



20x20 Vision for walking in 2040 from Bradley Garrett - Transcript

Hey Talking Walking this **Bradley Garrett**, the urban explorer coming at you today from one of the least urban parts of California, where I now live. A long way from where we first took our walk. I am now in Big Bear Lake, California. And have had the opportunity to hike some incredible trails out here. I've been travelling around to national parks during the pandemic, doing some multi-day hikes, backpacking in, pulling water from rivers with filtration devices. I am living a very different existence than I once did, when I spent my time walking across major cities in the UK. Just before the pandemic hit, I had a great opportunity for one last mega adventure and that was going into the Chernobyl exclusion zone. I went with four friends and we snuck into the zone. We spent three days crossing the the 30 km exclusion zone, and then the 10 km exclusion zone, sleeping in abandoned buildings, and finally making it to Pripyat, from where we could see the new sarcophagus had been constructed over Reactor number 4. It was quite a surreal experience. We ended up getting smuggled out of the place in the back of a guy's SUV passed all of the checkpoints. And when I flew home the pandemic hit and I have been stuck here ever since. I have to say though that I'm finding my time in California, back from where I am from, to be extremely productive. I've never walked more in my life. There is something about the re-localisation of practice here, that is a direct byproduct of the pandemic. You know, people being stuck where they are, very often operating under restrictions, not able to move in the ways that we are used to, is encouraging people to ground their practices on the places they are in, instead of always striving for a more distant, exotic, rare, strange place to walk. And I am finding that to be incredibly fruitful.

My Vision of the world of walking in 2040!

So my vision for walking for 2040 is going to be a vision of walking where you are. And for some of us that is easier than for others but there is so much to be learned from exploring your own backyard. You know, more than anyone I'm guilty of taking these grand expeditions to go walk on some of the most rare places on earth. I value those experiences but for me, I guess I have been conducting a kind of interior tourism, as I've been pushing the limits of my own body in the national parks that I grew up around. And I've really been enjoying walking the deserts, and walking in the mountains, and learning more about the fauna and flora and the history of the places that I am in. I feel much more connected to the places that I am walking in now. and I hope that something that we can all hold on to as we move towards 2040. That's my vision for the future. Hope you're all having fun out there. I will see you on the trails.