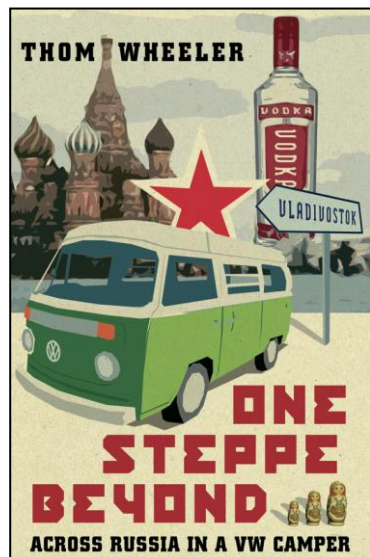


## Summersdale New Book Press Release

Crazy road trip across the Soviet Union – Perfect timing for the twentieth anniversary year of the collapse of USSR

**PUBLICATION DATE: 1 AUGUST 2011**

Travelling across the former Soviet Union is a challenge at the best of times – but in a dilapidated VDub... that's got to be plain daft ... hasn't it?



# ONE STEPPE BEYOND

ACROSS RUSSIA IN A VW CAMPER

THOM WHEELER

ISBN: 978 1 84953 156 6 Paperback 320 pages £8.99 August 2011

*I was in my prime, hungry to make a mark on the world, yet I was making ends meet by delivering egg and cress sandwiches on a bicycle with a bent axle to condescending office workers. Gainful employment in the ex-Soviet Union was a dream come true.*

A chance job offer at a timber yard in Estonia gives Thom and his old pal Jo a taste for the unknown. So when Uncle Tony asks them to drive to Vladivostok for another job, they can't think of a good reason why not.

The result is a classic caper across the former Soviet Union in Max, a rusty old VW camper. Knowing little of the language or the geography ahead, they embark on probably the longest commute ever, encountering corrupt officials, film star mechanics and over-friendly gangsters. Far off the tourist trail, they bear witness to the collapse of one nation and the birth of a new one during the free-for-all that was Russia in the nineties.

**Thom Wheeler** studied Russian at university and returned to live in St Petersburg for several years to earn a living teaching and guiding, whilst also reviewing bands for the Russian *Big Issue*; he then lived and worked in Ukraine, Estonia and Georgia. He is now based in Brighton.

**Media opportunities:** extracts/serialisation. Feature angles: the old Soviet Union seen from a VW van; the appeal of overland journeys; the veneer of the USSR in the 90s: the real people, the real countryside and the real dangers of the times. The author is available for interview.

**Notes to Editors:** *One Steppe Beyond* will be published by Summersdale and available through all good bookshops and internet booksellers or by telephoning Summersdale. **For a review copy or to be put in touch with the author** please contact Dean Chant on 01243 771107 or [dean@summersdale.com](mailto:dean@summersdale.com)



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