

Travel Adventure: Alaska to Argentina

1 Many people dream of going on a great travel adventure.
Most of us keep dreaming; others make it happen...

Gregg Bleakney's dream was to travel the Americas from top to bottom. He got the idea after he finished a 1,600 kilometer (1,000 mile) bike ride. Gregg's friend, Brooks Allen, was also a cyclist¹. The two friends talked and slowly **formed** a plan: they would travel from Alaska to Argentina—by bike.

To pay for the **trip**, Gregg and Brooks worked and saved their money for years. Once they were on the road, they often camped outdoors or stayed in hostels.² In many places, local people opened their homes to the two friends and gave them food.

During their trip, Gregg and Brooks cycled through deserts, rainforests, and mountains. They visited modern cities and **ancient** ruins³ such as Machu Picchu in Peru. And everywhere they went they met other cyclists from all over the world.

In May 2007—two years, twelve countries, and over 30,500 km (19,000 miles) later—Gregg **eventually** reached Ushuaia, Argentina, the southernmost city in the world. (Near Guatemala, Brooks had to return to the U.S., and Gregg continued without him.)

The trip taught both men a lot about traveling, **especially** if you travel **abroad**. What did they learn? Here is some of Gregg's **advice**:

25 **Travel light.** The less **baggage** you have, the less you'll worry about.

Be flexible. Don't plan everything. Then you'll be more **relaxed** and happy, especially if there are problems.

30 **Be polite.** As one traveller told Gregg, "Always remember that nobody wants to fight, cheat, or rob⁴ a nice guy."

¹ A **cyclist** is someone who rides a bicycle.

² A **hostel** is a cheap place to stay and sleep when traveling.

³ The **ruins** of something are the parts of it that remain after it has been broken.

⁴ If someone is **robbed**, they have money or property stolen from them.



▲ Gregg and Brooks cycle past ruins in Tikal National Park, Guatemala.