

The Overlander Family

Overlanding is a combination of remote travel, off-roading, and camping. Overlanding's origins date back to the early 1900s when Australia began to establish routes for long-distance travel within the continent.

Our self-built *tiny houses* on wheels are crammed and tight, but travelling with them gives us independency.

It is difficult to leave alone the job, a career, your house. Not to mention elderly parents and the garden. Travel alerts are heaping up. Friends and family may advice you not to travel. The vehicle is not yet fully equipped, an untraceable tiny bolt is chattering and you forget about an important detail the very last minute: ignition plugs, a blister pad, an earnest farewell. Actually, we cannot get under way at all.

On the ferry boat and later on, in the desert, unexpected winds are blowing from all directions. Someone is waiving ambiguously towards us, we've missed to learn his native language. Will he understand our curiosity and pleasant anticipation, anyway? A passenger promised to learn some arabic in time: „*Merhaba, schukran and bon jour!*“. She suffers from sleepless nights, perhaps because of the tiny bolt?

Near the horizon, through dust and scintillation, we gather a vehicle approaching, after days of loneliness, perhaps a small bus, a shared taxi? Oh, no, that's other travellers in the desert, overlanders! Both vehicles halt, at eye level, we hesitate for a while, both crank down the side window, what a joy!

The twilight hour is beginning, actually, this is a nice spot for setting up camp site, perhaps over there, near the arid tree. Everyone agrees, it gives a bit shade, at least by tomorrow. Folding chairs, camping stoves and the smell of fresh pasta, our new friends are energetic. We report from a long travel day and exhausting challenges, from the nasty bolt, that drives us crazy, everbody is laughing.

Our friends prepare the campfire, they actually collected some wood during the day. Below the dark and sparkling desert sky we are listening to world travel stories, we share our own vague plans, the campfire is warming, everyone sleeps well tonight. The other morning yet another surprise: They hand over ignition plugs, a blister pad and an earnest farewell before we take off.



Days later, we observe a circular, tiny bug sitting at the rear door inside our car. It turns out to be a magnet. We laugh and call him „Oscar“, the nasty chattering was never ever heard again.

<http://www.the-overlander-family.com>

About us:

In 2018 we started developing the documentary film „The Overlander Family“ about independent overland travellers that explore foreign countries in an autonomous vehicle. We did visit Greece, Albania, Spain, Portugal and Morocco for research and shooting. Starting end of September until December 2023 we will travel Morocco again, crossing West-Sahara to Mauritania and towards Senegal entering the next shooting season that we have set in 2022.

We are looking for travel companions in their own vehicle that consider to share the way with us for a couple of days. We hope that some dare to step in front of our camera, as we will do by ourselves. Encounters and talks in front of our camera is what is needed for this film, although it is not a precondition of travelling together.

Our film is not a feature, it is not a report that you may expect to watch on television. We are documentary filmmakers, therefore, our films are neither scripted nor fictitious. The style is rather factual, mainly by leaving the stage to protagonists. Some of our films have been presented in film festivals, some have been awarded for artistic or cultural achievements.

If things work out, the film hits the festival market by 2025 and will be shown in open-air cinemas, during a travel fair or independent digital cinema locations, such as overlander festivals. Our film „Weizenbaum. Rebel at work“ portraying a computer pioneer did reach an audience of 25.000 and toured through 65 cities. Luckily, it sparked a community for a couple of years, which helped to sell 16.500 DVDs refinancing the project.

We do not work by order of a tv-network or production company, we are truly independent. Although, some of our films have been on TV. Mostly, we present our films on extensive film tours, meeting the audience personally. We aim to build a community again, one that the project spurs and that sustains our endeavor. In 2011 we issued the nonfiction book „*Can you make a living from that?*“ describing the concept of slow-budget-filmmaking that we have invented.

More about us: <http://www.ilmarefilm.org>

Shooting: 09/23/2023 until December „The Overlander Family“

Contact us and tell us something about you and your vehicle: overlander@ilmarefilm.org

Important hints for protagonists and supporters alike:

1. This is a low-budget project, run by Silvia and Peter alone.
2. Therefore, we cannot compensate or pay protagonists.
3. Protagonists that have shown in front of our camera will receive a raw cut of the episode they have participated to, in order to discuss and resolve potential issues.
4. Protagonists will trust us, hopefully, and grant the right to use their footage.
5. We are highly delighted if supporters link our project website to grow the community.
6. We will present the film on overlander festivals, requiring travel expenses and a license fee.
7. We do not cooperate with sponsors, yet. It has not been decided.
8. What do I get from participating as a protagonist? You might watch yourself and your journey bigger than life on cinema screens and become a reknown family member.
9. You receive a raw cut of your footage, e.g. of your episode in 4k cinema quality. (Stream)
10. Production cycle is based on a 6k main system camera and a mobile 4k back-up. Target format is an all-digital 4k DCP, the cinema industry standard. (DCI)

Silvia Holzinger (Austria) & Peter Haas (Germany) work together since 2002. www.ilmarefilm.org
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