

Following the breeze"

Odyssey of a singing wanderer

Josef "Sepp" Kaiser was born on the 27th of December 1962, as the second of four sons, on a small farm at the foothills of the Alps in the province of Lower Austria.

After public school and an apprenticeship in cabinetmaking, he first started to travel at the age of nineteen. Leaving Austria on an old moped he headed for Canada to visit an uncle and returned nine months later at the occasion of his oldest brother's wedding.

During his second voyage Sepp Kaiser was hitching criss-cross Europe for fifteen months together with his then Canadian girlfriend Laura.

On the **14th of February 1985** the "Vagabond", as Sepp Kaiser used to call himself, took to the road once more, and alone again. This time his escapade turned into a real mammoth-trip, which kept him on the move for more than a decade. During this fantastic odyssey Sepp was to become the first known person in history, to visit **all** of the **192 countries of the world** in one **single journey**, thus entering the **GUINNESS BOOK of RECORDS**. Moreover, he achieved all this in the quite romantic, sometimes real adventures way, with backpack and guitar and predominantly by hitch-hiking.

Without any sponsors, the jovial singing globetrotter financed his wanderings through all kinds of jobs: Picking Kiwi fruits in New-Zealand, waiter in Japan, busker in many exotic towns, gardener and butler in England, supervisor for the Swiss Disaster Relief in Bangladesh, carpenter in Canada, singing Santa Claus in Singapore, tour guide in Argentina and to the Antarctica, deckhand on sailing-boats around the Caribbean, entertainer in different Pubs and hotels ...

But the bold young Austrian had to endure challenging setbacks as well. He got robbed at several occasions and once stabbed in Africa, caught by guerrillas, troubled by bad illnesses (typhoid, malaria, hepatitis ...) and often had to fight for complicated visas ..., but of course, he also enjoyed many wonderful experiences. Climbing famous mountains (even once yodelling on top of the highest peak of the Andes at 6959 m with his guitar), paddling alone in a dugout through the rainforests of New Guinea, sailing all the Seven Seas (on yachts, cargo-ships, fishing boats, traders or submarine), crossing all the better known deserts, reaching very remote islands and living in the most modern metropolis just as well as among very isolated tribes and jungle-nomads - from **Cape North** to **South Africa**, from **Bhutan** to **Polynesia**, from **Mongolia** to the **Fireland**, and even beyond ...

Statistics:

3773 days (10 years and 4 months)
192 countries (all of the UN-recognised countries in the world)
343 border crossings
24 times passing the equator
258 islands

49.000 km (about 1 world-circumference) at sea on **150** different **vessels**
161.000 km (about 3,5 world-circumferences) in the air on different **135 flights**
173.000 km (about 4 world-circumferences) by **bus** and **train**
308.000 km (about 7 world-circumferences) by **hitch-hiking**

691.000 km in all or about **15 times around the globe** –
(nearly **once to the moon and back**)

A wear of: **5 backpacks**
 6 guitars
 10 passports
 15 cameras
 ??? and an **unspecified number of shoes ...**