

Kiwi Girl Retires At 31 and Travels Around The World For 4 years

Documenting Never Before Told Stories

Local Kiwi girl [Serena Star-Leonard](#) retired at the age of 31 and subsequently tripped around Latin America filming documentaries of inspiring stories that until now, have never before been recorded.

Serena Star-Leonard is the author of 'How to Retire in 12 Months' an Australasian bestselling book, educating people on how they can retire from their 9-5 job and live the life they've dreamed of.

After years in the corporate world, Serena did what most of us dream of; she quit her corporate job to start her own businesses.

Serena took up the challenge to ["Retire in 12 Months"](#) and created an online income through blogging, which has since funded her and her husband's travelling and enabled her to work on [Five Point Five](#), a website that shares the stories of inspiring people doing [extraordinary things for their communities](#).



Serena's expertise runs wide and deep when it comes to ditching the daily grind to lead a utopian lifestyle.

- Online business: Serena coaches others who are interested in ditching the 9-5 grind and living the life they really want.
- Lifestyle travel: After 20 months of travelling through some of the toughest countries, Serena has a list of 'How To' travel and survival tips that will put even Bear Grills to shame.

What 1.5 years of travel through Latin America looks like in numbers:

- 5** major ruins visited [Ciudad Perdida](#), [Copan](#), [Tikal](#), [Machu Picchu](#), Chan Chan + many smaller ones
- 7** months in Central America – They wore flip flops every day
- 11** overnight bus trips
- 13** flights to: Buenos Aires, Caracas, Havana, Cancun, Denver, San Francisco, Miami, Medellin, Guayaquil, Galapagos Islands, Guayaquil, Quito, Auckland
- 17** countries visited

17 [inspiring mini documentaries](#) filmed
20 months travelling
35 hours on their longest bus journey from [Banos, Ecuador to Huanchaco, Peru](#).
111 apartments, hotels, homes, hostels, hammocks and boats [where we have stayed](#) a night or more
220 blogs published between their 4 websites

Serena states:

"We have completely designed our lives and have absolute freedom! But none of this would have been possible if I had not taken the leap into the unknown and quit my job without knowing how it would all turn out."

Having just spent 20 months tripping around Latin America in search of extraordinary stories, Serena and John will soon be embarking on a 24 month trip around Europe, Africa and South East Asia.

ENDS

For media enquiries or interviews please contact Serena Star Leonard on serena@in2months.com or Belinda Gurd at wordsbybelle@gmail.com

About Five Point Five: Brainchild of Serena Star Leonard and John Leonard, Five Point Five captures Serena and Johns worldwide search for everyday people doing extraordinary things. In April 2012, Serena and John set off on a three year adventure with the aim of documenting people from all over the world who choose to spend their time doing things that matters.

Five Point Fives mission: Through storytelling and sharing with the worldwide community, FPF wish to inspire people to make a difference in their own community.

Five Point Fives name was inspired by Narayanan Krishnan, a man who quit his job to care for the destitute and mentally ill on the streets of India. "Everyone has 5.5 litres of blood. I am just a human being, for me everybody is the same".
www.fivepointfive.org

About Serena Star: Serena Star-Leonard is an author, business coach and blogger. She gives small business owners practical ways to enjoy website success through her partnership in the website Grassroots Internet Strategy and has a passion for building communities through blogging, email marketing and social media. A self-proclaimed business hippy, Serena looks at business as a means to an end, rather than the destination. Her blog that became a bestselling book "How to Retire in 12 Months" has been running since 2009 and her blogging success has seen her become a regular in the Australasian media. Serena is currently filming mini documentaries and travel reviews in the Americas for a new more altruistic project, Five Point Five.

About John Leonard: John is an blogger, writer, hotel manager and multi-media enthusiast. He began his career in hospitality in 1999 and over the years has managed some of the biggest and busiest venues in Sydney and Dublin. Much of his working career has been balanced with representing his county and country in sport as well as coaching and training other up and coming goalkeepers. John is currently volunteering, blogging and filming throughout Latin America