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Cycling Southern Africa



Synopsis

Is it possible to travel around Africa by bike? And alone? Is it safe? What about health concerns? Is it even worth it? How do drivers and ordinary people behave towards cyclists? And animals? The answers are to be found in this travel memoir of a three-month solo cycle tour of Southern Africa in Fall 2012. The book contains 95 photographs by the author.

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Customer Reviews

As a South African born and bred, I was absolutely amazed to read where the journey of this intrepid lone cycling Czech took him. He visited not only the most beautiful and oft-visited parts of my country and its renowned National Parks, but also those out-of-the-way places not seen by most South Africans. His writing shows a rare insight into the places and people encountered en route. This book is an eye-opener to all South Africans, as well as to those from other countries who fear to travel to Southern Africa due to the inherent crime rate. Mr Bina proves that, with the proper care and common sense (e.g. not wandering about alone in the evenings, always being alert to any probable dangers), Southern Africa remains unbeatable for its hospitality, natural beauty and wildlife. The superb photographs evoked more than just a touch of nostalgia for my homeland, so

keenly observed through this foreigner's eyes. This is far more than a mere travelogue - it is packed with witty observations of what the normal tourist never sees. Moreover, its pages are filled with practical advice and tips of every kind for other adventurers, particularly cyclists, who wish to undertake a similar tour. Detailed logs of the trip include altitudes, times, distances, calories burnt and average speeds. "Cycling Southern Africa" is highly recommended for anyone wishing to experience and explore the very heart of Namibia and South Africa, other than from the window of a tour bus. The lone cyclist's Southern Africa adventure is being serialised in 'Diversions' travel magazine published in South Africa (2013) and on their website at http://www.divleisure.co.za/LoneCyclist_april.asp

The image mediated by TV gives the impression that it is impossible to travel to Africa without a protective bullet-proof space suit and one's own sterilized supplies in order to survive. But Mr. Bina proves there is another way which is not only much cheaper but actually providing amazing satisfaction and freedom, while enabling the traveler to get to know the country and its people at very close quarters. I enjoyed reading about his adventures in Africa and seeing all the beautiful photographs. The book is utterly optimistic and the selected compact format for Kindle is fitting and in compliance with the author's philosophy of minimal load, as he himself often buys books and maps for his electronic devices, saving weight on his travels. What is real life in Southern Africa like? Do they have any stories to tell? What do the locals wear? Have they heard of Facebook? Are they going to murder me as soon as I step out of the airplane? This is what I wondered when I started to read "Cycling Southern Africa" - and the answers surprised me. Suddenly I realized that my perception of Africa had been far from the reality. Present-day Southern Africa is moving fast ahead and a lone bike traveler, who expresses his sincere interest, is almost always welcomed enthusiastically everywhere, regardless of his skin tone. I doubt participants in any expensive organized tour or vacation will ever get anything better than a mere glimpse of the life in another country, while individuals travelling on their own, as Jiri Bina does, return with a deep understanding of the actual conditions there.

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