

Once More – the story of VIN903847 – 24 mins - 2014

This is the stunning story of Paul Loofs, born in Germany in 1933 when You-Know-Who was in charge, and then after 1945 found himself as a teen in the austere workers' utopia of communist East Germany. Realising that the wüorst was yet to come he escaped and eventually got to Canada in 1953 and became a coal miner! However, he had the wanderlust so he saved hard, bought an early VW Beetle and between 1956 and 1963 went around the world in it three times!

This film is such a beautiful chance to re-live a bygone era where things seemed so much simpler but also — really important this bit — a story of a man who didn't even contemplate gadgets, gear and gizmos. He wanted to drive around the world, so he took the car from his front yard. The car still exists today and so does Paul and yes, he is a beautiful man; humble, kind, generous and unafraid of the world — inspirational.

Iran's Arrow - 78 mins - 2018

Iran's Arrow is a documentary about a British car (the Hillman Hunter) that was introduced to Iran in 1967. It became Iran's national car and was produced there under the model name "Paykan" (meaning 'Arrow') for 38 years. Naturally, being home-produced it attracted no import duties and quickly became the affordable family transport across the nation, getting Iran moving in much the same way the Fiat 500 or the Beetle did in Italy and Germany.

However, would this festival really show a film that is merely about a car? Of course not. *Iran's Arrow* is actually about the turmoil of post-war Iran and it's a thought-provoking and beautifully-crafted story, as well as a fascinating slice of social history from a misunderstood nation.

Global Convoy - 60 mins - 2017

A bunch of penniless goons are determined to see the world and meet all the wondrous peoples it contains. They buy cars for £150 and totally clueless, set off across Europe, Central Asia, Siberia and then over to the USA and south to Argentina.

Years from now, when academics intone about the DIY backlash to a modern society drowning in tech, then this film will be cited. In too many travel theatres, long trips of many months are too often described as being only for the older person, retired and solvent and keen to be seen to have all the correct 'equipment'. The kids from *Global Convoy* are the new broom and they shovel in rosy-cheeked youthful enthusiasm at its best. No money, no gadgets, no fear — these are the kids your parents warned you about!

A Musical Journey on the Silk Road - 53 mins - 2017

Sylvain and Mathieu are two French sound engineers who buy a couple of Royal Enfield Bullets in India and resolve to ride back to La France. Along the way they punctuate their journey by dropping in at community centres, jam sessions and schools to record the local soundtrack as they go. The result is an example of where the wind is blowing in adventure travel film-making. Twenty years ago, if you simply drove 15,000 km from one side of a continent to another, and shot some stuff, that was enough. However, nowadays your film will need more than just 'you' and 'travelling' to stand out from the gap-year Go-Pro crowd. A movie with a theme, a purpose and a heart of gold. C'est magnifique!

Motonpoget – a Russian motorcycle adventure - 59mins - 2017

David Darcy is a regular contributor to this film festival. One of the most cheery and prolific adventure motorcyclists in the world today we last saw him in *Continental Drift*, a film about riding from London to Sydney. This time our plucky Aussie is heading east and north, motorcycling across Siberia to the lonely prison outpost of Magadan.

A lengthy journey and even in the summer time, a soul-crushing environment of roasting days and torrential rain, a combination guaranteed to test even the hardest of riders. This erratic weather, topped off with squadrons of Soviet mosquitoes threaten to turn his Siberian adventure into an episode of 'Man vs. Insect'. Stirring stuff!

Alone through Iran – 1144 Miles of Trust - 60 mins - 2017

Kristina Paltén is a Swedish long distance runner. She laments the pain and friction in the modern world and refuses to believe that the reality is as evil and sinister as the mainstream media leads us to believe.

She cannot investigate every 'rogue nation' so she chooses the Islamic Republic of Iran and conducts an experiment. Sensibly, she sticks to what she knows best so she runs across Iran, alone, to see what happens. The result is this superb film that scientifically demonstrates that when a news outlet says: North Korea, Russia, Iran etc they really should be prefacing these words with "the Government of..." because the people, of course, are a delight. Just like Kristina, you will cry tears of joy.

Capitaine de l'Utopie - 53 mins - 2017

Living 30 miles from Lyon, in the foothills of the Alps, François Bernard is a professional mountain guide. He has worked in extreme environments all over the world, but one day he realised it was time for a change. He bought a yacht — not for himself, but as a group asset. He sailed it up to Greenland and moored it in a harbour whereupon it became a community hub and HQ for a slew of outdoorsy visitors. François went back to France and rounded up base-jumpers, climbers, circus performers and more, inviting them to make the most of this spectacularly inspiring idea. A brilliant project and part of this year's roster of content that is about something far more subtle than simple 'outdoor life'.

Dirtbag: The legend of Fred Beckey - 95 mins - 2017

American climbing nuts will know who this guy is, but the rest of us? We are so proud to showcase the second film from ATFF regular, Seattle auteur, Jason Reid. Jason was part of the very first festival 8 years ago with *Man Zou* a timely work about cycling across China.

There is so much to enjoy with *Dirtbag* but first and foremost, this is the first 'climbing' film that this festival has ever screened. Other festivals exist Europe-wide to cater to that market but with *Dirtbag* we felt that we had found a film that celebrated 'the outsider'. This amazing film is packed with stunning archive stills and footage chronicling the life of someone who really was a maverick. Actually, a man so dedicated to his art (mountaineering) that it pretty much cost him everything. A really important story to spark a dining hall conversation about 'when is enough enough?'

The Road To Independence - 57 mins - 2018

Olie Hunter Smart set off to walk the length of India, a 4,500km journey with the aim of uncovering untold stories of Independence and Partition. Olie's route saw him encounter high altitude, extreme heat, and monsoon rains as he walked through the rural heartland of the country, following in Gandhi's footsteps as he hunted out real accounts of that period of history from those that experienced it firsthand.

The British Backpacker Society: Across the Sahara - 45 mins - 2017

The British Backpacker Society is on a mission. Uninspired by the ease with which gap-year 'travellers' slip into a routine and simply visit, as a herd, the same destinations in a well-worn circus, they wanted to break the deadlock. The society - rather than being a giant Facebook group with thousands of followers and wholesome 'meet ups' every few weeks - is actually three chums from Dorset. They are only in their early 20s but rigorously visit the places that the Foreign Office discourages as holiday destinations. They travel only on public transport and expect to never meet a single other European on their jaunts. This film follows them pushing into the interior of The Islamic Republic of Mauritania as far as is possible without convoy support! Totally goofy and a true breath of fresh air.

Voyagers Without a Trace - 80 mins - 1938 & 2016

The first ever kayak descent of the Colorado river wasn't by Americans. In 1938 three French paddlers made this epic 60-day journey in collapsible canvas canoes. They filmed the whole thing on colour 35mm film which until 2015 had been lost to history. Award-winning film-maker Ian McCluskey stumbled upon this story and wouldn't rest until it was presented within a proper documentary. This fusion of detective work (on BOTH sides of the Atlantic), archive film restoration and modern-day paddling is exactly what this festival thrives upon and is proud to be defined by.

Oxford to Sydney in a KR2 – 71mins - 2001

Staffordshire's Colin Hales dreamed the impossible dream — to fly his own plane around the world. Sadly he was of modest means and couldn't afford a plane, so he built one from odds 'n' sods and nick-named it 'Bitsy'. With thousands of hours of graft invested, even before he left, this was a man on a mission. Eventually, with tons of ONC flight maps scrunched into the tiny cockpit, he and his partner Nadine took off from a runway in Oxfordshire and a few months later were landing in Sydney. They had the trip of a lifetime and set a record for the smallest plane to EVER make that journey. This is DIY adventure and DIY film-making captured as perfectly as we will ever see.

Beyond Sahara - Riding From Cairo To Cape Town - 100 mins - 2015

Tackling one of Biking's Greatest Challenges

This documentary, presented and narrated by iconic motorcycle adventurer, Charley Boorman (Long Way Round, Long Way Down), follows 16 motorbike riders across 20,000 gruelling kilometres through Africa. For 80 days, they battle blazing heat, treacherous roads, suffocating bureaucracy and bone-crunching crashes, attempting to join a very elite group of people to have conquered this journey. Riding the vast Savannahs and witnessing the world's greatest wildlife spectacle on the African plains, the riding gets tough as they battle through gravel, sand, dirt and spectacular lightning storms across Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. It's an incredible journey of vast sandy deserts, high mountain passes and never-ending savannahs on roads and tracks which are amongst the most dangerous in the world.

THREE UNDER 30

MOHON – Adventure on a bike

19 year old Jimmy Hyland buys a pushbike for £50 then flies it to Mongolia. Zero experience in this area but off he goes.

Skye's The Limit

Cal Major stand-up-paddles around the coastline of the Isle of Skye and reports back on chronic plastic pollution. Super important and beautifully produced.

From Morocco with Love

Moroccan millennial hitch-hikes the perimeter of Iceland and falls in love with all he finds. A pleasant counterpoint from Brits Abroad and a demonstration that we all need to get to know each other.

SHORTS:

River: Bikefishing for Steelhead

Keen angler mountain-bikes to remote wilderness fishing spots.

Wild Ice – Backcountry Skating Alaska

A different and dreamy way to see Alaska.

Moto-Oman

Canadian 20-something Rosie Gabrielle rides Arabia.

1974 Canning Stock Route Motorcycle Crossing

The first motorcycle expedition of this legendary Aussie route.

Cinecitta On Wheels

Some rad dudes sneak into the colossal Cinecitta film studios and skateboard around the sets!

By My Side

Exquisite film about an Iranian truckstop with a difference.

I love to take You Away With Me

One minute of vintage Fiat 500 fun. Filmed on a phone.

LRDG Expedition

Two WW2 jeeps cross the deserts of Egypt — dawn raid!

Lone Rider

One of the first British women to motorcycle around the world in 1982.

Life isn't fun without detours

Holland's leading female adventure motorcyclist rides the world.

Land of Pakistan

A surprising and serene view of this beautiful nation.

Mzungu Rides!

London to Cape Town on a 350cc trail-bike.

Santiago to San Francisco

Pan-Am Highway on Honda 150cc bikes — and surfboards.

Trans-Siberian Trans-Mongolian

The classic train ride across the Steppe.