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Top 5 Funny Travel Books

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Sep 9, 2011 Misty Fauchaux Comments



We've all come across them: travel books that could put a hyperactive child into a coma. Yes, they're informative. Yes, they give you great insights into the place where you want to go. They don't, however, hold your interest for more than 10 seconds, and, in some cases, more than a passing glance.

So, what does a traveler do? You need a good travel book, but you don't want your brain to go into overload. Just avoid slogging through these books. Many authors have learned that you don't

need to bore your audience. As Donald O'Connor once said in *Singing in the Rain*, "make them laugh" and teach them something in the process.

Peter Moore Knows How to Lose It

Peter Moore has been delighting travelers for years with his witty, wild and insane travels. In *No Shitting in the Toilet: The Travel Guide for When You've Really Lost It*, he doesn't tell you where to stay. He tells you where you shouldn't EVER stay or go.

Forget recommendations for the best restaurant in Tokyo. Go to the grittier side of the city where the backpackers go, and learn about kitchen "sanitation". Just try not to lose your lunch.

The Dirt Down Under

Australia is on many peoples' bucket list, but Bill Bryson takes you where you never thought of going before. Want to know what a Tittybong is? How about the location of the largest earthworms? Maybe? Maybe not?

Regardless, Bryson will keep you laughing all the way through his travels through Australia in *In a Sunburned Country*.



Look! We've Found Hell

P.J. O'Rourke knows hell when he sees it. In fact, he's made it his mission, and he shares his findings in *Holidays in Hell*. This isn't your mother's travel book. You won't be getting insights into where to stay in the Caribbean or the best time to go to the beach. You will, however, get a quirky take on insurrections, war-torn countries and political uprisings.

To say this book is bizarre is an understatement. But, you'll love O'Rourke's descriptions of everything from the Philippine army to Lebanon. Don't try this at home kiddies.

Steaks and Gin and Tonics: A Cure-all

Pass the Butterworms: Remote Journeys Oddly Rendered takes you to places where you may have always wanted to go, but probably not in this fashion. Tim Cahill offers you a series of short stories on his adventures around the world. This is not some tried-and-true adventurer. Instead, he's more like your quiet neighbor next door who decided to try something "new".

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OUR HOMIES

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Cahill flips his kayak...in calm waters. He's attacked for being a Russian in Mongolia, and he uses some less-than-doctor-recommended remedies to cure malaria.

The Sign Got Me Lost

If you've ever taken a road trip, then you know that signs can be less than helpful. They're supposed to tell you where to go or what's ahead, but they just may leave you scratching your head in confusion. Doug Lansky has found the best wacky or misleading roadway signs and collected them in his book *Lonely Planet Signspotting: Absurd and Amusing Signs from*

Around the World.

Do your best Scooby-Doo as you look at the sign on a street light that says "This Light Never Turns Green". Or giggle under your breath as you see this Japanese sign: Go back toward your behind. You'll be inspired to start your own laugh-worthy collection.

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Gear O' the Month

Giro Helmets

Resorts are opening and snow is on the ground. But the base is thin, meaning there are plenty of rocks waiting to make a meal out of your skull. Get a helmet on yo head before a rock does!

