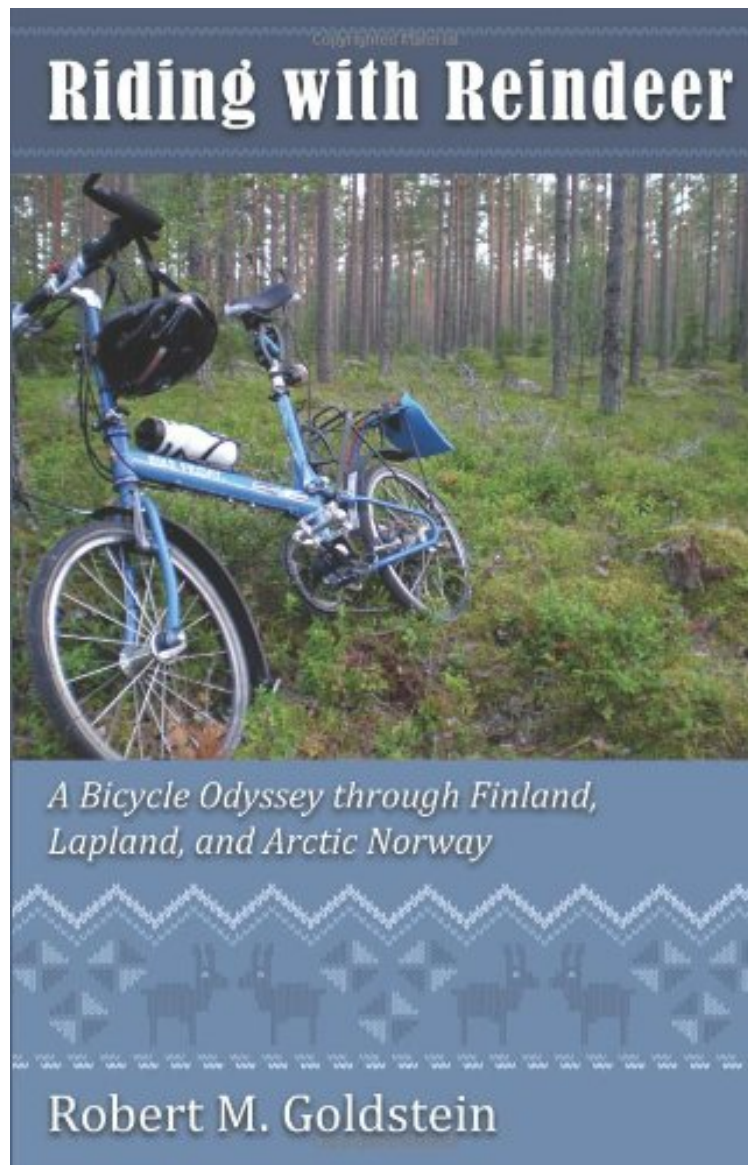


(Read now) Riding With Reindeer: A Bicycle Odyssey Through Finland, Lapland, and Arctic Norway

Riding With Reindeer: A Bicycle Odyssey Through Finland, Lapland, and Arctic Norway

Robert M. Goldstein

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Robert M. Goldstein : Riding With Reindeer: A Bicycle Odyssey Through Finland, Lapland, and Arctic Norway before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Riding With Reindeer: A Bicycle Odyssey Through Finland, Lapland, and Arctic Norway:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read!By CarolThis book is so funny! As an American married

to a Finn, I can personally relate to Bob's experiences on so many levels. Not only is the book funny, but it's also informational as well as educational, a must read guide for any traveler to Finland who might be interested in understanding the Finnish culture as well as its history. Although I have not made this trek by bicycle, I have traveled from Helsinki to Inari by car / train, and have had many similar experiences along the way, and Bob's interpretation of those experiences is on target. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "It's a long way." By booknblueslady I love to read about journeys and especially those done at a relatively leisurely pace, hiking, kayaking, rowing, bicycling and the likes, so it is no surprise to me how much I enjoyed reading Robert M. Goldstein's *Riding With Reindeer*. What made it more fun was that Goldstein has a wonderful self-deprecating sense of humor, which made the book all the more entertaining and added to that he threw in quite a bit of information about the history and culture of Finland which I found intriguing. Goldstein faced what many of us who reached our fifties face, an inner questioning about what we want to be doing with the rest of our working years and a feeling of entrapment and lack of joy from the current 9 to 5. After giving some thought about what had brought him joy in his life he realized that he had always loved bicycling and traveling. He had written a book previously called *The Gentleman from Finland - Adventures on the Trans-Siberian Express* because the Russian people kept assuming he was from Finland because of his point of entry. Because of this he became interested in Finland and began reading about it and became intrigued with the history of the country and the lack of travel journals about it. Goldstein thought that perhaps he could write one about Finland and fulfill a need and since all he had read about Finland said it was a flat land, he thought biking would be quite easy. He found that Finland has an extensive system of bike routes throughout their country, so such a bike friendly nation was an ideal place. Goldstein had a bicycle with small tires which folded up inside his luggage making transportation of it easy. He fitted his Samsonite suitcase with wheels and had a wagon ready when he arrived in Finland. Once ready to go he named his bike Friday and his wagon, Wagon and he was off on what he called *The Riding with the Reindeer Expedition*. He found that it was important to focus so he didn't repeat leaving his fanny pack with his passport and other valuables behind and have to back track to find it as he did once. He also found that he had to be careful not to over reach and attend to *The United Body Parts of Bob*. Finland is an extremely beautiful country with much forested land, both birch and coniferous forests. It is dotted with a system of lakes and rivers so one could choose a summer of rowing very easily. Once Goldstein rode into Lapland he saw reindeer aplenty and had the pictures in his book to prove it (even my kindle edition). I so enjoyed riding with him and sharing the adventure. I have a secret hope that he will decide to go on another one so I can tag along. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Much more than a travelogue... By Douglas Whittet As well as an entertaining account of a bike ride through Finland and Lapland to the Barents Sea, this book contains a lot of interesting cultural and military history of Finland relevant to each place he visits along the way. It is engagingly written and the author has a self-effacing sense of humor. Highly recommended to everyone who enjoys cycling adventures in far away places and/or has an interest in Finland.

In the summer of 2007, Robert Goldstein departs Helsinki on a self-supported bicycle epic across Finland with the goal of pedaling to the Barents Sea. Aboard a folding bicycle towing a wagon, he weathers furious storms, survives a near-disastrous accident and obsesses whether he will be eaten by a bear as he makes his way through the remote forests of Eastern Finland. In sparsely populated Lapland, his solitude is relieved by reindeer who become his constant companions as he slowly makes his way through the Arctic. More than a travelogue, *Riding with Reindeer* intersperses an often humorous narrative about the author's adventures (he manages to get trapped in the women's shower in one remote village) with rich cultural and historical anecdotes as he passes through endless forests littered with rotted fortifications, rusted tanks and mass graves--the detritus of Finland's desperate defense against a massive Soviet invasion in the winter of 1939. *Riding with Reindeer* gives insight into the mind of the solitary traveler and into the soul of a country whose honest and resourceful yet often taciturn citizens are always willing to lend a helping hand to the stranger on the little blue bicycle gamely grinding his way through their "Suomi" - literally "the end of the land."

"Perfect for travelers, armchair or otherwise, cyclists and thrill seekers, *Riding with Reindeer* is a modern-day travel narrative filled with humor, poignancy, history and beauty." --ForeWord s "Goldstein's affable good humor makes him an idea armchair traveling companion - I laughed out loud and read passages to my husband." --Debra Dean, author of *The Madonnas of Leningrad and Confessions of a Falling Woman* "The maps are wonderful, and the photos--so often lacking in books of this sort--add to the book's appealing conversational tone." --Nancy Peal in *Book Lust to Go - Recommended Reading for Travelers, Vagabonds, and Dreamers*. About the Author Robert M. Goldstein, a former journalist, is the Chief Financial Officer of the Kitsap Regional Library, Kitsap County, Wa. He lives in Seattle. His first book, *The Gentleman from Finland - Adventures on the Trans-Siberian Express*, won critical acclaim from Library book reviewer Nancy Pearl who called it "a perfect read for fans of Paul Theroux and Bill Bryson's travel memoirs." That book received the coveted Benjamin Franklin Award for best travel narrative published in North America.