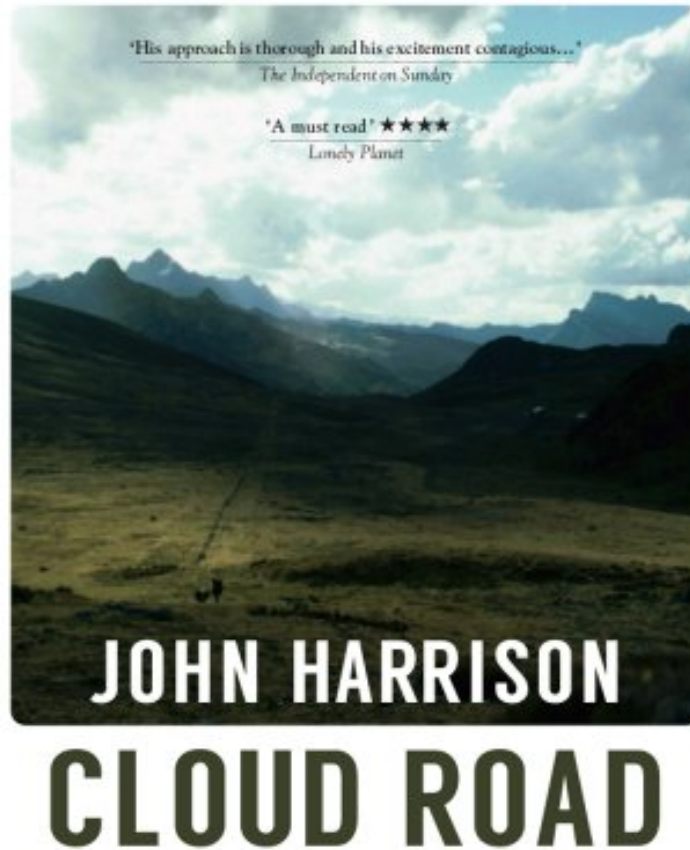


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## Cloud Road: A Journey through the Inca Heartland

*John Harrison*

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{ A JOURNEY THROUGH  
THE INCA HEARTLAND }

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**John Harrison : Cloud Road: A Journey through the Inca Heartland** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cloud Road: A Journey through the Inca Heartland:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Exceptional Memoir from a Very Gifted Writer By Buddy's mom I would never have known about this book had I not recently met the author and heard him speak. He is so thoughtful and literate and clearly intelligent that I wanted to read all his books, and I started with Cloud Road. Since the early 1970s travel memoirs have been my favorite genre. Some are good, just a few very good, but in the past decade or so,

many seem more like immature blogs that somehow made it into print. Not this book! Harrison had done his research and his book is filled with the history of the area he traverses. His writing style is beautifully descriptive and almost poetic; he paints pictures with words. His heart shines through his writing; that made this book so special to me. His wonderful descriptions of the scenery and people, and his reflections on his inner journey, make this among the half dozen travel memoirs at the very top of my list of all-time favorites. I will happily read the other two books he's written and await for a new one to be published this summer (2015). Whether or not you ever get to Peru, treat yourself to this wonderful memoir of a journey of both feet and heart. Highest recommendation. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enriched my trip to Peru more than any other book. By Miriam I've been traveling in South America for three years and have read a lot of books on the area and this is one of my favorites. The author has done extensive research and delivers a lot of information without the reader being acutely aware of it. By this I mean, the information comes through in story telling. And it is an amazing story. The author walks 700 miles of Inca roads, from Quito to Cusco (skipping parts that are paved over or destroyed). Many people associate the "Inca trail" with the 30 miles that lead to Machu Picchu but some of the best preserved sections of Inca roads are not tourist attractions and not near Machu Picchu. This story about this walk delivers fascinating information about Peru and the Incan empire that you might not encounter elsewhere. If you are going to visit Peru and you are interested in learning about the Incan Empire beyond Machu Picchu - read this book!!! I've visited several places the author writes about that are not mentioned in most guidebooks. For example, at Vilcashuaman I had the double-seat throne atop the only intact Incan step pyramid in Peru all to myself for sunrise on the winter solstice. It was such a special experience. Also by visiting places not on the Gringo Trail, I had so many memorable encounters with Peruvians - experiencing some of the quirks described in the book and discovering many of my own. (Be aware this isn't a guidebook - you'll have to do your own research to visit the places he describes.) This book not only tells a great story but is also really informative and might just motivate you to seek out your own adventure. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A journey through the Inca HARD land, a tale with great heart. By Lorna L. Not even finished and I already treasure this book. The author went through many delightful--but also many hugely uncomfortable, dangerous, and trying times, enough to convince me that John Harrison will be the last person who attempts this trek. But why bother? The author has done it with great knowledge (excellent research and writing) and sensitivity to the indigenous people he met along the way. Read before you travel to Ecuador or Peru, only wish I had before my four trips to the Andes.

An intense and deeply personal account of five months spent high in the Andes Mountains, this travelogue combines historical and anthropological details with the thrill of extreme adventure. Hiking at more than 10,000 feet for almost the entire trip, the author follows the great road of the Incas, the Camino Real. Hand-built more than 500 years ago, this road crosses the most difficult and dangerous mountains in all the Americas, and life continues as if Columbus had never sailed. Finding and studying remote villages is central to the quest, and despite dog attacks, sweltering canyons, floods, and stubborn donkeys the author makes his way from the equator to Cuzco and on to the most magical city of all: Machu Picchu.