

INTO THE WILD

LES STROUD TAKES TRAVEL TO THE EXTREME

Over three seasons of the hit television series *Survivorman*, Canadian survival expert Les Stroud used his knowledge and skills to survive for up to seven days, alone in remote locations across the globe.

SO WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE SURVIVORMAN?

“It’s 40 years of life experience and learning different things,” says Stroud, who started off in the entertainment business and believes his success is due to a mixture of skills. This year, Stroud is also a mentor in the Room for Thought program, where he will lend his survivor expertise to reaching other types of goals, specifically bringing a great idea to fruition.

For many, adventure travel leads to rich, unforgettable experiences with positive life lessons. One of the most memorable

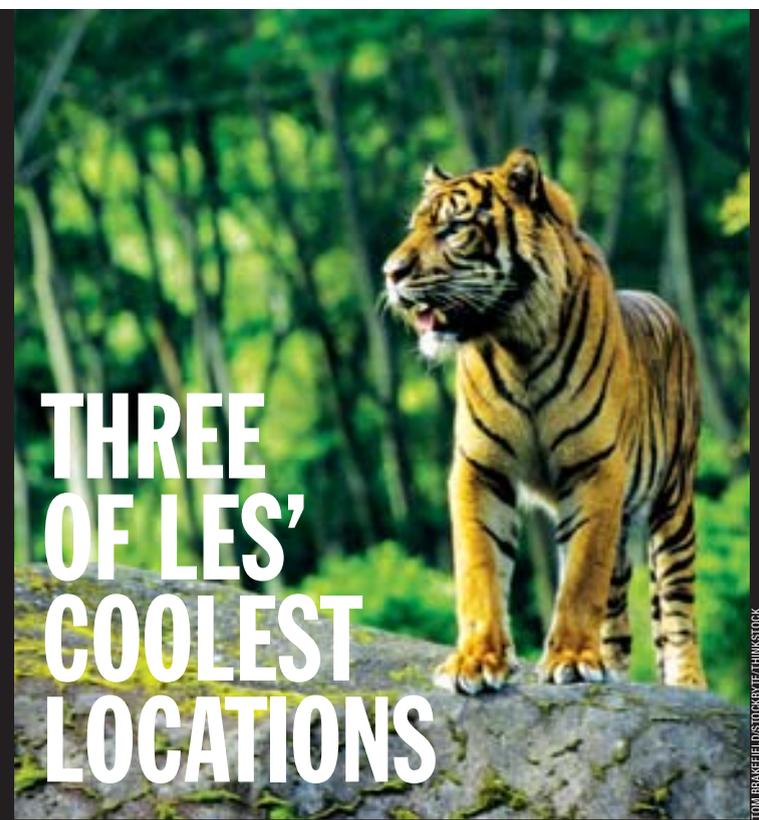
experiences in Stroud’s career was participating in a tribal ceremony. “It was my time in Indonesia with the shamans in the middle of the jungle, the Mentawai, and being tattooed with a rusty nail. Ironically and coincidentally, it was the final show, but it really stood out for me, it was a very special moment.”

Contemplating your own extreme vacation? Learn some survival skills, says Stroud, and that starts with a bit of research and planning.

“You want to have a guide and then second to that, you want to make sure that you’ve got a reputable guide,” says Stroud, who recommends that you organize your transportation before you get on the ground. “When you get into remote places transportation is tricky, especially the timings of things.”

Stroud has come to know the importance of planning ahead and being prepared at home and abroad. “I like to be able to go into a remote situation with my crew and know that if nothing was there and no one was there to help us, we’re self-contained for at least a week.”

— By *Duncan McAllister*



THREE OF LES' COOLEST LOCATIONS



ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

1 INDONESIA
This tropical location is one of the largest and most biodiverse jungle areas in the world and home to the Mentawai shamans.



HEMERA/THINKSTOCK

2 THE KALAHARI DESERT
A challenging location for the survival traveller, with its extreme hot and cold conditions, this arid plateau is located in southern Africa.



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3 PERU
Explore the Andes mountain range, with its myriad species of plants and animals and home of the last of the Incas.