Speaker 0 (<u>00:00:00</u>):

You're listening to the journey on podcast with Warwick Schiller. Warwick is a horseman, trainer, international clinician and author, whose mission is to help people achieve a deeper connection with their horses through his transformational training program.

Warwick (<u>00:00:35</u>):

Hi, everyone. It's Warwick Schiller here and welcome back to another journey on podcast today. I've got a bit of a journey to tell you about, so in January, this year, so January, 2020, my son, Tyler and I, we, uh, went to Mongolia and spent about two weeks in Mongolia. We rode camels across the Gobi desert or part of the Gobi desert, uh, following parts of the old silk road in the dead of winter. So, you know, daytime temperatures can be, you know, minus 15 Celsius and nighttime temperatures can be minus 30 Celsius. And so, yeah, it was, it was quite the adventure and quite the journey. So let's, uh, we're going to talk about that today. Let's see if I can get tolerant here and, uh, we will tell you guys all about it there.

Tyler (00:01:24):

Yep. I'm here. Hello. How's it going? It's great. Can't complain. Just, um, moved to Hawaii about two months ago. So getting, getting formerly acquainted with the place and missing home and missing all the horses and dogs and cats and chickens, but also loving it out here on the Island. They've been getting to surf a bit. Yeah. I've been getting to surf hiking, uh, and I'm a big rock climber. There's only a couple of rock climbing spots on the Island and I've already been to them numerous times. Um, but there's a lot of room for improvement out here. The rock climbing is actually really difficult, so hopefully whenever I end up moving back to the mainland, I'll become a pretty solid climber. The rock is really slick out here and not super strong. So yeah, just, uh, I've been exploring the Island as much as I can in between working for my dad. Um, and my mom's still doing marketing for the video subscription and helping, helping you out with the book and all that fun stuff.

Warwick (00:02:35):

Yeah, the book. Yeah. That's, that's another subject altogether. Um, so, uh, so it's, uh, so Tarla is on Hawaii, which is where Honolulu is. So you're, you're totally your economy on the outskirts of Honolulu.

Tyler (00:02:47):

Yep. I actually can see all the buildings of downtown Waikiki from my house. Um, it's a really central location. Um, and yeah, Pearl Harbor, this is the dial-in that has Pearl. Um, and the North shore of Hawaii is the world's most famous surf spot basically.

Warwick (00:03:07):

Well, there you go. You're a surfer. You're in the right spot. So let's, let's tell these guys about our trip to Mongolia in January. Where do you want to start?

Tyler (<u>00:03:16</u>):

Um, I think maybe introduce Chloe and how we got acquainted with her.

Warwick (00:03:21):

Oh, okay. Yeah. So, you know, there's a girl I met from New Zealand a few quite a few years ago and I'm Chloe Phillips Harris and she's, uh, she needs an adventurer and it's not just in the, you know, not just saying she's adventurous, she's an adventure. Her business card actually says Clery Phillips Harris, adventurer horsewoman author, I think is what it says. But, uh, she's quite the adventurous young lady. Columbia is probably late twenties. Funny, I suppose

Tyler (00:03:47):

You said. Yeah. Early thirties.

Warwick (00:03:49):

Um, and a number of years ago, Chloe went to Mongolia to compete in the Mongolian Derby, which is the world's longest horse race. It's a thousand kilometers across the, uh, the planes or the step of Mongolia. And you ride a, a Mongolian pony for, I think it's 40 kilometers. You change horses every 40 kilometers and you can only carry a five kilo pack on your back. That's the whole thing, that's it? You've got no support vehicles. Everything you need is in that five kilos, which is, which is a 10.2 pounds of something, 2.2 pounds of kilos. So 11 pounds, 11 pounds. And, uh, yeah, it's, Chloe has actually written a book and it's called fearless a great book if anybody wants to read it, but it, it tells us about her adventurous life, but it also documents the, the Mongolian Derby and how she almost died on the, on the thing.

Warwick (00:04:44):

And it's yeah, the Mongolian Derby, anybody who's done that is pretty darn tough, you know, because those little Mongolian ponies, uh, I remember I was listening to a podcast recently of an Australian fellow that went on it and he said some of the horses that the nomads couldn't even catch him, but, uh, you know, so those ponies, they ride there. They're not trained at all. You know, and I remember reading a story about someone, uh, would not get off their horse, the whole trip because they were afraid they wouldn't be able to get back on like the hosted, I think it was, I think it was about a lady who wouldn't get off to pee. I think she peed her pants the whole, the whole time, because, uh, you're out there in the middle of nowhere. And if you get off on those horses, pull away from you, you're stuck.

Warwick (00:05:28):

You know, it's, it's pretty well. But a club we went to Mongolia did that and fell in love with the Mongolian people. And she's been back. She's been back there, uh, Oh, every couple of times a year since then, um, she goes to the North of Mongolia and she, um, goes and stays with the reindeer people. So there's Ray people who ride Randy's, they farm reindeer and ride reindeers up there in the very top part of Mongolia where it joins the Russian border. And I remember her telling me one that the most surreal thing she's ever seen her entire life, she was staying with the reindeer people and she got up walked outside her girl. So the girl is the round nomadic tents they have, but she walked outside the gird just as the sun was just rising up over the Hill and the girl next door, a little eight, 10 year old boy got out and walked out.

Warwick (<u>00:06:17</u>):

The side of the girl had a big old stretch and a yawn ran over to the nearest reindeer, jumped on its back and rode off over the Hill into the rising sun. And she said it was just surreal to see that. But, uh, you know, Chloe has not only been back with the reindeer people. She's been back with, uh, quite a few of them Mongolians and on Facebook, there's a meme that you see every once in a while pops up. And it's

a, it's a photograph of a Mongolian warrior riding his Mongolian pony, dressed in a Wolf skin cloak with a hunting Eagle on his arm. And it's the meme says you may be cool, but you're not as cool as I'm on GoLean warrior, riding his Mongolian pony, wearing a Wolf skin cloak with a hunting Eagle on his arm. Well, if anybody is friends with Chloe Phillips Sarah's on Facebook, you would see that her profile picture is in fact, a picture of Chloe Phillips Harris, riding him on GoLean pony, wearing a Wolf skin cloak with a hunting Eagle on around.

Warwick (00:07:14):

So yeah, Chloe is pretty much a bad-ass, but, uh, so about three years, well, it was three years ago. She organized what they call the Gobi cold camel expedition and her, and two Mongolians put this company together to, uh, to do this expedition. And so it's, as I said earlier in the show, it's seen Mongolia crossing parts of the Gobi desert on camels in the dead of winter. And it's 300 kilometers across the, uh, the, the Plains of Mongolia there. And the first year she was going to do it, she called me and she said, Hey, Oh, she messaged me. And she said, do you want to do this? And I, you know, my clinics and stuff had booked about six or eight months ahead of time. And it was probably five months until it was on when she contacted me. And so I couldn't, I said, no, sorry, I can't do it.

Warwick (<u>00:08:05</u>):

And then the next year she contacted me said, would you like to do this? Yeah, I'd love to, but I can't do it. And so then, um, last year, early last year, I think Tyler was going to graduate college and I thought, Oh, that'd be cool if we went on some sort of a crazy trip for a, uh, kinda like a graduation present. And then I thought, I wonder if Chloe's doing that thing again. So I, I messaged Chloe and I said, are you doing the Mongolian thing again? She said, yep. In January. And I said, you got room for two more. And she said, yep. So I texted Tyler at college and said, how'd you like to how'd you like to cross the Gobi desert on camels in the middle of winter? You remember getting that text down to Tyler?

Tyler (<u>00:08:45</u>):

Yeah, they do. It was a phone call, but yeah, I was, I was studying and with my friends for a test or a midterm, and then I got, I had to go outside of the library to get this phone call and I come back and sit down and it's really hard to have a normal day after you get the phone call that you're going to go to Mongolia in the middle of winter to ride camels. Um, it was really surreal. Just things didn't feel, uh, the same that day. And it was, it was definitely something you don't really hear, uh, anyone coming in after, after studying, guess what? My dad just told me we were going to do next year. Yeah, it was, it was awesome. And then, I mean, I told everyone that I could about it because I was really, really excited about it. Um, and I still tell everybody about it, even, even afterwards. It was, it was definitely awesome.

Warwick (00:09:39):

Yeah. It was one of those once in a lifetime sort of, sort of things. So, and so, yeah, so we agreed we're going to do it. And then Chloe sends out a very long list of necessities you need, you know, because it, so the first year they went, uh, another friend of ours from New Zealand, Kelly Wilson. So some of you people may know of Kelly, uh, here in the U S you may not have heard of Kelly, but you've probably heard of her older sister Vicki, that one wrote to the horse twice. Uh, Kelly's a bit of an adventure too, and she's a good friend of Chloe's. And she went on the first one and she got very, very sick, like almost died sick. Um, and it was minus 25 degrees Celsius during the day when they're riding the camels and minus 45 associate at sources at night and last year, Tyler and I, when you were in New Zealand, uh, at a

host expo, and we were talking to Kelly and Kelly said, so what's going to happen is by about day four, you are going to be as sore as you've ever been your entire life.

Warwick (00:10:39):

You are going to be rubbed raw from the waist down. Like you've never been in your entire life and you're going to be as cold as you've ever been in your entire life. And she said, you just want the heavens to open up in the hand of God to come down and pluck you off that camel and take you somewhere else. She says, but after you get through that by bet, day six, then you start to, you start to enjoy yourself. Kelly actually told us she fell asleep on her chemo one day. And I think there was one point in time when she actually got off and led her camel. She couldn't physically sit on the camel anymore. And so basically talking to Kelly, scared the out of this, didn't it? Tyler?

Tyler (00:11:17):

Yeah. I was not looking forward to it. I mean, I had been talking to everyone. Yeah. I'm going to Mongolia. Yeah. I'm going to across the Gobi desert and then this was in, I believe November, October of last year. Um, yeah, after that, I was scared for sure. And then once we get got the gear list from Chloe that said we needed, you know, a negative 40 degree sleeping bag and these crazy boots and these crazy insulated socks and the layers and all that sort of like five face masks. Yeah. It definitely got a little bit concerning. Um, but in order to kind of curb, some of that apprehension, me and my dad took a trip to mammoth lakes, California, uh, which is on the Eastern side of the Sierras. And we actually tested our, all the equipment that we had bought for Mongolia, which included a really insulated sleeping inflatable sleeping pad.

Tyler (00:12:14):

Um, uh, two, uh, two sleeping bags, one big fluffy, uh, down one. And then, uh, a liner that added 25 degrees of, of warmth on top of it. Um, and then all of our snow equipment and we slept outside and it got down to negative. Sorry. I think it was negative 10 degrees Celsius about 17 degrees Fahrenheit. Um, and we didn't, we were still a month out at that point or even more from going. So we weren't really sure what the weather was going to do. Uh, in Kelly's case, the weather was actually particularly bad that year. Um, so we, we really didn't know what to expect. Um, but we got all the gear in expectation of, of the worst and we tested it out in some fairly cold temperatures and, and had great success. So we, uh, I, I was more excited. I, I knew it was going to be one of the more difficult things that I'd ever done, but it turned out that we got a good weather break. So,

Warwick (00:13:14):

Yeah, we were lucky because before about a week or so before they said the temperatures had been down to minus 45. And so they said, it looks like it's going to be cold. And yeah, I, I, I won't lie. I was kind of concerned about not, not concerned about like we're going to die or something or other, but concerned about my ability to push through that. The stuff that Kelly told us about, like, you know, to, to just endure and carry on, if you're that sore that rubbed you like riding a camel when you're rubbed raw and you're freezing cold and you're sore. I, I was not, I was, I was in two minds. I was not looking forward to it. And I was so looking forward to it, like, can I actually do these, you know, like, I don't know if I've mentioned it so far in the podcast, but I have been taking cold showers for about a year and a half now.

Warwick (00:14:10):

And I actually have a chest freezer here at home. We keep full of water and I take, I take a daily ice baths. And the great thing about having a cold shower every day is you get to have that argument with yourself, like having these nice hot shower and you go, cause what I do, I've got an electric toothbrush that buzzes every 30 seconds. And so I will, at the end of my Sheryl take the toothbrush and they I'll turn it down to cold. And then I'll do the toothbrushing for two minutes under that. Co-chair and the thing about is every day you have this little mental argument with yourself, like, Oh, maybe I could skip today. No, you're going to do it, but we don't have. Yeah. And I'm probably at the point now I don't have the mental arguments in the shower, but that I spot that we've got, it's a, it's a, like, you got to push yourself to get in there every day. Like you're standing there and you looking at now, I think I'll skip today. It's kinda like, it's kinda like bungee jumping, telling I went bungee jumping in New Zealand last year. And, uh, you know, you get on the edge of that thing. You look down and you kind of get it now. And half of you is rejecting it as bad as you've rejected anything in your life. Like, no, no. On the other half she's like, come on. And, uh, it's quite a mental struggle at bungee jumping and Tyler.

Tyler (00:15:28):

Yeah, that was, um, I was actually pretty excited about it. So it wasn't too bad. I didn't have any internal turmoil. I just, he told me to jump and I said, okay.

Warwick (00:15:38):

Oh, but what about when we booked it?

Tyler (00:15:41):

Uh, yeah, when we booked it. Yeah. That's it.

Warwick (00:15:45):

Tyler and I were in Queenstown, New Zealand for five days. Last year I had presented a horse expo and then out the door, a clinic the next weekend. And so we took that, that mid-week to go down to Queenstown, which has over all the fun stuff. And, and uh, the first day we got there, you know, it's two o'clock in the afternoon and we can't check or it's one o'clock my, but we can't check into the hotel yet. So we parked the car, walking down the street and we are going to bungee jump at some point in time this week. And we walked past this place on the corner that basically sells all the bungee jumping and the, you know, the plane rides and the brides and the rivers and you know, all that sort of stuff, Haley skiing if it's ski season. And so I went in there and I said, Hey, you got any, um, bungee jumping available this week for the, the Britt.

Warwick (00:16:29):

What do you know what the name of that Bridgette starlet that co no, I'm not sure which one it is. That's what the K Carolina or something or other, it's a bridge that you jump off in this Canyon. I said, do you get any, um, Tom's available for that? And he goes, Oh yeah, we've got plenty. I said, he said, do you want to do? I said, well, when's your next one? He says, you want to do it to die? I said, yeah. And he says, how about two o'clock or three o'clock, something like that. And I'm like, yay. And so, right then we said, we're doing it. And today his face went green and we pay for it. We walk outside in the street and Tyler's got that go into the death sentence thing, look about him. And I said, how would you like me have booked it for Friday afternoon? Meaning how would you like to have that hovering over you for the next five days? We've only got an hour to worry about it. So, yeah, it was, it was pretty cool. I want to,

This transcript was exported on Dec 18, 2020 - view latest version here.

Tyler (00:17:17):

Yeah, I got pretty sick off of that bungee jump though. The whiplash, uh, make me feel too good.

Warwick (00:17:23):

Yeah. See, I I've I've, I haven't bungee jumped before the year before I was there with Robin and there's a big thing called the, um, Kenyon swing. And it's basically a free fall off this platform that you go straight down the side of a Canyon. And before you hit the bottom, the rope picks you up and you swing out across the Canyon. So it's, it's not some of those swings you you're swinging as you leave no straight free fall, but it's not as a free fall. And I totally forgot that bungees, uh, bounce back up again. And so I jump off and, and you get to the bottom, you think that's good? And then you fly up on the, and you're like, Oh, I'm going again. And you bounce up and down four or five times. Yeah, it does make it a bit queasy. Doesn't it

Tyler (00:18:09):

All right. Back to Mongolia.

Warwick (<u>00:18:11</u>):

Yeah. Back to Mongolia. So, uh, so we, yeah, we get there, we fly through Beijing. We get to, um, get to [inaudible], which is the capital of Mongolia. It's the coldest capital in the world. And it's also the worst air pollution of any major city in the world. I think there's a million people live in Orland butter.

Tyler (<u>00:18:29</u>):

Uh, yeah, I think so possibly about 2 million. I think it's about half of Mongolia's population. Mongolia is actually one of the least densely populated countries in the world. Um, China has 1.1 billion people. Uh, Mongolia has 4 million and it's probably about almost two thirds. The size of China. Maybe a little less.

Warwick (00:18:58):

Yeah. She's pretty interesting place. Um, so we were in, we're in the Capitol for a couple of, you know, day and a half before we left. Uh, but the afternoon before we left, we had to have a safety briefing and they said, you know, we're going into an inhospitable environment. So this is serious. Like this, the, the, you know, you can die out there. These conditions can kill you. And they said so, and they were talking about cold, uh, talking about the cold. And they were talking about like, if you've got thermal layers on underneath, and you've got big stuff over the top, don't think, Oh, I'm hot. I'm just going to peel this stuff off. Because if you get, if you get a chill, you are screwed sort of thing. So, um, and the other thing, another, and there was a lot of other stuff they said, but, uh, another big thing they said is don't poop too much and don't poop too little.

Warwick (00:19:47):

So it's very cold. As you know, it's very cold out there. And so there's not a lot of liquid, like cold water available. We, most of what you drink is hot drinks. You don't drink much cold stuff and you don't meat drink much just water. And so all you can drink hot water, but you can't drink hot water. Like you drink cold water, you know? So they said dehydration is a possibility. Um, and you also could get a bit of an upset stomach. So you want to make sure you don't get constipated, but you also want to make sure you don't get diarrhea because that is not fun. There's no toilets out there. So if you've got to go outside

and be doing that a lot, like say, you'd say a diary in, you know, minus 25 with your bum cheeks out in the cold.

Warwick (00:20:28):

It's not a whole lot of fun. And the reason I'm telling you that, because we're going to get to that. Some of that when we go. Um, but we're what we're going to be doing is, is we stay at night in these traditional, uh, Mongolian nomadic tents called a good and it's round tangents about 18 to 20 feet across, uh, has two poles in the middle that hold up like a circular thing in the roof. That's like a bit of a skylight sort of thing. And the old, so there's a, they put a S a heater, like a stove in the middle of the garage. And so the flu, the, the chimney thing goes out the top of that, that pipe right there. So that, that heater is for warmth and also, and for cooking. And so each night we are going to be camped at a nomadic herders camp.

Warwick (00:21:18):

We're not living in love, sleeping in the tent with net goods with them, but we set up our own GIRs, but we're going to be at the nomads, um, camps each night. And the nomads, usually they have about four camps a year. So they'll have a summer camp, a winter camp, autumn camp, and a spring camp. And so, uh, but they, yeah, they don't really own possessions. Apart from that, it's all, I think the land's all leased, but there are the camel herders, uh, yakkers or goat and sheep herders. Unless of course, you're a Wolf Hunter. We made a Wolf Hunter when we're out there too. Um, and each day for lunch, we're probably going to stop with a hurting family as well. So we can get to go in their garage and sit in there. And they, they give us some food and some other tasty stuff.

Warwick (00:22:01):

And as far as food, we have a six wheel drive Russian truck that has this big thing on the back of it. That's our, basically our mess hall. And we have a cook and he actually used to be a personal chef for the president of Mongolia believe. And he told us that at some point in time, he cooked for a lot of mini Puritans. So before you get too concerned about us going out in the middle of Mongolia and eating raw hide jerky or something, that wasn't it, we had really, really good food. So, uh, where do you wanna begin Tyler,

Tyler (<u>00:22:33</u>):

I guess, uh, shaving the ice off of the inside of the van on the way out there.

Warwick (00:22:37):

Oh yeah. So the first day going out there, we've got a 10 to 12 hour drive out of Orland Baton to get to where we're going to ride these camels. And we leave it's dark in the morning, but the sun doesn't come up to nine o'clock. So it was pretty early though. I think we left about five o'clock and we're all piled into this van. So there's 13 of us on this expedition, plus the support crew and all that stuff. And, uh, we're crammed into this van that has seats that are for three people across, but there's four of us across. So we're almost sitting in each other's laps. And so there's people are stuffed in this van, but there's icicle, there's solid ice on the inside of the windows. And we're trying to look out at the landscape on the way out. And all we're doing is we'd scrape a hole in the ice so we could see out, and then it would freeze back up again. And we were for the first morning and the monitor on the drive out there, we're just trying to scrape a hole in the window so we can see out at the scenery.

Tyler (00:23:30):

Yeah. The best, the best thing to do is put your hand on the window and let your body heat melt it, and then scratch it off. But it, and it did freeze right back up. But the views on the way out there were really pretty, they were, it was pretty snowy for the first and there were herds of Mongolian ponies. And then you'd pass through these little tiny, maybe 20, 25 building towns on the way out there. Um, no trees, lots of just wide open space. We didn't see a single fence other than the little bit of backyards in some of the townships, but not a single fence throughout the entire 10 ride or 10 hour ride out to where our first camp was.

Warwick (00:24:13):

Yeah. And I think probably the first eight hours where I'm on paved roads, but then we'd get off on the dirt and we bounced around pretty good then too. Didn't we?

Tyler (00:24:20):

Yup. Yeah. We saw some of those big, uh, those Eagles. We're seeing those on the way

Warwick (<u>00:24:26</u>):

There's hunting Eagles. Yeah. And they're big. Like they they'd sit up about three feet tall, I imagine.

Tyler (00:24:32):

Yeah. They look like sentinels out on the, on the, on the tops of the Hills.

Warwick (00:24:38):

So, yeah, so right about sundown, we got to our first camp and our first camp was actually the only one that wasn't with a hurting family. Um, they were just out to good set up there. So we had one good was for sleeping. So there was 13 of us people, uh, sleeping it. And the other one had all the gear in it. Plus Chloe and we had a photographer along. He's a good friend of Chloe's, his name is Regis and he's from Belgium. And so he's, uh, he's published books on photography. Um, I think he teaches photography maybe, but really good photographer. And so he was along to document the ride. So we got some amazing pictures. And so him and Chloe slept in the other one and we ha we had ours, all 13 of us in ours. And just even the ride out there, you know, Tyler and I have been to, what is it?

Warwick (00:25:29):

26 countries. Yeah, roughly, roughly 26 countries, which is probably quite a bit more than a lot of people. And so we've been some places. So in the, in the van on the way out, they wait, trade-ins, you know, tell them stories about when we went to Africa or, you know, went to Mongolia or whatever. And then the album people start telling stories. And then we shut up because their stories were way better than ours. You know, that, that they were all the adventures. And this was just another one of the adventurous things they do. Like one lady there had been a, uh, a, uh, gorilla vet in the Congo and another one had been in a Rangan Tang vet or nurse, sorry, and orangutan nurse somewhere else in Africa. And, um, Oh yeah, they're just, just adventurous. Like they just, they put us to shame where they traveled stories, great people that were from all over the world.

Warwick (00:26:24):

Uh, so we get out throughout that, that first camp, and this is where we're medial camels for the first time. And it's almost sun down in the tall. We get to get there. And they've got a, uh, a big steel peg patenting on the ground, on the rope, stretched to the bumper of the food truck. And they've got all their camels settled up and tethered to it so that the camels stay settled at nighttime. They don't take the settles on and off and what we were going to be riding for 10 days. And we ride, basically ride a group of camels for three days. So the camera was a from that area. So we ride for three days and then we switched camels and those camels go back to the grazing lands and we ride the next lot of camels, um, pretty cool rocket up there and seeing those cameras when that trailer.

Tyler (00:27:10):

Yeah, no, it was beautiful. Our, our first camp was settled behind a big sand dune and it was nestled along what seemed to be kind of a minor little bit of a desert Gobi. The Gobi desert actually go be means desert in Mongolian. So it's the desert desert. Um, but that was the only time really that we got to along the whole entire trip to see real sand dunes. Um, we didn't really know showing up there that one night, if the rest of the trip was going to look like that. Um, but it was beautiful watching the sunset behind these huge snow-capped mountains off in the distance and our little camp spewing coal smoke out of the, the central fireplace nestled in amongst these sand dunes and all the camels and the camels already had snow and frost on their back, even when we showed up. And it was, it was, it was a beautiful day. There was not a cloud in the sky, but as soon as you got out, you had to lay her up immediately. Um, in Olin Batar we got to feel the, the cold, our nose hair is actually froze or at least minded. Um,

Warwick (00:28:16):

As soon as you walk outside the hotel, you nose for it. And he knows his freezer.

Tyler (<u>00:28:20</u>):

Yeah. When we got our icicles on our eyelashes. So it wasn't that cold when we showed up at our first camp, but it was still like, all right, we're here. We made it. I was a little bit apprehensive because I don't really ride horses even that much. So once I saw the saddles and luckily we brought, well, my dad brought a, a gel saddle pad that I stole off of him for the entire ride. But are you going to tell him the real storyteller? No,

Warwick (00:28:52):

I will. So Robin, Robin get us two of these gel saddle pad that, you know, the seat settled things you put on your saddle and a toddler said, I'm not packing that out and need one of those. And so I packed mine, but, uh, I never got to use mine cause Tyler stole it the first day and had it the whole time. So, uh, I, I, those camels, they got two humps. So they're not a one hump camel. There are two humped camel, and you sit in between the humps and the humps are quite tall. They'd probably come up to chest height, front and back on me, like at the back they count. Do you show the blinds in front? They count on, come up in the middle of your chest and the settles of basically carpet, um, you know, they finished around the edge, but they, they very colorful look like a, like a little prayer rug or something or other, and the stirrups, uh, not to a tree or anything, the Sturt structure attached to each other.

Warwick (00:29:44):

So if you were to stand in your left, steer up your rights, terrible, come up. If you put all your white, your left on your right one comes up so that they're not the most secure, um, the most secure thing. So, so yeah, so we get the, Campbell's a title thing. It looks really cool. And I was surprised to see that there

was icicles on the camels. And I was thinking, boy, it must've gotten cold really quickly, but what I didn't realize I've, you know, the next day we were riding along, we would ride in the sunshine to a lunchtime and you get off and you'll, there's froze. There's ice icicles hanging off the belly of your camel. That haven't melted. I mean, I think we rode camels every day with icicles hanging off their belly and they, they, the was, might be sweating, but those icicles didn't melt pretty crazy.

Tyler (00:30:31):

Well, how about the introduction of the deals?

Warwick (00:30:34):

Oh yeah. So part of our, part of our, you know, what you're, so you're part by this expedition, but part of that, the price you pay is they make you up these traditional Mongolian clothes. And so the, the Mongolians were a big, long bathrobe looking thing called a deal. It's spelled D E L in Daya, very brightly colored, like satiny silk on the outside, but they're sheep skin on the inside and it's, and it's sheepskin, it's wool on hide. So it's, it's got the whole lamps, you know, it's got the skin part of it. And then, then I cover it with these beautiful fabric. And, uh, we each get one of those. We get a, uh, uh, a Fox fur hat, the traditional hat. We get the traditional as a little waist coat that goes over the deal. And then we have these knee high, the boots that are really keep your feet warm.

Warwick (00:31:25):

Like our feet didn't get cold one time. And, um, actually the first day, I think we rode that Tyler, Tyler put a foot warm as in his boots and had to take them out because they were too hot. I didn't use them. But, uh, we found that light at the footer on these, um, boots, his dog skin, which kind of maybe be a little bit ill, but it is what it is. That's what they traditionally were there. And so that, yeah, that night we got presented with these and they put them on us and it was all, it was pretty cool to, to get the whole group of us in our, in our outfits. You know, we're all gussied up, ready to go riding at camels.

Tyler (<u>00:32:02</u>):

It was, it was one of those things that you can kind of embody what you, what you look like when you wear that thing. You kind of have to strap because it's so heavy, but also you're wearing this huge magnificent robe. And so when you strap, you've got some kind of authority to you. You're also wearing these boots that you could literally stomp, you know, a small child with they're huge and they're heavy as well. So when you were all suited up, you, you definitely felt the part. Even though when we first got these deals, we had no idea what it was actually going to take. Um, but then the first day of actual writing came, so we woke up in that camp that we arrived at and we rode four miles into a little town where they were holding the regional camel festival. So there's, uh, camel festivals happen all over Mongolia and they're all very community-based.

Tyler (00:32:59):

And then the winners of, of each region would then go to like a qualifying round and then all the way, even to national titles, they do it the same way for, for horse riding his or her horse racing as well. Um, so there was a, there was a camel beauty pageant that day, there was a short, what was it, 10 kilometer, camel race. Um, and it's just, uh, just a way for the community to come together and celebrate the, their way of life out there. Um, like my dad had mentioned before, most people out there who are, are nomads are either yak, herders, camel, herders, or sheep herders, or goat herders. Um, and they really

don't have very many, um, or very much stuff for like worth the monetary value. Their value comes from their herd, um, and their food supply comes from their herd.

Tyler (<u>00:33:50</u>):

So they're very proud of their animals. And so this camel festival was the embodiment of that community sense of pride and that kind of traditional connection to the land and in nature, which was really, really cool. We got to play with the local kids there. They were playing kind of like a hacky sack game with this piece of led that had a bit of sheep's will on it that stabilized it when you threw it up, it would turn over. So the weight would be coming down and in a stable pattern gate, come straight back down to the earth and they'd kick it up over their shoulder and they'd pass it to their friends. They were all really good and that looked like fun to me. So I went and tried to join them and I managed to kick it, you know, once or twice in a row, not very successfully then, uh, one of the main characters in this whole entire trip LaRue from New Zealand, him and his wife, Zhan, they were probably about 28 around about, yeah,

Warwick (00:34:49):

Both. Uh, it looked like Ken and Bobby, like physical specimens and originally from South Africa. So, uh, you know, the eight, yeah, he's pretty athletic sort of a dude. Now I wish I had that guy's energy. Like this guy had this guy had the most positive outlook on it, of anybody I've ever met. Really. It just, he was just had this great energy came off him all the time. He was pretty cool, dude.

Tyler (00:35:16):

So me and LaRue hopped in on the, the lead kicking game. And it was kind of met with a little bit of, you know, distrustful eyes from the, from the locals. The Mongolians are usually pretty stern. They're not the smiley just people in the world, but once we, once we started, you know, laughing and messing up and stuff, everybody kind of opened up. And then pretty soon we created this huge big circle and everybody was kind of hanging out together. And my dad brought a Australian stock whip, just a kid's one. It was what, six or seven feet, four foot. So we, uh, we're passing that around, having everybody crack the whip. Um, great grandma was there trying to crack the whip, all the young kids, trying to crack the whip.

Warwick (00:36:05):

I started at cracking the whip and the Charlotte crack that we have a bit. Then we kind of pass it to him. Like you want to try it? Cause I don't speak English at all. And so then the kids that have a, and then, you know, the dads that have a go and they pretty soon this, this old lady gets in the Minnesota gets the whip and she's having a go at it and she had to be 70 middle East. I think it was, it was pretty cool. Yeah. So let's talk about raw riding that day toddler. So we go to our camels in the morning and I got on and it was quite hard for me to get the stirrups, the right length because the, those boots you've got, they're very wide. And initially I couldn't really get my feet in the stirrups sort of thing.

Warwick (00:36:44):

And the stirrups are hung kind of in front of where you sit. So I'm used to riding with my heels onto my hips under my shoulders. And this kind of made my fever, especially not for now, get your foot in this therapist kind of pushes your feet forward. And so it was really uncomfortable on my knees for a little while and I kinda got to figure it out. So we kinda had to ride, you know, four Ks to the camel festival. How did you, how did you go right into the camel festival? Did you get that sorted out pretty early on?

Tyler (00:37:14):

It wasn't too bad riding to the camel festival, the actual writing. However, it did take a while for me to even get on and re and go from the, uh, the camp because the boots that these, uh, people had made for me, they were, they were cut out of a, like, they were very, you know, specified for me basically. And I don't have that big of feet, but they made, they made them super wide. Um, the basin, the, the, what's it called that like heal the soul, the soul, the shoe was super thick and super wide. So I actually even couldn't put my feet into the Europe's. So we had to change steer ups. And then I, at that time I was holding everyone up. So I didn't want to come play to them that the steps were too short. Um, so I kinda tried to tough it out.

Tyler (00:38:04):

I was basically like, if I get this over and done with, and the rest of the trip will be easy. Um, so writing there wasn't terrible. I kind of started to get it figured out. However, writing back was pretty bad. Um, my knees felt like they were going to shatter and it was, it was one of those things that I tried, everything that I could to avoid the pain or everything that I could think of and nothing was making it go away. I was sitting down trying to, you know, cruise with the camel in the trot. I was posting, I stood straight up in the, yeah, I was trying to escape the pain, but I realized that there was probably not any way that I was going to get out of it. So the weird thing is actually a couple of the times that I got off the camels, one of my legs would be dead. I think in the first couple of days, um, I could barely walk on one of my legs. I'd actually have to hold like balance on one leg until the blood managed to flow back into it. It was kind of funny,

Warwick (00:39:09):

You know, I had trouble riding back from the camel festival too, because you said they had a camel beauty competition and the Camela was riding. He was a blonde camel. And he had had a funny Tuft of hair on the top of his head. And he looked, it was the same head who was Donald Trump's. And so we named him Donald hump. Um, but because he was a blonde camel at the, at the camel festival, Chloe wanted to have a blonde camel to go with this hurt a guy in that, in the payers, in the beauty competition. And so I got on someone else's camel, and then we rode home on those, on those camels. And an, I just could not get these stirrups right in the white time. So it's only four kilometers and my knees are killing me. My calves are killing me.

Warwick (<u>00:39:52</u>):

My ankle was killing me. And I'm thinking we've got 300 kilometers to cover on these camels. And this, I, I just, I don't know if I can do this. It was an override all the time, but I just, you know, I suppose I'm used to riding in a certain way and I just could not get comfortable in that thing. So yeah, I was pretty concerned, but the next morning when I got back on, on, um, Donald Trump, you know, I had the stirrup set the right way and I had the right sized stirrups and it, it was pretty good.

Tyler (00:40:22):

Then we, uh, that the second day, the first day of real writing was kind of cool in the beginning. When we, when we took off across the dunes,

Warwick (00:40:33):

Riding camel, riding camels on, on, up and down sand June's it felt like Lawrence of Arabia, except of it to a right, is this mountain range covered in snow? This beautiful mountain range is big Valley. And not yet, it was, that was pretty surreal. And it didn't only lasted the first half hour or so, didn't it?

Tyler (00:40:52):

Yeah, it wasn't very long. We just took the, that that way, just because that was the, those were the only dunes that we were going to cross the entire trip. Um, but that was really, really special, but the camels also had to work really, really hard because even with their pads, they would sink as soon as they took a step. Um, so we soon got out of there and then really started getting into the meat of what it was like to ride gambles across the step. Um, some Y just wide open space. And did you, have you talked about the three different speeds of the camels yet?

Warwick (<u>00:41:27</u>):

The camels, so the camels, um, they walk, they trot or actually they pace. So a trot is a diagonal beat, you know, front and diagonal back, but a pace is the center, the two legs on the same side go forward at the same time. Um, and they also can't. Uh, but in my experience, they only canter when they bucking. So, cause I had a couple of instances of that, but, uh, so they they've gone to like three speeds at the trot or the pace. And one's real slow like this, a little Western pleasure drug and you can just sit there and it's not too hard to sit too for long periods of time. And then when they really get going, they really get excited and get going. They have these really high bouncing trot that actually does all the work for you. It, you know, it posts you up and down.

Warwick (00:42:11):

You don't really have to do anything and you just kind of balance up there, but the one you spend most of the time and is this in between one, and it's not strong enough to throw you up, you've actually got to kind of stand up and sit back down. But it's almost too much to sit too. You know, it kind of, kind of bounces around a bit to sit too, but so it's, it's, it's work one or the other, you spend most of your time doing that. And so you, in order to sit to it, you've really got to engage your core and hold your core really tight and like focus on. And this is me, I'm a rider, you know? I mean, it's one of the ladies there from Canada has never written a stride, an animal and entire life. Um, so you've got to really engage your core and really stay put to do the P the sitting, or if you're going to post, it makes your ankles and your knees overwork.

Warwick (00:43:04):

And especially because I steer up something to necessarily underneath you. Um, yeah, so that's, that's the one they spend most of their time at and the camels to get them to go. You, you say Chuck, so it's like choo choo, choo, choo, choo. And, um, that's what they said. Did you go to Jew and you have, so the cameras have a peg through the nose and then you've got one rhino. So the rain is a twisted, it's a twisted camel hay rope. And you know, it comes, it's long enough to come back, but you've only got one rain it's on the it's on the left side. You do not go anywhere near the camels on the right side. If you approach them on the right side, they'll kick you. The nomads only do anything with the camels and the left side. I don't think that's camels to way if you approach them on the right side, they'll kick ya.

Warwick (00:43:52):

These guys only ever approach him on the left side so that they don't get used to being approached on the right side. But, um, to get these camels to go, you go to shoot. And if you got enough rope on the

end of your hand, you know, the ropes in your left hand, you can take your right hand and kind of tap them on the, you you're tapping camel foot with a camel for a rope. So it's not that effective. I was lucky I had that little four foot stock whip and I had it wrapped around me. And, um, so the first morning, like riding along like June Joe, I'm kicking with the legs to Joe and it's like, I'm getting worn out and I'm like, this is not cool. I'm not gonna put up with this. I'm a horse trainer I can try and a camel to go.

Warwick (00:44:28):

So in everybody, else's constantly going chill, chill, chill, and kicking with their feet and slapping them on the bum with the rope, you know? And so I got that stock whip. It's only four foot long and I fold it in half. So I've got a little crop sort of a thing. And so I just trained in the same way you train a horse, I went shoe really softly and then tapped him softly. Then I went a little loud and I kept him a little firmer and I went sure, a little louder and tapped them a little firmer and then chill and then chatting pretty much on and off. He went. And as soon as he moved, I just relaxed. And then he went and stopped again. And I just repeated it over and over and over and by about lunchtime that first day he could be walking and I wanted to try it and I could lean up and kind of get to really softening off.

Warwick (<u>00:45:14</u>):

He'd go. It was, it was pretty cool and everybody else. And I noticed the note, cause we have two nomads ride with us the whole time. Then I met that, have those, those particular camels. So we have three groups of nomads ride with us, but they kick in the whole time. Like they must have legs of steel because they just riding along choo, choo, choo. And they, they feed it is kicking and kicking and kicking and kicking in like a half an hour that my legs were going to fall off. So yeah, I did a bit of horse training and good old Donald hump to where I could go shoe and off he'd go, how'd you go with yours?

Tyler (<u>00:45:45</u>):

Um, I think your methods probably worked a little bit better, but yeah, I think a part of the reason that my knees hurt so bad and my butt hurt so bad was because I was constantly trying to have my camel go. And it was, it was interesting. Cause as we would be traveling along, right, you're usually riding next to another camel. Um, but sometimes you'd end up in the back and you'd have to speed up or, and sometimes he'd be in the front and you'd kind of mix around. Um, but it felt like I was constantly having to make my camel go. And even though we got, we ha we got three different camels. Um, yeah, there was the one cool thing that I noticed with all the camels is we'd be walking along and one camel get a little bit of energy and then boom, we'd all be off. Um, all at the same time,

Warwick (00:46:36):

It's like a mobile horses or a flock of birds or a school of fish. It was the coolest thing you could, you knew that someone got the camel go on behind you because you can't see any Campbell's going any faster. They were in front of you. But all of a sudden you just feel the energy of your camel coming. And it's like, when you're riding a horse and you get to where you must get to the point where you can almost think about going and your host goes and you, that the energy really comes up, it was like that it was a cool feeling on it.

Tyler (00:47:01):

Yeah, no, it was, it was really awesome. Yeah. But I never put in the time or the effort like you did to make my camel go off of a soft shoe. Um,

Warwick (00:47:11):

I don't think I'm some sort of a hero that's just laziness right there. I could, I couldn't see myself ju ju kick kick for the next 300 kilometers. Cause that was not going to happen. Um, yeah. So that first day it was all kind of a, we're kind of going across flat ground with some in the distance. We camped that night with a, with a camel herder, uh, nomad family. The guy had a thousand camels didn't he? Did he have a thousand camels? Or we wanted a thousand camels. I

Tyler (00:47:40):

Think he had 500 camels, but he wanted

Warwick (00:47:42):

A thousand camels. Yeah. And you know, it was funny for the most part. All the nomads we saw were just amazing people and happy and whatever, but this guy, um, he, uh, that they will talk about the vodka here in a minute, but they, they, they brew camel milk vodka, but he, he get into the vodka pretty good. And he was pretty sloppy drunk by the end of the night. And, uh, during that, he said, you know, I've got 500 camels, but I really want to have a thousand camels. And I was thinking, you know what? This guy would get to a thousand camels and then he'll go, no, but I really want to there's and camels, when he gets to two, he'll really want three and you'll still be getting sloppy drunk every night. He didn't probably the only non happy Mon GoLean I saw on the whole trip, you know, poor guy. But, uh, yeah, when we got there in the camp that afternoon, they, they got the camels into milk. The Campbell's in the milk and you got to milk a camel. Then your Tyler,

Tyler (00:48:35):

You got the spray. I got the spray camel milk all over myself. Yes. Which is not good because there's, there's no washers available for you to wash the spoiled camel milk off of your clothes. You pretty much have to sleep in your clothes. So they smell

Warwick (00:48:54):

It, gets it camel milk on his clothes. That's funny.

Tyler (<u>00:48:57</u>):

Uh, there was also the, some of the baby camels there that were wrapped up in blankets, um, to prevent them from, from dying in the cold.

Warwick (<u>00:49:06</u>):

And the coolest thing was they got these little blankets on these baby camels, but they've got a slit in their back, two slits in the back of the bra where the humps pump out, stick out. So the humps is sticking out with no with no blanket on and they were so cute. Um, and

Tyler (00:49:21):

So camel was as well. Yeah,

Warwick (00:49:23):

There's the guy was leading a bull camel around those bull camels a bit like Billy goats, they stinked, I haven't, but they blow snot out their face or their nostrils. And it freezes all over their face and it looks like you've got whipped cream all over their head, but it's actually frozen snot. And then they pee on their tail and slap it up there. They tiled up and flip completely up and down and they slap it up against their back hump where it freezes like. And so they've got this frozen chunk of stinky bull camel on the back of their, their, uh, back hump and it's yeah. It's, uh, it's an odor, isn't it?

Tyler (00:50:04):

Yeah, no, I didn't really get too close to it. There was a lot of odors on this trip and that was, that was the only, that was the one,

Warwick (00:50:12):

Well that, and the goat vodka later on, but

Warwick (00:50:19):

That wasn't an odor. That was a taste. So I suppose the bull camel, the frozen bull camel P was the odor of the trip. And the goat vodka later on was the taste of the trip. Uh, but that first day we did 30 kilometers. The second day was to be a biggest day of the whole thing. We're going to do 45 kilometers. And, uh, by lunchtime, I think we had done 22. So, you know, it was pretty long trip that 22 kilometers before lunch, we'll glad to see the lunch truck. I think Tarley got off his camel and just, there's some plastic sheeting on the ground for whatever reason. He just got off his camel and just lay down. Um, but yeah, so it's 20 to 22 to lunchtime. And so we're thinking, well, it's going to be another big afternoon, but you know, we're halfway, uh, you weren't feeling very good that morning. What you told him?

Tyler (00:51:06):

No, I wasn't feeling too good. I had probably overestimated the amount of laxatives that I should be using because the ones that I took originally didn't work or at least I didn't give them enough time to work. So in that afternoon session, I think it was,

Warwick (00:51:23):

Well, let's talk about the morning session.

Tyler (00:51:25):

I don't know either, at some point in that day, I remember getting off the camel. I honestly think it was before lunch and I tried to go use the bathroom and those deals that you're wearing, what do you mean? The bathroom is what, Oh, the bathroom is just a Bush in. If that, if you can find a Bush, that's your, that's your bathroom.

Warwick (00:51:46):

If you find a Bush, you find it as they say, what you're supposed to do is go blur distance. So any of your body parts, you wouldn't, someone would want someone to scrutinize too closely. You just go far enough away. So that would be blurry to the average eye person with 2020 vision. So it's not very far.

Tyler (00:52:02):

I messed up though, because I ended up pooping on my deal a little bit.

This transcript was exported on Dec 18, 2020 - view latest version here.

Warwick (00:52:07):

You actually said that on the bug.

Tyler (<u>00:52:10</u>):

Yeah. Um, I wasn't telling anybody that little secret. Yeah, no, it, it was just ended up being that way. I, I tried my hardest to not have that happen, but I'm sure some of the girls probably peed on their deals as well. Cause it really, it really was almost impossible with them.

Warwick (00:52:30):

You squat down, you get up and you've got boots on. You don't wanna get it on there either. So you've got to squat down, but you've still got this rope around you because you can undo it. We forgot to say that the robe, they dress you in the morning that the, the nomads do. And they, they, the good, this silk session, it's about 20 feet long and they wrap it. So that deal, the long dressing gown thing, they wrap it around your waist, that the sash around and around and around and pull it as tight as can be. So you can't just squat and unbutton the front of it and fling it open. So it's wrapped around you and it's hard to kind of get away from me. So yeah, that was the drink break the first morning, actually.

Tyler (00:53:10):

Um, yeah, that was, that was not my favorite part of the trip, but it ended up happening and we got over it and I thought that was going to be the worst part of the day. But yeah, later in the afternoon, the, uh, the miles kept ticking.

Warwick (<u>00:53:26</u>):

Well, before, before that, Tyler let's go back a bit, you know, you, you've got an upset stomach all day, but let's say you didn't, you're riding a camel for 22 kilometers before lunch and you don't ride. And so your, you know, your knees and your ankles and your thighs and your calves and probably your bum weren't doing too well. There'd be times that Tyler would just be tired of doing that. And he'd kind of lean forward and rep he's arms around the, that front hump, um, just to give his legs a bit of a break and, you know, and that was, like I said, by the time we got to lunch and you just lay on the ground, like you would not in a good way then, but we're probably thinking, you know what, we're halfway, we've done half the big day where we'll be good to go. You know, let's put it another good half day and off we go and you can finish the time.

Tyler (00:54:17):

Um, well, AF once the sun went down, we were pretty concerned about, about everything. Um, up until the sun was going down, I was really having trouble, um, posting at all. I could not sit on the camel because it just felt like my, the insides of my stomach were going to explode. So I ended up pretty much standing up straight in the stirrups in the saddle and leaning over the front hump, basically like holding it and hugging it for, for comfort. And I remember at one point in time, just spacing out, watching the hair on the back of the Campbell's neck, float up and down, up and down, up and down with, with the its stride. And I just tried to forget about every feeling that I was feeling, but I also didn't really want to give up. Um, we had support vehicles and we had people, um, not necessarily give up, but they, they chose to ride in the support vehicles after, you know, a lot of kilometers. And I wanted to prove to myself that I could make it. Um, however, once the sun went down,

Warwick (00:55:18):

Well, let's talk about before the sun went down, you know, we think we've got 22 kilometers to go in the afternoon and we ride and ride and ride. And we're about, okay, that must be about it. We've been riding about the same amount of distances we went this morning. It's gotta be over the next Hill and we'd come into this Hill or a little rise and you can see the next Valley. And that, that food truck is a big truck. So it sticks out and we can't see anything like bloody hell. We've got to keep going. And then we'd ride across another plane and up a bit of a rise. And you come to the top of a Hill and nothing. And this went on until the sun goes down and we still don't. We can see quite a ways ahead. And we S we S we, we S we still don't, you know, we're thinking we've gone, we've gone at least 22 kilometers already.

Tyler (00:56:03):

So, yeah, that was a bit disheartening. And then we finally see this little building and we are super excited, super happy. So we get there. And pretty soon we realized that it's actually just a corral, a little structure for their block, the wind for the goats and the sheep. And so I hop off at this point, we all kind of reconvene and try to get everyone in order, and I need to go to the bathroom. So I go and do my thing, and I'm feeling pretty bad at this point. So I hop in the support vehicle and

Warwick (00:56:38):

No way it can't be, you know, we still don't know. We can't be so like, toddlers, like, I don't know how far we got left to go. I mean, we should be there already. So yeah, he jumped in the support vehicle. And then,

Tyler (00:56:50):

And then once I got in the support vehicle with big man and tests, um, then I realized that they had no idea where camp was either and they were in the cars and they should, they should have known where camp was. They were kind of leading us. So then, you know, after like 20 minutes of us going down and over Hills in front of all the group, then we realized, okay, someone had found it. And it was, we were only about two kilometers off course. We had actually gone further than we needed to. We just went off course to the left a little bit too much. Um, yeah,

Warwick (00:57:26):

Because you're looking, you're looking for a tent in the middle of the Gobi desert. It's like a needle in a haystack. Uh, but so Charlie went off with the support vehicle, but all of a sudden the chemicals off we go and we're heading along and we can see probably, you know, it's pretty the sun's down behind the mountain range, but it's not necessarily, you know, down behind the horizon sort of thing. So you can still say a bit, I'm going to look it up a hit, and we can see a good five, six kilometers in front of us across this Valley. And we cannot see a tent or anything. Um, we're thinking bloody hell, how long is this going to be? And we're trotting along there. And then the sun had gone down on there. Right? We were, so we were heading South we're trotting along North sudden the herder, that's where this goes.

Warwick (00:58:10):

And then we swing around and we'd do a 90 degree turn and start heading towards where the sun went down. And I bet 10 minutes later, we come across, we come to come to the, the little, uh, nomads camp. Uh, and so, yeah, we got, we got a bit lost, but that day was supposed to be 45 kilometers. We must have done 50 kilometers that day. I don't know, but everybody was glad to get in that camp. And

even those camels, you know, this, when it's warmer, they're not as good, but when that sun is going down, and then when we made that right-hand turn and they realized they were almost a camp, that energy came up and we had that big, long truck, the way you don't have to work very hard. And I think everybody was kinda, Whoa, go, you know, we're all excited about getting into camp, but yeah, that day that's one of two days that I was glad to glad it was over. Well, three days, maybe the family we stayed with that night, they were well, that was it. The beautiful people.

Tyler (00:59:07):

No, the beautiful people was lunch the next day, but this was the horse race. The horse racer.

Warwick (00:59:11):

Yeah. Yeah. That's uh, you know, so I tend to set up, set up with the nomads there and we eat our dinner in our, um, in our food truck, but then we get invited up to the, to the nomads. Good to go and have when you first, so then the girls have got a lot of rules about them. So they round you don't knock. When you go in, you just open the door. The door is always on the South side. The that'd be for the sun. The, um, the North wall of the girl is like the altar, so that if they, you know, the statues of border or family pictures or that sort of thing, they'll have him on a little, you know, little shelf or something over there. Um, but this guy was a race horse trainer. Wasn't he either race. It was good.

Tyler (<u>00:59:53</u>):

Yeah. He was the race horse. I think he was actually a jockey jail. He was a resource trainer or a racehorse jockey, or probably both

Warwick (01:00:00):

Rice was, Oh, he was a jockey, but

Tyler (01:00:03):

He was the guy who had the horse

Warwick (01:00:05):

And he had a lot of metals. Yes, he did. Um, he had all these metals hanging back there from all these races. He'd won back with the statue of border and that sort of thing, and hanging in the raft as he had these chunks of horse hair, um, like mine head in the rafters. And they told us that the, because I'm on Mongolians a very spiritual, and if they sell a horse, they think that if the horse can't ever find its way home, they hang some of their tail of mine here in the rafters. So that if they got lost, they could find their way home. I thought it was very, very cool.

Tyler (<u>01:00:38</u>):

Yeah. Then, um, that next day was probably the better day for riding, for me. I was finally feeling comfortable enough to, you know, get into a good shot. And my knees and stuff had kind of had loosened up a bit. And then obviously I didn't, it was no longer sitting on my stomach being upset. And so that day, the, rather than the planes of what we had been going through, we actually got to go through some canyons and some like the little mountain, a mini mountain pass, and eventually ended up that day. Um, just outside of where the there's a town off in the distance from the camp that we were at, that was nestled in amongst some, some Hills and some rocks. Um, it was actually that town

was where the finest cashmere in all of cow of all of Mongolia comes from or their world world-renowned cashmere comes from that province.

Warwick (01:01:35):

Yeah. That was a fun camp because that was the camp we found out that the food truck had beer in it. They hadn't told us about it. They hadn't offered it to us, but it let out that they had beer in it. So we got to that camp and, um, the sun was just going down and we were on the we're on, like on a Hill, on one side of a big Valley with the sun going down and Hills behind Hills and the other side. So Tyler and, um, myself and LaRue, the South African dude, we got, we got some of these Russian bees and went and sat and watched the sun go down. And it's the first beer I've ever drank that got colder the longer I drank it.

Tyler (<u>01:02:09</u>):

Yeah. That was, that was an awesome camp watching that sun go down. Although the, a lot of this trip was natural beauty. Like the canyons that we came through and, and I mean, obviously the, the camels and all of that sort of stuff. But my favorite part, I think of this trip was the fact that we got to go spend pretty much every night and every, every lunchtime period with a new family that, you know, really kind of kept things new and interesting. And it was, we could, it was awesome because our interpreter tests, uh, was great at, you know, relaying and making conversations easy between the families and stories were told, and questions were asked about the ways that they live and their traditions and their history. Um, so that was probably my favorite part. That was, that was something that, you know, you could go out into Mongolia and ride the camels and stay intense, not with nomadic people, but to be able to have those connections.

Tyler (01:03:11):

Um, big man was the one who knew all of the herders or at least organized all of them to, to help support us. And we actually, we, we gifted, um, I think it was, you know, some monetary value to each family that we stayed at. Um, the tour company did that. So that was awesome, uh, to be able to be a part of that, but that family, again, that night was, it was wonderful. And the family the day before was the one that had, that looked like they look like Mongolian models, like the model Mongolian hurt her family.

Warwick (01:03:47):

Yes. There was the father and the wife and four kids. And, uh, yeah, they were just, they were just beautiful. Uh, you know, and it was a bet this camp, I think that I started noticing, you know, in the, in the girl at nighttime, how clean everything was. And, you know, remember when we were in Kenya a couple of years ago, we went and visited the, the Maasai people. And, you know, they live in a dust bowl that they're so clean and this was no different. Like they live in the middle of the Gobi desert. There's no running water. Um, and everything is clean and spotless. They close a claim there. Um, you know, the things they, they cook with, uh, so spotless, they clean, like they like brand new. They're like my mother cleaned them. And my mother, he told his grandmother, she, when she cleaned something, she cleans it and like, she cleaned it, but in we're in the middle of nowhere, there's, there's nothing to do with, um, we might've had some podcast and we're going to talk about the vodka. So the nomads will ferment camel's milk gala and get Campbell's milk. And they fermented, they put a yeast in it and stir it and carry on and it ferments it. And then what they do is they basically distill this camel milk and it, it makes vodka and you can distill at once, or you can distill it twice, or they say, if you distill it three times, it turns into poison or something, doesn't it toddler.

This transcript was exported on Dec 18, 2020 - view latest version here.

Tyler (01:05:09):

Yeah. It turns into like 75% alcohol

Warwick (01:05:16):

Just straight.

Tyler (01:05:18):

Yeah. Pretty much. They said you could go blind or worse actually die.

Warwick (01:05:24):

Mm, okay. Oh, Oh, worse. Yes. So that was a, yeah, that was a pretty cool little camp. Uh, the next, the next morning, we got to ride down this around the side of this Valley, uh, or in the side of a big Hill in this Valley. And there's a huge big plane out beside us in that Valley and another big set of Hills on the other side. And we follow that line of who was around and had lunch with a, a nomad family that their camp was up against this really like best salt rock looking Hill, like just big boulders everywhere. And we actually went up into those rocks and there was rock out up there. That's they say it's up to, I think we have 5,000 years old, but the rock out was of, uh, like stick figures of camels people, riding camels, uh, big horn sheep. What else did they have on the tongue?

Tyler (01:06:17):

Um, I think they had some cows and some horses, chasm horses too. Did you say that they had people riding camels? Yes. Yeah. They had some people riding camels. Yeah, it was, it was. Yeah.

Warwick (01:06:34):

So that was always a cool looking at that workout. Um, we had lunch there and then we headed out across that, that plane across, towards who was on the other side. And that was one of the longest struts that we had, like going the same speed. So it was at that is that, that speed that you go to work at, but we tried it and tried it and tried it across there. And then we started up a bit of a pass where we actually went up and this was definitely part of the old silk road that we went up and, um, up through these narrowish mountain past Kenyan things, that was, that was when it started getting really gorgeous, really pretty.

Tyler (<u>01:07:15</u>):

Yeah. It was a lot more rugged terrain versus the, you know, the rolling Hills that we had been going through. Um, and that was, yeah, that was really, really awesome to, to be riding in that kind of territory. You know, that's something that you see in a Nat geo movie or something, you know what I mean?

Warwick (01:07:35):

Yes. Yes. Very Netgear looking very much jet met JL looking. So that, that was the cool camp. Wasn't it?

Tyler (01:07:43):

That was the pretty cool camp. Yeah. That was the camp that we got to play like cricket in, um, on the, the patch of goat poop.

Warwick (01:07:57):

So we had a game of cricket. One of the girls on the trip is Belgian and she was on the Belgian women's cricket team. So she was pretty good at it, but, um, had really good hands, but yeah, we found a couple of sticks made it set. We only had two stumps, didn't have three stumps. We had two stumps with a little stick and across the top of it. And one of the stumps was about three inches shorter than other one. So that stick was across there, like a 45 degree angle and we had a tennis ball and then a little stick of wood. And, uh, yeah, we played, played cricket, got the, the nomads in on the cricket game. We had dead stop for a tea break there for a minute because when the, the nomad or the, when the goats came into the goat pen for the night, they had to walk right through the middle of our cricket pitch.

Warwick (01:08:36):

And so we had to have a tea break world. We actually, I think I made a video as video on my phone. I think I said something like, Oh, look, there's a bunch of streak is, and they HONY buggers too. Cause they're all go to that horns. Um, and then one of the, one of the things the Mongolians really like to do is wrestle. It's one of the national sports. And so then LaRue decided he wanted to wrestle a couple of the Mongolians. He lost his first wrestle, but he redeemed himself and he won his second wrestle.

Tyler (<u>01:09:09</u>):

Yeah. He, uh, he got taken care of by the 16 year old Mongolian herder. At least he looked 16. He was, he was tough. So the herders that followed us, um, actually the first pair of herders, one of them had actually been in a wrestling match, I think with some of the other people on our tour. Um, and he lost and fell into the ground and had this big scab on his cheek and his, his eyes swelled up. And, you know, those Mongolians are tough. They got there, especially like the hurting lifestyle to be riding a camel and hurting camels all day long in the freezing cold and then come home and drink a bunch of vodka and wrestle. Yeah, it's a pretty, it's a pretty wild lifestyle. That night was also the night that we, um, we were playing cricket and some of the other guys on the expedition, uh, the people helping, they were cooking, uh, some rocks, they were cooking.

Tyler (01:10:08):

Then they made a fire over on the other side of the camp. And after we were done with our little game, we went over there and sat around the fire and then they came over and took all the hot rocks. And what they do is they cut up a goat or sheep and they Chuck a little bit of meat and then some rocks and then a little bit more meat and then some rocks. And then they cap it off in this big container. And it kind of pressure cooks in this, in this big metal, uh, container. And then later that night we had our first ever car.

Warwick (01:10:41):

Tonya is actually, you wouldn't never seen him before, but it's an old milk pale.

Tyler (01:10:47):

Yeah. So they locked that thing down. And that was our first hot rock goat ceremony. That was pretty good. And then w the ride out of there was incredible the next morning, because we were on the one side of that, a Valley that we rode across the day before with the rock art, there was pretty much to before with the rock art, there was pretty much no snow the entire time out of that mountain range that we stayed night in the other side of the mountain range was completely covered in snow. So we

still, as we were going through the mountain pass, we still had these really steep kind of falling like a river bed, like a Creek, um, steep Hills on either side, but they were covered in snow this time on that side of the Hill. And then pretty soon we emptied out into this huge wide open Valley that was just completely covered in white.

Tyler (<u>01:11:36</u>):

Um, we had been wearing snow goggles while riding, at least most of us were during the day to protect our eyes from the sun and the sand and the wind and all of that. Um, but that time it was really, really needed because it was so bright. So we, we only actually had a half day that day. Um, we rode across that snow covered Valley into some kind of like, uh, a little tiny mini mountain range that kind of just sat in the middle of this Valley. And we crawled up this kind of steep Hill at the end of it. And boom, our camp was right there covered, uh, covered in snow. There's snow all over the yurts. And then off to our left, kind of these slightly increasing snow covered planes that were untouched. And then often the distance there were these huge snowy raw rock formations.

Tyler (01:12:28):

Um, it was just an absolutely beautiful little camp set up and a little bit different to what we had been experiencing before. Cause we didn't have that much snow. So we, uh, I had seen pictures of Chloe, um, snowboarding behind her camel a couple of years back. And I was really excited to get into that. So pretty much as soon as I could, I don't snowboard actually I ski. So I took the snowboard by myself and kind of test run down some of the slopes. And then pretty soon someone grabbed my camel, one of the herders and my Campbell's name was APA. Um, and we started getting towed in behind the camel snowboarding behind the camel in the middle of the Gobi desert, the snow covered Gobi desert. So that was really, really awesome. Um,

Warwick (01:13:17):

Not many people who can say they've done that and have a picture to prove.

Tyler (<u>01:13:21</u>):

No, no, that was definitely a bucket list item. Um, then that you can tell a larger story.

Warwick (01:13:29):

Yes. So everybody's having a go at the snowboarding and it's just a rope that you hang on to. And that the G the nomad on the camel, he hangs under the other end. And he went to, um, he went to tow someone and the camel guy went to Towson and he dropped the rope and Lara, the South African guy was standing there and he just didn't even think about it. You picked up the rope and he walked up to the back of the camel on the right side to hand that rope to this guy and that camel kicked him in the knee. I think they really got like a karate kick to him and kicked him in the knee and trying to bend his knee sideways. And, um, he said, no, I'm all right. I'm already got up and tried to walk. And his knee went sideways.

Warwick (01:14:03):

So he carried him into the garage. And, uh, the nomads wife heard that he got kicked by a camel. So she went out to that camel and pulled some out of his main, um, or his neck region. You know, he's hump one of those that's with long hair, the long fur. And she soaked it in some salty tea. And then she put

that camel fur around his knee and rep that, and that's supposed to fix if a camel kicks you. That's what you do. You, you, um, get care and the hair has got to be out of that. Camel, take the hair out of the camel and you circuit some salty tea. And there you go. And I'll tell you what it must be good because the root didn't miss anything on that whole trip. Even with his knee getting kicked like that, um, rode every day, finished. The whole trip, did everything we did. He got back to New Zealand, had an MRI and he found out he tore his ACL or his MCL one or the other. So he told the ligament in his knee, uh, but managed to finish off the rest of the whole thing, probably because he got some camel hay soaked in salty tea wrapped around it.

Tyler (01:15:05):

Yup. I mean, whatever works, right. I think it was more of the intention and the care that the Mongolians put into him there. They were very concerned about him, but unfortunately he missed out on one of the better parts of the entire trip. I think we, um, after we took care of LaRue and everybody kind of got themselves situated, we took off towards those, those Rocky formations. I was mentioning earlier at this point in time. No, no, we, we all, you know, we all packed into the support vehicles and we took off a cross, the treacherous, snow snowy Hills, and we eventually made it there. And, um, so there is these huge, there's these cave formations along these, these rock formations that, um, apparently back in the day when, uh, Russia or the U S I don't even know what it was technically back then, then, um, but they were, they were communists. And so I think it was,

Warwick (01:16:03):

It was styling and it was 1935 to 1943 or something like that.

Tyler (01:16:07):

Yeah. So the, uh, Buddhist monks of Mongolia, um, were pretty much being persecuted and put to death by the communist regime. So they, they hit out in places like this, this cave that we went to go visit. So we hiked maybe, you know, five, 10 minutes up to the, the roof of this or the mouth of this cave. And then you actually had to scramble up a bit of rock in some somewhat technical, you know, rock formation. It was probably 15 feet high, and I definitely needed to help up, uh, like someone to protect me in case I fell. Anyway, we blew out the chef brought firewood and, uh, lamb skewers and wine. And we perused around the cave for a little while, while buoy made us, uh, a little fire. And we had a barbecue in the cave and drink some wine and, you know, kind of envisioned what it would be like to be a monk hiding out in a cave for multiple years, you know, trying to run away from persecution, from communist Russia, which was pretty interesting. Um, yeah, it was really gorgeous looking at the roof of that car, that the whole of that cave and, and seeing the snow covered planes of Mongolia, it was pretty special.

Warwick (<u>01:17:27</u>):

I remember we came out of that cave. We climbed down from there and they took us around to this other little, little narrow Rocky Canyon, like really steep sides. And, uh, one of the support guys with this had been carrying this top or rolled up under his arm. And I don't even know what it was for, but he climbed up the side of this Canyon thing and there was a hole and he started shoving that top in the hole and turned out it was actually a cave. It was the mouth of a very narrow mouth of a cave. And the top was so we could slot in our belly. So it's like going through a tunnel, your flood on your tummy. Um, your hands are underneath you. So, you know, you can't push with your arms. Really. You can only pull yourself along with your fingertips and pushing yourself.

Warwick (01:18:05):

We did toes and you're back, you're back scraping the top of the roof of the tunnel. And your elbows are scraped from the side. So it's pretty narrow. And then it kind of spits you out, down, you slide down the top into this cave. And the cave was, um, another one of the complex that the Buddhist monks had used. And, um, one of my coolest memories of the whole thing happened in that cave, because of course it's a cave, so it's pitch black and everybody turned their phones off. So it was pitch black and the girls started seeing Lennon Cohen's hallelujah. And it was, it was a moment, you know, like the hair in the back of my neck stands up thinking about the moment, but to be in that, you know, in that cave that the Buddhist monks, um, hid from persecution, from Stalin, and to have that song sung very well, by the way in that thing, that the acoustics were amazing. But yeah, it was just, it was quite a moment, I think.

Tyler (01:19:01):

Yeah, that was, that was a very special moment as well. Um, to me, um, as well, me and Regis actually went further deeper into that cave. And at the very, very back of it, it kind of went up. You actually had to climb like up some, some little features to get up into this little section. There was actually a little altar there to the, the gods. There was actually money up there that people had had placed to whatever deities they were believed in. So Redis just put a little Mongolian note in there and left an offering and did a little prayer, which was cool. And then actually we came back down and then that's when the girls started seeing Holly. I said,

Warwick (01:19:42):

That's why the handle of it. Yeah, yeah. That was, that was pretty cool. We went back to camp had, uh, Oh, and we got back to camp and with the sun had going down and they would go to herders, uh, Kashmir, goat, herders, and one of the goats the night before had had a lamb, a kid. And, um, there was just as the sun went down and it would be too cold for the lamb. It wouldn't survive the night. So they took it in the girl with them. And when you take a lamb away from its mother that young, there's sometimes about Tom reconnecting again. And so this, this lamb wasn't really hooking up with this. You and there was a little, one of the, the, the, well, the nomad family's daughter, and she had to be about eight years old. She's got her arms wrapped around this use. So the sun's gone down it's minus 25 or something or other, and she's singing this traditional song to you to talk her into letting the lamb nurse offer rewards, to talk the Lamy to sign that this is your mother or whatever, but it was, that was another one of those magical moments from the trip. I mean, this is like their every day and they actually have these spiritual songs. They seem to the, to the, um, to the goats. It was, it was quite the moment that'd be, it was watching that.

Tyler (01:20:59):

Yeah, I remember there was a picture that Regis actually took of me when I was standing up on the Hill that night, watching the sun go down and watching the stars come out. It was actually the, one of the clearest nights that night. Um, and the, the snow in the Valley was reflecting the sunlight. So it was beautiful, like pink, golden sunset. And I was, I was watching that sunset go down as that little girl was singing. And then she had a beautiful voice to her in the tune that she was singing was really, really pretty. And then just the background with the caves that we had just been to, and just the fact that it was half a day of writing was good too. So my butt didn't have to be sore all day long. Uh, but that the moment that Regis encapsulated in one of those pictures was awesome. I didn't know he did it. Um, I was actually looking away just staring out into the, into the Valley, but that was one of the, it's one of those moments where you stand around and you tell yourself, I'm going to remember this moment for

the rest of my life. It was kind of one of those deals. And I'm really glad that Redis also got a picture of it because my memory seems to be getting worse.

Warwick (01:22:06):

Uh, well, I was with Regis. We S we were watching you watching the sun go down. We were at the bottom of that little Hill, and we're just watching you standing there and it's freezing cold. And you're just standing on the top of that little Hill watching the sun go down. And, and he kind of looked at me and, and gave me that, like, should I take a picture of that? And I noted like, yeah, hell yeah. So that's where that picture came from. I didn't even need to know that. Yeah,

Tyler (01:22:28):

It was pretty cool. And also a part of me that night was like, how long can I CA how long can I stay standing still? I'm standing out here watching the sun go down because we, you know, going outside at night, you're pretty much go from girl to girl. You don't really stand outside too much. Cause it's cool.

Warwick (01:22:44):

Yeah. I know that that night we went up to the nomads. Good. And, um, on the way back, I had a thermometer that I used to hang outside the girl on the outside, and I think it was, uh, I think it was minus 30 then as we walked back from the, from the nomads go that night. Yeah, that's cool. Um, the next day we, um, had a bit of excitement. Uh, we, we went through a lot of different canyons and stuff. Didn't we,

Tyler (01:23:17):

Um, back into C I w what happened is we came through that mountain pass where we played cricket and then went to the camp that we just mentioned near the caves. Then we actually went, I believe East. And then we actually took another mountain pass back through the same Valley that we came through before then we went to, we were in the mountain pass again. Yeah. The, the valleys and the canyons to the steep little road through there was, yeah. Very impressive. And that's where you had.

Warwick (01:23:45):

Yeah. So Ray, that was just dumb at Regis, the photographer. He, we used to get really good shots. So he'd drive a hit in the support vehicle in this Canyon. He's climbed up the side of the Canyon, way up the side of it. And these rocks, he wants to get these really cool pictures looking down on us, which he did. And as we went past, he thought, Oh, come down now and start to trying to climb down. Anyway, he got going a bit too fast and rock slide. Then it kind of slid down the side of that Hill and spooked the camels. And my camel took off backing. And I had a camel on either side of me and I got backed off my camel, but I bounced off the person next to me. Like my, I came off the side of the camel, but before I could fall down, I bounced off the person next to me, back onto the camel and eventually got the camel pulled up.

Warwick (01:24:29):

But one of the people in the camel backing incident was the lady from Canada. Male. Who'd never written anything her entire life. And she wrote every day, the whole way. She was pretty impressive doing that, but so we had lunch and then they said, make sure you get all your clothes on because this

afternoon it's going to be cold. And we came out on the top of this Hill, out of those passes on the top of this, on the top of this Hill and the wind was blowing. And it was absolutely freezing when I tell them,

Tyler (01:24:56):

Yeah, my, my left knee, the wind is coming from the left. Uh, my left knee eventually went numb. And normally you have this actually this little kind of leather belt, like a small leather belt that you actually tie the deal on to your leg with so that it doesn't move around so you can stay warm. So it's like pants and I lost mine. I don't know where it went. And at one point in time, I had to steal someone else's eventually, I don't know. I think once someone, uh, was riding in the support vehicle, so I actually still, I stole theirs. Um, but yeah, I hadn't, I didn't have it that day. So my left knee, even though I had two layers of pants on and S and snow pants, it blasted right through. And I couldn't feel my knee at all, but at the same time I could, because I could still feel my right knee.

Tyler (01:25:38):

And that one felt like it wanted to shatter still. So, and it was just windy and you couldn't hear anything and people were getting into the support vehicles. I mean, no one, you couldn't really ask when, where camp was. And so, yeah, it was a little bit more frustrating and I was really happy to get into camp that night. I, uh, I went into the garage and just passed out. I was, I was defeated. That was probably it necessarily the low point. Cause the hardest point for me was definitely the third day when I wasn't feeling too good, but it was a close second. I was probably more mentally defeated this time around. Um,

Warwick (01:26:15):

And that was the night I got it. I've got to picture you face down in the go. You just walked in there fully clothed. And anyway,

Tyler (01:26:22):

It felt good. I, I slept for a little while. And then, uh, I didn't, I missed out on one of the, the more infamous stories of this entire trip, which is we were going to switch Campbell's the next day. So the herders that were bringing those camels, how far they come, they came in the middle. They came in in the night too, right from there.

Warwick (01:26:42):

Yeah, we have only 20 days. Yeah. We were up in the other goods. So we were up in the, you didn't come with us, but we're up in the nomads. Good. And you know, I said different, there's this different, uh, things about, uh, customs when you're in the garage and stuff. And so usually when you go in the goods, they're going to hand you a bowl of fermented camel's milk and the camel's milk is boiling hot, so you can't drink it. And the bowl is scalding hot and you can't hold it. So you kind of juggle it from one end to the other and you sit on one little table or whatever. All of us couldn't hang on to the balls. And, um, this night, when we've got to that camp, they said, we're going to get a new set of camels for tomorrow. But the sun had gone down and we had no new chemicals.

Warwick (01:27:23):

And I said, where's the, where's the new chemicals? And they said, Oh, they'll, they'll be in later on. So we were up and we'd had dinner, been up to the we're up at the, um, the nomads gooder in there

sitting around having a vodka or whatever. And about nine o'clock, the door flies open these two impressive looking nomads come in. And so there's a short coat that goes over the top of the deal and it's a wasteland coat, and most of them are made of fabric. And these two walk in and they've got, they look like Beaver for, um, coats on turns out later on, I found out though, mink, the mink coats and they had mink hats. The whole hat was mink and the buttons aunts, the whole hat was mink. And the buttons on there, miffed silver, like these were the, these were an impressive looking pair of human beings.

Warwick (01:28:11):

When we nicknamed him, he was a bit younger. We nicknamed him gang Genghis Khan, but the other older guy, we nicknamed him the godfather. He looked a bit like an old Italian fellow with gray hair, but just a feast, looking both more fierce warrior looking guys. And so they slammed the door open and they walk in and it is freezing cold outside. And so, you know that these guys have just written 20, 30 Ks in the dark herding camels and have just stepped off their camels and they walk inside and they sit down on the couch. Like they don't say anything, they just walk in, sit down and cold stare. And by the end is look everybody in the eye. And the host lady, she hands both of them, a bowl of this hot stuff and they just take it in their hand. And so it's scalding hot in their hand and scrub it in the hand.

Warwick (01:28:58):

And then it just that seeping so loudly this stuff, I know the bolts burn them, and I know this stuff's burning going in and they don't care. They just look over the top of their bowl and slip and stares in the eyeballs that were the scariest to human beings ever seen everybody was in that good that night was like, that was so amazing, like that. I like characters that have a movie, um, turns out they tend to be, they were pretty cool dudes, but, uh, yeah, telling me that. But yeah, that night we met Gangas Kahn. Everybody talks about it. That that was pretty wild. Uh, so the next day we all get mounted up and we've got new camels. And I mentioned right at the start that I made sure I got my settled set up the way I wanted it. So it didn't bother me in the legs.

Warwick (01:29:41):

And I got the strips exactly where I wanted them. And you know, it took a bit of getting all that, right. Well, when they switched the camels over you, you get on the camel, that's got you a saddle on it. And I said that their carpet that's kind of patterned. Well, there's probably about maybe five different patterns. And so there's a couple of settles that was the same color as mine, the same pattern, the amount of different stirpes and whatever. But anyway, that morning we're kind of in a rush to get on. And the camel hood has got this camel just get on. I get on. And I realized, Oh my strips, aren't very good. And I, 53 years old and my blood is getting smaller and smaller. And so I'd make sure I pee before I get on the camera in the morning. But like two minutes after I'm on the camel, I've got to pee.

Warwick (<u>01:30:25</u>):

Um, and then we ride out a camp. And so these camels, they, sometimes someone can walk up to you on the ground, grabbed the rope and just go shoo shoo. And the camera will kneel down, but all the camels I had were a bit rogue. And so every single one of them had a rope around their right front foot that went up and over their back and then hung down near the left elbow. And you want to want them to lay down. Someone would walk up to you, they'd grab the lead rope in their left hand and grabbed that other rope. And they're writing. And they pull really hadn't that right on that rope, which would pull their right front foot off the ground and they'd go down on one knee and then they go down. So they

didn't want to go down easy. So you can't just stop gambling in a lay down and jump off and take a leak without interrupting the whole thing.

Warwick (01:31:06):

And I definitely don't want to interrupt Gangas can-do and he's, daily's the scariest looking man ever seen. And so I've got to pee right away. So I'm holding that in. And then we ride along and this is what my settled. So my stirrups, God, I can't get me foot in the strips. And I, and these camels are wild. So you can't like get a camel to stand still. Like while you lean off the side and adjust your stirrups, you just gotta keep going. And, uh, it's not probably 15 minutes, half an hour into it. Uh, Mel, the Canadian lady that has never written before her camera was a bit wild and it was scaring her and she said, I got it. I want a different camel. And she wasn't being, uh, you know, complaining or anything. Like she was scared for good reason too. And so they stopped and got her camel down on the ground while she's going to trade camels.

Warwick (01:31:50):

And so I said to Gangas Kahn, can you get Mondana I gotta pee. So I get off. At least I get that pain out of the way. Then I get back on and off. We had, well, like Tyler early on in the trip I had, I had, Oh no, I haven't taken the Lexus yet. So I get a bit clogged up, you know, I hadn't taken any electives. And so that morning we're riding along and I cannot get my saddle to feel right. My strips are too short. I can't get me fitness strips. So my knees are aching. My ankles are aching. My Cubs are aching. My thoughts, I can I'm in pain. But if they're going at the speed that, that slow jog, I just take me feet out of the strips and just sit. But for the most part, we are going at that medium speed to where you've got a post up and down, or you've got to sit and bounce and really engage your core.

Warwick (<u>01:32:37</u>):

And so I spend probably, you know, 20 minutes doing each one, I just post until I can't take the pain anymore. And then I sit, but by mid morning I get this stomach ache and I'm constipated. So now I can't, if I sit, I've got to sit on one butt cheek. Cause if I sit straight up and down, it feels like someone punching me in the stomach. Um, and if I post, I cannot land flat on the saddle, it feels like someone's punching me in the stomach. So I've got to sit on one hip. And so my calves knees ankles, everything's like, and plus my stomach's in a bad way. And just before lunch I was, I was thinking, Oh, so this is, this is what Kelly Wilson was talking about. Cause we really hadn't had the bad cold or anything. But, uh, yeah, I was glad to get off.

Warwick (01:33:22):

That came up at lunchtime. I was not in a good way at all. And one of the other girls, your name Sam, she was having the same problem. And the, just about five minutes before we got to camp for lunch, she was just bull. And she was just riding along and just, uh, just the, it was all adding up and she just melted down and she was just bawling her eyes out, riding along in his camel. Um, poor thing. I felt sad for her. Um, we stopped for lunch then that afternoon off, we went again. And I think that the afternoon we had the camera rights, wasn't it Charlotte?

Tyler (01:33:55):

Yup. That was the, the afternoon camel race. It was short and sweet, but it also extremely tiring. I mean it just, the compiling factor of all the kilometers we had already done. And then two kilometers of a lots of two to two and lots of kicking and lots of, you know, trying to get that rope that as in their nose is

only so long and you can barely swing it on their side. And so you're trying to swing it as hard as you can getting them to go. And it's only a camel hair rope anyways. Yeah. You could honestly hit the camel with a piece of wood and the fur on is so thick. You know what I mean? Like it would take some seats

Warwick (01:34:37):

Is that one of those herders had that big stick and he'd go thumping the chemicals.

Tyler (<u>01:34:40</u>):

No. And if you could, I think I actually took that big stick from him for awhile. That was, uh, the godfather stick and you took it away. I took it away. I borrowed it from him. Cause I think I gave him the whip at one point in time. But even that like, it, it never really made contact with the camel. It just kind of stayed within the first sentence.

Warwick (01:34:58):

Yes. Um, and so that afternoon, you know, I had the stomach thing going, I had the legs going and that for me, that was a bad day. Like I could not wait for that day to finish cause I was in pain the whole day long. And you know, even up to that point in time, I, I would really have to on those long stretches where you're just doing the same gate over and over and over either sitting or posting, I would really just have to focus on my breathing and just think of it per eating, eat me out and you know, just like do a little meditation, like think about parts of your body and focus on your fingers or your elbows or whatever, because it, it got to where it was quite painful at times, but this day with the, with the stomach problem and then not having those stirrups the right way. And Oh, it was, you know, that four kilometers back from the, the camel race the first day when I was struggling, it was like that, but it was 20 kilometers of that. So yeah. Or 40 kilometers, 2030 probably. But yeah, it wasn't the best day for me.

Tyler (01:35:58):

I, I, I didn't have a terrible day on that day, but there were moments and points in time throughout the whole entire trip where I, I understand how you, how you felt, where I did have to focus on my breathing. And I did have to, like I said, when I was really feeling bad on that, that third day, I kind of had to space out and just watch the hair on the back of the Campbell's neck, go up and down, up and down, up and down and kind of, you know, time that with my breath, because it was really a one camel foot in front of the other for awhile. Um, but at the same time with all of that pain, well on this trip, I re I LaRue taught me a couple of different things, but, um, one of them was pain is just weakness, leaving the body.

Tyler (01:36:40):

And I definitely am glad I heard that one earlier in the trip rather than later, because then you could reframe the suffering of sitting through the camel, um, having your knees and your butt feel like they want to explode off of you. Um, but at the same time, it was also a great reminder for, for everyone on that trip to, to know what the human body can do and to know what you can do if, if you put your mind to it and you let your body do it, um, it was a big mental battle. But if anything that I took away from this entire trip is that even in a situation where you want to give up and you want to, you know, you have a support vehicle there, you can always go into support vehicle. It's actually, I think looking back on it so worth it, that, you know, you push through those, those tough times and get to camp and that feeling after getting it to camp, when you're really not feeling like doing anything at all, other than, you know, drinking half a bottle of whiskey and passing out or something like that, um, it's such a good feeling to,

to look back on and I still feel like I actually, I have to go back to Mongolia and do this all over again because I spent two kilometers of that third day in the support vehicle.

Tyler (01:37:52):

So technically I didn't completely finished. So went, we went

Warwick (<u>01:37:56</u>):

About four kilometers further than we're supposed to. So I think you still made it.

Tyler (01:37:59):

Yeah, but that was my favorite part about the trip too. It was just kind of that self realization that even when things are really, really sucky, you can work your way out of those situations mentally.

Warwick (01:38:15):

Yes. Um, so yeah, so the next day, which second to last day, second to last day, that's right. Yeah. We went, we went through some crazy, um, formations, you know, like parts of, we were riding along this flat plane for quite a long time. And in the distance it looked like the pyramids in Egypt, but there was two of them and there was a big flat plateau right next to it. And we, and I was thinking, I wonder, I'd love to get close to that, to have a look at it. Anyway, we rode all the way to the base of these two pyramids. They just a rock formation, uh, but perfectly shaped pyramid, but perfectly shaped pyramids. And they were boobs, boobs, mountains, and mountains. And they just look too big boobs sticking up out of the thing. So we wrote up the top of that big old plateau and ended up on top of them up above the, the boobs. Um, it was beautiful up there, stunning. And then we wrote down off of that plateau. And then we went through old sorts of amazing, like, uh, dry Creek beds with rock formations. And, uh, it looked parts of, it looked like we're in Arizona, you know, like in Sedona or something like that. Um, parts, uh, it was just, uh, probably the best. I think it was the best day visually riding as far as just the rock formations and stuff were good to see.

Tyler (01:39:36):

Yeah. That was also one of the coolest places that we stopped because I think it had one of the biggest views. You could actually see the mountain that we started at underneath with the, uh, near the dunes of the first camp. It was way off in the distance. And then you could see, uh, super, you could see the mountain range that we crossed to go to the caves. Um, and you can see in the, just off into the distance and, and still, like I said, like, no, not a single fence in sight, just absolutely wild territory that very few people have ever had the pleasure to see. So that was awesome. And then, yeah, the afternoon of that day was some of the coolest, uh, cam we're riding that we did along the entire trip. I actually godfather gave me a camel to pack, to lead behind, to pony behind.

Tyler (<u>01:40:26</u>):

So I was technically writing two camels, although I did not write in one lead one. And, uh, yeah, that was a bit of an adventure because if one camel wasn't listening to me, the other was, and then sometimes the one that I was riding wasn't listening to me and the other one was, and it was, uh, some of them, sometimes they both didn't listen to me. And I think like the camera was leading God away on me a couple of times, just because it spooked or it refused to go or one of those things. And then I think when I was handing him back to godfather, one time they, they spit. And when they spit, they it's atrocious.

It's this basically. I mean, they're all they're eating is shrubbery, but it's, it's like sticks and mucus and saliva and all sorts of stuff and it stinks. And when they, they spit so or sneeze or whatever they do, they do it with such force that it basically just gets ingrained into whatever clothing you have on you. I remember passing one of the camels that I was leading back to the godfather and it just spit all over him. And he just looked like he had just got covered in this nasty, nasty stuff.

Warwick (01:41:42):

So we finished, you know, part of that, riding through all that Rocky country, we ended up killing up like these Razorback ridges. So if you look down to your right, there's a 200 foot of drop down to your right and down to your left, there's 200 foot drop down your left. And I think you'd let it Camelot that in your tower. Yeah.

Tyler (01:42:00):

I let a camel up a really sketchy portion of, uh, stuff that actually went, I went up at people were like, okay, let's find a different way. Cause it was, and it was one of those things. It was the herders. Like, don't stop halfway up this like rise, cause you need to keep momentum. And of course, because I was leading a camel, uh, I, it stopped in the middle of it. And I thought I was gonna, I thought the game was going to flip over backwards. Honestly

Warwick (01:42:24):

I did too, because they said, don't stop because once they stop, they can't get going again and they could fall down and fall over backwards. And I thought you were actually going to have a tip of camel ever on your right.

Tyler (01:42:32):

And it's a big, it's a big drop off those camels. I mean, you're up like seven feet at least on the top of their back.

Warwick (01:42:38):

Yeah. I'd say the camels are probably about their backs about the height of an 18 hand horse. I mean, they're, they're a long way out there. And then, so you're S you're, that's probably about seven feet and your bomb is at seven feet. So, you know, your head's 10 foot off the ground. It's a fair way up there.

Tyler (01:42:53):

I managed to my dad was talking earlier about dismounting and having the people pull your ropes. I actually managed to, to jump off of mine pretty much every single time, but it was a big drop. And I was always concerned, even though I was only exiting on the left side, that as soon as I hit the ground, I'd spook the camel and then it would kick me. So it kind of was like a land and jump away really quick. So, but that just ended up working better for me. But yeah, we, I ponied the, uh, the cam all the way up that Hill. We saw some big horn sheep that day for the first time and antelope, lots of antelope. Yeah. That Canyon was really cool. We took a vodka break halfway and tied up the Campbell's really quick. And this Riverbed and climbed up to this little spot and drank a bottle of vodka with everyone in the middle of the day.

Warwick (<u>01:43:38</u>):

And just so people listening, the camel guys have this vodka shoved down their deal, you know, and we didn't know what we're doing. So just in case people think that Tal and I took a bottle of vodka a day to go to and around Mongolia, know that the, the nomads had all the, all the, um, the vote gets. So where did we stay that night? I can't remember that camp.

Tyler (01:43:58):

It was up on top of that Ridge line. It wasn't too far of a ride after, after you almost fell off your camel for, because you thought you could stand up on his back.

Warwick (01:44:08):

Well, I could stand on the camel's back. I just can't crack a whip world standing on the camel's back because that's what it was. So I got part of it done. Got a great picture though. I didn't know you did. Um, and so, yeah, then the last day we had

```
Tyler (<u>01:44:22</u>): It a day,
```

Warwick (01:44:23):

Half a day as well. And so we, um, and it was a relatively easy ride the last day, even though it was the last day and our bodies are pretty tired. I didn't, you know, it was a half day ride and it's funny. It wasn't until I rode into that last camp. So we all kind of go to our camels go. And I think I might've been the first one in the cause I was cracking the stuff we can carry it on, but as we read in the camp, I kind of get a bit of emotional. I got a little bit overwhelmed, like, I made it. I, uh, you know, I, you know, I, I, yeah, I wasn't exactly sure what it was, but it was like a head, this pretty intense feeling. I don't know about you when you're out in there, but I sure did.

Tyler (01:45:07):

Um, I think I was happy to have it over and done with, for sure. But, um, at the same time, my, there were some thoughts in my mind, you know, once one, this is, this is a once in a lifetime thing. And even though during the suffering, it was, it was really hard to be like, I want to be here in this moment. Um, there's different types of fun, you know, like type one fun type two fun. This is definitely type two fun. So the kind of fun, that's not necessarily fun in the moment, but then as soon as you look back on it, you're just like, Holy cow. I mean, unforgettable. And I remember catching myself a couple of times in amongst me riding, being like, wow, this is, do I really want to go home? Really? Like, can we just live out here in the Gobi desert every day and eat antelope dumplings and get taken care of by boo-yah and sleep on the ground. But at the same time, it was also, you know, in a very extreme place and a very hard harsh lifestyle. I also remember later that night during our going away party, thinking about it when just staring up at the, at the stars as well, just thinking about how awesome and how probably will never, ever be able to experience anything like that. Again, just kind of catching yourself in the moment

Warwick (01:46:24):

The going away party didn't have to experience anything like that. Again. Um, we, so, you know, we, we got there, we had half a days riding and then, you know, kind of hung out all afternoon and watch the Gangas can take his camels back. And they butchered a goat and put up a tent. We got to see a bit of stuff going on, but that night we had dinner any out in our, um, big truck. And then we went into the

nomads hut. We had drinks, we had more food and you know, we've got a concert. Some local girls had written their camels who, who knows how far and sang first. And it was pretty cool. And then we kind of having a party and there was 50 people in the girl wasn't that 50

Tyler (<u>01:47:04</u>):

People. Yeah. You wouldn't believe

Warwick (01:47:06):

50 people in an 18 foot circle that has some furniture in it too. And a stove in the middle of that. You can't sit there. And, uh, I don't know who it was, but someone said, Oh, let's go outside. We're thinking outside, bloody cold outside, but let's go outside. We go outside. There's a big roaring bonfire and AZ. And there's some little sand dunes right by there. And as we walk out to this bonfire and they're playing all this mute, they got a big speaker and they're playing music. And we're thinking, this is cool from behind that sand dune comes fireworks, like the big ones, the Roman candles or whatever they are. And that was just a surreal moment. Wasn't it? Because we had no idea that was going to happen.

Tyler (01:47:43):

Yeah, no, not at all. I mean, you, like I said, you're in the middle of the Gobi desert and you yeah. To watching those fireworks, it was like, Whoa, this is Mrs. Once in a lifetime, for sure. I'll never forget that. And then the music that they were playing all night long was hilarious. Um, and just everybody dancing now, but it was very, yeah, it was very tribal. It felt at times start dancing style around that fire. And, and there was no lack of alcohol, unfortunately,

Warwick (01:48:13):

But it was like, it was like a big dancing conga line around that fire. And it, yeah, it was, it was quite tribal. Um, but, uh, it was our last night with the nomads. And there was, like I said, some of the little local girls had come over there and they were out there dancing all night, having such a good time. They were cute. Those little girls.

Tyler (01:48:32):

Yeah. That was, it was awesome to see that. And all the, all the local herder boys and stuff were, were there as well, although they weren't dancing as much, which is kind of funny because me and LaRue were dancing our little butts off in the, those hurt her boys that were kind of shy.

Warwick (01:48:49):

I think I even got some rhythm that night. I think you did. Yeah. Must've been all those, those different things we were drinking. So yeah. So that was our last night. It was pretty amazing. And you know, when, when Gangas Kahn left, you know, when they wrote off late in the afternoon with the camels, it was, I had to pause and think, cause they just jumped on their camels and see ya later off they went like it was nothing. And I'm thinking those guys are gonna ride about 40, the sun's going down now. So those gonna guys are gonna ride about 40 kilometers after sundown in the pitch, dark with a herd of camels. And we just come through some pretty Rocky sort of stuff to get back to where they're from. And I was thinking, wow, that was just, everybody just shook their head with, like, those are some, two hard men. Right.

Tyler (01:49:35):

I remember watching him grow up. I remember watching him ride off and it was like, they, they're not even, even most of the herders are really, they posted a little bit, but for the majority of the time were just sitting. Yeah. Like they were just so good at riding those gambles that it didn't phase them. They could have done it asleep and they probably have,

Warwick (01:49:54):

And with the stirrups really, really short, like they're almost the knees away out in front of them and their heels are just underneath their bum, you know, not very far. And it looks like the most uncomfortable way to ride, but anyway, yeah. Off they went. So yeah, when those guys, when those guys headed off into the distance, it's like, buddy, he'll they just going off into the night and it was like, it's not a big deal. So it was a great evening. The next day we got in the cars and had to have a 10 hour drive back into town, which was not much fun after drinking all night, but anyway, and then we got back to civilization. So that's the story of our big trip to Mongolia. We actually had to fly back through, through, um, Tokyo because Beijing airport was shut down because we got in there just as the COVID thing started. And when we, when we left, Oh, well, two days off, two or three days after it got there, they closed the Mongolian border thing. But thing I think. But, um, yeah, when we left, when we got back into the U S if you had been in mainland China in the last two weeks, that we're going to quarantine you as an umbrella. So for us, it had been 15 days since we went through Beijing. So we, we got in. Okay.

Tyler (<u>01:51:07</u>):

Yeah. And barely, um, what's interesting actually is that Mongolia is still, I think, has only gotten, not even like a hundred cases of as, uh, as of this moment, this is the second spike in, in the U S um, on the day of this recording it's Monday, August 3rd. So actually in, in the state of Hawaii, uh, today was a record high for cases. So the fact that Mongolia is still not had very many cases at all. Um, it was really shocking that they shut down the Porter immediately. And one of the members on our trip, Sam, she actually got sick about halfway through. And we at, at this point in time, didn't know enough about the virus to know what it really looked like or when it came on. Um, and so we actually considered that she had it, but, um, she was pretty sick. He was pretty sick. Yeah. She was like, it was a really bad, but it was, it was like a 48 hour flu. Yeah.

Warwick (<u>01:52:07</u>):

And I started feeling it coming on and I was thinking, Oh God, that's the last thing I want to add here is that bloody flu. But, um, luckily it didn't fully come on, but yeah, Sam, Sam was quite sick, but anyway, yeah. So we made it back just in time for the world to go slightly crazy. But anyway, so that's the story of our amazing trip to Mongolia toilet. It was a pleasure. And an honor to do that with you.

Tyler (01:52:30):

Yup. Thank you for having me on here. No, I meant the trick itself. Well, thank you both. Yes. The trip was amazing and, uh, I'll never forget that. And it was, it was actually really awesome on the trip. Everybody, um, commented on, uh, on me and my dad, you know, just saying how lucky we were to be able to go and do this together because not every son and father gets to go ride camels across the Gobi desert. So it was really cool to, uh, to be there with, with you and go through all that.

Warwick (01:53:04):

It was pretty amazing. And a few guys listening, if anybody's interested in doing it, as soon as the world opens back up again, Chloe is, uh, I think she's still doing that, but you look her up on, um, social media, Chloe Phillips Harris. She was actually, she organizes some different ones during the year, but after, so it would've got called off, but it would have been probably around now, maybe August.

Tyler (01:53:27):

I think it was, yeah, I think it was mid July.

Warwick (01:53:29):

Okay. So she was going to gride a thousand. How far was it? It was a thousand kilometers, a thousand kilometers from South to North in Mongolia. Um, and the first, uh, whatever three, the first 200 kilometers was on camels. The next 50 kilometers was on yaks because you go over some really steep mountains, nothing else can go over. So you get a ride yaks for 50 kilometers. Then you ride horses for, For 500 kilometers or something like that, something like that. And then you ride reindeer the last 150 kilometers. And, uh,

Tyler (01:54:09):

It was going to take them a month.

Warwick (01:54:11):

I was going to take them 28 days to do that. And they said to us, I said that they said they wrote the account for 250 kilometers, but only it takes them three days or something or other. And I said, how, how do you, how do you do that? And I said, Oh, well, because it's summertime, the sun comes up way earlier. So we can leave a lot earlier because we didn't believe on our camels till 10 o'clock in the morning. And she said, so we just ride twice as far, each day. And I'm thinking twice, as far as we rode on the camels each day, that really sunk in like that, that big day that we had, we were glad it was done. And I can't imagine doing twice that on camels.

Tyler (01:54:46):

Yeah. Um, I would have to get a couple more gel pads next time. I think if you go back.

Warwick (01:54:51):

Yeah. Well, you can, you can take the one that you didn't take in the first place you reuse it. That's true. Next time, Tyler. Next time. Yep. Next time. Okay. Well, thanks for joining me on here. And it has been, it's been great. Recapping out a little story and I'm glad we got to share it with everybody.

Tyler (<u>01:55:08</u>):

Yeah. Thank you everyone for listening. And I'm, I'm actually the podcast editor, so it's cool to be on here, um, after editing all the podcasts so far. So thanks for making me a part of this data and, and thanks for taking me again.

Warwick (01:55:23):

No worries at all. Love you. Love you too. Okay, guys. Well, that's it. We're going to wrap it up for this podcast. Thanks for joining us. And we'll catch you next time on the journey on podcast.

This transcript was exported on Dec 18, 2020 - view latest version here.

Tyler (<u>01:55:34</u>):

Thanks for listening to the journey on podcast with work Schiller Warrick has over 650 full length training videos on his online video at

Speaker 3 (<u>01:55:44</u>):

Videos dot Warrick, schiller.com. Be sure to follow Warrick on YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, to see his latest training advice and insights.