

Blameworthy

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Praiseworthy

Japanese truck-driver Toshifumi Fujimoto likes to escape his humdrum routine by holidaying in war-torn countries. He was recently named 'the world's most extreme tourist'.

He has been shooting photos and video while dodging bullets in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

Fujimoto, who speaks almost no English or Arabic, has picked up a few words like 'dangerous' and 'front line'.

Each morning, he joins the firing line with soldiers of the rebel Free Syria Army. 'It's very exciting, and the adrenaline rush is like no other,' he says. 'It fascinates me, and I enjoy it.'

He tries not to intervene in any way. His attitude is: 'Take only pictures, leave only footprints.'



Cleo thinks that it's important to explore big questions about her place in the world. She tries to open herself to both the joy and the suffering of the world.

As part of an organization called 'Zen Peacemakers', Cleo made a pilgrimage to the Auschwitz Concentration Camp in Poland to bear witness to the Holocaust.

In this historic place that has become a mythic symbol of humanity's intolerance, Cleo and her fellow travellers spent several days sitting in silence by the train tracks that transported people to the death camps.

The travellers walked through the vast camps, chanted the names of the dead, and performed vigils and memorial services for the victims of violence and genocide.

Each evening they shared their inner experience in small groups.



Pripyat is an abandoned town in northern Ukraine located near the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. In 1986, a catastrophic nuclear accident at Chernobyl resulted in the deaths of thousands of people.

Pripyat, now a radioactive wasteland, has become a ghost town and a tourist attraction for thrill-seekers keen on taking a 'holiday in hell'.

Last month a group of young Russian tourists went to Pripyat for a lark. They romped around the deserted buildings, tossed their litter into bushes and wrote their names in the radioactive dust. They spent their nights drinking vodka and carousing. It all seemed like fun and games.

On a dare, they even smashed some glass window panes in a dilapidated building. It wasn't really vandalism, they thought, because there can be no victims in a town that's uninhabited and half-destroyed anyway.



Moira sees herself as an activist and social entrepreneur. She's a socially-conscious traveller who is attracted by the opportunity to use her leisure time and her personal resources to give something back to those who are less privileged.

While on a trekking holiday in Nepal, she decides to teach English at an orphanage. She falls in love with the kids there, and makes her own fundraising website to help raise money from donors in Western countries. The website is a valuable source of information about the living conditions of Nepalese orphan children. She plans to return to the orphanage each summer for the next five years.

She's shocked when her friend Jack accuses her of being a 'do-gooder with a saviour complex'. He says that whenever a privileged white person works with children in the developing world, they're reinforcing neo-colonial stereotypes – which means they end up doing more harm than good.





Andrew recently finished his university degree and is taking a round-the-world trip. His guidebooks suggested a list of 'must-see attractions', and during his time in Europe he's already checked off the Mona Lisa and the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

On his way home he stops off in Cambodia where he visits a memorial site honouring the 1.3 million victims of genocide carried out by the Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s.

Andrew posts a '#Killing Fields selfie' to Instagram, which shows him smiling and waving at the memorial site.

He's surprised when a friend snarkily comments: 'It's not a Disneyland attraction, you know.'

Andrew thought that visiting the memorial site had given him a better understanding of the magnitude of death and destruction caused by the Khmer Rouge. He couldn't understand why his friend was offended.



WOULD YOU PLEASE  
KINDLY SHOW YOUR  
RESPECT TO MANY  
MILLION PEOPLE  
WHO WERE KILLED  
UNDER THE GENOCIDAL  
POL - POT REGIME

Arlo has always been into video games and live-action role playing games, and he's fascinated to discover a Nazi Concentration Camp travel package that allows tourists an 'insider's taste' of a prison camp.

Arlo is intrigued by the prospect of being treated like a camp inmate. He's curious to find out what it would be like to sleep overnight in a cold wooden bunk, and to be marched to the gas chamber by a 'Kapo' (barracks supervisor). He likes the idea of experiencing something dangerous within the safety of the tourism environment, and he can't see what harm could come of a bit of adventure like this.

On the other hand, his girlfriend is disgusted by the whole idea: she calls it 'the commodification of horror'.

Arlo doesn't see why she's making such a big deal of it. For him, being immersed in a sensory world is an important aspect of any learning experience – so why should travel be any different?

