



## Paul's Adventure Story

My epiphany came in Africa. Surrounded by sickness and poverty in an overcrowded, underfinanced hospital.

But let me start at the beginning.

After many years in Dubai I seemed to have it all; a new Porsche and 4x4, a large duplex filled with designer furniture and original art, expensive watches and Italian suits. My company was doing very well and my future was secure.

So why did I feel so unfulfilled?

One day I met a man from Malawi who was trying to raise funds for an ambulance for his local hospital. The vehicle was to be used to collect and screen blood. It seemed a small amount to raise so I committed to help. In return for raising the funds I was invited to pick up the ambulance in South Africa and help drive it to Malawi. At the time it just seemed to be a fun adventure, I had no idea it would change my life.

The journey across five African countries was spectacular, it made me hunger for the freedom of the great outdoors. The real revelation was on arrival at the hospital. The staff coping heroically with virtually no resources. It made me question my priorities.

I realized how a little money and effort could make a massive difference to people's lives. I felt I had achieved something of real value. Giving back to society was far more fulfilling than taking from it.

On my return from Africa I started looking for another, similar, project to support. Over the next couple of years I delivered ambulances to India and Namibia. I also got involved in charity challenges; cycling across Cuba and climbing mountains in England, Scotland and Wales.

In 2001 I was looking to raise funds for



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another ambulance when I decided to form my own charity. Together with a friend I formed Gulf for Good, a charity that used adventure challenges to raise money for worthy projects.



Climb every mountain

Over the next 5 years we raised over \$1 million to help build schools, hospitals and clinics, provide ambulances and special equipment to organizations across the world. Our adventure challenges included treks to Everest, the Inca Trail, the Great Wall of China and Kilimanjaro.

The charity took over my life and my business suffered. The sensible decision would have been to cut back the charity work and adventures to get my business back on track. That was the easy option; I sold off my assets, sold the business and opened an adventure company. I continued my charity work and made money by organizing adventure tours.

It's been tough financially but things improve each month. I spend half my week at my base on Dibba beach in Oman from where I lead treks into the mountains. The rest of my week is spent in Dubai putting together expeditions to the world's great destinations. I still get involved in many charity endeavors through my new charity foundation and I'm actively involved in environmental protection.

I work harder than ever but love what I do and feel I've made a positive contribution to society. I guess I went out and smelt the flowers!

For further information about Paul's adventures, visit [www.adventure.ae](http://www.adventure.ae)

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**GO! Smell the flowers.**