

Unconventional Travelers

Seeing the World in Unconventional Ways

My 25 Most Memorable Experiences by Daryl Hawk



My 25 Most Memorable Experiences in Cuba, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Patagonia

1. Watching the first sunrise light illuminate the Fitzroy mountain range in Patagonia
2. Clouds lifting and unveiling Machu Picchu for the first time in days
3. Riding a horse down into the Quatoa volcano and lake in the central highlands of Ecuador
4. Early morning at the Otavalo marketplace in Ecuador seeing and smelling the wide variety of foods for sale.
5. Diving in the ocean and relaxing on a beautiful beach after a two hour hike in Colombia's Tayrona National Park.
6. Joining the dancers in front of the clock tower in the historic section of Cartagena, Colombia
7. Climbing a small mountain in the Ecuadorian Andes and spending several hours with potato farmers
8. Joining over 100 family members on a picnic and barbecue on the side of a backroad on the Ecuador and Peru border
9. Wandering the streets at 6AM in Santiago de Cuba and hearing the women yelling out "un pan en venta" (bread for sale) over and over again
10. A late night horse and carriage ride in Trinidad, Cuba
11. Hanging out with Cuban gauchos for a day at their ranch and learning about their way of life
12. Taking a 10 day road trip from Camaguey to Baracoa, Cuba in a 1953 Chevrolet
13. Spending a morning with one of the best cigar farmers in Cuba and learning the art of cigar making
14. Spending 3 hours at the Moray ruin in the Sacred Valley in Peru in total silence
15. walking on a Peruvian backroad for hours, high in the Andes, and witnessing the day to day life at such a high altitude - old men herding livestock and women gathering firewood and carrying large loads on their backs
16. Hiking the Fitzroy Range in Los Glaciares National Park in Patagonia reaching Laguna de Los Tres and encountering floating icebergs with spectacular views in the distance

17. Riding with the gauchos one morning in Patagonia and watching them round up horses and then go about conducting their chores back at the estancia.
18. Riding a motorcycle high in the mountains near Minca, Colombia and discovering a series of waterfalls
19. Hiking in Colombia's Tayrona National Park and unexpectedly encountering Kogi tribal members who were gathering coconuts
20. Riding an oxen cart in Humbolt National Park, the furthest point east in Cuba, after a swim in a remote waterfall
21. Watching five boys from Santa Marta, Colombia repeatedly dive into the water off of very high wall looking for coins
22. Riding down a raging river in the Amazon in a hand carved wooden boat and watching native people spear fishing along the way
23. Going into a school in the northern highlands of Ecuador observing students studying and laughing
24. Sitting on the wall at the malecon in Havana, Cuba as a never ending parade of colorful people, street musicians and performing artists go by
25. Eating dinner outside a restaurant next to Novios Park in Santa Marta, Colombia while artists sell their imaginative creations

For inspiring images, please [see my galleries here.](#)

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