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Life's Rich Tapestry

Many people view their everyday life as a routine and unspectacular affair. But outsiders might see it quite differently. What is life like for a gas station attendant in the breathtaking landscapes of the American Southwest, or for a riverboat captain in the mountains of Laos, or a gondola builder in Venice?

The daily lives of people in remote places can seem very exotic and exciting. **Life's Rich Tapestry** reveals in vivid images some of the interesting and diverse lives people lead around the world.

01 The Two Worlds of Ima Nenquimo

Ima Nenquimo is a member of the Huaorani tribe living on the Rio Cononaco in the Ecuadorian rainforest. He inhabits two worlds: In the capital Quito he is studying law, and in his home village his grandfather is teaching him to be a shaman. Ima Nenquimo plans to draw on his diverse knowledge to try to save his people and their home in the forest from eradication at the hands of oil companies.

02 A Gondola for Venice

In Venice, German boatbuilder Matthias Lühmann is said to be the first foreigner to build a gondola. As he pursues his project, using plans drawn up by a Venetian historian, Lühmann develops a profound connection to the city and its people.

03 By Water Taxi to the Royal City of Luang Prabang

Chanthi is a captain on the Nam Ou River in northern Laos. His route, which covers more than 400 kilometers, links up the villages and markets of an almost untouched natural paradise. His river taxi takes passengers to Luang Prabang, the former royal seat of Laos.

04 The Indomitable Cuban Spirit

Cubans are famed for their talent for improvisation and inventiveness in the face of economic hardship. The fisherman Ismael Lima, for example, who sails out to sea on a makeshift boat that's actually a truck inner tube. And Ito and Iván, who wait patiently by the roadside to fix flat tires.

05 The Bridge Builders of Dibang

Arrati may be young, but he is already a master bridge builder and seen as a man of stature, even by the elders of his tribe, the Idu Mishmi. Over the course of the centuries, members of this ethnic group in northern India have developed ingenious suspension bridges that span even the deepest ravines.

06 The Border Inn Motel

Denys Koyle runs the Border Inn Motel, situated on one of the loneliest highways in the US, right on the border between Nevada and Utah. Although it's not much more than some rooms, a gas station, a restaurant and a few slot machines, the Border Inn is a popular stop-off point for people in transit and for those that live in the vicinity; it is the only social hub for miles.

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