

## ***From Bhutan To Antarctica, Daryl Hawk Photographs, Explores And Documents Hidden Corners Of The World [EXCLUSIVE]***

By Carly Shields January 13, 2014 9:59 PM EST



Daryl Hawk has traveled the world to see the most remote places on earth so he can educate the world about the places unknown (Photo: Daryl Hawk, Bhutan)

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Life for a photographer is about color, adventure, life's journey, inspiration and being able to capture one moment in time through a camera. Some photographers spend their lives struggling to capture that elusive moment.

Daryl Hawk is one of those people. Hawk has journeyed around the world to find life's hidden secrets tucked behind corners and bends unknown. He has ventured to deserted, isolated and lonely places that most would never dare to go. So he has seen, tasted, felt, experienced and heard more than most. Hawk is not only a photographer but also a writer, storyteller, educator and documentarian. He thirsts for knowledge, adventure and nature's beauty, all of which help inspire the curious photographer. Traveling to Antarctica, Chile, Bhutan, Patagonia, Peru, Argentina and New Zealand, Hawk seeks out powerful landscapes. He looks for places that don't have "too many tourists" and are "off the beaten path," he told *iDesignTimes*.

Hawk says he feels like he needs to know everything about every place in the world. If he could he would travel to every country and do a documentary on each nation.

Hawk inherited this thirst for knowledge. Hawk's grandfather was a serious photographer who traveled to some very exotic places like Iran and China during the early 20th century.



Hawk knew he would find a seven-colored mountain in Argentina. (Photo: Daryl Hawk, Mount Fitzroy, Patagonia)

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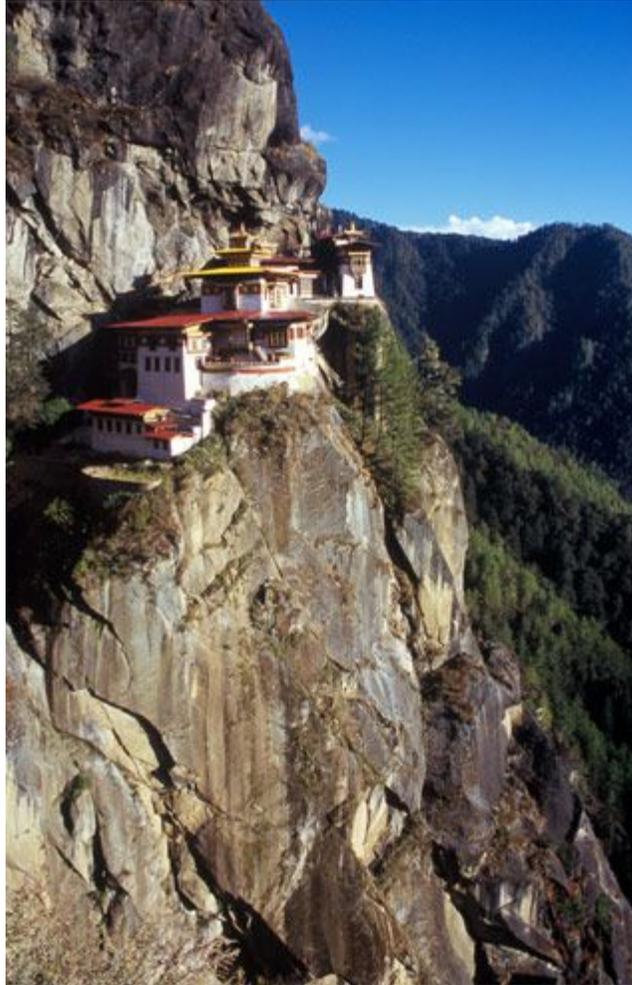
His grandfather would return and present slideshows of the places he had seen. Between his grandfather's slideshows and a subscription to *National Geographic*, Hawk found his two passions in life: world travel and photography.

Hawk sets goals when he travels, one of which is immersing himself in the landscapes without anyone else. He cannot work with others because he needs to be "as free as the wind," he told *IDT*.

Hawk said he cannot be "tied down with other people's wishes or schedules" and cannot be dragged down by other people's "personalities." He said he must journey alone to be able to have a "pure traveling experience" that is not affected negatively by others' emotions. Hawk enjoys traveling alone and is not fearful about traveling to remote places by himself.

"I have more meaningful experiences because i am more compelled to reach out to all the people who live in these countries," Hawk told us. "And they are more likely to reach out to me when they see me traveling alone."

Hawk values the end goals, which are landscape portraits and making people happy. Places that are "ripe with adventure" where few people have seen inspire Hawk to explore further. While technology continues to push forward at a rapid pace in the United States, Hawk enjoys going back in time to places that do not have Internet or technology. He says they "are relatively unaffected by western civilization."



Hawk ventured to the kingdom of Bhutan to be able to show what little we know of this ancient world. (Photo: Daryl Hawk, Kingdom of Bhutan)

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When Hawk traveled to Bhutan in 2004, the country had only just introduced the Internet and television five years before he got there. Hawk traveled through the kingdom of Bhutan, which is tucked away in the Himalayas, to shoot a film documentary to show the hidden world of Buddhist monasteries and ancient life. While he trekked from the west to east, he carried the Explorers Club flag.

Hawk's journey to the ancient kingdom of Bhutan - meeting the royal family and celebrating the king's birthday - was one of the greatest adventures of his life. And the purpose of his documentary was to "inspire people worldwide to protect the wilderness and fragile cultures that still exist there."

Hawk just returned from his most recent journey to Argentina, where he explored more than 3,000 miles across the altiplano plateau during the month of April. He also ventured across the 18,000-foot Andean mountain range where three South American countries meet, Argentina, Bolivia and Chile.



On Daryl's trip to Argentina he found a 14-colored mountain, one of the most beautiful things he has ever seen. (Photo: Daryl Hawk, Mount Hornical, Argentina)

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He went to the country knowing that he would find a seven-colored mountain, friendly faces and beautiful churches. The most amazing part of Hawk's journey was discovering a 14-colored mountain because a man he met at breakfast urged him to see the most beautiful thing Mother Nature created. Hawk didn't believe the man at first. He does highly detailed research before traveling to a country, and he had not come across anything about a 14-colored mountain.

So Hawk convinced his guide, a man he met once he got to the country, and they ventured off on one of the most dangerous, remote, and windy roads in all of South America to find this supposed mountain. Hawk was so inspired by the mountain that he was able to write a poem. He said words just poured out of him onto the piece of paper, creating a beautiful poem that he is very proud of.

"I have listened to the wind of the Andes, followed its words of wisdom, and now have made it to my seven and 14 colored mountains. Pachamama speaks the truth. The land, sky, and people, we are all connected as one. The truth is in my heart, in my mind, my eyes, and my soul. It is here that I can see and feel the mesmerizing light and color, leading me to even stronger winds, and azul lagunas and salars, into the unknown and the glorious unexpected surprises that have come my way." (This is only an excerpt from Hawk's poem)

Another incredible journey that Hawk has traveled was on his trip to Antarctica. The curious photographer traveled south of the furthest point in South America, Tierra del Fuego, Chile, where he caught the boat to the ice-filled land. After two days of crossing the Drake Passage, one of the most dangerous waters in the world, they reached Antarctica.



Hawk has journeyed to Antarctica where he was able to fulfill a life dream of his. (Photo: Daryl Hawk, Antarctica)

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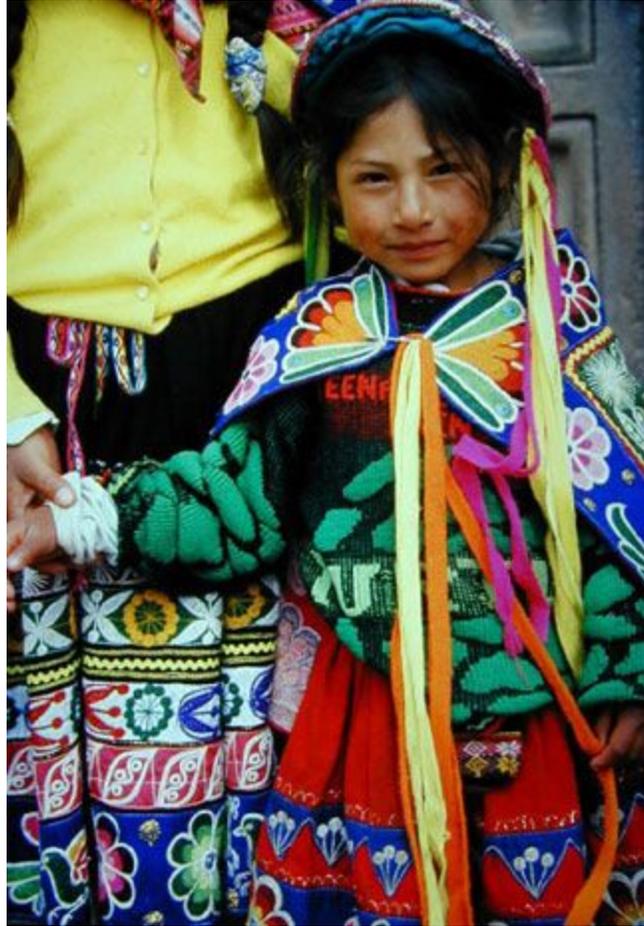
Hawk said “it’s the closest to being on another planet.” Hundreds of thousands of penguins, walrus and seals fill the white landscape. However, the mysterious, untouched land was incredibly quiet and pristine. Yet his photos were somewhat limited because everything is so white “It’s not like going to Argentina with color everywhere,” Hawk explained. But it was a life dream of his that was fulfilled.

Traveling around Antarctica in a Zodiac had its challenges. One day when the lifeboat was traveling to the mainland a snowstorm arrived, and the passengers lost sight of the main boat, trapping them in glacial waters. A series of icebergs proceeded to roll in, and the passengers found themselves stuck in a glacier maze for hours. They had no radio contact to the main boat. The freezing cold temperatures grew very dangerous.

Luckily the storm cleared, and they were able to make it back to the main boat. But Hawk said if the storm had remained for much longer they could have all lost their lives by freezing to death.

Despite the dangers of traveling to remote areas of the world, Hawk keeps his eye on the end point. Hawk says he is able to meet people who are happy with the little they have, It makes him realize that one does not need a lot of material things to enjoy life. It helps him get a good “world perspective,” he added. He says it keeps him grounded and open-minded about other cultures.

Hawk lives his life by a motto that he created, “seeing the ordinary as extraordinary.” He doesn’t want to focus on poverty, people living on the streets, war zones or disease. He would prefer to find beauty in the every day.



During Hawk's journey to Argentina he was able to take photos of beautiful faces. (Photo: Daryl Hawk, Argentina)

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He's interested in the "beautiful landscapes, the powerful nature, beautiful architecture, wildlife and all the beautiful faces around the world." He says he knows right away when someone has a "beautiful face" and he wants to capture it in a photograph. This is what defines Hawk as a photographer and what gives him his inspiration.

While many modern-day photographers are looking for a deeper meaning in photographs, Hawk says his photos "speak for themselves." Hawk says photography comes to him naturally life eating, drinking and walking does to the average person. "It's about my relationship with the world," he said. "It's all my senses in overdrive. They shape me."



Hawk calls himself a purist and realist because of the way he shoots his photos (Photo: Daryl Hawk)

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Hawk works to tell people's stories in a way that is "pure and true." He does not manipulate, alter, enhance or change photos in any way. He says that what you see in his photos are "decisive moments" of realism. This is why he respects *National Geographic*.

Hawk says the meaning in his photography is simple. He wants to show the world what beautiful lives and hidden places look like in that moment in history. As an environmentalist Hawk believes his role is more than just photographing beautiful landscapes. He wants to "show the need and reasons we need to protect and preserve the last wild places on earth."