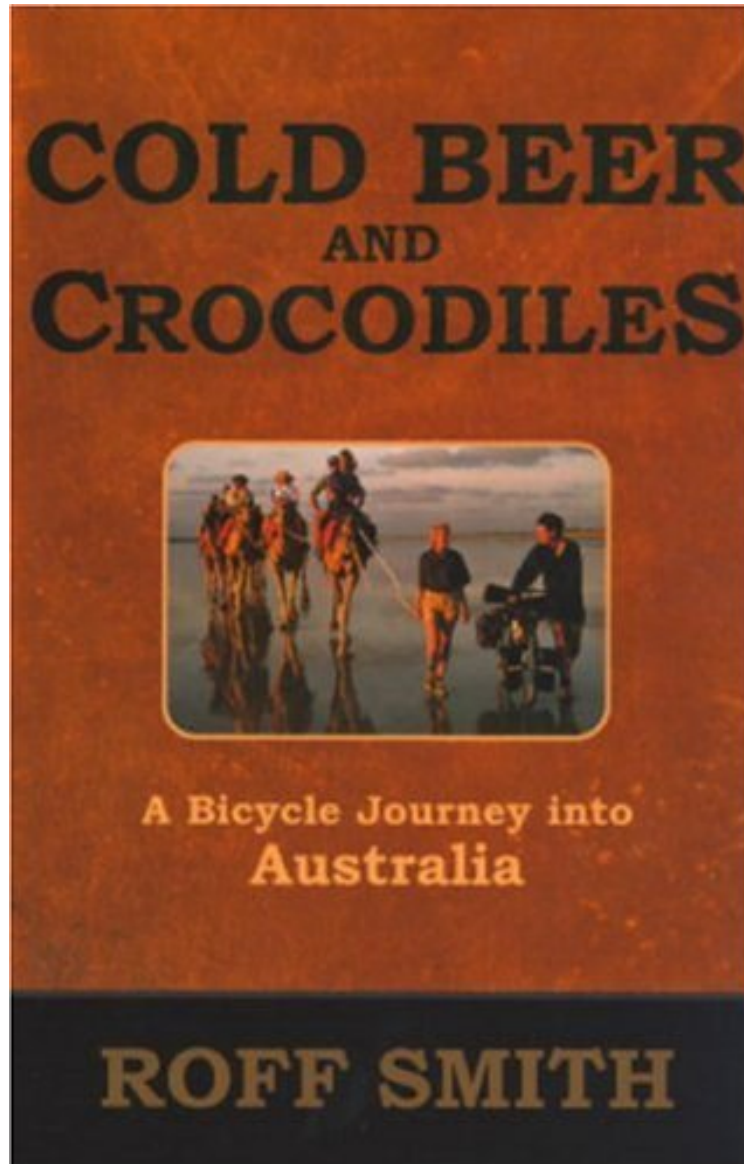


(Mobile book) Cold Beer and Crocodiles: A Bicycle Journey into Australia

Cold Beer and Crocodiles: A Bicycle Journey into Australia

Roff Smith

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1586401 in Books 2000-08-15 2000-09-01Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.38 x .92 x 6.36l, #File Name: 0792279522284 pages | File size: 17.Mb

Roff Smith : Cold Beer and Crocodiles: A Bicycle Journey into Australia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cold Beer and Crocodiles: A Bicycle Journey into Australia:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent for bicycle tourers any curious about AustraliaBy CharlieOldGuyI wore out the first book, bought a second this being the third is a gift for my son who was interested in moving to Australia from Oregon. I read this book every winter in order to get through a long Minnesota winter. I'm a reasonably experienced bicycle tourer, having done many short week long rides, but in summer of 2012 rode a bicycle

from my home in Cottage Grove Minnesota to New Orleans taking nearly 5 weeks. That trip lends some perspective to how grand difficult a year long, 10,000 mile bicycle trip around Australia would be. The book is not about the bike or his equipment (except for the amount of water he had to carry in some areas of Australia), but about the country it's people. It is a fascinating book if you tour by bicycle, and I'm not sure if a non cyclist would enjoy the book, but it reads well as an Adventure. The author met many Australians in a variety of places, from a short encounter to developing friendships in some long stays with Australians. I guess the book would be enjoyable by non-cyclists if you are interested in Australia...More photos would have been nice but the dozen or so in the book are enough to get a picture of some of the areas he biked. It is a magnificent country, but seems quite hostile in places too. The author is tougher more disciplined than I under those same circumstances! It has always been a great read even tho' I've read it enough to wear out one volume!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Roff Smith made me feel as though I was riding ...By Robert Porter Roff Smith made me feel as though I was riding along or not far behind him on his journey. Australia seemed even more fascinating than I imagined. Riding into Darwin was exciting but riding across the Nullarbor Desert made me struggle with both the heat and just nearing the end of a life changing trek.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. 10,000 miles and a beer By C. D Smith Roff Smith's adventure created quite the resume for his job with National Geographic! His bicycle trip around Australia made me wax nostalgic about the trip I made across the heartland of the US in the summer of 1982. I understand why there were periods of hundreds of miles where he didn't write any words. Or as he was making the trip from Eucla Pass and on in to Melbourne that he didn't remember much of that part of the trip. He was bone weary and ready to chuck it in. I felt that way by the time I got to Trail of Tears State Park in Missouri from Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The wind in your face, the heat (though shy of the 130 degree oven that he slogged through). I enjoyed the descriptions of friends he made along the way and good times. I think probably by the time you've made your way to the middle of nowhere and find kindred spirits, you care less for formality. I didn't incur any of the road rash such as he got careening out of control outside of Perth, but when you are on a bicycle, you are more at the mercy of the elements and the good will of strangers than you are when you would be traveling by greyhound or by auto. This was a thoroughly enjoyable read. I am preparing for a trip to Australia. It gave good insight into the customs and people. Though I may bicycle some, I don't think I'll be traveling but a hundredth of the distance he covered on bike.

UPDATE - Jamie and I traveled to Australia and used the CityRail to get us to downtown Sydney as the first stop. We used Rolf's "Australian Traveler Guide" (National Geographic) and wound our way through the Royal Botanic Garden from the St. James train stop. This was an absolutely wonderful introduction to Sydney and Australia. Thanks again to Roff Smith. You can tell the man loves Australia!

The born wayfarer takes his time, stays close to the land, and lives by its rhythms, always ready when a friendly nod turns into a dinner invitation but just as happy to camp alone under the Southern Cross. He's a free spirit, following the road map of his own adventurous imagination. When he happens to be a keen observer and a vivid writer as well, the result is a classic travel book. American Roff Smith had been living in Australia for 15 years when he quit his job, pared his life to what could be carried in the panniers of his bicycle, and pedaled off on a 10,000-mile circuit of the continent. By the time he coasted back into Sydney nine months later, he had discovered an Australia that eludes the casual traveler; "Cold Beer and Crocodiles" is his evocative, eventful report from the highways and byways of "Oz," an affectionate portrait of his adopted country and its colorful people. It's a tale worthy of the bold explorers who lived -- and sometimes died -- to open up this vast, isolated, beautiful world, from chilly Tasmania to the arid, blistering outback, where temperatures soar to 140 degrees in the midday sun. On a good day, 100 miles or more might unreel smoothly beneath Smith's tires; on a bad day, he often staggered into a desert roadhouse, exhausted, out of water, and all but dead. There are narrow escapes, wild tropical storms, a grisly crash, and a wonderful variety of unexpected scenes that capture the many faces of Australia and the men and women who call it home. We meet rancher Rob Macintosh and his family, who offer Smith a warm welcome and a job on a working sheep station, and a quartet of matey diggers who whisk him off to a lush canyon oasis hidden between the folds of an apocalyptic landscape. We meet soft-spoken Aborigines of unfailing courtesy and generosity, as well as drifters and tourists, craftsmen and farmers, roadhouse keepers and their trademark customers -- the fabled long-distance drivers who barrel across the empty sands in the cab of a road train as long as a football field. Though there's a wealth of good company here, this is a book that savors solitude, too, the quietly stunning moments that reward the self-sufficient traveler -- a black-velvet sky studded with stars, the green flash at the instant of sunset in the old pearling port of Broome, restless swells that sweep in from the South Pole to crash against breathtaking cliffs at the desolate edge of the world. With a sure sense of place and an engaging, entertaining, and above all honest voice, Roff Smith interweaves the history and lore of Australia with his own hard-won journey of discovery -- the kind of revelation that rewards those who travel not through a country but into it.