

The World Visits The West Village at Inspiring Travel Photographers Boutique

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Times Square is known as the number one tourist destination on the planet. Millions of globetrotters and city dwellers cross the brightly lit intersections on a daily basis for both work and play. Fascination with travel and world hotspots does not end on 42nd Street though.

A quick taxi ride or a few subway stops on the ACE line will bring you down to West 11th Street and the beginning of even more visually stunning adventures. Mark Lakin's Photo Gallery housed in Epic Road travel headquarters has become the one stop shop for Gotham's elite to intercontinental visitors. Stop by the space across the street from the infamous Spotted Pig to experience delightful and captivating pieces of art while taking time to discuss the latest way to travel with a sense of artistic style and conscious awareness for our evolving planet.



It is one trip not to be missed by anyone in town, so Times Square Chronicles sat down recently with co-founder Mark Lakin at the gorgeous gallery for a fun and fascinating conversation:

Epic Road is based in The West Village where you also have a gallery that highlights work captured during your travel. How do you think the location

contributes to the neighborhood?



Epic Road is about fulfilling the desires of curious global nomads to visit and respect the world's great treasures. Although all of our trips are custom and designed specifically for each traveler, they consistently include elements of exceptional access, luxury and adventure executed in ways to facilitate a heightened understanding of the current state of our planet and its inhabitants. The West Village is home to some of the world's most influential thinkers, powerful CEO's and socially conscious entrepreneurs. By exposing these mavens, connectors, early adopters and cultural creatives to this type of travel, we are inspiring the world's next leaders by arming them with a global awareness that can only be gained with such a special level of access. Epic Road's offices are housed within my travel photography gallery to give hungry travelers a taste of the once in a lifetime journeys yet to come and help them visualize the beauty that they can witness with their own eyes.

How did this amazing work adventure get started with your partner?

My Co-Founder Marc Chafii and I met almost 20 years ago through a mutual friend while we were both at university. We have shared a long and wonderful friendship with parallel concerns for the environment and those less fortunate. Marc spent the majority of his career in private equity and I spent mine in corporate law. Though we are yet to actually travel together, we each enjoyed experiential and thought-provoking travel that served as a source of inspiration and clarity in each of our lives at home.

Why is an Epic Road adventure a different solution from summer shares in The Hamptons or even a road trip to The Grand Canyon?

Epic Road provides clients with transformative travel experiences to Africa and the Arctic, redefining the definition of luxury adventure travel. We learn about our client's interests in humanitarian and conservation issues and incorporate immersive experiences on the ground to contextualize these issues and make it meaningful for all parties. The unique experiences in conservation and preservation can be much more developed than a traditional self or travel agent planned trip. The Hamptons are all about relaxing which is also important, but you will not come back any different than you were before. The Grand Canyon is stunning and a must see on any global nomad's list but its just a lot closer to home, and because of that a traveler cannot get the same big picture global perspective as they can from a trip to Africa or the Arctic with Epic Road.

Why do you think New Yorkers are interested in turning to Epic Road to help achieve the trip of their dreams?

New Yorkers are complicated creatures. They are busy with little time to plan or travel and have exceptional world-class standards for everything from food to beaches. Epic Road is an independent source for exceptional curated travel options with attentive and knowledgeable customer service that begins with the first consultation and continues for a lifetime. As New Yorkers ourselves, we have the highest standards for food, wine, accommodations, beaches, jungles and experiences. We also have exceptional first hand knowledge of the destinations we serve and are therefore able to match New York standards

with the right experiences and hotels abroad.

Why does your organization make an effort to have a positive influence on charitable contributions?

Our vision is for our clients to become leaders in the humanitarian and conservation movements. But we're also all about baby steps. As we like to say at Epic Road, immersion brings inspiration, and that inspiration brings transformation.

Epic Road's mission is to raise awareness and facilitate a heightened understanding of issues like human/wildlife conflict, species endangerment, malaria prevention, climate change, food scarcity, orphan care, and access to clean water and medical care. Epic Road's overarching vision is to use luxury adventure travel as a vessel to raise global awareness, inspire change, and spark the fire within our clients, shaping hearts and minds that can determine our collective future.

What is next trip planned and why?

Epic Road is organizing and leading goods for good's donor trip to Malawi. goods for good is a nonprofit organization that empowers communities in Malawi to support 80,000 orphans and other children in need. We love to partner with charities to engage their donor base and also plan individual extensions for each of the donors for after the trip to enjoy Africa's incredible safaris and beaches.

For more information please visit www.epicroad.com.

Photos courtesy of Mark Lakin

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- ElizaBeth Taylor- on June 19, 2013.



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