

Speaker 1 ([00:00:12](#)):

You are listening to the Journey on podcast with Warwick Schiller. Warwick is a horseman trainer, international clinician and author who helps empower horse people from all over the world with the skills, knowledge, and mindsets needed to create trusting partnerships with their horses. Warwick offers a free seven day trial to his comprehensive online video library that includes hundreds of full length training videos and several home study courses@videos.warwickschiller.com.

Warwick Schiller ([00:00:45](#)):

Good day everyone. Welcome back to the Journey on podcast. I'm your host, Warwick Schiller, and I'm actually recording this intro from Australia where I'm doing some clinics, so if you can hear some cockatoos screeching the background, that's where it's coming from. So this week's podcast, I interviewed a couple who, they live in Europe. He's an Aussie, she's German, and they basically live off the grid riding horses through and around all over Europe. Pete, so it's Pete and Louisa Bridle. And Pete was in a former New Zealand soldier. He's been a professional hunter. He's quite the adventurous sort of a guy, and Louisa is just as adventurous and it's really hard to kind of tell you what their CV is and as far as their bio because it's so eclectic. But these two people are quite the adventurers, like some of the adventurers I've had on the podcast before, and I can't wait for you to hear their adventures of riding horses all over Europe. Pete and Louisa, welcome to the Journey on podcast.

Pete ([00:01:58](#)):

Pleasure to be here.

Luisa ([00:01:59](#)):

Thank you for having us. It's awesome.

Warwick Schiller ([00:02:02](#)):

I usually chat a bit before the podcast gets started, kind of warm things up, Pete and you guys listen at home. I've heard the craziest stories from Pete Louisa already and we haven't even started yet. So let's start with what the hell your two crazy adventure is doing in your life at the moment. And then what I want to do is unravel how you got to that, not just to the point you're at, but the outlook on life. You have to bring you to doing what you guys are currently doing. So what are you guys? Are you professional nomads?

Pete ([00:02:35](#)):

Well, it's winter, so we're having a winter break. We're very lucky in that my lovely wife's family has a small farm on the edge of the Bavarian forest, so we're wintering here with our horses. My horse is Marengo, he's Cabra din cross Arabian. He's insane, but he's a good horse and Lou has a lovely Irish Connie Mara Thoroughbred Quarter horse sort of mix. Yeah, so we're just hiding in the forest, waiting for the snow to melt before we hit off on another long ride, but lose a baker and I'm making saddles all day long, so it's just, it's the calm before the storm.

Warwick Schiller ([00:03:16](#)):

So tell us about the long riding where you're at now. Where did you ride from? What was your last ride to get to where you are now? I don't mean the last day of riding, I mean, where did you start from to end up in the Bavarian Forest?

Luisa ([00:03:29](#)):

Well, last summer we did a tour of Southern Europe, so we started in Germany and we basically made a loop around Switzerland. We had something different planned, but as often things didn't turn out as we thought they would at the beginning. So we just made the best out of it and it ended up being a loop around Switzerland and coming back for winter here to Germany.

Pete ([00:03:56](#)):

But I guess it really did start July, 2019. It started in Mongolia quite honestly. I was fed up with society, a lot of challenges in my life, a lot of issues I had to work through and I was just done. The only place I was ever really happy was in Mongolia up north near Lake Michael, hunting wolves in the forest with my Mongol mates and that, yeah, I thought I'd just go back, meet up with my horses and ride west and yeah, I met Lou. And so our journey together started on the 22nd of July, 2019. Did

Luisa ([00:04:31](#)):

You say so somewhere in summer?

Pete ([00:04:35](#)):

Yeah. And the person that introduced us is just pouring me on the leg wanting to come up and say hello. Oh,

Warwick Schiller ([00:04:42](#)):

Hello puppy dog.

Pete ([00:04:44](#)):

So I saw this Cooley Kelpie, obviously an Australian catalog walking through a park in Mongolia. I'd just flown all the way there from Melbourne, having come from New Zealand, I had a few beers. I'd watched Red Dog, I'd watched Warhorse. So of course I was a bit emotional, a bit drunk, and yeah, it was like, I don't know, eight in the morning or something, and this little kelpie runs past. So I followed it over and there was this beautiful girl with a shaved head and blue eyes sitting there looking very sad. And so I said, hello.

Luisa ([00:05:19](#)):

That was me. I had shaved hair long time ago now I was on my way with my dog from Germany to Australia. But the dog, Jill, she's a character, she will come again and again in this podcast, super resting us. She's originally from Australia. I got her there and I went back to Germany to make apprenticeship. That was a deal I had with my parents. And then I wanted to go back to Australia. I loved the farm work with cattle and horses there, so I was heading back there. But Jill's a very sensitive soul. So on the flight from Australia to Germany, she was quite traumatized.

Pete ([00:06:01](#)):

She's traumatized with a bird, flies past it.

Luisa ([00:06:05](#)):

She's a very sensitive, beautiful soul. I was like, I'm like got no real plans. I've got time. I wanted to go back to Australia, why not do it on the land route? So that's how I ended up in Mongolia on my way to,

Pete ([00:06:25](#)):

But what did you do? What did you do when you were in Mongolia?

Luisa ([00:06:29](#)):

Well, I got a visa straight away for three months there because they were so fascinated that they had a horse culture that goes back so long. And from pictures and stories I heard it was just so different. So I was like, I get a three month visa to get a bit more, to feel more the culture and especially see what they do with the horses. So I came there and then I met, I think it was was the third day there, I met these two German girls and they were planning to buy some horses and rides from Mongolia. And there I was standing and feeling pretty stupid, being like I come here being all excited, doing a three months visa to experience it and didn't have the balls to do something like them. So I hear it and I was like, I'm going to do that too.

([00:07:15](#)):

And then I ended up riding through Mongolia a couple of days on my own and then got a horse stolen and a French girl joined me and she was hiking and I was riding. And yeah, we did that for one and a half months. And then I stayed with a Mongolian family for another month, and then I went back to Ula Barta and wanted to keep traveling a little bit because I still had a few weeks and then I burned my foot and then I was sitting in a hospital until the end of my visa and tried to go into China. I had the vets organized, I've done so much paperwork to that place, and the vet was like, yeah, that's no problem. Then I hitchhiked to the Chinese and then they told me I can't be let in, but they let me wait for, I don't know, four hours. So they could take a photo of me and my dog, and then they sent me again away again. And yes, so that's why I was sitting sad in Mongolian Park. I was just couldn't keep traveling the way I wanted to, didn't really know where to go and what to do. And then I saw this man coming over asking if he could pet my dog.

Warwick Schiller ([00:08:33](#)):

I dunno, I don't think we are going to have near enough time to get half the stories out of you guys today, but I kind of want to focus a little bit on, well, separately, I want to get the together stuff too, but I want to do this separate thing. So Pete, you've been a soldier, you've been a hunter. You told me before you were in Papua Guinea hunting for gold. You told me you've been a koala catcher.

Pete ([00:09:01](#)):

Yeah, I've worn a lot of hats. So out of school, just if I'm completely honest about it, I followed my parents' ambition for me. I grew up on the Mornington Peninsula. Both my parents are educators. They wanted me to be a primary school teacher. So I was just like, all right, now I thought that university would be American pie or a road trip or something. Like I, I'm an 18 year old kid, I don't know anything. So the youngest person in my university course with me was 27. I was 18. I liked doing burnouts in my car. I like drinking beer. I still not drinking beer, but I wasn't ready for university. So I deferred and I took a job catching koalas on a wilderness island for six months. The pay was terrible, but I just loved being in the bush. It was awesome. I was doing a bit of professional.

Warwick Schiller ([00:10:01](#)):

Let's talk. Let's explain that. So you were telling me before Snake Island is just off the bottom of the morning to pen

Pete ([00:10:09](#)):

It's commentary and basically it's quite a decent sized wilderness area. And in 1970s, they had a different idea of what national parks were, and basically they chucked a whole bunch of koalas out there. They thought they'd go extinct, but the koalas only eat mannar gums, mess mates and peppermint gums. And once they'd gone through all of them, there was not really much for them to eat on the island. So given they were killing all the trees, we were sent out there and I climbed up trees and caught koalas all day long and sent 'em back to the mainland. And unfortunately there's not really much habitat left for them, and we put them somewhere that probably wasn't the best for them, but hey, we got 778 koalas off the island. And yeah, it was better than being at university. I needed to be a primary school teacher.

([00:10:59](#)):

But from there, I never looked back. I really, I couldn't handle the structure of the civilized society. So took off to New Zealand, lots of adventures there, bounced around all over the world doing all sorts of things. Everything from real estate to running a marketing firm to, yeah, I was deep sea fishermen for a while, did some sort of private security contracts sort of thing, and then ran a scrap metal yard, went in the army for a bit, deployed to the South Pacific in a peacekeeping role. I got on pretty well with the natives there. I learned the language for the Solomons in the space of a week, and I was on a patrol on the weather coast, and we were looking for some guys that had done some bad things and going into a village way up in the mountains, I met a group of people where only a hundred of them spoke their language.

([00:11:57](#)):

And one of the guys in the tribe spoke Central Solomons, which I spoke as well. And this little kid was terrified and I was trying to say, don't be scared of us. We're not here to hurt you. And he's like, oh, he's not scared of you. He's scared of the other people in the forest. He ran into one of them this morning and I was like, what do you mean the other people in the forest? He's like the really tall people with the fur that smell really bad and scream. I'm like, what? So he tells me about Bigfoot basically. And so yeah, after I was out of the army and I went and became a farmer for a bit, I had a game ranch in New Zealand and just took people hunting and I just couldn't shake it. So I was like, right, I'm going back to look for Bigfoot. So I spent a couple of years of my life in the South Pacific looking for undescribed hominids, of which I had several encounters with. There are absolutely undescribed hominids in the South Pacific. I think it's Homo Floresce personally, which we know from a fossil record to at least 12,000 years ago. I have written a book on it and it's coming out in about three weeks time. But yeah, this is like six podcasts worth just in that. But

Warwick Schiller ([00:13:04](#)):

All that, let's not brush over that bit. Anthropology. Tell me more about that. You actually had encounters with Yes,

Pete ([00:13:16](#)):

I had several

Warwick Schiller ([00:13:17](#)):

Encounters. Did you actually cite them with your own eyeballs?

Pete ([00:13:20](#)):

Now I've got to be very careful when I say see them with my own eyes. Yes, absolutely. But are you a credible witness? That's the thing. So the first encounter we had was on this logging road, and we are cruising up the logging road and we see some tracks going up, but oh, by the way, I don't think they're giants. I've never encountered a giant one. I've only ever encountered little ones, tiny, a meter 20 tall. So there's some prints going up the track and you get a feeling. So we stop the car and as soon as I open the door, something just crashes through the trees and literally just starts making monkey noises at us. So my girlfriend at the time, she just absolutely shits herself. I wasn't too excited at the prospect of going into the bush. So I grabbed my G P s, I grabbed my bush knife, it's like a machete.

([00:14:12](#)):

I grab my camera and I go into the bush and this thing starts smashing through trees and I'm like, no, I'm out. So I backed out of that one. Then a little while later, all the natives point to the same picture in my little photo book every time saying, oh, it's these things. They always point to Homoerectus or homo fluoresce, anis. I had all these different pictures of animals and things, and I'm saying, what do you see in the forest? Elephants? Tigers. I had a Tasmanian tiger in there, goats, all kinds of random animals. And they're like, no, no, no, no, no. As soon as you get to home erectus, you're like, yes, this one. So yeah. So I kept looking and they told me that, go up to this village. There's kids that have been kidnapped there. One of the guys in the village, he killed some after they kidnapped his wife.

([00:15:05](#)):

Long story short, they're like, they're always up around the limestone caves trying to catch bats. So I went up there, and the problem is the melanesians always follow you. So you've got 10 guys with you smoking, talking, and you're trying to ninja through the bush, and it never quite works. So we spooked some, and yeah, they started vocalizing from one side of the valley and some in front of us. I went forwards a little bit and I just saw a fern frond like that in front of me, and a hand come down, I saw one's face it let go of the frond, and it was gone. So that's the closest I've come to seeing one in daylight. But then another time, three of the little bastards cornered me. I was stalking at night. It was just gone dark. I'd crossed the river and I'd found some footprints going up the stones.

([00:15:54](#)):

So I followed them up a Razorback ridge, and I slipped over going up the ridge and grabbed a bamboo stick. And obviously I'd left my scent on it. And as I went further up the ridge, one come up behind me, spooked behind me, made monkey noises, crashed through the trees, the one that I was following started making noises in front of me. I wasn't very happy about the whole situation, realizing I was stuck on a razorback with one in front and behind. So I went down, down the spur, they were all crashing through the trees. I ran into the river. I was waist deep in the river. There was one on one side of the river, two on the other side of the river. I was stuck in the middle of it. It's almost pitch black, and I can just see the silhouettes on the bank, and I filmed the whole thing.

([00:16:37](#)):

I'm talking to the camera, the whole thing, the whole time while filming it. And yeah, it's just squashy rubbish. Really. I never got that perfect photo. And even if you get that perfect photo, I mean, it's 2022 Photoshop. So yeah, it's a long story. It's a really long story. I can't describe it at five minutes, 10 minutes. I talk about this for 10 hours. I mean, the amount of scientific research I've done on this is ridiculous. But most importantly, what I've tried to do is research the myths where they come from talking about oral traditions. I'm from near Melbourne. So the Kum people that used to live around

Melbourne always had stories about Bunyips. William Buckley crossed the heads, lived with the Kum people for 30 years. He said he saw Bunyips bunyips were most likely seals swimming up the river, but could there have been a diprotodon?

(00:17:37):

The proto Don was a wombat that was about the size of a rhino that we know in the fossil records up to 40,000 years ago. Is the Bunard myth oral tradition carried on from something that's real? Or is it misidentification of something that we know is real and alive today? Just like the coolant people said, port Phillip Bay was a flat plane a thousand years ago, and the last ice age was 50,000 years ago when it was a flat plane. But the story says a thousand years ago, some kids threw a spear, it hit a magic water trough, and the bay flooded. Well, actually, we now know from proper scientific research that a thousand years ago it was a floodplain, and that shifting sands blocked the heads up, turned it into a plane, sands shifted back, the whole bay flooded. So that oral tradition, this effect to it, I mean Sodom Gomorrah, we now know as a volcano, a volcano blew up back then.

(00:18:30):

They were like, God did it. So what I tried to research was if there's all of these myths throughout the Solomon Islands of there being Bigfoot and giants and all of that kind of stuff, where did that myth come from? And I mean, we've got orangutans. I mean, we've got orang penda, we've got iku gobo. I think they call him up in Flores and that, I mean, the Portuguese saw these things 400 years ago, documented them. I mean Vietnam. The Vietnam War, American soldiers actually had firefights was rock apes. Rock apes, throwing rocks, upright walking homage creatures. It's like, I may as well go and have a look.

Warwick Schiller (00:19:16):

You are a regular Graham Hancock. I dunno if you know who Graham Hancock is. He's written several books. There is a Netflix series on right now called Ancient Apocalypse. Yeah,

Pete (00:19:25):

That guy's a bit on edge. I like him. I like him, dude. Yeah,

Warwick Schiller (00:19:31):

You're another Well,

Pete (00:19:32):

I really wanted to be Indiana Jones growing up. Indiana Jones is badass. He's always got the hot far line, but they don't say forline in Germany anymore. It's just frow. The only time you use Forline is if you're talking to a naughty child. If you're like, now that is taking German classes,

Warwick Schiller (00:19:53):

German's pretty good. That was little girl. That's not very good.

Pete (00:19:57):

So I wanted to have adventures and I mean, I searched for sunken Japanese treasure ships, and I was always talking to Louisa about what if we find a faberg egg? A guy found a faberg egg, bought it for 32 grand in a scrap market. I'm always looking for the amber room or sunken treasure ships, or a panza in the bush full of guns and Nazi gold. I don't know, I just wanted to be Indiana Jones. So what can I say?

You take the adventures that they're in front of you. And when I was looking for Bigfoot, yeah, I bought a lot of gold in the Solomon's and I sold it back in New Zealand and it kept the lights on, so to speak. But overall, south Pacific was too many challenges for me. I came away from it needing a very long mental health break. So yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([00:20:49](#)):

I'd read your bio and knew a bit about both of you, and that right there just took us off in a total nother direction. That was awesome. Oh my goodness.

Pete ([00:21:00](#)):

I had a lot of fun.

Warwick Schiller ([00:21:02](#)):

So how did you end up in Mongolia? I mean, I've been to Mongolia, my son's been to Mongolia with me. Both of you guys met in Mongolia. I have an interest in Mongolia. How did you end up in Mongolia? Why Mongolia?

Pete ([00:21:13](#)):

Mongolia for me was always the dream. I had to go to Mongolia and then I read about it in hunting magazines and probably been 97, 98, something like that. And the place just looked insane. And I'm in Alaska, they talk about it being the last frontier and all of that. But Mongolia is the last frontier of a different kind. As you know, you can't go anywhere in Mongolia without running into someone. You can break down on the most desolate stretch of road in all of Mongolia. Guy will turn up in 15 minutes on a horse guaranteed with what car? With vodka. And you'll get smashed with your new best friend because Mongolia is awesome. But I was there on unrelated business and when I'd finished that, I was just put a post on Facebook, can someone in Mongolia that speaks English, take me hunting? And some guy just messages me, he's like, yeah, man, we can go up north and go hunting with my friends. I'm like, yeah, cool. He's like, yeah, but a couple of things. It's poaching, but they need the food for winter. And I'm like, well, ethically that's it's with me. He's like, can you ride a horse? And I'm like, well, yeah, now we're talking. Yeah, next thing I know, there's this purple Prius outside the hotel and the guy's names were happy boy and always drinking guy. That is literally the translation of their names. So yeah, so we filled the car with

Warwick Schiller ([00:22:41](#)):

Vodka, happy guy

Pete ([00:22:43](#)):

And always drinking guy. Happy boy. Sorry, happy

Warwick Schiller ([00:22:46](#)):

Boy, happy boy. And

Pete ([00:22:48](#)):

Always

Warwick Schiller ([00:22:48](#)):

Drinking guy. Always, always drinking guy.

Pete ([00:22:50](#)):

So we filled the car

Warwick Schiller ([00:22:51](#)):

With vodka, always drinking guy. I think I know that guy. Yeah, I don't drinking, always drinking guys.

Pete ([00:22:57](#)):

Mongolian. Powerlifters. They both wear 110 kilos. Yeah, so it's like we're checking AK 40 sevens under the bonnet because it crossed checkpoints and you're not really supposed to cross with guns and all that kind. I'm just like, this is fricking awesome. These guys just became my best friends. So yeah, I'm in a Mongolian Dell just drinking vodka. We did a thousand Kss in eight hours. You would not believe where a Prius can actually go. I mean we were in Toyota, Hilux country, and yeah, we drove right into this hidden little valley right on the Russian border. And for the next two weeks I just rode off into the forest, couldn't speak any Mongolian. Only one guy could speak English and his English was about as good as my German is, which is not great. And yeah, I hung out with this 68 year old guy.

([00:23:49](#)):

I don't know his name, I just call him old guy. So me and old guy became best mates and yeah, he was, I think he's probably been drunk for the last 65 years. He's 68 years old, he's killed eight bears. Two of them were not with a rifle. So I'm quite impressed by that. And yeah, he would never get off his horse. And I've never met a horseman quite like him. He was just unbelievable. So yeah, we rode through the forest, had all sorts of adventures, chased wolves around elk, all kinds of stuff. And I felt something, there no words, I felt a peace I'd never felt before in my entire life. And one day they're like, oh, we're going up this mountain where there's lots of bears, so you have to get rid of all of your beer. I was trying to just stay on the beer, not the vodka.

([00:24:45](#)):

I mean, you know what it's like there, they wake up at 10 in the morning and they start the day with a bowl of vodka that's passed around. So I drunk all my beers that afternoon and I fell asleep with my horse, have this great little horse set called Digger. I taught him to sit down and I just lay back against him in my Dell. I drunk all my beer. And I woke up the next morning and all the Mongols were standing around me and my horse had his head on my lap and they were just like, we think you're a Mongol. This is strange. And for me it was just like there's home. Home is cold, it's wet, it's in the forest, it's with my horse, my vodka, and those people that feel what I feel, even though we don't share any language. So when I watch society just fall more and more and more towards sort of woke culture and complacency and all that crap, I just kind of was like, yeah, guess I'll go to Mongolia.

([00:25:45](#)):

Yeah. So I mean we describe ourselves as a dreamer and a drunk. I'm just worn out P T s D and just a life that I didn't feel a part of behind me. And this crazy dreamer was just has this idealistic view of how everything's perfect and everyone loves each other. And marriages last forever. And she'd been on these adventures where all that had happened is people had stolen her horses and her dog gets attacked by the dogs the whole time. And yeah, we met a vegan chef and a professional hunter and married at first sight. Within a week of meeting we were hitchhiking across Mongolia with a crazy



German who just driven there from Arkin. He's like, I want to see how far my car will go before it breaks down. No,

Luisa ([00:26:34](#)):

No, no. His son told him that cars a piece piece of shit and the car's not great. And he was like, that's still a very good car. What was it? Toyota, Toyota, Toyota. Corolla have no idea about cars. But he was like, that's going to go. So he is on his own. So what he does, he picks up other travelers and what he does, he has a kind of an idea where he wants to go the direction of, I want to go south. And then he meets someone and if they want to go somehow to same direction, he lets them pick away. So he just goes along, he's the driver, and he was sharing petrol money and had a great adventure, meeting different people and going around this way, he planned to sell the car, I think then in Mongolia, Stan. Stan. Oh, Pete needed to correct me there from far back, it's Stan. But he ended up driving it all the way back to Germany. And just by accident we run into him. We tried to hitchhike because we decided in bin of, I think it was three days that I would join Pete. But the thing was Pete told me he wanted to grab his horses and then gallop across Russia into Kazakhstan. And I was like, yeah,

Pete ([00:27:58](#)):

I thought it'd be easier than getting a visa. Australians are,

Luisa ([00:28:02](#)):

I dunno, I don't really want to gallop across the Russian border. Ofra. I was like, ah, I would like to join you, but I only join you if we started in Kazakhstan because my visa from Mongolia was running out. They already gave me an extension because China was take me off, explained the situation. So yes, so we tried to hitchhike and the first day we were in separate vehicles even because Pete's visa for Russia wasn't ready. And I mean with Jill and the luggage we had then for long riding was rider.

Pete ([00:28:35](#)):

I had no idea what we were doing.

Luisa ([00:28:37](#)):

It was rather big. It took the whole booth. So we made it to that lake.

Pete ([00:28:42](#)):

Yeah, we made it to the White lake and that's where we met Gunther. Now he is so German, I mean picture a German tourist in his late sixties. Yes. He was wearing socks with sandals. Yes, he was in little shorts. Yes. He did have a cable in that jersey with a giant sort of phallic symbol of a camera hanging around his neck. The first thing he says to me is, you're not, I don't sink that varying sandals whilst the best choice for walking up DeVol candle, but became

Luisa ([00:29:15](#)):

He's a son from heaven.

Pete ([00:29:17](#)):

Oh, he was our best mate. We would never be together. We wouldn't be married without Gunther. Of course he's called Gunther Gunther from Akin Gun. So the

Warwick Schiller ([00:29:30](#)):

Story wouldn't work if his name wasn't Gunther.

Luisa ([00:29:33](#)):

Exactly.

Pete ([00:29:34](#)):

But Gunther from Arkin and his little car, Penelope, they became our home for about three weeks.

Luisa ([00:29:41](#)):

Yeah, I think it was.

Pete ([00:29:42](#)):

So again, another car we took where four-wheel drives shouldn't go, but no, it was two-wheel drive and me and Lou spent the majority of the trip actually sitting on the roof of the car. It is spare tires on the roof. So we just sit in the spare tires and drink beer. As we drove around Mongolia waving at the nomadic herders, waving at the yaks, the camels. Yeah, it was awesome. And we bought a goat that was good. And I showed the vegan chef how to prepare a goat, a life goat to be a food goat that night. Well,

Luisa ([00:30:16](#)):

You have to say it was like, for me, it was quite the idea of for foraging your own food or not just going to the supermarket and buying. It was exciting. And that Pete had done this history and he's like, oh yeah, we could just buy a goat or sheep from the local farmers. 10

Pete ([00:30:35](#)):

Bought a goat. No

Luisa ([00:30:37](#)):

Worries. Gutto was on search for a herder. And every time I only saw one, he just went there and he's like, can we buy a goat? And yeah, we had it with us for the day

Pete ([00:30:47](#)):

In the car. Oh, you go ahead.

Warwick Schiller ([00:30:51](#)):

Did you see how the Mongolians kill a goat

Pete ([00:30:54](#)):

Many times

Warwick Schiller ([00:30:56](#)):

Where they put the incision in, they going and they pull it? Yeah. Well they do pull one of the things off they aorta or something, don't

Pete ([00:31:02](#)):

They? Yeah, they break the aorta. Aorta. I'm saying that right. Aorta, they snap the aorta off the heart and then yeah, just they don't spill any blood. Chenga said, don't waste a drop al goat. I killed it Kiwi style.

([00:31:22](#)):

But the night we cooked it, yeah, Lou was just gnawing on the bones, loving it, the former vegan chef and And then all of the wolves decided to howl all night surrounding our camp. Lou didn't even know that wolves were a problem in Mongolia. I laughed at her so much, I was like, wow, you spent six weeks on the step and you didn't have problems with wolves. And she's like, no. Oh, come to think of it. One night they made me sleep in a gur and they even let me bring the dog inside. They were saying something about wolves. And I'm like, yes, Louisa, there's heaps of wolves in Mongolia, but we have wolves here too. Yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([00:32:05](#)):

In Bavaria in the forest

Pete ([00:32:07](#)):

There. Oh yeah, yeah. Last Saturday one had a go at the horses. But I have a Cain. So have you heard of a Cain before? No, the Pakistani warhorse. It's what? The Russians stopped the German tanks at the gates of Moscow with Really? Yeah, they live in the caucuses. They're like the greatest breed of horse no one's ever heard of. So people started crossing them with Arabians for insurance racing. And my boy's mum was a Cain, and his dad's a Turkish Arabian race horse. And yeah, he's a very aggressive horse. So he went through two fences chasing the wolf out of the bag, we think from what we found. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([00:32:53](#)):

Pete, can we get back to when you were in up with your Mongol mates when you're hunting? You said there, you didn't have a word for it, but you said there was kind of like you felt a peace that you hadn't ever felt before. Was it something that was there that felt different or something that was missing that you didn't realize could be missing? Was it like a weight lifted off you or was it a bit of both?

Pete ([00:33:28](#)):

Well, I think it goes back to the late eighties. I'm sure you've seen delight horseman. Brilliant, maybe. But there was a scene that stuck with me since, I don't know how old would I've been, 10, 12, something like that, right before the diggers charge Beersheba, when they find out they're going to charge, one of the blokes takes his hat off and he goes, oh, bugger this, pops it out, pours his water in it and gives the last of his water to his horse. And I've never been able to shake that, but I felt something with my horse and I felt something with those guys there that when you're around horses and horsemen in a wild place facing impossible challenges, everything is real in that moment, nothing else matters. I mean, I was in Turkey when the Syrian conflict was at its worst, and there were a lot of refugees there.

([00:34:34](#)):

And I saw this young lady, she looked exactly like my partner back home in New Zealand, and she was breastfeeding a child, and she had a little two year old, she had a pink parker on, and she had tear blinds, cut through all the dirt on her face. And her son, who was a little bit older, came running over and handed her half a burger that he just pulled out of a bin. And she just gave him this most beautiful smile. And she'd used the only currency she had to escape war, and that was sex. And there she was

with three kids that look completely different from one another. And I mean 48 hours later I was back in New Zealand and my partner, the first thing she did was complain because wifi had gone down and then we went through and drive-through was taking too long and she was complaining and all of that.

(00:35:25):

And I just realized it's like I nothing like you. I will never be like these people. And when I was with the Mongols, it's like we couldn't communicate on the things that so much of society values, but we shared what really mattered. And that was just this connection with the wild, the connection with the horses and this connection with one another. I mean, we could communicate through a game of cards, we could communicate through drinking vodka together. We could communicate whenever we saw a deer or something like that. I mean hand signals and a nod. And there was just this whole other world that I felt there that I've never felt anywhere else. And it was calling me and what can I say? I had to go home. So yeah.

Warwick Schiller (00:36:28):

Yeah. I've been to a few, I suppose you'd call 'em third world countries, but it seems like the people that have the least amount of stuff seem to me the most happiest people I've ever met.

Pete (00:36:45):

Absolutely. I mean, I had a thousand horsepower G T R. I mean, I had a house in Dunedin, hot misses, all that kind of stuff. It's all gone. And I've never been happier than I was in Kazakhstan. We had four potatoes, a bit of meatloaf cooked in a fire, joking about trolls, you, me, the horses chili, the dog sleeping under canvas, freezing cold. It's just the best. It's why we're married. It's why we love each other so much. We love each other. Nothing else matters. And we owe that all to our connection with horses and dogs. Yeah, what can I say? I'm happy with nothing. I mean, I had this beautiful car, a thousand horsepower G T R, and I was scared to drive it because every time it went out, it was a target for theft. And what if someone crashed into it? I mean, I drive with the window down to make sure the engine sounded right. It just made me this anxious nervous wreck. And I mean, we live in a world where there's, people are having a Mercedes parked next to a Bentley in the driveway of their 5 million home and they're sitting watching a 50 inch tv and they're on Prozac because they're depressed. Give me a fire, give me the stars any day.

(00:38:14):

There is no better sound than horses grazing next to a river. And I just follow my heart, took me to Lewin, Jillian, what can I say? Unhappy, happy, very happy.

Warwick Schiller (00:38:30):

It's almost like Rewilding, it's almost like living the way that evolved to actually live that takes away all that stress and anxiety and all that sort of stuff because we're not actually meant to do that. And I've mentioned it on the podcast before, but I dunno if you've heard this story. So I've got to tell you, I met a lady from South Africa a few years ago in Australia, and I asked her how she liked Australia. She's been in Australia for seven or eight years or something. I asked her how she liked Australia and she said, oh yeah, it's all right, but the energy's different. And I thought she meant, yeah, the energy's different. It's a cool beachy vibe. Hey man. And I said, what do you mean? She goes, well, when I go back to South Africa and get off the plane, there's a different energy in the air. And I said, what do you put that down to? And she goes, oh, that's easy. Every man in animal in South Africa knows today's the day I could die. And sounds like when you were up there with those guys and there is no guarantees, you can't call an

ambulance and you can't call the cops. There is no life flight helicopter to come and take you to the hospital to fix your broken leg. Stuff gets real. And I think stuff's supposed to be real.

Pete ([00:39:46](#)):

Absolutely. You know how many people had P T S D after the bush wars? None of them. I mean, after the Iraq war and all of that, I mean, Americas was like 17 people a day. They lost to suicide after the war because of P T S D. I mean, those were ADIs and South African boys that went and fought. I mean, life was hard. They went and fought, they came back. It's like life's still hard crack on. And there's purity to that. I mean, I really respect your ice bath things. I mean, that's not for me. I'm not going to start that. But when the body is used to fighting back hard things become easy. I mean, if I'm known for any quote, it's comfort teaches you nothing. And it's those freezing cold nights. It's those hard lessons that have made me who I am, and it's made it very difficult for me to get on with a lot of people. I have very, very high personal standards. And yeah, I've alienated myself from most of my peers and society as a whole. But yeah, I'm very happy with my wife and my horse. The dog, though, the dog needs to pull up it's bloody socks, man. I'll tell you.

[\(00:41:07\)](#):

No,

Warwick Schiller ([00:41:10](#)):

It's funny you mentioned the ice bath. So recently I was in Texas and I went to dinner with this lady and her husband or her partner, and she was going to be doing ice bath. She was coming to the journey on podcast summit that we had in Texas, which was going to be a couple of weeks later. And she was going to do an ice bath. Robin organized, Robin rented this human optimization gym to do some ice baths after hours at the summit. And this lady was going to do the ice bath and her husband or partner's like, there's no way I'd ever do that. And he said, and why would you even want to? And I started telling him that there's a couple of things to it. My wife started doing it because she's heard of the health benefits of it, and she's really into making sure she's as healthy as she possibly could be.

[\(00:42:04\)](#):

But once she started doing it, she realized, oh, there's the mental struggle of telling yourself to get in there. This pushing yourself through scary situations because your body rejects that cold as much as it rejects jumping out of a plane or walking into that bush to see if bigfoot's in there sort of thing. Your body says no. And then the other thing is it's staying in there is just about endurance, like enduring that discomfort and not alleviating it by getting out. Anyway, I was telling this guy that and I said, so what do you do for a living? And he goes, I'm a welder. I build oil field pipe fence in Texas. And I went, and do you do that all year round? And he said, yeah. And I said, so when it's 40 something degrees outside and I'm talking Celsius, so a hundred and something degrees Fahrenheit in the middle of the summer and it's humid.

[\(00:42:57\)](#):

You're out there standing in the sun welding stick, welding oil filled pipe all day. And he goes, yep. And I said, and when it bloody, when that freezing cold in the wintertime where there's snow on the ground, there's a 40 mile an hour wind blowing out there doing it. And he goes, yep. And then I said, what do you do for fun? He goes, well, what I really like to do is if any of the neighbors have a bull or a cow that's mad and they can't get it out of the bush, I'll saddle up. I'll take my horse trailer, I'll take my horse over there and I'll saddle up and I'll go in there and I'll rope it. And I'm like, you don't need an ice bath. This going,

Pete ([00:43:31](#)):

You'll be best friends.

Warwick Schiller ([00:43:33](#)):

The ice bath is for giving yourself hardships, choosing to give yourself hardships when life doesn't give you hardships. We have air conditioners in our house and we have heaters in our house and we have cushy jobs, and you sit in a nice comfy chair and things like the ice baths or anything like that, whether you decide you want to run a marathon or whatever, it's just pushing yourself outside your comfort zone. And comfort zones are pretty small these days, but it sounds like you've spent all your life pushing yourself outside your comfort zone and you find a great deal of reconnection with yourself in it.

Pete ([00:44:16](#)):

Australia, the roadwork, and that once it's over 30 degrees, they're only allowed to work a certain amount of minutes every hour. So they'll have six guys working, but three of them are sitting in the car with the air conditioning on because they're only allowed to work 32 minutes an hour because it's over certain temperature. I go against all of that. I remember as a kid chatting with the guys that went ashore at Anzac Cove, I mean the Anzac, they'd just be rolling over in their graves if they saw what Australia's become, we we've become so soft. And look, if that's for you, then power to you. But the ice bath thing, as you say, I like the hardship. I mean, it took Louisa a year to get used to the rain, literally a year. And I remember one day we were on the Kazak step, it was about negative 20, it was snowing.

([00:45:10](#)):

And I was saying to Lou, where would you rather be right now? And she's just about in tears and she's like, anywhere but here. And I was like, okay. So the perfect date for us, okay, I picture us in a castle now, one of those big fireplaces with the bare skin rug in front of it, and I'm picturing the carpet that rich red, but with purple curtains, what are we going to order? I mean, I feel like a Tempranillo. Do you feel like a Tempranillo? And suddenly Louisa wasn't there anymore, and we planned a date for about three hours snow coming in sideways. And it is something that because people don't go through this hardship anymore, they don't look inside themselves. I mean, we've created a system with so much excess. Even poor people are fat now. I mean the fattest man in the world a hundred years ago, it was just small.

([00:46:05](#)):

He is just like, ah, he's just obese. He's not even morbidly obese, but people now, it's just as soon as things get hard, they turn and run the other way. That's not the experience I want from life. I respect people wanting comfort, but hard men make soft times and soft times make soft people and soft people make hard times. I think that the world as a whole is headed for hard times. I'm in no disrespect to anyone that chooses to live differently to me absolutely respect that. But for me personally, I'm happiest when it's freezing cold, when the rain's coming in sideways and everything sucks because I know that soon I'm going to be sitting in front of a fire laughing, going, God, geez, I can't wait to go for another elk hunt. It's just when I'm on an adventure, I'm missing home. And when I'm at home, I'm missing adventure. So I'm just stuck in that perpetual loop of torturing myself no matter where I'm, I guess so. But you've come good a lee. You remember the night, the night I'm still was off, stuck on the mountain in Romania. That's the night when I knew you'd embrace the wild. Do you remember that? I know that.

Warwick Schiller ([00:47:26](#)):

Tell us the story about stuck in a mountain in Romania.

Luisa ([00:47:32](#)):

So it wasn't cold then. It was just miserable. And we decided we'd take a track and we often, Pete does the route maybe after I took us in so many dead roads in Kastan, we decided, I leave that to Pete.

Warwick Schiller ([00:47:53](#)):

You're not allowed to map anymore.

Luisa ([00:47:56](#)):

I think I do. Just fine. Just

Pete ([00:47:59](#)):

Let's just see where this goes. And I'm like, babe, I can see where it goes. It goes five kilometers that way. I yell at you. We go five kilometers back and we're here again. No, no, no. It might go through. No,

Luisa ([00:48:11](#)):

It doesn't. You never know.

Pete ([00:48:12](#)):

I've checked on Google Earth, I've checked on maps Me. It doesn't go through. Sorry. Continue your story

Luisa ([00:48:18](#)):

Down. Maybe you want to find your treasures in some of these dead ends. You never know. No. So we normally are very good on tracks thanks to pigs. Good root map. But this was a day where it was, I think it was land as a, it was marked as a bike, bike track, and we got off the horses and it was edgy. It was going up this way. It went down this side, and then we had fallen trees that were so high that they were over the horse's knees, so they hardly got over them and it got steeper and it got slippery, and I think it had some rain a couple of days before, so it just wasn't good ground. So we had this plan on where we wanted to be. At the end of the day, there was this campground, because we were in, it was also bear. Yeah, it was Romania. It was bear.

Pete ([00:49:12](#)):

Oh yeah, it was bear territory.

Luisa ([00:49:13](#)):

So we wanted to be at that place. It was a lake and it was wild camping, but it was a mark camping area, so we thought that would be a good place to be. My horse at the time, smokey, he came from the same place as Pete's horse Maringa, who he still has, but we didn't know it. Then we found out here in Germany when we did an x-ray that he had, I only not in, but

Pete ([00:49:42](#)):

A calcium on his knee. His stifle wasn't great.

Luisa ([00:49:49](#)):

He was a horse with so much heart and he would always give 120%. I don't know how far he pushed, but at this day I would walk most of the day anyway, but it was just like I felt him getting more tired and the road kept getting more harder. You saw a wolf on the No,

Pete ([00:50:11](#)):

No, it was the bear. It was the bear. Oh, you. I didn't see a wolf in Romania. Three bears, but no wolves.

Luisa ([00:50:18](#)):

So we crossed over a pizza bear at the edge of the fur. The horses were a bit off jelly were so it

Pete ([00:50:26](#)):

Was wild pigs. And

Luisa ([00:50:29](#)):

It was one of the days where I was like, all right, let's just get, move on and get where we wanted to be. Then the thunderstorm came in and it hammered down on us and it started to lighten up a bit, and I just smokey started to get cracks. Literally, he had some shakes on his legs, and I'm like, we are tapping out here and tapping out meant at the top of a mountain with another thunderstorm coming in bear territory

Pete ([00:50:59](#)):

Everywhere. There

Luisa ([00:51:00](#)):

Was hardly any food for the horse. There's

Pete ([00:51:03](#)):

Every 30 meters.

Luisa ([00:51:05](#)):

Oh, really?

Pete ([00:51:06](#)):

We just made a giant fire and just,

Luisa ([00:51:08](#)):

Yeah. So the next hour we were dragging logs and we got the fire recently going. So people were convinced that with the smell, we would at least get the bears that we are here. They maybe don't come.

Pete ([00:51:22](#)):

I home clothing all the way around the camp. So anything that come near us would smell. People smell a big fire. But it's just one of those things that's like fireworks. Fireworks. Everyone's always like, oh, don't shoot fireworks near my horses. I don't just say, we're like, well, you should just desensitize your horses



to it because thunderstorms and traffic and all of that kind of stuff, we need to desensitize ourselves as well. And that was the point when Louisa finally became desensitized to nature.

Luisa ([00:51:56](#)):

If he say, so

Pete ([00:51:57](#)):

You were gangster from then on, except when you had the panic attack and fell off your horse.

Luisa ([00:52:05](#)):

But I don't just have my story, my side of the story because it actually goes a bit deeper. It sounds always so cool and relaxed when details. It wasn't that I wasn't that relaxed. So it came in, Julie was wet in the bed and the rain was hammering down so hard, and we don't have a 10. We only have this planner, a plane planner tap. There it is. Sorry. Sometimes my English gets lost, so we only this tar. So I was laying looking at this tar and it was just like this, and I was like, all right, either this tar is going to fall off us, the bear's going to come, or a lightning is going to strike. And I was laying there and Pete was like, we have opened this little bottle of cognac when we got up in the mountains for a couple of days.

([00:53:03](#)):

So he opened both and he'd throw away the lit and he's like, we are going to drink that. And I was like, really? Really? I just want to lay here and hope we don't die. So yeah, we drunk that, and literally I went to sleep and I did not know what was going to happen. I really did not think we would wake up and everything would be fine the next morning. But we did, and there was a really good and very intense experience. But yeah, Pete said, that's why I got used to hardship. I just said it was one of the things where I got over it. Well, all right, you just, when you're in that situation, you don't have a choice anyway. I mean, we literally did not have another choice than to stay there. So we just took it and made the best of it in different ways.

Warwick Schiller ([00:53:57](#)):

Pete mentioned a minute ago, he said something about you having a panic attack. Was that after that?

Luisa ([00:54:02](#)):

Yeah, it was mostly, so with Smokey the Horse I had, I then, I love that horse. I still, when I saw him the first time, I thought it would be my Jill and Gil off. So I was like, yeah, that's it. I was still way more German about riding in horses and how Pete talks about how he was sleeping with the horse. And I had read about that and heard about it, but have done 10, seven years, eight years of riding instruction. And then I did a horse I took care of, and then I did some horse work in Australia, but this real connection with a horse, I just didn't hate to before that. And Smokey really softened me in a lot of ways and made me listen to the horse way more than to all the logical things and all the things I needed to do.

([00:55:03](#)):

And we were stuck at that end and we decided to go up a bank. So it wasn't a really good bank. We weren't really happy to go up that way, but we knew going back would take probably another day and we're like, okay, we've done worse. Let's get up there. I hold the horses. Pete went up and made sure there was a track all the way up, and then he went in the front with Morgo and went up and there was no problem. He said, there's one little bit, which is a bit of loose ground. There's one energy bit. I lived

chill waiting and went up with Smokey and he got stuck and with his back legs, and as he tried to get up, pushing himself up, he rolled over. So he fell over and he got stuck at the end with his laying with his back on a tree.

(00:55:56):

Pete at this point had wondering where I was, so he came running down, he stayed calm with me talking to him. We got all the gear of him in seconds, and then Pete pushed from the bottom. I pushed on, pulled on his head, and we got him moving up after he smashed Pete under him and the tree. But we luckily got all out of there and there were just a few thorns and a broken shoe, but everything else seemed to be fine. But it was when it really started that I started to be really worried about my horse because even so, he seemed to be fine. I was sure he was off and he was walking, and then he had some bug bites. It was the middle of the summer. He had lost a bit of weight and I started to psych myself into that.

(00:56:45):

So I started to see that, and then a shoe got loose and I'm, yeah, I'm really good just concentrating on all this negative and just losing the focus on what is really important. And at this point, when you are out there, you don't have the choice to just stop and rest. So we had to get out of the country. Our visa was running out, we're trying to make contracts for farrier, but at this moment it was just keep walking. So I would walk him and yeah, we would go over into Hungary. We had a big stop there. The horses put on weight and everything just started to be good again. And then we had something like a physiotherapist with the horses and she worked with the horses and yeah, then she said a couple of things when she was working with Smokey, and then I was sitting on the dining table with her one night and I asked her if she thinks it's good to keep, have him traveling like this.

(00:57:54):

And she said, no, she doesn't think he should be traveling like this. But she also said that it's okay that she doesn't think the horse is in extreme pain, but that on long-term, that's probably not a good solution or that something is just not right with his stip. She was with her. Sorry, I'm sorry. Anyway, so I only hear that and then yes, I got so wrapped up in my head that at one point I lost control and I was just so anxious and Pete was in front. We had a fight, so I fell off my horse. I don't really know how it happened. I basically came back to my consciousness when I was screaming, hitting the ground, crying, and Pete was standing next to me and yes, I,

Pete (00:58:50):

One

Luisa (00:58:50):

Thing I was, sorry, I'm always trying, I'm a bit dragging stories.

Pete (00:58:54):

I wasn't telling you to wind it up. I was telling you to stop waving your arms so much. Oh, sorry. Because you get the little microphones here and the more it rubs against your shirt, the more it messes up your sound. So less animation. That's all I was saying. It's Tyler. Thanks you, Tyler, thanks you. Yeah, but I kept trying to be subtle with it, and she just kept on thinking something else and was, look, we've had a really tough journey and we've written about our journey. We've written one for each three years of our ride together. We've covered about 13,000 kilometers together now, but everyone lives this Instagram

lifestyle. Everyone only wants to post the good stuff and we've been through some really, really bad times.

(00:59:44):

Lou's German, I'm Australian, I'm a guy, she's a girl. I'm in my forties, she's in her mid twenties. We are so different. It's not funny. And that's even before we get to the German and the Australian thing. If a German was tasked with taking an aluminum manifold off a motor to put in the scrap bin, they would spend half the morning looking for the correct tools. An Australian would pick up a truck rim, smash it off and have it in the bin in one minute. This is how I was just going to run the Russian border. I mean, what the worst that could happen. I mean, yeah. But Lou is very systematic. She does things very differently. And for the two of us to have lasted about 900 days now on the road, just the two of us, we were literally married at first sight.

(01:00:29):

We actually got married 25th of June this year was awesome. But we have gone through a lot and we feel that to give everyone the perfect happy families version of what we've been through, it is just wrong. So yeah, we've struggled with horses. We wrote a cavalry manual together and it's everything we wished we knew. When we set out on this big romantic idealistic adventure together, all the advice we had was terrible. All the gear we had was terrible. We didn't know what we were doing. We were just not ready for it. But we are still here. We're still here. So

Warwick Schiller (01:01:15):

Tell us about the books you've written. How many books have you written

Pete (01:01:19):

Together or individually? I've written a bunch

Warwick Schiller (01:01:23):

Together individually, whatever.

Pete (01:01:24):

Together. We wrote our first one, which is called Wanderlust with Lou and her little Mongol horses on the cover. That's just about our first year on the road together and sort of covers Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Stan Baja, and Georgia. Georgia was amazing. Have you ridden in Georgia?

Warwick Schiller (01:01:52):

No. Bucket list. I've written none of those places except Mongolia and only on a camel.

Pete (01:01:57):

Yeah, man, you've got, you've got to go and check out and from judging from our talk we had before we started the podcast. You were Love it. So then we did Covid Cowboys. So our second year, second

Warwick Schiller (01:02:12):

Book's, COVID Cowboy. Yeah. So

Pete (01:02:13):

That's Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, Serbia, Romania, Hungary, Austria, Germany. And then we did the horseback honeymoon. As soon as we got married, we just went off on our horses for a honeymoon. And that's Germany, France, Switzerland, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany. So yeah, we've had some pretty long adventures. And one thing we do that's very different from a lot of the other long riders, and that is we actually only have one horse each. So our whole concept is to ride like cavalry did or the mounted infantry did like a hundred years ago. But

Luisa ([01:03:03](#)):

We were smart like this at the beginning. No, the reason how we ended up

Pete ([01:03:09](#)):

Tell 'em about how we ended up here.

Luisa ([01:03:11](#)):

I mean, we could say this is the way to travel for us now. And now we are very thankful for what happened at our third day on horseback together. But we had just purchased these three horses all from different herds. So the horses didn't know each other individually that it was one stallion and two mares and the stallion was a lamb. And we visited him Oh, beautiful. At the best place. And he was like, oh, we wrote him without a saddle. And he was just like, awesome. And then the day we were trying to set off, he had become a stallion again. That was not impressed that he had been taken away from his herd. So he was quite intense. And we made it 10 meters the first day. We basically just took the horses, went extra stop there, camp there and lost.

Pete ([01:04:04](#)):

We lost Willow

Luisa ([01:04:05](#)):

Day three. Lost gelding. Lost the gelding the first night it had had it

Pete ([01:04:11](#)):

Pulled. It pulled its tether. Yeah, it

Luisa ([01:04:13](#)):

Pulled his tether and we're running off. We got him back. We got him back. People were running after him. I got on the other gelding, canter Behind, and with the two of us, we managed,

Pete ([01:04:25](#)):

That's actually the first time I looked at Louisa with any impure intent. The sun's setting. She comes cantering over this ridge bareback on this golden gelding. It's beautiful. And the girl can move. When you see a woman that's at one with a horse, you're just like, damn. So yeah, I was impressed. So she, and as soon as the gelding had pulled its tether and run off, I just looked at her and then ran. Just like, I don't have time to say quick Louisa, get one of the horses. Come over. Come around here. I'm going to go. I just looked at her and she got the whole message. So yeah, we caught that one. We did. And then what happened?

Luisa ([01:05:08](#)):

And then we set off. We did, oh no, I have to say that because it's one of my, I'm hit the table again. It's one of my more funny favorite stories of the trip. It wasn't only the problem we had with the stallion the first day we also packed our packers, so it was falling to a side. So we packed it and it was standing there and it was just falling over. I was like, it was so bad. So we got, Gunter was still with us to this point because he wanted to see us riding up. So we ended up leaving Gunther a whole backpack with all of our staff. We take it back to Germany, we have to get rid of deer.

Pete ([01:05:50](#)):

We had 10 kilos of rice with us, 10 kilos of rice. Don't

Luisa ([01:05:55](#)):

Dunno what to expect. There's

Pete ([01:05:56](#)):

A shop every 40 kilometers across the entire Silk Road. But no, we thought we needed 10 kilos of rice, kilos of rice. We had no idea. We had no idea. So

Luisa ([01:06:09](#)):

First day went really well, we're super happy about it. Second

Pete ([01:06:13](#)):

Day went well.

Luisa ([01:06:14](#)):

That was the second day.

Pete ([01:06:16](#)):

No, the second.

Luisa ([01:06:17](#)):

No, the first day we didn't even get moving. Second day went well. Third day we woke up and there were guys stopping with the car and they pulled out their police badge and we're like, oh ho. There was no trouble. And

Pete ([01:06:29](#)):

Then they pull out the cognac. So we get smashed at like nine in the morning with the Kazak police. They were off fishing or something off, but they never got fishing because they just drunk cognac with us warning. And then the bad thing happened.

Luisa ([01:06:45](#)):

Yes. Then when we were just about to hit the road and we had it all figured out with the stallion, we got out second horseback the first night. We were like, oh, things are amazing. So we went on the horse. I

had this pack horse. I was riding the two, was riding one girl and had the pack horse. Pete was riding the stallion and you said you was already feeling off. When you get on, you hear the voice.

Pete ([01:07:11](#)):

When I did up the girth, I heard this weird noise. It was the girth snapping, but I didn't know that at the time. And when I hopped on the saddle fitted really well. And so it didn't slide and I mow the lights. So I got on easily, but the horse just gave me this, you sure you want to do this kind of message? I mean, my horse riding ability is not fantastic. It's never been fantastic. I didn't even know you needed to learn how to ride a horse. It was a year and a half into our ride when Louisa said, inside rain outside leg. And I was like, what do you use the outside

Luisa ([01:07:46](#)):

Leg? Pete, you didn't hear that from me, Georgia,

Pete ([01:07:49](#)):

Do you remember that memory when Georgia we're on that ride? And I was just saying to the kid, oh, just lean which way you want to go? And you are like, no, inside ran outside leg. Remember that little girl? Anyway, we're riding along and then

Luisa ([01:08:06](#)):

Yes, and then there was a tumbleweed going over the way. You were already past it. And I saw it and it was one of the things, I saw it coming there and I was like, not great, but to be fair, I was a bit tipsy. And then I was like, it's just a tumbleweed. So I was like, oh, let's try not to basically touch it. And then the pack was freaked and it started doing circus around me at the first few round. I got him somehow with this endless rope I had over the untangled. And just as he was calming down, the bags exploded or ripped. So things went everywhere. And that was he fully panicked. He pulled me off the horse. I saw myself in front of the other horse roll to the side, both of the horse, off they went. Pete turned towards me already moving on. He's like, are you okay? And I'm like, yes. And then he just goes into the cantor.

Pete ([01:09:10](#)):

I was going straight to the Gallup and the saddle just went straight under the horse with me on it because

Luisa ([01:09:16](#)):

The girl I saw it, I called you, he was riding over. I was like, Pete, you. Because I saw it. It was going off and it was

Pete ([01:09:25](#)):

So day three, there we were, all of our gear smashed all over the Kazakh step, both lying there. I broke my scaphoid bone. Day three cracked on Australia, but a boy came back with Bill Le Bastard first the stallion, and then we got Jack back. Oh, you named him Bill the Bastard. Yeah, bill Le Legend. We rode at Gallipoli too. So we rode all over Gallipoli. That was amazing. That was incredible. That's another story in itself. So yeah, we got the horses back and we sat down and we had a good chat that night. We tethered the horses up, we addressed a lot of our issues, fixed everything up. And then from there we continued

with two horses because the pack horse, well, someone had picked it up, they weren't going to give it back. So yeah,

Luisa ([01:10:24](#)):

We knew if we wouldn't have it back by night because it was so close to her that it would've either would've run back to home or someone would've picked it off the road and let it disappear in the backyard. There were the two options.

Pete ([01:10:36](#)):

So we've honestly, we've made every single mistake. And then in Uzbekistan, I went on to Egotistically, purchased a young stallion that I thought I could tame given that no one had ever ridden it. And my first ride, it took three guys to hold it down to get me on it, and then I rode it through a city and a snowstorm, and it all went pretty well. But we had the wrong horse and I wasn't as good as I thought I was. And

Luisa ([01:11:02](#)):

It wasn't abused horse. It was an abused horse. And that

Pete ([01:11:05](#)):

Is, and Louisa made the mistake of buying a sports horse that had been used for Cop Kari. It had old injuries. We have failed at everything. We've tried to do something that no one ever tries to do because stupid. It's crazy. The guys that go in to do this sort of thing, we've done, they have a lifetime preparation and we are a dreamer and a drunk that we've had amazing experiences. We've been so far out of our depth. It's just ridiculous. And as I've always said to Louis, it's like eating an elephant. You've got to just do it one steak at a time and

Warwick Schiller ([01:11:44](#)):

One bite at a time. Yeah. Tell me about, because I'm sure you've got amazing crazy stories, but tell me about the stands riding through all the stands. I mean, that's an interesting part of the world. I'm sure you got some crazy stories from there.

Pete ([01:12:00](#)):

I would start with saying Islam is the religion of peace, what you see on the tv? No, those guys are for the most part, really, really, really good. The way we were treated there was absolutely phenomenal in Kazakhstan. When they knew we were headed in a certain direction, we would literally have people fighting over who got to have a stay with them. These people have nothing, but they'll put on everything for you. Everywhere we went, we were just treated with just the most utmost kindness and respect. They were the most beautiful people. Loved it. We had one incident that was a bit strange. We're in a coal mining town and it looked like something from the Hunger Games, and at this stage we still had the Mongol horse bow. So Lou was looking like, oh, Kaus, Eine sort of rocking the, and the town was so sketchy.

([01:13:10](#)):

We stopped on the outskirts quickly and the horses were tired. And I was like, right, let's go find somewhere to hide for a day. I'll come back in tomorrow. We needed an iPhone charger. I broke 13 iPhone cables in 780 days. So yeah, I needed to go back in for that. Found this beautiful spot by a little

lake about sort five Ks out of town, and Lou was a bit tired, so she stayed with the horses. They're just tethered, happily munching the step grass and says Misty cold Morning. So I go in and as soon as I get into town, I meet this Russian guy in the shops and he speaks a tiny bit of English and he's like, I was trying to say I need somebody to charge my phone. He's like, you can charge your phone at my place. So I go around to his place and it turns out he was escaping the Mafiaa.

[\(01:14:01\)](#):

He used to be in the Mafiaa, like the Russian mafia. But then he started telling me he spent six months in the forest hiding, and then he escaped to Kazakhstan and all of that kind of thing. And then his friends come around and the traditional Russian gangster look, they're either in the Aidas track suit from head to toe or the jeans with the black leather jacket and the wife beater or constantly chain smoking. They gave me so much vodka, it was just unbelievable. Then one of them pulls out a C nine light machine gun, what do they call 'em? M two forty nine in America. So he's got this machine gun there and he's like, oh, we stole this from the Taliban. They took it from an American in Afghanistan. And I'm just like, okay, alright. Yeah, I just check the phone charge. Yeah, I'm looking pretty good here.

[\(01:14:54\)](#):

How do I get out of this? So I continue drinking vodka and I cannot drink vodka like a Russian can. So I'm like, oh, let's just go outside for a smoke. And so I don't smoke. I'm having a smoke outside with the Russians panicking phones put back in my pocket. I'm like, I've got to gap it. I wait until they just duck back in momentarily and I just go for it. I start running down the street and I see the black Beamer pull out and start coming down towards me. And this Muslim chap jumps out of his shop and he's like, Hey, hey, mafia, they look for you. Come you're safe with me. And I'm like, oh, okay. Right. This has got to be better. Go inside. And he's like, ah, this is my shop. You need food? Okay, you come back to my place for dinner.

[\(01:15:42\)](#):

I'm like, okay, all right. Anything's better than drinking vodka with the mafia. So we go back to his place and he introduces me to his three wives, all of which hated him and hated each other. And he's like yells at them. He's like, come in the shed come in the shed. And he's like, do you like porno? And I'm like, okay. He gets out this playboy with Madonna as the centerfold from the eighties, puts it out in front of me, starts chopping up weed on it. And he's like, do you like bucket bongs? I'm like, ah, this is not good. So then he tells me he's from the Taliban, he's been fighting in Afghanistan for years, and he come to Kazakhstan to get away from it. I do three bucket bongs with him. I'm full of vodka. I'm not having one of my best days. His wives come in, his wife start fighting, and then one of them turns and quietly looks at me and says in perfect English run. And I'm like, okay, this is not good. Grab my bag. And I just run off into the step. I was in a recon platoon, so I'm doing J hooks and I'm looking with pretend binoculars. I'm like, I am way too high. I am way too drunk to be trying to escape the Taliban and the Mafiaa on the Kazakh step.

[\(01:17:03\)](#):

I don't know how far it was back to Lou. I don't know how the hell I got back to Lou, but I have never hugged anyone so hard in my entire life. But that was really about the only negative experience we had in any of the stands. Negative.

Luisa [\(01:17:16\)](#):

He says it's negative. He loves it. He loved it,

Warwick Schiller [\(01:17:21\)](#):



Loved it from where I'm sitting, but I obviously wasn't in the house with the Mafiaa or with the Taliban before I'm sitting. That wasn't a negative experience. That was one of those ones that someone comes to my podcast and tells us about it and we're like, wow. That's like when Helen Spencer was telling me that she smoked opium with the Taliban on the Afghanistan border when she was on the podcast.

Pete ([01:17:45](#)):

Look, I hate to say it because obviously Taliban have done some pretty terrible things, but on an individual basis, they can be very human. They can actually be quite, I wasn't really afraid. It was just really a fish out of water more than anything. I didn't mess with them, they didn't mess with me. And I think it was more they were just curious and really just wanted me to hang around because everyone wanted us to hang out with him in Kazakhstan. And then was Stan. Man, those guys were just so nice. We loved Uzbekistan. Lou, a woman was invited to play Kka, which is the horseback rugby. So first woman, the

Warwick Schiller ([01:18:38](#)):

Dead Goat,

Pete ([01:18:39](#)):

And it's not like Rambo. That thing weighs 80 kilos. It is Ridonculous. So Lou was the first woman to ever take to the Kka field in Giza, Uzbekistan. I mean, they've been playing it there for a thousand years and they've never let a woman play. And they're just like, yeah, this German chick. Yeah, come on. I mean, she was protected at all times. They were so worried about us getting hurt. But that game is just amazing. And those horses, they whip them. It is not how we ride, but the way they treat those horses is absolutely incredible. They love them quite often more than the rest of their family. And they view the way that people in the west gel their horses because they're all stallions. And there will literally be 2000 stallions in the one place at the one time. They view a gelded pleasure horse in a tiny paddock that's stabled as being cruel. Just as many people would view the way they gallop 40 kilometers to play a three hour game on horseback. Then Gallup Homers crawl. And it was something that really opened our eyes to the fact that it's all about your perception and their perception of us is one, that what we do is crazy and the way we live is cruel and insane. And the people that look at them would say that they're cruel and insane. And it's again, further alienated us from our peers in that we've seen sort of both camps. Yeah.

Luisa ([01:20:13](#)):

But it's a very crazy energy when you are even just watching one of these games. It's like there's no boundaries, like no offense or nothing. And when the herd moves towards you, the people turn around and run to get out of the field. It's crazy. They have all their little barbecues in the back of the trucks where they sell you the sausage in the water and the people, the source

Pete ([01:20:42](#)):

Run through it. Yes.

Luisa ([01:20:44](#)):

And yeah, it's like there's real,

Pete ([01:20:50](#)):

Yeah, it's about as big as the M C G, but you put 20,000 spectators on the footy ground and then you put 2000 stallions in there, and then you put all the catering trucks around, and then you put everyone with a bowl of vodka in their hands. And then you play a game where you just charge up and down with 2000 stallions.

Luisa ([01:21:11](#)):

It's the passion and the love, and with how much energy and how much they put into

Pete ([01:21:20](#)):

This

Luisa ([01:21:20](#)):

Game. Horses,

Pete ([01:21:22](#)):

These guys would destroy us at any equestrian discipline. It's amazing to watch. That's just the best. And then we got donkeys in Azure. Baja, big mistake. We got a donkey cart. We thought we'd try something different. Didn't work. No,

Luisa ([01:21:39](#)):

We didn't. Only

Pete ([01:21:41](#)):

Didn't work. It's like going from a super bike to a diesel-powered scooter. Donkeys are really cool animals, but not for travel,

Warwick Schiller ([01:21:52](#)):

Not for long distance traveling.

Pete ([01:21:54](#)):

No, they were good at keeping the W away. They're real good. Yeah. And then we hit Georgia. And Georgia is, that place is insane.

Luisa ([01:22:09](#)):

Yeah,

Pete ([01:22:10](#)):

I love it. In what

Warwick Schiller ([01:22:11](#)):

Way?

Pete ([01:22:12](#)):

Well, the track's about a hoof wide and there's a thousand meter cliff down one side and like a 300 meter cliff going up the other side. And they're just trot along them, no problem. And then when you're following them, you're kind of just trying not to look to be physically ill from how scared you are and yeah, just handing you chacha because it's chacha because you move from vodka to Chacha there, which is what it's Chacha. Chacha is like after they make their wine, because everyone in Georgia makes their own wine. All the grape skins in that they use to make chacha, which is vodka, that's sort of has a hint of wine. And then they'll put, what's it called? St. John's wha in it. So it's mildly hallucinogenic, really strong wine. So yeah, it's an interesting place. And up in the mountains are ache just wow. Honestly, it's bucket list material, loved every minute,

Warwick Schiller ([01:23:17](#)):

Beautiful.

Pete ([01:23:21](#)):

Just, it's one of those places where you just feel so small. Everything's just so huge. A thousand meters down, 2000 meters up there you are on this little trail. And this ant just this speck. And it wasn't my favorite part of the trip. For me, Romania was my favorite part of the trip because I wanted to go to Dracula Castle. It's Romania, you go to Dracula Castle. But the problem was it was on the other side of the Carpathians, and we had a 3,600 meter mountain range to go over. So we just

Warwick Schiller ([01:24:01](#)):

Hannibal Road elephants across the,

Pete ([01:24:03](#)):

Oh, no, no, no, no. He rode the French ups. We did that this year. Hannibal's crossing was from France to Italy. This was crossing the Carpathians in Romania. So we had 3,600 meters to climb. And I hate to do another drug reference, but the only thing that I can describe riding in Romania to being like is the first time I took acid, I saw colors I didn't know existed. I thought about things in ways I'd never thought about before. It was like taking drugs. We rode up this mountain and I saw colors I'd never seen before in nature. We came to this little dam and it was full of little noose and they're just swimming around and the smell of the pines, the smell of the flowers, it's like, you know how Mongolia has a smell to it? It's just this floral smell and Mongolian meat tastes different and just everything is different. For me, Romania being on that mountain, it was just this sensory overload and ah, man, best part of the trip other than meeting you. So second, best part of the trip, Annie Lou. Best part of the trip, obviously.

Warwick Schiller ([01:25:20](#)):

Let's get back to the Chacha for a second. I was thinking that a mildly hallucinogenic strong wine, it sounds like the elixir of the gods for a drunk and a dreamer, it's

Pete ([01:25:34](#)):

Only

Warwick Schiller ([01:25:35](#)):

In

Pete ([01:25:35](#)):

A minute with the St. John's water in it just normal Chacha just gets you very, very drunk. And it's just part of their culture. They all drink chacha, they all drink wine. And it was like 2000 varieties of wine or something. So we were there during Covid. So our first lockdown, we were stuck up behind Tbilisi, the Capitol at a place called Vy. And so we had this big battlefield behind us called the Diggory Battlefield, where there's these giant swords stuck in the ground because the Georgians, the Turks, and that they have 2000 varieties of wine and each village will have a variety of wine that you literally won't find anywhere else in the world. Everyone grows their grapes, everyone home brews, and it is just incredible. So after staying at Avivi, we had a hard time there. We were breaking horses, starting horses, whatever you want to call it for the locals.

([01:26:38](#)):

And we had the wolves attacking us quite a bit. So we lost few horses to wolves. That was a bit sad. But then we went and stayed with this amazing wine maker. He owns Pheasants, tears, vineyard and winery. If you ever see a bottle of Pheasants tears buy it. It's amazing. Organic wine. So yeah, he took us all over Georgia, drinking wine with him, drinking lots of chacha, and yeah, it's one of those places. Everyone has their own veggie garden. Everyone grows their own wine. It is just everyone has their own sheep. Everyone was fine during Covid. They just left the city and went back to their villages. And again, another amazing experience that really held a mirror to Western society for me personally.

Luisa ([01:27:27](#)):

And the horses, it was one of the last places where the horses were running free, where there were no fences or paddocks. They had the horses turned out and they would check on them or even keep them in at night. But the place where the horses lived were outside with no fences in the wild,

Pete ([01:27:46](#)):

As you would say.

Warwick Schiller ([01:27:49](#)):

Did you get to Draculas Castle?

Pete ([01:27:51](#)):

Yeah, we did. But the problem was we'd just gone over the carpathians and when we looked at it, we were just kind of like, no, it's just after what we've seen. Anything man can build is just nothing. Just tourists.

Luisa ([01:28:15](#)):

Yeah. But it was like this on the photos, it looks like this beautiful castle in the middle of the forest, and we're so excited after this ride over this mountain and the forest get there, and then we would arrive at this place and the street in where you would, the only way into the castle, it has all of these Chinese

Pete ([01:28:38](#)):

Plastic toys, plastic

Luisa ([01:28:40](#)):

Toys of the castle. And we were with the horses there and I mean, it was at the evening, we had a tough day coming down, crossing a mountain is always quite intense. So we were there and looked at it and we decided rather than spending the money on entrance, we had found a nice place where we could stay with the horses in the backyard. We'd go and eat pizza. So yeah, that's right.

Pete ([01:29:03](#)):

It was a really good decision. And we thought, oh, maybe we'll go and check it out on our way out of town. But we didn't sort of got to the gate and we were like, ah, no, let's keep going. We go around the corner and we were stopped by some beautiful remaining people and they gave us quite a bit of money actually, they gave us about a hundred euros. And they're just like, we love what you're doing. This is amazing. We have horses too. They started showing us all of their photos of their horses, and then we said, oh, we're looking at going this way. What would you recommend? And they're like, oh, camp here. There's going to be a heap of bears up ahead, so you need to be very careful now. You should stay here. So we kept going down the direction they had, and it turns out that that's actually where they filmed Cold Mountain, the movie Cold Mountain with Nicole Kidman and that

Warwick Schiller ([01:29:53](#)):

When Nicole Kidman and

Pete ([01:29:54](#)):

Renee Wig.

Warwick Schiller ([01:29:56](#)):

Yeah. And one of the act, the male actor was a,

Pete ([01:30:01](#)):

It's not Ethan Hawke's. Ethan Hawke. No. What was Ethan Hawke? No, no, it's the Poy guy. Yeah.

Warwick Schiller ([01:30:09](#)):

Ethan Hawke comes to mind. Yeah, I

Pete ([01:30:11](#)):

Think maybe he wasn't it. Anyway, we're going down there and we meet this guy that's mates with Danny Trino, and we're just like, oh, okay, go on. Yeah, Danny Trino, whenever he is in Romania, he always rides his motorbike up and down here and okay, that's cool. So we keep going a little bit further and there's this an igloo, like a dome house, and there's this big party there and these people come out and they're just like, Hey, what are you doing? I'm just like, ah, we're just looking for somewhere to stay. And they're like, why don't you join us at my birthday party? So we go to this birthday party, we tie the horses up outside, and we just have this massive party with these crazy Romanians, and they're all friends with all the movie stars because literally Cold Mountain was filmed right there.

([01:30:52](#)):

I had no idea. So the next morning we head off and they're like, yeah, bears. There's lots of bears. Got to be real careful. So we start going up into the mountains, we start seeing bear shit everywhere, bare footprints, and with all my time hunting it get a bit of a tingle. When something bad's about to happen,

we're mooching along. I start seeing these bare footprints that are 14 inches wide, and I'm like, that's bear piss. And Little Jelly gets all excited and goes flying up ahead and goes around the corner and Jill starts barking and Jill likes to chase things,

Luisa ([01:31:29](#)):

But I'm going to say that here because not that anyone gets a wrong idea. She jumps after things, a few things. She's not hunting because she always runs free next to the horses she enjoys, she jumps, she couldn't even hurt a mouse. So all she does is she jumps a few steps and gets excited and barks because it's in her instinct. But that

Pete ([01:31:49](#)):

Stops a cat. A little kitten is enough to, if a kitten goes, Jill will turn and run the other way. Yeah. Anyway, Jill barks and we just hear this thing crashing through the forest and I'm just like, oh Jesus, Lou, that's a bear. So we're on two horses, obviously they're food for a bear. We hear it moves through the trees. We finally get Jill back. I look at Lou and I'm like, we need to go. We need to go right now. So we zoom down the hill, but once we're 50 meters, a hundred meters away, we start trotting. We start cantering and we are gone now. We hit the village below and they've got berry paddocks there and they've got these massive nine foot electric fences around everything. And we're just like, oh man, they've really are a lot of bears here. We're going down the road and we hit another birthday party. This time they've rented an Airbnb and all of these Romanians are just like come in and party with us. And we're just like, okay, what do we do with our horses? And put them behind the six foot fence so they don't get eaten by the bears. And we're like, this is awesome. So yeah, so we go inside and we just party with these awesome dudes and yeah, it was amazing. It was just Romania loved it, and they

Luisa ([01:33:03](#)):

Were just telling that they were just a bear with her cups up in the territory and had been doing some problems. So we were very happy to spend the night behind the fences. Yeah,

Pete ([01:33:15](#)):

It's great. I reckon we need beers in every city. It would be awesome. The guys that have the sagged pants wouldn't have that anymore. We always pants up shoes

Warwick Schiller ([01:33:25](#)):

Laced the pants up. They could run away from beer

Pete ([01:33:27](#)):

Ready to run

Warwick Schiller ([01:33:29](#)):

On the podcast. We talk about a lot of different things, but some people have talked quite a bit about intuition, and you just said a minute ago you get that hunter's tingle and you kind of waved your hand up around your ear. When you sense from being a soldier and being a hunter, when you sense danger, how does it somatically feel in your body? Is it a thought? Is it a feeling? Is it a somatic sensation? What's the thing that tells you, oh shit, something might be going down here?

Pete ([01:34:07](#)):

Well, it's a very difficult one to answer because I struggle to find the words I had like to think that there's two people in your head. There's your conscious and there's your subconscious, and they say, your subconscious remembers everything you've ever heard, and so on and so forth. A long time ago, I come up with a saying, the trees talk to me. When I was deer hunting, I just get a feeling. I just know where to look. I just know where the deer were. I, the way I figure it is, my subconscious has processed all of those successes and failures and my subconscious can't talk to me as another entity as such. But it's that whole thing of they did a study where they put people in the middle of a football field and had someone looking at them. And most people could tell when they were actually, when they were eyes on them and when they weren't eyes on them.

([01:35:15](#)):

And it's just, I think your subconscious is picking up things. I think your vision is picking up on things you hear and your sense of smell, all of these things that you are not in tune with as a conscious entity, that subconscious entity inside of you is picking up on. And I just believe that I'm better at listening to that subconscious entity through having been exposed to these. It is like you just understand horses and you understand horses because you've been around them for so long and because you try and listen to them, you're open to these possibilities and things. And for me, I just hear things and feel, well, I don't hear voices. I'm not insane, but I just pick up on these subtle little things that the noise society creates drowns out for most people. And when you have 24 hours a day alone with your thoughts in the forest with your horse, the world is different.

([01:36:17](#)):

And I can't explain it, but I can explain what I think it is. And I think it is that subconscious entity that's inside all of us that I've nurtured through hardship and just abuse. That just tells me, Pete, Hey, look, this is going to go really bad for you if you don't do this. And it's kept me alive a lot of times. A lot of times. There's quite a few jokes about me being killable, but I'm pretty sure I can be killed. I've just been lucky. But yeah, I don't know if that answered the question, but I don't know if that's a question that I could ever really answer as such. It's

Warwick Schiller ([01:37:01](#)):

Just No, that's a great answer. At our podcast summit, the presenters, they spoke on their own, but then we had some group sessions where people, we were to ask him questions, and one of the questions was, how do you go about finding your intuition? And Jane Pike, who actually lives in Dunedin, New Zealand, she grabbed the microphone and she said, you shouldn't. It was like, how do you try to get your intuition? How do you try to get intuition or something or other? And Jane grabbed the microphone and she said, you shouldn't have to try to get intuition. You are intuition. And it's colonialism and capitalism that's led us to this lifestyle. We have that. We don't have it, but it's our birthright. And what you were talking about then was if you spend enough time in nature and away from all this other shit that we do, you'll return to normal. Like Jane said, it's not something you should have to try to get. It's something we are born with and the society we live in we live in takes it out of us. But I think spending time in nature and lots of time in nature like you guys are, is what kind of rekindles it.

Pete ([01:38:32](#)):

Well, you put a plant, you put a plant in the pot and you put it in the bathroom and it starts to wilt. So you put fertilizer on it, you water it and dah, dah, dah, dah. It's like that's not where plants grow. I mean, there's some plants that do well inside, but not all plants. Plants need to be outside in the rain, in the

wind exposed to the elements. They need deer to browse them. They need deer to shit on the ground next to them to use. We are not masters of our environment. We are part of our environment. And now that we are no longer there, I mean children in New York City have nature deficit disorder because they're surrounded by concrete and glass. They literally take kids that are sick into Central Park and make them play with dirt and touch frogs.

Warwick Schiller ([01:39:25](#)):

Exactly.

Pete ([01:39:26](#)):

We have lost our way as a species. I mean, Louisa is a visigoth stock. I mean, the Visigoth spent 500 years walking around avoiding the Romans. This is a woman who is supposed to be nomadic with horses and dogs and a cart looking for somewhere to spend the winter

Warwick Schiller ([01:39:47](#)):

Achieving that.

Pete ([01:39:48](#)):

Well, yeah, I'm happy. I'm genuinely happy. And I really love my wife, and she's German and she really pisses me off a lot of the time. But we have great communication. We have a great physical relationship, we have a great emotional relationship, and we share common interests. We love the horses, we love the dogs. Yeah, I mean, just the reward that comes with that hot coffee having fed out the horses at six o'clock in the morning in negative 20, and our horses are rugged. They have a little shelter that they can stand in, but they don't. They just stay under the trees. They're completely, they're horses. I mean, her horses got these icicles author is main at the moment, horses that are left to be horses do so much better than horses that are mollycoddled and rugged and babied. And I mean, Leitis, high sugar feed, they're not supposed to eat that. They grew up on the step. They're supposed to have low sugar, high fiber feed in a herd. It's like stallions. Everyone thinks stallions are crazy. Louise Stallion, you would not even know. He is stallion. He's a socialized lamb of a horse. And it comes from just being a horse. And I think we're just

Warwick Schiller ([01:41:13](#)):

Like you're supposed to be.

Pete ([01:41:14](#)):

We're just people. We cut firewood in the snow, we warm ourselves with a fire. We cook most of the foods we cook, we cook them over the fire. We have this clay pot that we've got from this beautiful Hungarian witch that we love, which as in white witch,

Warwick Schiller ([01:41:32](#)):

Right, get it. Totally

Pete ([01:41:33](#)):

Spiritual person.



Warwick Schiller ([01:41:34](#)):

Every second person I've had on the podcast has been a witch. Don't

Pete ([01:41:37](#)):

Worry about, oh, we love 'em. We love 'em. I love those spiritually enlightened women that have guided and enriched every single aspect of my life. I'll never be one of them, but I'll be a good lieutenant for a witch someday. So I know my place. I believe in a matriarchal society. Yeah, but I just think we're really lucky.

Warwick Schiller ([01:42:03](#)):

That's another conversation right there.

Pete ([01:42:05](#)):

Yeah. What can I say by dictionary definition, I'm a feminist. If you actually look at the dictionary definition, then Yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([01:42:20](#)):

It's interesting. A lot of the stuff you're talking about is actually challenging. Like I just said about Jane. Jane said, the reason we don't have any intuition is capitalism and colonialism have brought the world to a certain place sort of thing.

Pete ([01:42:35](#)):

Well, they've got a cage.

Warwick Schiller ([01:42:38](#)):

Yeah.

Pete ([01:42:39](#)):

I mean, you don't own a house, you have a mortgage, so you're chained to that property. Then you need the car loan to have the car to go to work, to service the mortgage. Your stuff. You don't own it. It owns you. And that's the way they want it. They want the control if they want to control us. And I mean by just having the horse, the wife, the dog, and enough money to get by from just doing basically odd jobs and things like that. I'm outside the system. I mean, what have I got that they can take nothing. As they say, it's only when you've lost everything that you're free to do anything. And I've tried to be free to do anything, and I'm just incredibly, incredibly lucky to have a partner that supports that and wants those same things.

Warwick Schiller ([01:43:34](#)):

A minute ago you were saying that you guys have this great relationship and this and that, something else. But I was thinking about while you were saying that you think about, let's say in wartime, and not wartime too, but I talking about say, men who go into combat together or whatever, it develops a bond when you are in death, defying situations regularly with another person. And a lot of times that's during conflict during war, it develops a bond that you can't get anywhere else. And it's almost like you guys,

with all the crazy adventures you're doing, you're in these death-defying situations. Like the horse flips over and it's upside down the side of the hill and

Pete ([01:44:24](#)):

Oh, we've been in worse than that.

Warwick Schiller ([01:44:25](#)):

Eat the horse and you're trying to Yeah, but you know what I mean though, mean that's got to be something that really strengthens your relationship. That is a relationship that most men and women don't get to have

Pete ([01:44:41](#)):

Together. It strengthens your relationship if it doesn't destroy your relationship. And for us, it has strengthened it.

Luisa ([01:44:52](#)):

But it is when we go back to this in society where there's so much that influences and come out and what you think of and then your job and all of these things, and especially in this situations, there is just the now. There is not the like, oh, what are we going to eat tomorrow? Or what was that phone call? Or Why you not there? It's like you are there and this is it, and this is the person. And then you communicate and then you try to find the way out. And that's just you too. And I think that is a really, really big thing when you need to work together and make something happen. And here everyone has that life and this life and is doing this and this, and then you come together and maybe eat together and share things together. But the things you share there, they don't take you so in the moment that they take everything else out of consideration or out of your mind when you're just there. And just that. And that's, I think that is something really, really beautiful and something very challenging and points. But I think that really brings you close to a person in a way. You just can't get close to Anish normal life or Yeah, I know.

Warwick Schiller ([01:46:15](#)):

Yeah. Something happened to minute ago before you started talking there, that was really interesting. So you guys at home can't see it, but I can see Pete, Louisa and Pete was sitting slightly closer to the computer than Louisa, so she's kind of over his left shoulder. And Pete went to say something and Louisa opened her mouth to speak and he sensed it without being able to see her. But it was a very cool moment that I was, I didn't hear half of what you just said right then because I was still thinking about the moment that I observed when you went to say something and Peter had opened his mouth to say something. He was about to start talking and you had a thought about to come out and he sensed it and he turned and he looked at you right then, and then you went on that little bit of a diatribe right there. It was very cool to watch. That was very, very cool to

Pete ([01:47:14](#)):

Watch. We haven't needed to have conversations from about week three onwards. We still have conversations. We still have conversations. But one of the weirdest things is Chapstick. If I can give anyone considering long writing, any advice at all, it is Chapstick, take chapstick with you, you will need it. But there's times when I would just take the chapstick out of my pocket and hand it to her and she'd

be like, oh my God, I was just about to ask for that. You get to know each other if you listen, just listening to that other person inside of you.

(01:47:53):

But yeah, I would say one thing that set us apart is right from the start, I said, look, we're traveling together. We can't have any secrets. Your phone needs to be my phone. My phone needs to be your phone. If my phone's flat and you've come off your horse and I can't open your phone, I can't call for help. So we have the same pin number on our phones. Our phones are interchangeable. And I think just mean we live in a world of Tinder and fast food women, we just get another of them just swipe right or is it swipe right or swipe left? I don't know.

Warwick Schiller (01:48:35):

I don't know. Swipe one way or the other. One way or the other, which way means yes in which may means,

Pete (01:48:40):

But I mean relationships are just so replaceable. They're not something people work on anymore and they're not viewed with the same value. But Louisa has saved my life three times. Three times a hundred percent. Louisa has saved my life three times. We have the same pin numbers on our phone. We share everything. I fought dogs with my bare hands when it was Stan to wrestle chili free from their jaws. And yeah, we resuscitated our friend who was well killed right in front of us and lived in Uzbekistan. She got in the way of two stallions, got flattened, and yeah, we've had some tough days and to get here and to get off the horse, having spent 780 days together, we were sort of talking about getting married. And yeah, I just went straight to Lou's dad and just said, I love your daughter. Can I marry her? And he was just like, oh my God, yes. And to be is this

Warwick Schiller (01:49:58):

When you first met him, wasn't it? You hadn't met?

Pete (01:50:01):

Yeah, I proposed with his daughter within two minutes of meeting him for the first time two minutes ago. Yeah, I was

Warwick Schiller (01:50:07):

Reading your story where you said you rode into Germany, went straight to her dad and said, can I marry your daughter?

Pete (01:50:12):

And she was like, yeah. Was like, yeah, it's cool. I'd already met mom. Mom's awesome. And she is mom now. Mom is just awesome.

Warwick Schiller (01:50:26):

What's the German word for mum?

Pete (01:50:27):

Muta.

Warwick Schiller ([01:50:29](#)):

Muta.

Pete ([01:50:29](#)):

Okay. And vato and kinder. But yeah, I made these cool rings for us. They're a one euro coin that I had smashed the middle out with a hammer that we hammered the tether spikes in with. So I got the outside of the Euro coin. I popped that on the tether, hammered it into shape, filed it, and I tricked it. I was like, oh, I'm just going to use this as a blank just in case I get you an engagement ring later. I just want to make sure it fits. So her wedding ring and her engagement ring is actually just a one Euro coin I made with a hammer, a knife sharpening file and tennis bike on the road in a goat farm right next to Birchers Garden, which is Hitler's eagles nest, but literally in the shadow of Eagles nest. But yeah, dad loves it. Mom loves it. The brothers and sister love it. I'm so lucky. The open phones, the open family, the open hearts, it's like they're just good people. I

Luisa ([01:51:43](#)):

Think it's like, it's what happens with the horses on the road. It's a different relationship. I felt it last winter. When you come and you interact with your horse when you want something or when there's a specific thing to interact with your horse, you go there, you do something. Even if you just go there to spend an hour, you go there specifically to do something with the horse or be around the horse. And it's like with people, you meet people for certain things or you have certain timeframes where you have the time. But when we are out there, it's like us and you just get to know each other.

Pete ([01:52:20](#)):

You can't lie to your horse

Luisa ([01:52:22](#)):

And you can't lie to each other. It's like you get more into this intuition,

Pete ([01:52:29](#)):

Intuition, intuition.

Luisa ([01:52:32](#)):

And I think that is because everything else is away, and it is to just stay alive. I mean, most things we worry about on the road is to find the next best spot to feed the horses, get water for the horses and food for us and the dog. This is the daily goal every

Warwick Schiller ([01:52:50](#)):

Day. Survival.

Pete ([01:52:51](#)):

Yeah. Well, I mean there's you, me and us in any relationship. There's always the three of you, even though it's just two of you. And for us, us was just such a huge part of not dying that we're in a strong

relationship. Yeah, it's very different. I don't think we've found the key to happiness, but I'll tell you what we've found what works for us. I don't think there's much more you can ask for than that. I'm very happy with our lot in life, and this is why we've written our books, because we want to share with people. We want to encourage people. We want to encourage other people to take their journey in life. It's like this whole concept of a long rider. I don't like that. I don't like that at all. What I like is I like someone that rides 30 kilometers when they've never done more than 10.

[\(01:53:51\)](#):

I like someone that spends a night in the forest for the first time and cooks mushrooms. They picked, oh my God, I found some mushrooms. I Googled it. They're good to eat. I had some butter. I cooked them in a pan on a fire I made. And the world has changed. I want to go hunting now. I want to start fishing. I want to try something different. Oh my God, I'm planning a ride in the lakes district over three days. I'm going to ride 60 kilometers. That is what matters. Not 1600 kilometers, not 10,000 kilometers. Finding you, finding that way to maybe listen to your intuition to just be human

Luisa [\(01:54:36\)](#):

And

Warwick Schiller [\(01:54:37\)](#):

Finding the edge of your comfort zone and then knowing what the end of your edge of your comfort zone is and going beyond that

Luisa [\(01:54:43\)](#):

And also finding the spot where tomorrow is not as important as today. And yesterday doesn't matter as much as today either. Like this where today for me, that came on the road the first time really on the road where the now was so intense and so beautiful that it was so okay, what would be tomorrow? Just when you really arrive in the moment.

Pete [\(01:55:10\)](#):

Yeah,

Warwick Schiller [\(01:55:12\)](#):

I think people will spend a lot of money and a lot of time in their life trying to get to that point and never get there. So

Pete [\(01:55:18\)](#):

Yeah, don't

Warwick Schiller [\(01:55:20\)](#):

Pretty amazing. So tell us once again about your books. We're going to have to finish up here a minute. I want people to know where they can find your books.

Pete [\(01:55:26\)](#):

So everything's on Amazon. We've got Wonderlust, which is our first year, and it's just very honest. It's riddled with failures, COVID Cowboys second year. It's very honest. It's riddled with failures, horseback,

honeymoon. It's very honest. It's riddled with failures. But we capture those magic moments and we try and share them as best we can. Our books are not like our books you'll find written by other people. We really want the people that just dream of doing what we've done to know that they can do it. That we are not special. We are not elite horsemen. I've never really had a proper riding lesson in my life. I ride like a seven year old Mongolian kid that's blind in one eye and missing an arm. I'm not that good. But then again, a seven year old, those Mongolian kids pretty good, man. They're pretty good. They, my horse is absolutely crazy.

[\(01:56:32\)](#):

And the relationship I have with him is very unlike any conventional horse relationship. I don't consider myself a good rider, but I am a good horseman and I think I'm a good husband. And you can see the relationship warts and all in our books, the Wonderlust Covid Cowboys and the Horseback honeymoon. And then we wrote this one, which is the 21st Century Calvary manual. That's my beautiful Capin horse Marengo on the front, which is basically everything we wished we knew before we set off the big three things are saddle fit, had no idea how important saddle fit was, how important, getting the balance of things right is and overall weight. Now people talk about this 20% rule that is a load of crap.

[\(01:57:25\)](#):

I went through German veterinary studies, I went through the TEUs Cup studies. I read cavalry manuals all the way back to the Civil War, figuring out how much a horse can ethically carry. And yeah, I've come up with some great formulas based in science. We're basically judging the canon bone of the horse is a good representation of its overall bone structure and the total weight on the canon bone. Sort of figure out a figure that you can work out yourself because basically a fine bone off the track thoroughbred, it can't carry 20%, but a Mongol horse can carry 110 kilo power lifter when it weighs 350 kilos. So I talk a lot about that kind of stuff. I've been guilty of overloading horses. I've been guilty of poor saddle fit and I've been guilty of all of these things because there just was no real information about what we were trying to do out there because no one does it. No one does it anymore. So yeah, so we have the 21st Century Cavalry manual, the three books on our journey, and we have a book on my hunting stories and adventures. And in a couple of weeks we'll have Hoed Hunter, which is about my adventurous hunting Bigfoot. All of these are on Amazon, but you have to go to your Amazon store in your respective country. So America, amazon.com, England, Amazon uk, Australia, Amazon au. And if you just search Pete Bridal or Louisa Bridal, they'll all pop up. Yeah, or just go to our webpage professional.

Warwick Schiller [\(01:59:10\)](#):

I was going to show you have a website too, don't you? Yeah, be

Pete [\(01:59:11\)](#):

Professional look cool.com because we are neither professional and we most certainly do not look cool.

Warwick Schiller [\(01:59:17\)](#):

I was going to ask you how that when we first started emailing each other and stuff, and you get this website, it's called Be Professional Look Cool, but then you started telling me about exactly what you guys are doing. I'm like, well that doesn't sound like you want to be professional. Look cool. It sounds like you're just living it real. So before we finish up here, how did be Professional look Cool website. It's

Pete [\(01:59:41\)](#):

A fake it to make it thing.

Warwick Schiller ([01:59:43](#)):

Okay. Is that the Aussie sarcasm, isn't it? Well, it

Pete ([01:59:46](#)):

Is a bit, but it was a military thing. I mean, if you're not that professional, just make sure you look cool and that way people will think you are professional. It's like wearing your beret pretty sharp. Everyone will think he knows what he's doing because we just had no idea what we're doing. We thought, right, we should try and look really cool. We didn't look really cool either, so we just kind of made a joke of it and it stuck. And we have our little logo. Is the rabbit smoking a cigarette? It's a Cree Indian tradition. They have the canoe paddles one side, it's the panther, the other side's, the rabbit smoking the pipe. The

Warwick Schiller ([02:00:27](#)):

Movie was called The Edge.

Pete ([02:00:29](#)):

The Edge, the movie, the Edge, the movie, the Edge. I remember The Edge very well. Anthony Hopkins, sir Anthony Hopkins. El McPherson,

Warwick Schiller ([02:00:37](#)):

Sir Anthony Hopkins, one of the Baldwin brothers and El McPherson or one of

Pete ([02:00:43](#)):

Those El Yeah, it was definitely Elon.

Warwick Schiller ([02:00:45](#)):

Yeah, that is an amazing movie. I love that movie.

Pete ([02:00:48](#)):

Incredible movie. That and The Gray, which I have the quote from the Gray written on my arm there. Yeah, we are big fans of that kind of stuff. But yeah, that whole thing is the Rabbit sits and smokes his pipe because he knows he's smarter the panther. So he is not afraid. And for us, we might not be smarter than the Panther, but we just still sit there and have a Dory. Anyway,

Warwick Schiller ([02:01:19](#)):

Pipe. Well, hey, thanks so much for joining me guys. It's been an amazing conversation and you guys are just out there rocking life, so keep doing what you guys are doing. Hit

Pete ([02:01:29](#)):

Us up anytime, mate. You're a good bloke. Yeah,

Warwick Schiller ([02:01:32](#)):

Thanks so much. And a few guys at home. Thanks for Joining us and we'll catch you on the next episode of The Journey on podcast.

This transcript was exported on Oct 02, 2023 - view latest version [here](#).

Speaker 1 ([02:01:40](#)):

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