

OVERLANDERS



WHAT IS AN OVERLANDER?

- A thrill-seeker who values adventure above all else
- A gear head who modifies their off-road vehicle to make long-distance journeys across untouched, rugged terrain
- A self-reliant bush mechanic who lives in their vehicle, and fixes all problems that arise while traveling hundreds of miles from civilization

A yellow overlander vehicle is parked in a vast, flat desert landscape under a clear sky. In the foreground, there is a large piece of weathered driftwood. The overall scene is desolate and rugged.

SERIES OVERVIEW

There are still remote corners on Earth where no man has ever stepped foot. To reach them requires ingenious feats of engineering and a truckload of courage. But there is a select group of elite bush-mechanics who have the unique skillset to make these treacherous voyages. They are OVERLANDERS, the explorers of the modern age. In this epic new adventure series from Backroads Pictures, we follow 3 crews of Overlanders, as each embarks on a rugged international traverse that has NEVER BEEN COMPLETED. Each crew is led by a pair of the world's top bush mechanics — Overlanders who dedicate their lives to building custom vehicles that can surmount the incredible obstacles of the uncharted wilderness. But survival is far from guaranteed. Many Overlanders have fallen victim to the rugged conditions; threats of starvation, conflict zones, and deadly predators. Yet nothing will stop these brave pioneers from discovering the unknown.



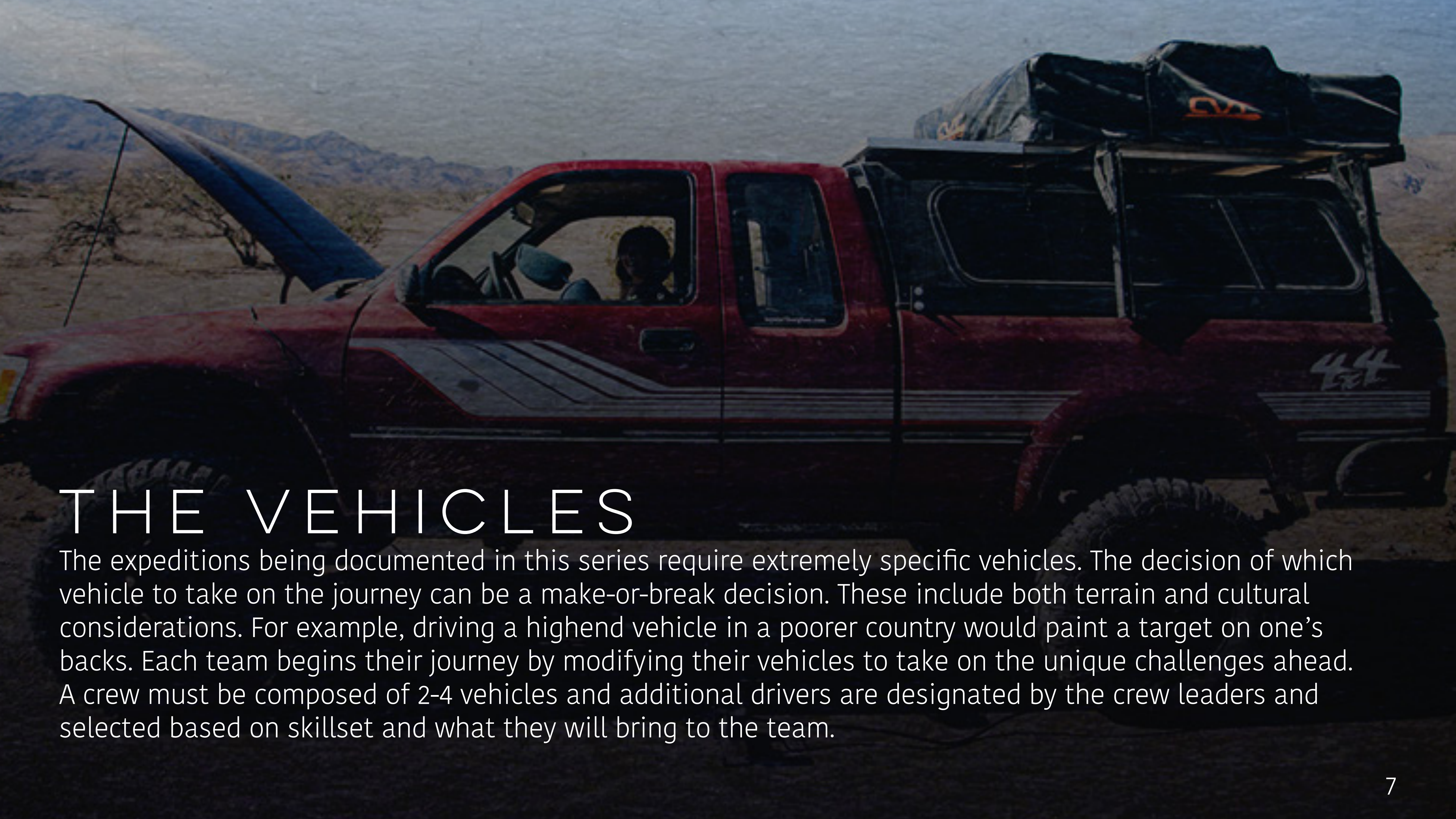
SERIES CONCEPT

OVERLANDERS is a documentary adventure series that follows three courageous journeys of the world's best bush mechanics as they conquer new personal records driving across unknown routes. Each crew tackles the deadly overland mission they've always dreamed of, traversing the toughest offroad terrain on Earth: The Amazon, The Sahara, and The Okavango Delta. The routes are fraught with natural obstacles and logistical crux points. To reach their destination in one piece, they must rely on their ingenuity, social prowess, survival skills and one another. These cross-continental missions can last up to two grueling months. **OVERLANDERS** is the first expedition series of its kind where survival meets gear-head meets travel adventure.



SERIES FORMAT

Over the course of the season, **OVERLANDERS** will present viewers with an all-access pass to these high-octane and incredibly dangerous expeditions. Each episode will cut between the three expeditions, focusing on one compelling and intense leg of each of their journeys. Episodes will be formatted in a way so that casual viewers will be able to tune-in to one episode and see a full, arced journey, while returning viewers will be drawn deeper into the serialized story and witness one chapter in the overall story. In this way, **OVERLANDERS** is the ultimate expedition show. With cinematic drone shots, intense gritty up-close-and-personal verite, and crisp interviews, viewers can expect a first-hand look at what it takes to forge a new path in the most exotic and dangerous places in the world.



THE VEHICLES

The expeditions being documented in this series require extremely specific vehicles. The decision of which vehicle to take on the journey can be a make-or-break decision. These include both terrain and cultural considerations. For example, driving a highend vehicle in a poorer country would paint a target on one's backs. Each team begins their journey by modifying their vehicles to take on the unique challenges ahead. A crew must be composed of 2-4 vehicles and additional drivers are designated by the crew leaders and selected based on skillset and what they will bring to the team.




THE CREWS & ROUTES

These are the modern age explorers, the Columbus and Magellans today. Their skills are unmatched, and uniquely qualify them to take on an offroading challenge of this magnitude. These brave men and woman don't fly from place to place – they drive – and develop a relationship with the people and land along the way. Each crew is prepared to lay it all on the line in this ultimate test of their Overlanding skills. On the next few pages, are bios and overviews of the incredible expeditions these men and women will be undertaking in the coming months. Each crew is composed of two crew leaders that choose the vehicles that are best-suited to the conditions of their route. Each route is an uncharted, treacherous abyss with a deeply emotional connection to the crew leader. For some, the route speaks to their family heritage. For others, the route represents the ultimate test of their mechanical and survival skills or the memory of a deeply departed friend.



THE MALTEC CREW | THE SAHARA

Venezuelan born Alex Ulivi grew up under the hood of Toyota Land Cruisers. His family was responsible for bringing the Toyota Landcruiser to his home country in the 70s. He's been turning a wrench since he was 7, overlanding with his father through Venezuela's Gran Sabana, exploring Mount Roraima, and skirting Angel Falls, the tallest falls on the planet. After a life as a professional polo player, Alex is based in Telluride and heads the American distribution arm of Maltec, a German-based Overland and race car manufacturer. Their shop is cackling with Alex's contagious, hyena-style laugh as he exchanges verbal barbs with his partner in crime, German-born, Malte Asmus, the clean-cut bush mechanic. Malte looks like he spends more time in the country club than neck-deep in the grease, but he is one of the best Overlanders in the world. He's been to the far reaches of Mongolia, Afghanistan, Libya, Siberia and beyond. He's been kidnapped by tribesman in Northern Chad, shot in Sudan, and lost one of his best friends in Tunisia.



THE ROUTE | THE SAHARA

Motivation

Years ago, Malte attempted an Overland first passage of a treacherous section of the Sahara Desert. Tragically, his best friend drove up and over a dune without seeing a sudden cliff on the opposite side. His mission was cut short due to his friend's untimely death. Now, he's attempting that same first passage as a tribute and fresh start for the Maltec crew, closing a chapter that rattled their Overlanding family.

Time & Distance

4 weeks. 1,200 miles.

Vehicle

The crew will travel in their custom-built 1992 Toyota Land Cruisers.

THE ROUTE | THE SAHARA

This is a first passage of this section of the Northern Sahara.

The Maltec crew will start in Tataouine, Tunisia, where they will embark into the unknown of the Sahara Desert. They will cross the same behemoth sand dunes that took their friend's life just a few years ago.

From there, they will traverse the vast, unfertile wastelands of Libya's interior. Not only will the barren terrain threaten thirst and starvation, but rebel bands could derail their plans at any moment.

Once the expedition crosses into Egypt, they must conquer the Qattara Depression, a 7,500 square mile valley sitting below sea level. The depression is characterized by steep escarpments up to 280 meters high, and salt marshes—ancient lake beds—that can flood without warning.

When the crew arrives in Alexandria, Egypt, their mission is complete.



CHRIS COLE & COMPANY | THE OKAVANGO DELTA

Chris, 55, hails from South Africa and has been driving Toyota Land Cruisers on his family's game reserve since he was 5 years old. As former special forces in the French Legion serving in Africa, today Chris trains the Delta Force unit known as CAG (Combat Applications Group) that specialize in overlanding and bush mechanics. He is the President of the International 4WD Trainers Association and a Certified Master Instructor. Chris' driving experience ranges broadly from two wheels to regular-size SUV's and pick-ups, to large military UNIMOGS and civilian vehicles. He is an accomplished engineer and fabricator and has built several expedition vehicles ranging from standard SUV's to larger vehicles.



Motivation

Chris left Africa 25 years ago and hasn't returned to the continent since. His brother lives on the Skeleton Coast in Namibia, where Chris has always dreamed of doing an Overland trip together. The two have a strained relationship — they fought on opposite sides of the South African Civil War — and have had limited contact since then. Chris believes his brother was responsible for attacks that left him with shrapnel in his face — metal that ultimately caused cancer. But Chris is willing to put all that behind and looks at this as their opportunity to reconnect and mend old wounds.

Chris also wants to bring along his son, who took a vastly different path from his father, pursuing a doctorate in International Relations. Chris has a hard time relating to his son, who he describes first by mentioning his "man bun." This voyage could help bridge the gap, and he would like for his son to meet his uncle for the first time.

Time & Distance

4 weeks. 1,100 miles.

Vehicle

Chris and his crew will travel 2 to a truck. One pair will drive an old school Unimog U500. The other duo will ride in a Toyota Land Cruiser. These are both relics of an era past. As Chris says, "The modern vehicles will leave you stranded. These older trucks breakdown more, but they're easier to fix."

THE ROUTE | THE OKAVANGO DELTA

This route will be a first passage. Never before has anyone attempted to traverse the Skeleton Coast along the ocean side, and bisect Namibia through the salt flats and Okavango Delta.

The mission begins in Swakomond, Namibia, and moves north along the Skelton Coast – named for the many shipwrecks and travelers who've fallen victim to the barren sand dunes. The dunes are too imposing to summit; if they get caught in one of the bowls, there's no way to drive out. And without a water source for hundreds of miles, they face certain death walking in the desert.

Chris Cole's team will travel along the coast, waiting for low tide to allow them to jet around the dunes on the ocean side. But if they don't time it right, the tide will come in and quicksand will drown the crew.

When they reach the Etosha Pan, the expedition proceeds inland across the vast salt flats of northern Namibia. This stretch of land is only navigable when it's dry. If it should rain during their journey, the salt flats turn immediately into unnavigable mud that will trap the crew.

Once they reach the border of Botswana, the mission enters the Okavango Delta, home to some of the most incredible wildlife in the world. Big game—lions, elephants, hippos—dominate the lands. During the dry season, the wildlife congregates at the last remaining watering holes. When the expedition comes through, these will also be the Overlanders' only sources of water. Encounters with fierce predators are all but guaranteed, meaning the Overlanders must remain vigilant and well-armed.

When the crew reaches the city of Maun, Botswana, the mission is complete.



JAY & CINDY COUCH | THE AMAZON

This husband and wife duo are the toughest couple in the overlanding game. They own and operate COUCH OFFROAD in Denver, a 200-acre shop specializing in outfitting UNIMOGS and G-Wagons for extreme cross-continental adventures and industrial use. Jay Couch runs a tight ship in and out of the shop. He cut his teeth rebuilding mountain bikes as a kid. Since then he has carved out a reputation as the UNIMOG expert in North America. Obsessed with putting these beastly vehicles to the test, the Couch Duo has overlanded Africa, North America, Europe, across the Australian Outback and now has set his sights on the Amazon Jungle.



THE ROUTE | THE AMAZON

Motivation

Jay and Cindy have built their business with one goal in mind: build the ultimate survival vehicle. Their Unimog is meant to be a prepper's dream once the apocalypse hits. Now the Couch family is putting it to the test. Can it push through the most grueling terrain on Earth for an amphibious Unimog...the Amazon Rainforest?

Time & Distance

4 weeks. 1,100 miles.

Vehicle

2 Unimogs (a multi-purpose, all-wheel drive truck)



THE ROUTE | THE AMAZON

This route across South America will be a first passage.

This insane bush mechanic couple is pushing to be the first two humans to drive an amphibious Unimog from Angel Falls across the Brazilian Amazon jungle, dropping north to south across all of Brazil, through Northern Peru and ending on the far western point of Ecuador at La Libertad. They will navigate never-before-run jungle roads, drive through deep rivers, and encounter remote tribes pushing through some of the toughest terrain unknown to man.