

going where we ain't supposed to

After over a year of dormancy, the newsletter has returned. It's jam-packed with travel tips, wisdom, ICG crisis updates, CIA, State Dept., British and Australian travel advisories, a photo of the month, interviews with real bastards, airline discounts, real news, and of course links to the most current PBs content. We hope the revival of the newsletter will be helpful, and insightful

enjoy.

-nick

comments, questions, and suggestions can be sent to nick@polosbastards.com.

CURRENT CONTENT

travel features: [Hot and Sweaty in Kuala Lumpur](#)
[Mausjaure Pt3 - The Final Push](#)



reviews: [Bangkok Restaurants - A Hidden Pearl](#)

commentary: [Russia's Splitting Headache - A Brief History Of Chechnya](#)

photos: [Nagorno Karabagh - Post-cards From Nowhere](#)

Be sure to check out the [PBs site](#) for old content. Here's a sneak peek at upcoming material that you won't want to miss:

Jokkmokk 400 - Lee Ridley. The 400th annual Sami Winter Marker. Scheduled release: 24th, May.

Haiti - Nick Whalen. Meeting the people of Haiti. Scheduled release: 31st, May.

Georgia In Pictures - Christopher Koym, Photo piece of Georgia. Scheduled release: 14th, June.

Horse Eating In Kazakhstan - Robert Chenciner. An insight into the culinary habits of the Kazakhs of Central Asia's steppe. Scheduled release: 21st June.

travel tips/wisdom

WATER

Parasites suck. How do I know you ask? Well, I have one. When travelin' in the 'third-world', nasty water is hard to avoid. But simple precautions and vigilance will keep you healthy in most cases.

A few tips: make sure all water is boiled when eating and drinking, when taking a shower (good luck finding one that works) gargle mouthwash. What the locals say is clean is for them, not you. Hotels may have rusty cisterns and bottled water may be kept in contaminated ice. Boil if not 101% sure the water is safe. Iodine is good too.

I never drank any water that wasn't purified but I'm still sick. Well, the problem is I washed my face and hair with water that wasn't and maybe even took a shower without gargling mouthwash.

Use your head and assume the water is bad and needs to be boiled for ten minutes. I thought I was cautious, and now I'm sick.

-nick

have any advice? submit it [here](#).



ICG CRISIS ALERTS

Here are some of ICG's latest alerts. You can be notified via email of each alert by visiting the ICG website: <http://www.icg.org>.

Middle East Report N°40, 6 May 2005: [Bahrain's Sectarian Challenge](#).

Asia Report N°97, 4 May 2005: [Kyrgyzstan: After the Revolution](#).

Asia Briefing N°37, 3 May 2005: [Decentralisation and Conflict in Indonesia: The Mamasa Case](#).

Deteriorated Situations:

Afghanistan, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Haiti, Israel/Occupied Territories, Myanmar/Burma, North Korea, Togo, Uzbekistan.

Improved Situations:

Cote d'Ivoire, Kashmir, Lebanon, Philippines, Serbia & Montenegro.

For a list of Unchanged Situations and full text, click [here](#). And of course, for more information on all your favorite hotspots, visit ICG's [website](#).

TRAVEL ADVISORIES

Here is a small list of the countries these three governments think you shouldn't travel to, but which of course are exactly ones we want to travel to. For more complete, and detailed information on the countries listed below and those that are not, visit each home-page.

From the [Australians](#): "We advise against all travel to these countries:"

- [Afghanistan](#)
- [Burundi](#)
- [Iraq](#)
- [Ivory Coast](#)
- [Liberia](#)
- [Somalia](#)

And of course, for all the other fun spots, check out the ["countries for which we we advise against non-essential travel"](#).

From the [Brits](#): Well the Brits don't really want you to go anywhere either, but here are a few of the places they really don't want you travelin' to:

- [Ivory Coast](#)
- [Somalia](#)
- [Togo](#)

[Here](#) is a complete list of all the locales of interest.

From the [Americans](#): Ha! And you thought the Aussies and Brits didn't want you anywhere! Well, in a country where only 20% of Americans have passports, I don't think the boys at the State Dept. have much to worry about.

The most current additions on the 'no-go' list are:

- [Yemen](#)
- [Colombia](#)

The list of current travel advisories can be found [here](#). For the best intel, please get in touch with folks in country before you travel. For starters try Polo's Bastards [forum](#) and at RYP's [Black Flag Cafe](#). Someone will be able to answer your questions or at least know someone who can.

Now that the business is done with, check out the photo of the month by Daniel Smith while on [his latest trip in Kurdistan](#).

“Hebun’s eyes are piercing, her voice confident. She became a guerrilla fourteen years ago when the Turkish military destroyed her village in southern Turkey, while she was still in high school. She fled to the hills where she had to learn quickly about carrying a weapon and traveling at night. In time, she became a military commander with five hundred men and women under her command; she now sits on the Defense Council.” -Daniel Smith



On behalf of Polo’s Bastards, I would like to invite new contributors to step forward and submit new content. Please submit all work to editor@polosbastards.com