



Unpacked: Travel Disaster Stories by Tony Wheeler and Other Lonely Planet Authors

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Every traveler has a horror story to tell: lost luggage, bad weather, illness or worse. In this lively collection of travel disaster tales, Lonely Planet writers share their worst moments of life on the road. From Kenya to Sri Lanka, from Brazil to Finland, from the Australian outback to India, these travelers encounter hurricanes, road accidents, secret police and nasty parasites. Reading these funny and frightening stories from the dark side of the road will make you think twice about a career as a travel writer

Unpacked: Travel Disaster Stories by Tony Wheeler and Other Lonely Planet Authors Details

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Author : Tony Wheeler

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From Reader Review Unpacked: Travel Disaster Stories by Tony Wheeler and Other Lonely Planet Authors for online ebook

Elisa says

I picked this book up off of my parents bookshelf. I enjoyed the short stories of misadventure. As I read I realized that although I liked reading about the Travel Writers' adventures, I had no desire to be able to tell some of these tales myself. I wish I were more adventurous, but alas, I like to keep my distance from the edge. But overall they were fun stories about how the unexpected can still have an upside.

Kelli says

Unpacked is a collection of travel experiences written by travel writers who work for Lonely Planet. The most interesting thing about this book is the essays take place in remote and unusual areas that it seems that few people actually travel to. The writing is stiff--clearly written by travel writers rather than essayists.

Nik Von says

Travel is all about adventures and this book certainly has many. Some of the stories are much better than others so the whole book is a bit hit and miss. It took me a while to get through but all in all I enjoyed it.

K. says

I've read a few of LP's books and I generally like them all, including this one. I love travel stories and used to dream of writing for LP and National Geographic, so these stories are great reading for me. If you like travel stories, read this.

Pam says

Fun, insightful, fascinating. These stories of Lonely Planet writers all over the world is the perfect armchair travelers book.

Jennifer says

I never had the personal fortitude necessary to even think about a backpacking-type of holiday but it was interesting reading about the experiences of others...I still have no inclination to take any sort of a backpacker's holiday but at least I've had a bit of living vicariously now.

Tracy says

I recommend for a fun look at other travellers tragedies and misadventures.

Read the full review at [OurBookClub](#)

Christopher says

LONELY PLANET UNPACKED, one of the first in LP's line of Journeys travel stories, is a collection of reminiscences by twenty-six Lonely Planet travel guide writers about disastrous experiences on the road, from getting robbed to waking up with a scabies infection in a bed and breakfast. The idea may sound interesting, but the book isn't much fun at all.

The first thing that hits the reader is the low level of much of the prose. While these travel guide writers may be experts at compiling a useful list of monuments, restaurants, and hotels, but many are not very good story-tellers. Ironically, the more interesting tales are written incoherently or repetitively, while some of the most insubstantial are penned with literary flair.

And this reviewer also seconds reviewers who have pointed out that the authors seem overwhelmingly concerned with getting drunk or--in the case of one contributor about Cambodia--completely stoned. It's understandable that a traveller might have some rage against a nation after a bad experience, but few of the writers were seeking much contact with the local people before their unpleasant turn of events. They jaded go through a country to add another one to the list and write a book, but they ignore the language and common people, spending a lot of time in bars for tourists and ex-pats.

I can't really recommend this book at all. If you are an independent traveller, think about how far the cover price of this book would get you towards your own (hopefully more sunny) adventures.

Cameron McConnell says

Eclectic mix of stories from all over the globe. All were concise and had a range of troubles in the far flung corners of the world. Many were specific to being a travel writer and the demands of deadlines, but was a fun, easy read for a person who enjoys pushing boundaries.

Bridge says

There is nothing great about this book - I probably have as entertaining travel stories as some of them, but it is a fun and easy read and I really liked it. I think it's always interesting to read about travel adventures and new places. Also it's fun to dream that I could work for Lonely Planet some day...

Haly Boris says

Found and read it in a hostel while I was traveling. It's refreshing to know that even Lonely Planet contributors get some bad luck when traveling abroad! A couple of stories were hard to follow and awkwardly written, but most of them made me want to travel further and farther.

Charity Hall says

A couple of the stories had me laughing uproariously. Others were either confusing or just sort of ...meh. But it is a fun read on a plane!

Kerry says

This is a collection of disaster stories from writers for the Lonely Planet travel guide series. Some of the stories were interesting and captivating, but others just fell short. I learned that I never want to travel to any Russian territory or formally ruled country, nor to most of Asia. This book serves as a great jumping off point for other travel stories. I want to read more of what Lonely Planet has to offer. A short read; I read it in only 1 day.

Owen says

More inconvenience stories here. Most of the stories have something go wrong but very few of the incidents approach being disasters. The writing varies, guidebook writers not always being great at full narrative. Some get a nice sense of place or character but not enough to bother reading this. Don't Shit in the Toilet was more successful, inconsistent as it was, with at least real disaster stories and writing with character. For all of the potential stories which must have happened to Lonely Planet authors, this was a disappointment.

Amy says

I picked this book up from an airport many years ago so I'd have something to read on a flight, and I remember enjoying it immensely then, and on a reread, I still found it quite entertaining. A few of these stories seemed a bit dry, and I'm sure they'd be much improved if the author was telling them in a game of one-upmanship disaster stories that happens with fellow travelers.

The most dated thing about this book was not the lack of technology, but rather the mentions of traveling with the giant backpacks on backs with the almost-as-big daypacks on front. I doubt most travelers are still traveling with 80L+ of gear.

[I am rereading my old books and reviewing them as an adult.]
