lifestyle are leaving out the less aesthetic parts of that when they're telling their story I mean that's filling in visa forms and whatnot

BB: or I mean you know if they do it at all I have no knowledge either way on that because I've never asked those questions because I don't work for the Thailand government.

V: I think remembering this right that the artist who calls himself Tommy Robinson was recently arrested because there was an issue with his visa and he was in a country illegally and

BB: was it issued in the wrong name

V: it was and not even his legal name as far as I know another fake name but it's my understanding that he went there purely to make content about migrants and how bad migrants are whilst he had illegally entered and was illegally in said country and I think probably the content that he was making didn't help his case

BB: no I mean essentially what you're saying there is that Tommy Robinson is a travel vlogger

V: that's a way of looking at it isn't it. So you have some other um problems that you've were not problems a little debating points that you've put aside and I was reading one a second ago before we talked on the call

BB: Which one was it it?

V: it was the one about learned helplessness which I thought might be interesting do you read it first and I'll tell you what I found it interesting you chose this one

BB: so this this was from another one from the Reddit travel subreddit travel companions and learned helplessness and um this whole thing is a subtweet surely have you ever travelled with what they've written I mean this is quite recent this is from 11 days ago

V: have you ever travelled with this person I'm joking carry on

BB: have I ever been this person? have you ever travelled with someone who's well-informed and confident in their everyday life but becomes weirdly complacent as soon as they go somewhere else for example not looking up basic stuff like time zone cash versus card use electrical outlets and currency before they leave the country and then they expect everything everyone just be kind of carried along like a kid whose parents take them to Disney World or else they are shocked shocked when things don't operate exactly

like they do at home. I have a feeling that because everyone has smartphones we feel like we don't have to prepare a lot in advance because we can always look it up if we need to. the problem is when some people feel so secure in this that they just don't. anyway it's ultimately a very low stakes complaint and it's also on me for not asking more detailed questions in advance about how my companions like to prepare for a trip. If people start treating me like they're unpaid trip coordinator struck mum in the future I think I'll just shrug and pretend I'm out of data

V: well before we get into answering their actual complaint can I just say this person that this has gone travelling with this complainant is the polar opposite of you, like, in normal everyday life you're like ah I've got to make a dentist appointment can't do that but then when it comes to travelling you know just like yeah be fine I'm not going to get anxious about anything I know where I'm going I know what I'm doing I've got a vague plan and everything's fine.

BB: yeah my plan with every kind of travel when I go is book my first night's accommodation and then wing it

V: I mean that gives me the anxiety personally and but I think that that is kind of the crux of this guy's problem is that he's gone travelling with people who have a different travel style to him and so

BB: I don't know I think my reading of that is not so much that they're travelling with someone like me it's more that they're travelling with someone that actively refuses to find out it's not it's not so much that they don't it's not so much they didn't do the research because they don't hey let's just go with the flow it's they don't do research because they're actively hoping that other people will do the research for them

V: that's lazy

BB: it's it's the same as being not that I know because but it's the same as like being in a married couple but never doing things like the housework because I don't know how the washing machine works

V: and it's in the same vein of oh well if you wanted help you should have just asked me it's like no actually it's going to take me far longer to teach you how to apply for your visa than just do it for you

BB: without wishing to bring in sexual stereotyping I would definitely say that the person that that article is referring to is almost certainly male

V: I did not say that and I would like it on record that it was not me that said that but yes

BB: I speak as I find um yes what is it weaponised incompetence

V: and this does really a lot like this person just thought oh everyone else will do it for me so it's fine

BB: yes yes I don't have to know these things

V: I would find it very irritating to be travelling with that person because I spend enough of my life organising people and things and I don't want to have to do that on holiday as well

BB: no indeed absolutely um with regards to my own personal travel style yes I am very laid back and um going with the flow but I do do a lot of the research because social anxiety yeah so I do make sure I know

V: you know your currency you know what language is spoken even if you don't know a lot of words in it and you've always got a plan for where you're going to stay the night you land and so that's that's quite organised for you I have to say

BB: Dos Cerveza Por Favor

V: what does that mean?

BB: it's the most obvious thing that all Brits know in practically every single language they would ever come across

V: one beer please?

BB: two beers

V: two beers! actually that was what when we went to Turkey that was the only sort of authentic bit of Turkish culture that we experienced was the Turkish barman telling us how to say two beers please. I can't remember now.

BB: I'm not very good at languages and I get socially anxious about it but I also know the value of knowing it so I will always say to people um if you're going to a foreign country with a language that you don't know at least learn the basics and the basics include things like hello goodbye please thank you excuse me and

the numbers

V: I really struggle to retain numbers in other languages I've been doing Russian for four years and I still can't count

BB: Adin, Dva, Tri, Chitiri, Pyat, Pyest ... and then I kind of lose it. um I know I don't retain anything in foreign languages I'm notoriously bad at them um the willing is there the brain is not. Which is scaring me about my trip to South America actually which is one of the reasons why I've not been to Latin America about from Chile in Mexico

V: you you mentioned a couple of phrases there please thank you excuse me I think also I need help is possibly yes and

BB: and also I don't speak - ya nie govoritie pa-rooski, for instance

V: I mean you did that very quickly, I was quite impressed with the flow

BB: it is proof the fact that it's one of the only phrases I know in Russian but it's also a very useful one not that not that I've ever needed to speak Russian particularly um when I was in Central Asia everyone just wanted to speak to me in English and when I got trapped on a bus in Uzbekistan I had the fun concept of chatting with a local who had a dictionary or a word thing of four languages because his first language was not Russian nor was it Uzbek, it was Karakalpak so he had this book of like Karakalpak Uzbek Russian English this is great

V: that's a very niche book

BB: it's a very niche place not many people know Karakalpak

V: well that is the reason that I chose Russia well one of the reasons that I chose Russian to get tortured by Duolingo about was because I heard that it's a second language for a lot of people and it opens up a bit more communication in a few places

BB: yeah it's going to hit a really useful language to know I don't know which is the most useful language to know is probably Spanish which I don't um or Russian, Arabic is not really worth it because it's, a lot of people speak Arabic but it's very dialectal so you can learn you know standard standard um written Arabic but that won't help you buy a cup of tea in Morocco if you've learned it in Dubai

V: and there are also Arabic's really hard like I have dabbled in Arabic as well and it's really really hard

BB: um what was the language it's useful to know I quite like the idea of learning Hindi but again it's quite niche in the sense that outside of India and Pakistan and parts of the UK it's not that useful um I mean Laura knows Mandinka which is arguably the least useful language of anyone that I know um

V: where is that spoken?

BB: um mainly the Gambia south eastern Senegal and western Mali.

V: see I look really clever then because I said Senegal but it's only because I know that Laura lived there for a time

BB: yes indeed that's why she knows it most of Senegal speaks Wolof, so it's not it wasn't even useful for her in Senegal um but yeah she gets really excited when she thinks she can actually speak it with people in the wild and the last the last time I knew that she spoke it was in a west African restaurant in Bergamo in Italy obviously

V: of course as you would. I was going to say this probably not very many chances to sort of practice and keep your fluency with a very niche language like that

BB: no no absolutely not um the language that I think I always wanted to kind of dabble with was Gaelic um Scots Gaelic um but that's very niche and also everyone that knows Gaelic also knows English

V: yes. Oh, maybe a couple more little Reddit things as well didn't we

BB: yes a couple more little Reddit things so yes two silly ones to finish off with. this one's a very silly one from the travel subreddit: Is the Bermuda Triangle no longer a thing? as a child I thought for sure I'd die flying in that general direction now I'm planning a trip there

V: um I have to tell you yes this is ridiculous but I'm sure I'm not the only one when I was a small child I thought that first of all I thought the Bermuda Triangle was like really clearly - there was a line there or something you could see like this is the entrance to the Bermuda Triangle I don't know how I was envisioning it but in my head it would have been possible and I had every intention of doing this to be a great explorer right to anchor your boat outside of the Bermuda Triangle attach a line to yourself and

swim in to see what was going on man

BB: as the song goes the Bermuda Triangle makes people disappear um

V: I can't be the only person that thought that as a kid but you could swim in, find mermaids or something.

BB: I mean it was drawn on maps it was drawn on maps

V: yeah yeah I remember seeing it and so I was like oh they've walled this area off and yeah I had visions that I was going to swim in and see like what was making all the ships sink - in my head it was a bunch of sirens, which I would of course be immune to because I'm not a weak and feeble man.

BB: indeed what do you know about the Bermuda Triangle

V: nothing much I do know having looked it up fairly recently because I have an inquisitive child that there are no more plain and ship disappearances in the Bermuda Triangle than there are anywhere else really and so I don't know why our collective imagination caught onto the Bermuda Triangle like that

BB: it's presumably because of its location being just off the coast of North America and therefore it's in a lot of people's .. so if the same kind of thing was happening in I don't know off the coast of Madagascar no one would actually notice um what I do understand about the area is because of its location geographically in the world it does have very strange weather as in it's kind of where the storms start and whatnot so it is a little bit unpredictable

V: I was going to say I'd imagine it's quite choppy waters

BB: yes yeah and cloudy and foggy and it's one of those places where cloud just appears so it can be quite disorienting

V: so the ideal habitat for sirens is what you're saying you're saying I should anchor my ship and go for a swim and see what goes on

BB: yes

V: I feel like warnings about the Bermuda Triangle and the knowledge of the Bermuda Triangle has gone the same way as like quicksand and stuff like when I was

BB: I knew you were going to say quicksand

V: yes when I was a kid I was convinced that I was going to fall into some quicksand at some point it seemed an inevitability because of all of the warning videos that we watched about it. That and power lines I was constantly concerned that I might accidentally touch a power line and die in a horrible way but it seems like none of those things are actually that big of a risk.

BB: are you of the age because I certainly was where you would get taken at primary school into the hall and made to watch videos of public information films about children dying graphically in farm accidents

V: there was this one video where this kid like climbed into a substation to get his football and he got electrocuted and you could see his entire skeleton and it was horrible. We also had to watch one before we did DT which for Americans and others is Design Technology but basically it's woodwork and we had to before we could use the big drill we had to watch a video of a girl getting her hair stuck in this drill and being scalped, like if I showed that to my children nowadays someone would ring social services, that's not an okay thing to show a child.

BB: works though didn't it you didn't you didn't do anything with your hair

V: I mean I am to this day scared of drills so yeah one could say that it worked and I'm holding up the entire industry of command strips because of those videos

BB: I mean to be fair my friends are also scared if I hold a drill possibly for different reasons

V: I'm scared if you hold a drill we're not even in the same counties

BB: yeah I I do not I do not do power tools because, yeh no. no no no.

V: have you ever been to the Bermuda Triangle and is it on your list?

BB: I have not been to the Bermuda Triangle it's not really on my list the Caribbean isn't a place that's ever really been on my list it's full of small hot islands full of honeymooners. And also it's not very easy to get between the islands

V: oh yeah because your ship disappears

BB: it's why it's so expensive. Oh dear the last one on the thing is am I the asshole it's an am I the asshole

from the subreddit for refusing to travel with my friends and this is ridiculous. I 22 male was invited by my friends to go to Europe but I refused because I'm too old and wish I was younger to get to experience travelling the other country. I'll never have that experience of backpacking through Europe at 16 and that must be so fun and cool now I'm too old and wouldn't even be a young traveller I don't have any experience of me travelling and making memories at 16 and I hate myself for that. My parents really want me to go but I said no even though going to Europe is my dream. TLDR my friend invited me out the country but I feel rude rejecting them because I'm too old.

V: they're correct they're far too old they're an ancient crone

BB: first time I backpacked in Europe was a chaotic event when I was 19 and went to Serbia to meet a pen pal it was called Yugoslavia in those days technically it was during the middle of the Balkan war because obviously. It was not a war zone. I did see the UN vans from the train but it was not a war zone, the war zone was a couple of hundred miles further west

V: yeah you'd never go to a war zone

BB: I've never been to a war zone um yes um I but that was my first trip um I didn't really start solo backpacking properly I mean I did one in Italy when I was 27 26 27 that was abortive for reasons that we will not go into um yet that's our podcast in itself um but the first time I really properly backpacked solo we're talking like 2012 when I was like 37, so this chap says I 22 male was invited by friends to go to Europe but I refused because I'm too old. I took an interrail trip in 2019 when I was 44.

V: I actually think that 22 might be a bit too young to properly get everything you're going to get out of it like I don't think that 22 is too old I think you're possibly a bit young

BB: I think this is a subject that could possibly do with an entire chat on its own so bear this in mind but I think that the age you are the way you travel differs yeah so why I don't think there's any different I don't think there's anything fundamentally different about travelling when you're 16 travelling when you're 22 travelling when you're 42 and travelling when you're 70 but I think where you travel might change but also what you do on those travels and why you're travelling will change

V: I mean some things it's how

BB: yes I mean yes, and where so uh as in where do you stay so the what the average 16 year old wants in a in a trip or the average 22 year old wants in a trip will be very different from what the average me wants in a trip um and the places so for instance I mean I've I've been to places like Central Asia have been to West Africa and I don't think, I'm glad I did it when I did because I don't think a younger me would have appreciated it, or even would have known what to do so the older that you get the more you learn about the world and the more interesting things you learn about places and the more you go oh I didn't know that was there let's go there

V: and I would think that your priorities shift as well as you get a little bit older I don't think there's a big difference between 16 year olds and 22 year olds you know except of course that everywhere in the world the 22 year old can drink alcohol which is not the case for all the 16 year olds um but I told you recently my latest hyper focus has been on um I want a van and I want to travel around in a van but my biggest priority in that van is proper bed for my old lady back and that would not have been even a minor consideration when I was 22, I could have slept anywhere that would have been fine. You're not that hungover proper bed are you?

BB: I'm going to try this that's nice that's why I like to go back to I I've maintained that mattress is one of the most important things you can buy for your home but as long as I can go back to my home to sleep on the mattress it's fine I can just cope with anything

V: I want a proper bed so I can have proper sleep so I'm not going to be a grouchy cow whilst I can go around the place that I've spent all this money to go around

BB: that's fair um

V: but yeah I also I'm now realising that I also want to be away from 22 year olds that think they're old

BB: yes and that's and that's another thing about you know sort of central Asia isn't doesn't have many 22 year old backpacking around it so there is that whereas Benidorm

V: mm yeah god I'd hate to go on an 18:30 holiday now would you

BB: oh I never wanted to go on an 18:30 holiday when I was 18 to 30 not my son I was like all those um I've got the um Contiki bus trips you know those that that would have just that would have just killed me no no even when I was the right age for it no. I have got more social as I've got older but still no

V: yeah no your priority definitely should like even on a night out now my my biggest concerns are is there going to be somewhere to sit because if not I'm wearing flat shoes. there's things that you wouldn't have considered at 22 if your back's not killing you you're not old yet

BB: my knees my knees I'm worried about my knees because I hike a lot so yeah you're quite rough I can feel them I can feel them hurting even now so yeah yeah anyway I think that's that's all

V: yeah so well thank you for having me on your podcast I really enjoyed our little chat today we should we should am I the asshole more often

BB: we should always certainly do this again we've certainly got a couple of topics that would work for fuller things so yes and also saves me hassle of trying to think of what the subject is this is what this is what the sounds fake but okay podcast does whenever they get stuck for a subject they're just going to I am I'm out the asshole they're on 13 iterations of it now

V: that's excellent let's pray Reddit never gets shut down

BB: like Tumblr it will never die

V: well partly because it's the only place where you can find accurate information about things nowadays like there's something goes wrong with your computer some guy on Reddit seven years ago had that exact problem he is helping solve it

BB: yeah Reddit and stack overflow where I go for everything computer related anyway so see you around

V: see you

BB: see and I'll let you know when it goes live

V: okay bye

*{end pod jingle}*

Well that's about all for this pod. Join me again next time for another adventure **Beyond The Brochure**. Until then, remember, be nice to the aircrew, otherwise yes, you are the asshole. And if you're feeling off-colour, keep on getting better.

*{Outro voiceover:*

*Thank you for listening to this episode of Travel Tales From Beyond The Brochure. I hope you enjoyed it; if you did, tell your friends that I rocked your socks. If you wear socks when listening to my pod; that's your call not mine. And don't forget to leave a review on your podcast site of choice.*

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*Until next time, have safe journeys. Bye for now.}*