

*India - with local women in front of the Sun temple, in a beautiful but tragically poor country.*

# Traveller by choice

**Martin Malik is like you and he does the same what you do. He works, he does shopping in a shop like yours, he does sport, and he minds his own business. Martin Malik has dreams, like you, but he does something completely different than you because he realizes them. You could realize them too.....**

**PETER DOBRONIAK**  
Pictures: MARTIN MALIK

Apart from contact details Martin's business card shows "Traveller and adventure seeker". He's the real life Indiana Jones, and no, I'm not joking. When Martin sets himself a target he will do anything to realize it. Once he wanted to get to Afghanistan but couldn't cross the border, so he jumped into the Pyanj river in Tajikistan, and swam to Afghanistan. And who would dare to do that? Anyone?  
Martin came to London 10 years ago

and as most people he tried many different jobs. It was still easier for him because he was an English teacher in Poland, and his natural optimism always guaranteed him a job. On the other hand Martin has never had problems with losing a job too. Once the company he worked for ceased to exist, and another time he was fired because he refused to be politically correct. After one of such "express goodbyes" with a job, the next day he was sitting on a plane to Thailand. In those times Martin still didn't know that he wanted to travel. Then he just wanted to train Thai-boxing. Martin was fascinated by the blood sport, espe-

cially that he's done knock down karate for 17 years. He also wanted to prepare himself for a tournament in England. As it is sometimes with people they don't know what they want. They get carried away by different ideas and occupations, and then in the "middle of the road" they realize what they truly need. To Martin it became clear in Thailand. Then he knew that he wanted to travel. To him to want is to do - by now he has travelled to many countries, covering, as he says, about 21% of the globe.  
- I don't want to remember that I've been a slave of pound sterling my whole life and have memories only from a su-

permarket- he tells Cooltura. As it is sometimes, in a certain age people start caring about their own biography, and other things have second value. Martin convinces us that his way of travelling does not cost that much. However first we have to know what we want to do. Do we want to explore the world, or we just want to sunbathe on a beach, and eventually take part in a document about Polish drunks in Egypt. Unfortunately these are two different things, which we tend to forget. If we only go diving in the tropics, this is not travelling but going for a holiday – sad but true.

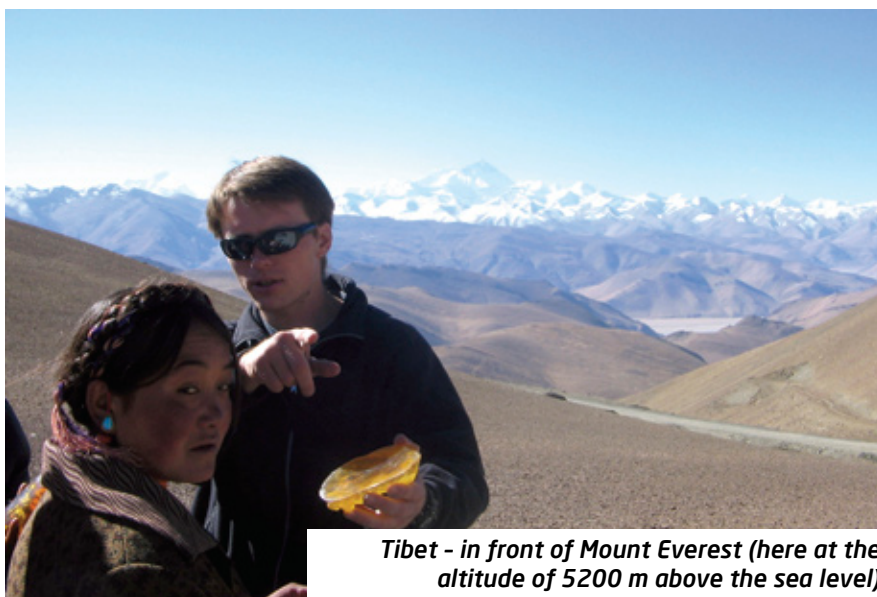
- What are you doing now? Are you working or you just live with your travels?

- I don't live only with my travels, because I have to work "from time to time". I have family which I care about and which I feel responsible for - he says. I also need some time for the "closest to the ground activities", like cleaning, shopping, cooking etc – he continues. Soon, the traveller karate kid plans an expedition to Asia. – In about 3 months I'm going for about 4,5 months to the South East and West Asia. I will be in the countries which I have been to before, but this time I want to explore them better and take much better pictures. I'm going to Burma, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, and to the UAE – he tells our magazine. These are not the only plans. The man, who made his first dreams come true, becomes more demanding with time, and he wants to realize all his plans. – I have many plans for many wonderful expeditions, although I don't want to go too far into the future – says Martin. I definitely want to go to the North Korea. I'm also interested in Greenland, Colombia, Madagascar and Turkmenistan (one of the most closed countries in the world after North Korea) – he finishes. We will be publishing in our magazine Martin Malik's travel memoirs. Maybe some of our readers will also decide to make their dreams come true? Sometimes it is so simple....

More details and advice for travel beginners you can find on the website:  
[www.CompassTravelGuide.net](http://www.CompassTravelGuide.net)



*Thailand - thai boxing training*



*Tibet - in front of Mount Everest (here at the altitude of 5200 m above the sea level)*



*Pakistan - local sense of humour in the lawless Pash-tuns` lands (10km from the Afghan border)*