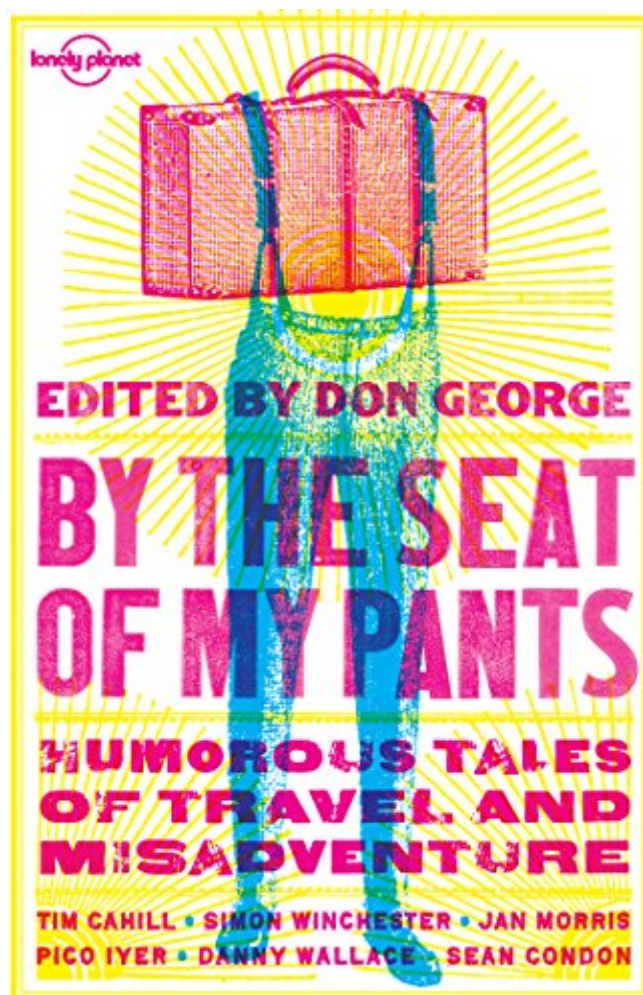


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By The Seat Of My Pants (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)



Synopsis

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher
Humorous tales of travel and misadventure
Lonely Planet knows that some of life's funniest experiences happen on the road. Whether they take the form of unexpected detours, unintended adventures, unidentifiable dinners or unforgettable encounters, they can give birth to our most found travel lessons, and our most memorable - and hilarious - travel stories. These 31 globegirdling tales that run the gamut from close-encounter safaris to loss-of-face follies, hair-raising rides to culture-leaping brides, eccentric expats to mind-boggling repasts, wrong roads taken to agreements mistaken. The collection brings together some of the world's most renowned travellers and storytellers with previously unpublished writers. Includes stories by Wickam Boyle, Tim Cahill, Joshua Clark, Sean Condon, Christopher R. Cox, David Downie, Holly Erikson, Bill Fink, Don George, Karl Taro Greenfeld, Jeff Grenwald, Pico Iyer, Amanda Jones, Kathie Kertesz, Doug Lansky, Alexander Ludwick, Linda Watanabe McFerrin, Jan Morris, Brooke Neill, Rolf Potts, Laura Resau, Michelle Richmond, Alana Semuels, Deborah Steg, Judy Tierney, Edwin Tucker, Jeff Vize, Danny Wallace, Kelly Watton, Simon Wichester, Michelle Witton
About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places where they travel. TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category
'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times
'Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia) Â

Book Information

File Size: 1930 KB

Print Length: 320 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1741795249

Publisher: Lonely Planet; 3 edition (May 1, 2015)

Publication Date: May 1, 2015

Sold by:Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00V9CD500

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #9,077 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #1 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Specialty Travel > Literary #2 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Literary & Religious #10 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Travel Writing

Customer Reviews

Great travel writing. Only a few dull stories.

"We travel ... for adventure and fun, to get away from the drudgery of our lives at home ... We meet people for whom our presence is nothing but opportunity, to take them out of the sadness and difficulty of their lives. The smiles exchanged on both sides have something of a nervous edge."

—Pico Iyer, in *BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS*

I always approach a literary anthology with some trepidation; I expect the stories to fall on the bell curve of Gaussian distribution and it's the several at the low end that often have me wishing I hadn't cracked the book at all. But the curve represented by the thirty-one chapters in *BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS*, subtitled "Humorous Tales of Travel and Misadventure," is skewed sharply to the right. It's all pretty much good stuff. Indeed, while I give one tale three stars, the rest get four or five. Ok, ok. I've been robbed blind by a pair of Gipsy pickpockets on Rome's Ponte Sant'Angelo, locked myself *INSIDE* my car in Portsmouth, England, and, while as a clueless foreigner struggling with the language barrier at Bucharest's Băneasa Airport during the height of the Cold War, was stopped from boarding the wrong plane even as I had my foot on the bottom step of the air-stairs. But I haven't a story to match any of those here. Escaping the drudgery of life at home to travel outside the comfort zone is an invitation to be taken unawares and delighted, enraged, surprised, scammed, annoyed, physically sickened, confused or enraptured. But, it beats staying home doing the laundry. Among other things, the aggregate thirty-one wayfaring contributors to *BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS* are sorely embarrassed ("Blackout in Ushuaia", "Dutch Toilet", "Walk of Fame"), unexpectedly delighted ("Carpet-Rolling", "The Garden Kitchen"), befooled ("Let the Buyer Beware", "An Award Winning

Performance"), confounded ("The Afghan Tourist Office", "Left Luggage"), amazed ("A Matter of Trust") and otherwise educated for the better ("Journey to the Centre of the Earth", "Naked in Oaxaca"). And, indeed, in "Wangara's Cross" I came across perhaps the most poetic explanation of the sun's traverse of the sky from sunrise to sunset that I've ever read. This is the perfect book for anyone with Wanderlust. And, hey, I'm in! Then there was the time I took the slow train from Timisoara to Bucharest accompanied by drunken Romanian Land Forces troops.

Many of the stories are absolutely delightful. Uneven in spots, and some of the writers seem to lack experience as writers (or maybe a decent editor), but all-in-all this is well worth the read. Just fun stories about travel.

Fun read. I am amazed, though, by what kind of situations some people put themselves in while traveling.

A good collection of travel stories. A lot of variety. Almost every story leaves you wanting to read more by that author. Many stories leave you thinking. The collection is a perfect companion on a solo trip, because the stories are short but interesting. When I finished the book, I didn't want to leave it in a hotel room. But I can think of several people who would enjoy it, so I guess I will end up buying more copies. Which I will be happy to do. (Not a big deal, but ... I wish the short bios were at the end of the stories and not at the beginning. I don't care about the author until I read the story. Many bios had a little twist that did not make sense until you read the story.)

This collection of travel stories made laugh out loud and wish I could go too. Made me want to pack a bag and go anywhere.

I'm sorry, but these stories are so boring and un-funny! I read six to try and find something interesting, to no avail. I've traveled quite a bit and I expected some exotic adventures and humor, but I was disappointed. I expect more from Lonely Planet.

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