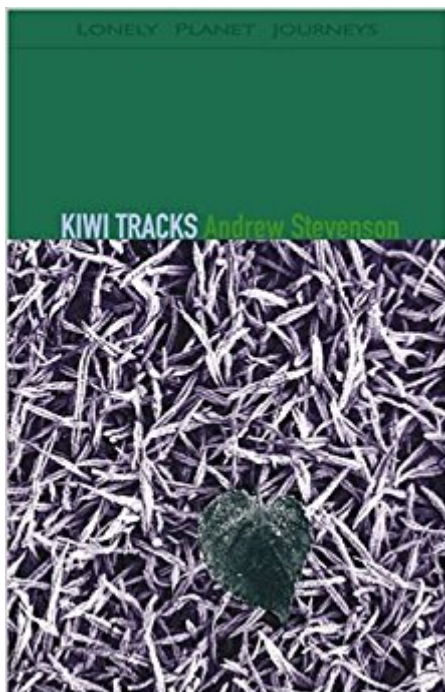


The book was found

Kiwi Tracks: A New Zealand Journey



Synopsis

The world of low-budget travel can be summed up with one image: the backpacker. This is the tale of Andrew Stevenson's hitchhike around New Zealand. It captures the life of the backpacker, from spending time in a Maori settlement to being caught in a snowstorm on an exposed mountain track.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I very much recommend Andrew Stevenson's "Kiwi Tracks," equally well for those who do and do not know personally New Zealand's natural and cultural landscape and her Great Walks. I myself fall somewhat in between these categories - having explored the South Island only, during some six visits in the last 20 years, always tramping, always in awe. He tells well how the Great Walks (the term had not existed in my early tramps) have turned from a few persons in lonely huts to nearly hundreds of packed-in campers on solo or guided tours - in just a few short decades. Also his South Island walks were unusually impaired by a massive snow storm and so come across a bit off-putting. Stevenson gave me the best-yet view of what I have been missing in the North Island ("away from the Mainland," as he quips). Overall, his book is a beautiful, honest, and detailed travel narrative (thank goodness for someone taking the time to name by name the many fauna and flora experienced). But it is markedly canted by his own ah, delicate emotional state during the journey. The book's dust jacket warns us: "... whatever you have in your rucksack, the heaviest baggage is what you carry inside." Stevenson's emotional center of mass during his trip clearly is located a bit outside himself and he is prone to tip over emotionally during the journey. His honesty about this

both hurts and helps the narrative - it does give the reader a reference point: The author is working hard to discover that which is truly important to himself in his journey, as well as puzzling over that same question for New Zealand - the colonist vs. native Maori views of national politics, natural heritage, and future directions.

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