



The Rough Guide First-Time Around the World: A Trip Planner for the Ultimate Journey

Doug Lansky, Rough Guides, Henrik Harr, Jonathon Werve

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Planning a trip around the world? Let First-Time Around the World get you started. Loaded with the very latest travel information, including all you need to know about round-the-world tickets, this pre-departure guide will help get your ultimate journey under way. The guide begins with a 16-page, full-colour 'Things Not to Miss' photo section with suggested itineraries, details on what to bring, when to go, how much it will cost and which vaccinations will keep you healthy. The individual country profiles highlight the best places to visit with country-specific websites and necessary budget information. There are plenty of useful tips to help save you money, keep you safe and maximise your time on the road. The guide comes complete with concise regional information, with overland maps and details on weather, major attractions and unmissable festivals.

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Owen says

Got this at the wrong time, unfortunately. I only noticed this title after we had taken our year off and circled the globe. It turns out that this book really mirrored a lot of our experiences and much of the advice it gives is spot on. I wish we had the resources listed about bundled air deals, as that probably would have saved us a fair bit of cash. I can't agree with everything here - leave your MP3 player at home? - but if you're at all planning an excursion like this, reading this book is recommended.

Mark says

Readability 6. Rating 6. "A trip planner for the ultimate journey" - overall, very well done, detailed, thoughtful, with a practical and balanced tone. Lansky doesn't stray into over-romanticizing travel, nor does he become so hyperpractical that it convinces one to stay home. And there is a lot of information in the book - very dense, but well organized. Two problems: first, my copy is quite dated. It is arguable that a book like this (even the updated version appears to be from 2010) just doesn't work anymore - too many things change too quickly, and yet, if it doesn't provide deep detail, it isn't even helpful for its short shelf life. Second, I am not a broke 20-something, yet except for about 2 pages late in the book, it is geared to the young and poor. I did a trip around the world at that point in my life and want to do it again, but not in the same way. As a result, a great deal of the book starts from premises that simply don't apply to me.

Kathleen Foley says

A basic but informative travel guide, written with English-speaking males in mind. There is barely any information for women looking to travel alone. Very repetitive and somewhat judgemental in parts. Clumped Australia and New Zealand together in one part and referred to their "outbacks". Hopefully corrected in later editions...

Melissa says

I loved this book. As a traveler, it make me want to pack up and just take off! I would recommend it to anyone who has entertained the idea of organizing an around the world trip. The book is in it's second edition, so a new copy will provide good current info on organizing flights, sample routes, and other good tips. The author also does a travel blog on the travelchannel.com webpage. Good stuff.

Julia says

3-4 stars. Has some useful tips, and is worth te read. However, I found this book to be very male-centric (for

example: the packing list is ridiculous) and focused mainly on independent travellers using an around the world airline ticket. It's a good book for general tips, ideas and has especially good chapters on safety and communication but didn't have enough on overland travel, travelling as a couple or women's travel issues.

Gillian says

Lots of information that I intend to make good use of..

Violeta says

This is my First step on planning my ultimate journey around the world. It is a great guide, full of lots of very necessary information. This is where the dream starts turning into reality.

Megan says

This book was not written for me. I'm a 45 year old mom who has travelled lots and enjoys a four seasons. This was still a fun read.

Just please take showers. That bothered me more than anything. No one wants to smell you

Rachel says

The title drew me in; it seemed this would be useful for this thing I'm doing soon. I figured I'd pick up a couple tips -- I didn't expect to read the whole thing as I did. The author's one of the more engaging guide writers I've found and I'll be making a point to check out other titles of his.

I'd recommend this to anyone in the midst of planning an RTW itinerary. This book is so much easier than cobbling together random (possibly suspect) blog posts and scraps of advice from across multiple regional guidebooks. It is well-organized, covers all of the bases of planning an epic journey, and where it leaves off, it directs you to useful and credible resources elsewhere to learn more.

Wayward Child says

Information, information, information. This guide is teeming with it. It's also very reliable (in my experience, at least), thorough, unassuming, realistic and charmingly written. Some of the info may be slightly outdated, but the skeleton is still there, offering common sense solutions to manifold issues and dilemmas plaguing travellers worldwide, alternative approaches to them, covering situations we'd rather not think about, but are likely to stumble upon somewhere "out there" and providing the ABCs of travelling on your own.

Brett Francis says

Pretty average book. Most of this is your typical common sense and someone who has traveled a lot will be already aware of many of the recommendations in this book. Found it helpful for a few hidden gems (cargo boat crossings, etc), but mostly for someone who is brand new to this. Admittedly, that's the book's market, so it didn't do much for me but I think it'll be good for those just starting to travel.

Shelly says

While I don't usually read guide books cover to cover I did with this one. I enjoyed reading about the possible routes, precautions and the side bars with real experiences I found very interesting. While I'm not at a place where I can take off for a year or more to explore the world I love to dream about it and hope that one day that chance will come.

Katrynn says

Although you can get a lot of this information online, it is useful to have in one place, particularly if you're just starting to think about a round-the-world trip. Nice combination of objective information and author's opinions and personal experiences.

Not sure how much I would actually use this in planning a trip, but it is a good introduction to all the things one would need to think about before going.

Kate says

Comprehensive basic information, covering much that you will have read elsewhere: what to pack, how to communicate with people at home, how to deal with money. Rough Guide always does a good job, but I found it curious that this book (in this edition anyway, there is a newer one) acts like the only folks doing round the world travel are young, broke, backpackers with tattoos and piercings (seriously tats are mentioned several times.) Is it impossible to believe someone with modest means and at middle age would want to do this?

While I applaud them for covering all the topics they do it seems like the biggest thing about going round the world is how to trip plan/choose your itinerary and I think they should have spent more time on that. Perhaps in the new edition??

Staci says

Great introductory guide to planning a round-the-world (RTW) trip for the first time. Lansky is a bit judgmental (lots of talk about traveler vs. tourist) - most of why I gave this three-out-of-five rather than four

- but this is definitely one of those books that make Rough Guides one of my favorite travel book brands. Another good book in the RTW-planning genre is *The Practical Nomad* by Edward Hasbrouck.
