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VANCOUVER SUN SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2018

SECTION H

10 BEST TRAVEL SHOWS ON NETFLIX

If you'd rather put your feet up in your living room than put your arms up during an airport security pat-down, Netflix makes an attractive option for the armchair traveller in all of us. Whether you're researching your next excursion or simply want to live vicariously through those living out epic travel dreams, here are the best ways to navigate the options on Netflix. You'll want to take your shoes off for this, writes *Jay Gentile*.



Anthony Bourdain: Parts Unknown is the show all other travel shows are compared to, and seasons 7 to 10 exploring the globe are available on Netflix. **NETFLIX**

ANTHONY BOURDAIN: PARTS UNKNOWN

Long regarded as the travel show against which all other travel shows are judged, Anthony Bourdain changed the game in food-focused television the minute his award-winning show debuted in 2013. No one could uncover the soul of a place and its people quite like the legendary former chef and author. With effortless cool and always respectful curiosity, Bourdain uses food as a window from which to open up discovery of a place and its people from all walks of life across all corners of the globe. With the final episode of his masterwork Parts Unknown having recently aired on CNN, seasons 7-10 are currently available on Netflix. Tune in to see Bourdain dining with president Obama in Hanoi, exploring Montana with Jim Harrison, and visiting Puerto Rico five months before Hurricane Maria.



Renowned English comic/actor Stephen Fry travels to all 50 states in the span of six one-hour episodes.

STEPHEN FRY IN AMERICA

Laced with loads of British witticism and heaps of trans-continental charm, Stephen Fry in America follows renowned English comic/actor Stephen Fry on his journey as he travels to all 50 United States in the span of six one-hour episodes. Part fish-out-of-water story and part exploration of what his life might have been (Fry almost grew up in the U.S.), the series (which originally aired on BBC in 2008) depicts Fry road-tripping the U.S. in his trademark black London cab from New England to Hawaii. Along the way, he breaks bread with Navajos in the Monument Valley, speaks with the homeless in St. Louis, and attends a college football game in Alabama among a diverse smattering of all-American adventures and offbeat excursions. Sometimes the best way to see a place is through the eyes of a foreigner. **SEE NETFLIX ON #2**



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Somebody Feed Phil, a documentary series from the creator of Everybody Loves Raymond, Phil Rosenthal, takes viewers on a goodwill eating tour of the world. Along for the ride is Phil's trademark sense of humour. **NETFLIX**

NETFLIX FROM H1

SOMEBODY FEED PHIL

"I'm exactly like Anthony Bourdain if he was afraid of everything." Everybody Loves Raymond creator Phil Rosenthal says he told Netflix when pitching his food-travel series, Somebody Feed Phil. Indeed, Rosenthal proves the anti-Bourdain in this nerdy but lovable

traveller full of dorky outfits and flaccid dad jokes that plays out in low-impact fashion over two six-episode seasons.

Exploring more well-known locales such as Venice and New Orleans sprinkled in with a few more eccentric offerings like Cape Town and Tel Aviv, Rosen-

thal's show lacks the sharp point of view or journalistic insights of Parts Unknown but makes up for it with an infectious optimism and earnest desire for human connection. The cheesy theme song declares Phil "a happy and hungry man," and maybe that's exactly what the world needs.



Based on the comedic viewpoints of Jack Whitehall, Travels with My Father follows 30-year-old Jack on trips with his 78-year-old father, Michael.

JACK WHITEHALL: TRAVELS WITH MY FATHER

In a classic odd couple pairing, 30-year-old British comic Jack Whitehall and his prim-and-proper 78-year-old father tour Southeast Asia and eastern Europe over the course of two seasons in this Netflix original series. Taking advantage of a "gap year" for Season 1, they tour Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam, with the fun-loving Jack eager to partake in playful activities like parkour while his father Michael is always lusting after fancier accommodations than the ones Jack books. They both seek to deepen their relationship through travel and teach other things along the way, with Jack getting his father to loosen up at times (they even get matching tattoos) and Michael teaching Jack "there's more to life than telling jokes about his penis." The recently released second season has them touring eastern Europe to offbeat locales like Transylvania, Romania and the Chernobyl site in Ukraine.

DEPARTURES

What happens when two Canadian dudes decide to drop everything and travel the world for a year? The end result is Departures, which originally aired from 2008-10 and currently appears on Netflix for 42 episodes over three seasons. Focused on adventure to faraway lands like the Cook Islands, Mongolia and North Korea, Departures seeks to serve as an inspiring kick in the ass for twenty-somethings everywhere who dream of taking a year off to travel but never pull the trigger. While mostly an affable exploration of scenic locales and obscure local cultures, the show does have its occasional deeper moments as it explores topics like dealing with isolation on the hyper remote Ascension Islands



There are three seasons of Departures chronicling the adventures and challenges of two Canadian friends as they travel the world.

or summoning the courage to publicly kickbox an opponent in a Thai kick-boxing ring. Bottom line? If these guys can do it, so can you.



Encounters at the End of the World takes viewers to the South Pole.

ENCOUNTERS AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Rather than focusing on the cute critters and dancing penguins of Happy Feet or Ice Age, this 2007 documentary from world-renowned filmmaker Werner Herzog shows what life is really like for the people who live and work in Antarctica.

The film profiles scientists and maintenance workers living in McMurdo Station, the continent's largest settlement and a working science centre, to find out why they live here while showcasing their humanity in

scenes like a local gathering for a rooftop guitar concert. Encounters also features encounters with lesser-known features of the landscape such as Mount Erebus, the world's southern-most active volcano, paired with Herzog's narration voice-over that feels strangely at home in this inhospitable climate. With inspirational quotes from maintenance workers and massive helium balloon launches, you've never seen Antarctica quite like this.



Journalist David Farrier visits unusual, and often macabre, places and people around the world. **NETFLIX**

DARK TOURIST

If your vacation itinerary involves trips to creepy abandoned cities and barren nuclear testing grounds, new Netflix series Dark Tourist may be your (clearly sugar-free) cup of tea. New Zealand journalist David Farrier explores the budding enterprise of "dark tourism" in this weekly unique eight-episode docuseries, which has him touring the sites of Jeffrey Dahmer's murders in Milwaukee, hanging out with death cults in Mexico City, and exploring the slums of

South Africa among other anti-bucket list activities. The show succeeds mainly in its ability to shed light on untold stories and settings like a "suicide forest" in Japan (where more than 100 bodies were found in 2013) and an "extreme" haunted house in Kentucky (where visitors are voluntarily tortured). Proving that travel isn't all eating pasta in Italy and taking photos of the Eiffel Tower, this show is a must for fans of the macabre.

SEE NETFLIX ON H3

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BRIEFS

Large passenger sparks lawsuit

A man is suing British Airways claiming he suffered back injuries after cabin crew seated him next to a "300-pound" passenger who was "overspilling" onto his seat. Stephen Prosser told a court in Wales that the six-foot-four man was built like New Zealand rugby giant Jonah Lomu. Prosser "estimated" the passenger's weight at 22 stone (308 pounds) and said sitting next to him for the 12-hour flight between Bangkok and London in 2016 left him with "continual spasms" in his back. Prosser said his spine was twisted into a "painful, unnatural and damaging position" as he had to "wedge" his buttocks between the armrests during the flight. A customer rep for BA told the court hearing the seatmate was tall and broad, but not obese. "I could see this gentleman was not spilling onto Mr. Prosser's seat as suggested."

Rome gets serious with scofflaws

Rome has officially had enough of La Dolce Vita wannabes, money-grubbing gladiators and wobbly-legged pub crawlers. The Italian capital, long denounced for the urban squatters that has had residents comparing it to a "rubbish dump," has introduced permanent laws aimed at stamping out many antisocial behaviours. The city council says a squad of 500 new vigili urbani (city police) will soon be enforcing laws against infractions such as swimming in fountains and "slovenly" eating in restricted areas. It also announced a ban on organized bar hopping. Unofficial "gladiators" — long a scourge outside the famous Colosseum and blamed for overcharging, harassing and pickpocketing unwary tourists — face fines of up to 400 euros (\$600). And anyone heading to Trevi Fountain to recreate Anita Ekberg's sexy scenes from the 1960 film La Dolce Vita will also be ticketed.

New Zealand city 'one big Airbnb'

A town in New Zealand is at risk of becoming "one big Airbnb" as it prepares for the annual influx of summer visitors. Some residents of Mount Maungani, a suburb of Taunanga in the Bay of Plenty region south of Auckland, say they are being forced out because of a lack of rental digs caused by the room-sharing service. "This whole town has become one big Airbnb," one resident complained to the New Zealand Herald. Dan Lusby, of Taunanga Rentals, said three years ago there were around 700 rentals available, compared with just over 200 today. Meanwhile, there are 1,600 active Airbnb listings in Taunanga. A spokesman for Airbnb's New Zealand and Australia operations blamed population growth and planning decisions for the imbalance in the market. Compiled by *Andre Ramshaw*

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Under An Arctic Sky is a documentary about six surfers determined to catch a wave in Iceland. *GETTY IMAGES*

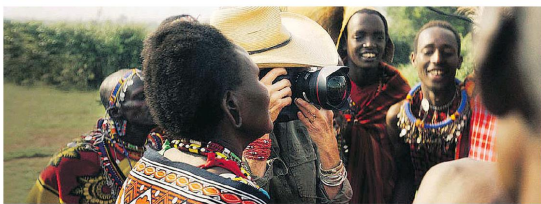
NETFLIX FROM #12

UNDER AN ARCTIC SKY

Ever dream of surfing in Iceland? The 40-minute 2017 documentary Under An Arctic Sky depicts all of the efforts, doubts, and triumphs that went into turning that vivid dream into a reality as one of the worst storms in decades threatens to derail the whole enterprise. Six surfers travel to the remote north coast

of Iceland to capture the ultimate moment: to surf in the middle of the night in front of a snow-covered mountain illuminated by the moon and the glowing Northern Lights. Along the way, they battle trips to the hospital, cars buried in snow, cameras frozen in ice, and other frustrations as they are forced to improvise

on the fly with the ever-present prospect of failure looming. Employing high-tech cameras, drone footage, time-lapse photography, and Kickstarter crowdfunding, the film demonstrates what can happen when you truly challenge yourself to venture deep into the unknown. Which is pretty much the whole point of travel, right?



Tales by Light follows photographers as they explore far-flung locales and the people who live there. *NETFLIX*

TALES BY LIGHT

If a picture is worth 1,000 words, this Australian docuseries might be longer than the Bible. Through the course of two six-episode seasons on Netflix, this National Geographic series (produced in collaboration with Canon) depicts the journeys of acclaimed photographers as they travel to remote destinations to tell the story behind the image. In its quest "to capture disappearing worlds" while providing imagery that could help save

endangered species and cultures from Utah to Ethiopia, the series takes the viewer along for the ride as photographers chronicle ancient death rituals in India and indigenous clans in Papua New Guinea in between efforts to photograph elusive snow leopards in the Himalayas and human-friendly sharks in the Bahamas. With different experts in the fields of nature photography, adventure sports and

ter photography often rotating between episodes, this show will put your Instagram travel selfies to shame.

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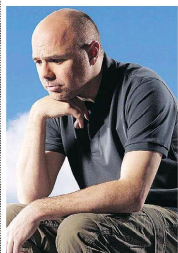
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THE MOANING OF LIFE

Grumpy, bald, and occasionally anti-social world traveller Karl Pilkington is back in front of the camera, whether he likes it or not (and quite often, he does not). The unluckiest of TV hosts follows up the success of his previous series *An Idiot Abroad* with this two-season, 11-episode travelogue, which originally aired from 2013-15 on Britain's Sky TV and is available on Netflix in the U.S. Rather than travelling the world solely for the twisted amusement of Ricky Gervais in his previous gig, this series has Karl exploring deep life topics such as marriage, happiness, children, and death as he travels to multiple destinations per episode to investigate each topic. This again has him partaking in unusual activities like exploring arranged marriages in India, scooping out a coffin shop in Ghana, and rescuing a turtle in Japan. While the show does focus on heavier issues, there is still plenty of fun and good humour here for fans of *An Idiot Abroad*. Classic Pilkington moments include the host dancing in the streets with hip-hop clowns, walking the runway in a fashion show, and playing music on trash bins.



Karl Pilkington travels the world in quest of answers to life's big questions in *The Moaning Life*.

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