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Romesh rangananathan colombia guide

Page 2Page 3Page 4Page 5Page 6 Main content Clips Music Played Timings (where shown) are from the start of the programme in hours and minutes 00:31 Detalles (Detailhes) Broadcasts We don't know about you but Netflix is running a little dry for us after four months of lockdown. Luckily, however, we stumbled upon Sony BBC Earth's new Couch Travel Anthology, which will take you from Japan to Russia, Turkey to the Caribbean, through Cuba and Colombia all the way to Burma. Presented by Sue Perkins, Simon Reeve and Romesh Ranganathan, the journey travels through culture, socio-political issues, and terrorism to show the world as it is, but with a light-hearted disposition. British author and TV host, Simon Reeve, has taken his misadventures around the world and turned them into documentaries and books on terrorism, modern history and travel. He has won numerous awards for his shows like Equator (2006), Tropic of Capricorn (2008), and Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve (2012), among others. We got talking to Simon Reeve about his life, travels, and the new show. Don't forget to read part 1 first! Tell us a little about the new show, Couch Travel? They show quite a few of the TV series I've made: Russia, the Caribbean, Cuba, Burma, Turkey. They are also showing a brilliant British comedian Sue Perkins in Japan, and the misadventures of Romesh Ranganathan, who is also a very, very funny bloke. And the idea, obviously, is that this is taking people from their front room, from their TV, around the planet to see real and unfiltered, extreme and hopefully quite non touristy stories of life forms on our planet. I think if you want to get a tourist brochure, you could, you can just go on YouTube, and look up a place. But I think there is still an opportunity and a space as it were on the TV for people to go and have a look behind the scenes and try and understand the country a little bit more than a tourism video. And that's what we try to do. It probably sounds a bit pretentious and pompous, but the whole joy of making TV programmes means doors open for you that other travellers don't get to go through because people around the planet are fundamentally very warm and very welcoming. And they want to show you their nice patch of Earth. Can you share an experience from your journey? Something that you didn't expect? They've all got really spectacular memories associated with each one and it's quite overwhelming actually just to see the name or the titles on the page and then a lot of emotion and memory washes over me from each one. But that's how travel should be, it should leave a mark and should have an impact. But just one place we went to visit in Honduras, in Central America, which is a country with an enormous problem with gang violence. And we went into a prison in a city in Honduras, which is one of the most dangerous places on the planet outside of an active war zone. And we went into this prison to meet the leaders of some of the criminal gangs who are tearing the country apart. And it's a prison controlled by the inmates, by the prisoners. It's a very dangerous place and we weren't sure how we were going to be able to get in there. And we thought maybe some special forces soldiers might be able to protect us or something like that. But eventually, we went into this prison protected by just one man. One man, the only person who could take us into this prison safely was the bishop of the city with a big Christian cross on his chest. And he protected us and kept us safe inside this prison, which was like a cross between a Harry Potter magic world and a sweatshop. It was a factory sweatshop. It was a completely surreal place with characters straight out the movie. But protected by the bishop, we made it in and out of the prison safely. So that's just one of the experiences and adventures from one of the programmes. Have you ever been to India? I've been to India, I think, probably eight times. And I have travelled in India fairly extensively. I've travelled across India, following the Ganges from source to sea. I've travelled through the central states, and I've travelled around the coasts of India as well. I made a show where I travelled around the Indian Ocean, so we went down the west coast, and then up the east coast. I've been to some unusual places. From the Rann of Kutch, to Mizoram and Tripura. I've bathed in the waters of Varanasi. I've been to Gujarat and Rishikesh, my god I've travelled in India. But, I've never been to Rajasthan! I've not been on the tourist trail or the Golden Triangle, I've had a non-touristy experience in India. 06 Min Read The ECR is not merely a road connecting Chennai with Mahabalipuram and Puducherry, but a hub of many activities in itself, making it perfect for a weekend getaway I have just returned from filming A League Of Their Own in Spain, where I became involved in the tomato-throwing festival in Buñol, in which thousands of people throw thousands of tomatoes at each other for an hour, then spend the next three days being asked why they smell like bruschetta.My co-presenter Jamie Redknapp posted a photo and more than one person said how disgusting all this was, when there are people starving in the world. I always find this a bizarre argument - one that takes something that your parents used to say to you when you were eight and wouldn't finish your meal, and uses it to ignore the festival's cultural history, as well as the huge number of things that are part of our everyday lives and far more abhorrent when it comes to the question of waste.But my issue, in the end, is not with the argument, but with the level of certainty with which the person expressed it. Social media has exacerbated a trend whereby people speak with complete authority on every subject, regardless of how informed they are.I recently filmed a travel show in Mongolia, where we got an eagle to hunt a radio-controlled car with a stuffed fox on it, for creative reasons that I don't want to get into now. But that scene turned out to be the Pied Piper of trolls, and quite a few came out of the woodwork. There were a lot of people complaining about me enforcing my vegan views on people, but that's fine - I respect their right to do so. What got me was one person telling me that the eagle had probably broken its claw and so would have to be released into the wild, as a result of my cruel "prank".The level of inside knowledge this person claimed to have, about something that five people were present to observe, was breathtaking. From their invented starting point, they extrapolated an angry argument, suggesting that it would have been more humane to use a real fox that would have died. But the eagle did not break its claw. I know this because I was there. On the same show, I went to Colombia and toured the country with the radio host Heisel Mora. While the show was broadcast, a woman tweeted me at various points to inform me that Heisel had not found what I was saying funny, and that she was offended, and that this was why we could never be friends. She knew far more about the week I had spent with Heisel than I did, on the basis of an edited one-hour show.It has been much documented that we have all become experts, but these social media posts are a sign that people are evolving to a place way beyond expertise. We are entering an age where people can claim to know more about what really happened than the people who were there. Where people will dismiss eyewitness accounts, on the basis of their gut feelings; where they will refute scientific discoveries because the scientist just doesn't look trustworthy.Perhaps this was always a logical next step, now that we are living in times when the people we are supposed to trust are doing so little to earn it. But where will all this lead? Evidence will become irrelevant, arguments will become nonsensical and, worst of all, columnists will try to make wild generalisations about societal behaviour based on three social media posts. "I'm indulging in a bit of fantasy travel and documenting my photographs at the moment," says Simon Reeve over phone from London where he is in lockdown. "It's difficult to say how travel will play out post-pandemic," he adds.But until the world opens up again to the wanderer, Reeve, British author of books on international terrorism, history and travelogues, and two other presenters will give us exotic places to discover from the safety of our homes.Sony BBC Earth's Couch Travel Anthology will take viewers to well-known and not-so-known countries across the globe and go beyond the tropes of happy tourist sites to discover the mystique of these places.The journeymanThis is nothing out of the ordinary for Reeve, 48, who has made a career travelling to dangerous destinations. He has found himself folding his 6'3" frame into the back of a gun-mounted open truck while rebel gangs challenged each other on the war-torn streets of Mogadishu, hunted with the bushmen of the Kalahari, cried at the sight of Rohingya camps, ziplined into Myanmar from Manipur, and roamed the forgotten citadels of Central Asia. He has visited nearly 130 countries, made 22 travel programmes for television, authored three best-sellers among his many books, and received a One World Broadcasting Trust award and the Ness Award in 2012 from the Royal Geographic Society.Alongside Reeve, who will present Russia, Turkey, the Caribbean, Cuba, Colombia, Cuba and Myanmar, Couch Travel Anthology also has British comedian and actor Sue Perkins(japan), and stand-up comic-actor Romesh Ranganathan(travel misadventures). "For Couch Travel Anthology I chose some of the countries, the producer chose others. It includes an incredible variety of places," says Reeve. Travelling with a cameraman, producer, director and a local guide, Reeve admits that it sometimes takes three weeks to film an hour of television. "It takes longer if I need to strike a rapport. That's where local guides or fixers help. They sort out permits, translate and help curate the travel; they enrich your experience," he says.Reeve admits that travelling to present unknown facets of a country takes many visits and an eye for experiences that fall through the gaps. "Travellers like to tick off how many countries they have been to. But you could go to places like India or Brazil 20 times and still find new experiences. I've been to India nine times and found dramatically different stories, and not in just terms of geography or culture. Finding extraordinary human beings is the real beauty of travelling. There are seven billion people on the planet and all their stories can be beautiful," he adds.The check-list To decipher the focus of the series involves a lot of research. "We do loads of it," says Reeve. "You can turn up in a place and enjoy the experience but it's not the same when you are filming a series. There is a joy when you prepare in advance, in reading up; you savour the place. We talk to our guides and plan what you may be allowed to film and who will be in it. Sometimes, the filming is spontaneous. You see something and stop; the schedules are not set in concrete." For the series shot in Myanmar, Reeve says he was on the move every day. "It took us a month to cover Burma, moving across Malawmyine, Yangon, Naypyitaw, Bagan, Mandalay and the Shan state. Travelling around the Caribbean was action-packed with incredible beaches that hide the harsh reality of these places," he says. Reeve adds that travelling enables him to see the world in shades of light and dark. "Writing doesn't come easy to me, I've had to shed sweat and blood for my books," he says. "I have had an incredible education through travel. I love my job but I'm away for five months a year. I miss my nine-year-old son then. One day I hope to be able to stand on a hill and share the view with him."Couch Travel Anthology is on SONY BBC Earth on July 13 at 10pm

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