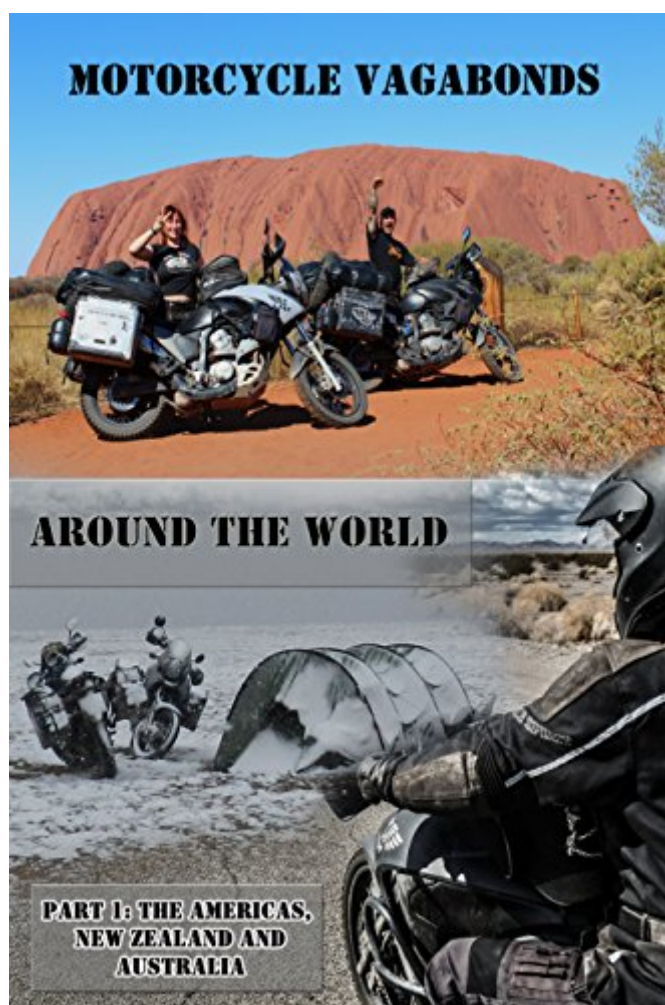


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Motorcycle Vagabonds - Around The World, Part 1: The Americas, New Zealand And Australia



Synopsis

Around the World on Two Wheels, Vagabond Style They had dreamt of it for many years, until Simone and Frank finally plucked up the courage to leave it all behind. After three and a half years travelling around the world on motorcycles, they are now back and ready to reminisce about the 114,000 miles that have passed under their wheels. A recollection of the everyday life encounters of a spectacular journey, which turned out to be far from a never-ending holiday. This book will give everybody who is dreaming of a big adventure, no matter by which mode of transport, a realistic insight into the life they'll be heading into. For everybody else it is a glimpse into a "life on the road" of two motorcycle vagabonds and the experiences and emotions that formed their extraordinary passage around the world. Join them on their astounding adventure of discovery into places and cultures unknown!

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Customer Reviews

For somebody who used to "adventure" travel remote places on a low/zero budget (without motorbike) and is nowadays living a somewhat settled existence, this is a

wonderful escape into the past, an awakening of fond memories and life experiences and a welcome invitation to re-travel the path less travelled (although not literally), far off the overcrowded *Lonely-Planet-trodden-trails*. The book is easy and fun to read and hijacks you into the reality of such an arduous but incredible journey, blunt but honest and with a great dash of spiced up humour and Rock n Roll which you need to survive it all. The only slight criticism I would have: I would have wished to read more and it could have gone into a little more detail in order to do such a journey more justice. However, it is a great read, not only for motorcycle enthusiasts!

This is well written and a truly inspiring story. I had an opportunity to host Frank and Simone for a couple of nights when they traveled through our city. They are great people! I envy their dedication to each other and adventurous spirit. I highly recommend this book for all Adventure Motorcycle Riders and all who enjoy a true adventure of any kind. Frank and Simone, thank you for sharing your story!

I FIND IT A BIT TO CRITICAL OF THINGS NOT GERMAN

Good read - not a boring directional guide.

Well written and very interesting. Human interaction at its best.

A good read for the armchair globetrotter. Do understand this edition is a translation from the original German so English grammar and flowing sentences are sometimes rough.

The author, Frank Panther, and his wife, Simone, do indeed tell a great story--he walked away from a secure, yet hated, job in order to undertake the grand adventure that so many of us motorcyclists dream about. I wasn't expecting great literature, and that's ok--the writing here is very organic--the reader can feel the excitement, anger, fear, exhilaration, fatigue, and hope emanating from the page. However, their story is hobbled significantly by a surprisingly poor translation from German into English. A general rule of thumb with professional translation is to translate into, not out of, one's native tongue; I do not believe, at all, that the translator of this book was a native English speaker, as the text is burdened with odd phrasing, jarring usage, and grammatical errors. The translation is bad enough to knock two stars off my rating; I can read some German, so I may

try to find the German version instead. I would rather have to look up a few words in a German-English dictionary than suffer through any more of this annoyingly bad translation. I must quibble with the author over his hostility to the comparisons with Long Way Round; LWR is described as "staged," "not real," and the comparison of LWR with this work "accursed." I suggest that Herr Panthöfer re-evaluate his criticism somewhat, as Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman had a very limited amount of time in which to complete their journey (due to job constraints, especially McGregor's; in the event of a crash or mechanical breakdown, they didn't have the luxury of being able to wait for three weeks for an engine part to arrive in some remote Mongolian village), and more importantly, they had wives and children awaiting their return. Additionally, from the very outset, their intention was not only the adventure itself, but the documentary to be made about it, and even so they often rode several days ahead of their support crew. So, LWR and MV are different types of motorcycle adventures, with vastly different time constraints and familial limitations, and a mere superficial comparison is unfair to both.

I read many books regarding motorcycle journeys. Motorcycle vagabonds is one of the best books I have read in quite a long time. To undertake an adventure such as the one Frank and Simone have done, is nothing short of extraordinary. He is a great writer, and throughout the book, he keeps every moment exciting and compelling. The author also tends to analyze many experiences philosophically, which demonstrates a rather profound ability to understand surprises as they come along. Despite the many common frustrations, his reactions are admirable and reserved. Most people could never do what they have done. My review is the same for their second book as well. A truly great read.

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