**How does your lifestyle align with Backroads' values and culture?**

Well I can start by saying that I have travelled independently to around 30 countries. This spanned a wide range of cultural settings from the reserved, clean sophistication of Sweden to the colourful, chaotic dynamism of India. I have hiked sections of the Annapurna circuit in the Himalayas, the Salkantay trek to Machu Picchu and climbed an active volcano in Guatemala. I was fortunate to have spent months at a time in many of these locations and believe that my style of travel mirrors Backroads' vision of "deeper and richer travel experiences".

Now as a Brit with a Californian wife, living in San Francisco, I have been profoundly touched and expanded by my travel experiences and it will bring me great pride to be part of an organization that offers the life changing experiences of adventure travel. My wife and I still hike on the weekends and have conquered Mt Tam and Mt Diablo among many other trails in the bay area. We dream of one day hiking the PCT.

I pride myself on pursuing technical excellence in my work but also in balancing that with an active, adventurous lifestyle. I also value the fact that you mentioned championing alternate commuting with public transport or biking and provide wellness programs including lunchtime yoga (of which I am a qualified instructor).

**Tell us about your interest in this role and what excites you about the opportunity with Backroads**

I'm a bit of a jack of all trades in IT systems, having worked for two years as an IT Support Technician in a small UK tech firm called Blu Wireless. This position gave me exposure to all layers of our IT systems. Daily duties included: troubleshooting network issues and Windows 10 and 11 operating systems, managing user access via the VPN and RDP, managing users in Active Directory and Office 365, administering applications like Microsoft teams, configuring and managing our physical server stack, backing up data, and providing support to users and building relationships with suppliers. I am excited to apply these skills in a company that provides a product that can have real impact on peoples lives.

Throughout my career I have particularly enjoyed the pride that comes with guiding users through the process of understanding and implementing technology. I worked with users ranging across all levels from seasoned software engineers, to sales and marketing staff who’s only interaction with tech was writing a document or browsing the internet. It is my belief that anyone can understand a technology given enough patience. The role will doubtless give me ample opportunity to help others solve their problems.

I am used to a dynamic work environment with a requirement to autonomously manage my workload. I worked on several projects to improved the IT infrastructure at Blu Wireless as well as venturing into the Software Engineering department to help them automate their release note generation process. Backroads sells itself as a company that encourages growth, dedication and competence. Since I am near the beginning of my career and have lots of energy and enthusiasm, I highly value the opportunity to grow within a company that has this outlook.