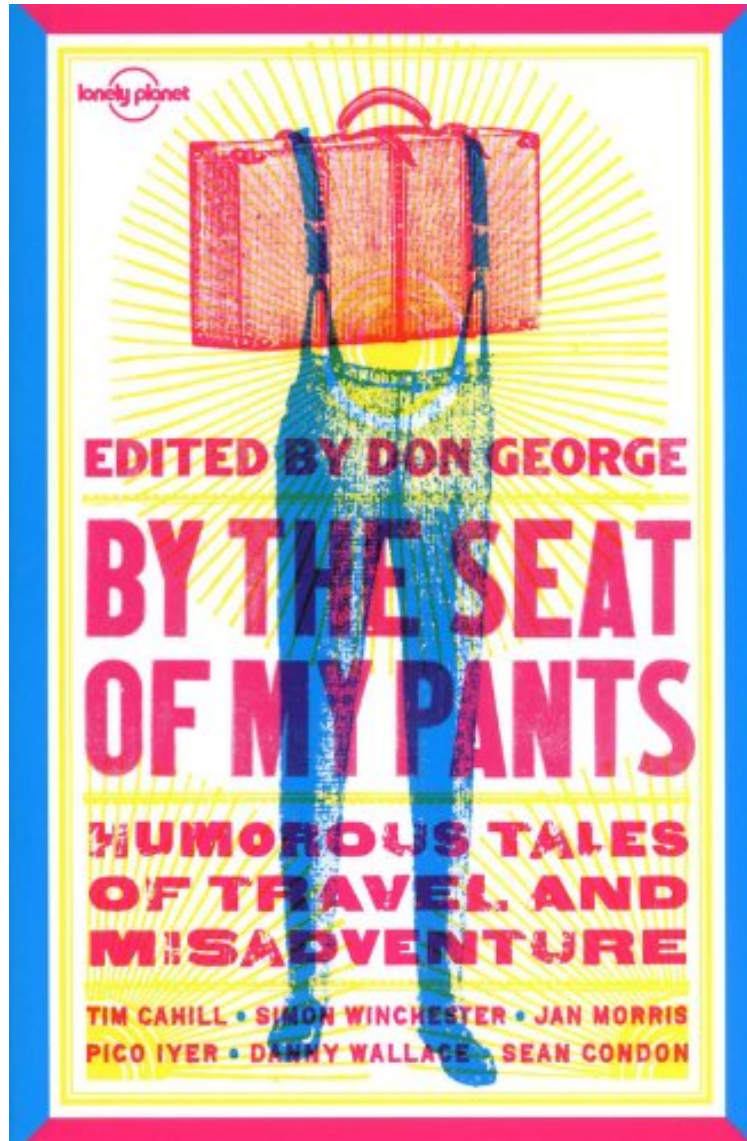


(Free) By the Seat of My Pants (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)

## By the Seat of My Pants (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)

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**From Lonely Planet : By the Seat of My Pants (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised By the Seat of My Pants (Lonely Planet Travel Literature):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By fred Great travel writing. Only a few dull stories. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. All good stuff By Mr. Joe "We travel ... for adventure and fun, to get away from the drudgery of our lives at home ... We meet people for whom our presence is nothing but opportunity, to take

them out of the sadness and difficulty of their lives. The smiles exchanged on both sides have something of a nervous edge." Pico Iyer, in *BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS* always approach a literary anthology with some trepidation; I expect the stories to fall on the bell curve of Gaussian distribution and it's the several at the low end that often have me wishing I hadn't cracked the book at all. But the curve represented by the thirty-one chapters in *BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS*, subtitled "Humorous Tales of Travel and Misadventure," is skewed sharply to the right. It's all pretty much good stuff. Indeed, while I give one tale three stars, the rest get four or five. Ok, ok. I've been robbed blind by a pair of Gipsy pickpockets on Rome's Ponte Sant'Angelo, locked myself *INSIDE* my car in Portsmouth, England, and, while as a clueless foreigner struggling with the language barrier at Bucharest's Bneasa Airport during the height of the Cold War, was stopped from boarding the wrong plane even as I had my foot on the bottom step of the air-stairs. But I haven't a story to match any of those here. Escaping the drudgery of life at home to travel outside the comfort zone is an invitation to be taken unawares and delighted, enraged, surprised, scammed, annoyed, physically sickened, confused or enraptured. But, it beats staying home doing the laundry. Among other things, the aggregate thirty-one wayfaring contributors to *BY THE SEAT OF MY PANTS* are sorely embarrassed ("Blackout in Ushuaia", "Dutch Toilet", "Walk of Fame"), unexpectedly delighted ("Carpet-Rolling", "The Garden Kitchen"), befooled ("Let the Buyer Beware", "An Award Winning Performance"), confounded ("The Afghan Tourist Office", "Left Luggage"), amazed ("A Matter of Trust") and otherwise educated for the better ("Journey to the Centre of the Earth", "Naked in Oaxaca"). And, indeed, in "Wangara's Cross" I came across perhaps the most poetic explanation of the sun's traverse of the sky from sunrise to sunset that I've ever read. This is the perfect book for anyone with Wanderlust. And, hey, I'm in! Then there was the time I took the slow train from Timisoara to Bucharest accompanied by drunken Romanian Land Forces troops. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable read

By Christopher J Weiss Many of the stories are absolutely delightful. Uneven in spots, and some of the writers seem to lack experience as writers (or maybe a decent editor), but all-in-all this is well worth the read. Just fun stories about travel.

Lonely Planet: The world's leading travel guide publisher Humorous tales of travel and misadventure Lonely Planet knows that some of life's funniest experiences happen on the road. Whether they take the form of unexpected detours, unintended adventures, unidentifiable dinners or unforgettable encounters, they can give birth to our most found travel lessons, and our most memorable - and hilarious - travel stories. These 31 globegirdling tales that run the gamut from close-encounter safaris to loss-of-face follies, hair-raising rides to culture-leaping brides, eccentric expats to mind-boggling repasts, wrong roads taken to agreements mistaken. The collection brings together some of the world's most renowned travellers and storytellers with previously unpublished writers. Includes stories by Wickam Boyle, Tim Cahill, Joshua Clark, Sean Condon, Chistopher R. Cox, David Downie, Holly Erikson, Bill Fink, Don George, Karl Taro Greenfeld, Jeff Grenwald, Pico Iyer, Amanda Jones, Kathie Kertesz, Doug Lansky, Alexander Ludwick, Linda Watanabe McFerrin, Jan Morris, Brooke Neill, Rolf Potts, Laura Resau, Michelle Richmond, Alana Semuels, Deborah Steg, Judy Tierney, Edwin Tucker, Jeff Vize, Danny Wallace, Kelly Watton, Simon Wichester, Michelle Witton

About Lonely Planet: Started in 1973, Lonely Planet has become the world's leading travel guide publisher with guidebooks to every destination on the planet, as well as an award-winning website, a suite of mobile and digital travel products, and a dedicated traveller community. Lonely Planet's mission is to enable curious travellers to experience the world and to truly get to the heart of the places where they travel. TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards 2012 and 2013 winner in Favorite Travel Guide category 'Lonely Planet guides are, quite simply, like no other.' - New York Times Lonely Planet. It's on everyone's bookshelves; it's in every traveller's hands. It's on mobile phones. It's on the Internet. It's everywhere, and it's telling entire generations of people how to travel the world.' - Fairfax Media (Australia) \*#1 in the world market share - source: Nielsen Bookscan. Australia, UK and USA. March 2012-January 2013

From Publishers Weekly Although the essays in this anthology of travel pieces are by an unusual mix of veteran travel writers and beginners, common threads run throughout: travel is surprising; it often tries your patience; and it teaches life lessons. Selected from entries in a competition on the Lonely Planet Web site, these tales of global journeys are almost uniformly funny. In "Blackout in Ushuaia," novelist and editor Michelle Richmond takes advantage of the lights going out on vacation at a South American ski resort with her husband by seizing the moment for a little lovemaking. Getting locked inside a Dutch men's room has travel writer Doug Lansky feeling like he's doing time in a solitary jail cell. In "The Afghan Tourist Office," first-time writer Alexander Ludwick tries to extend his visa with a nutty singing and dancing official who does a manic jog before applying his rubber stamp to the author's documents. Although a few stories in this book are too short to elicit a belly laugh, others will provide a riotous howl and a yen to wander. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist With the proviso that readers should approach anything labeled "humor" with a 10-foot-long barge pole, this collection of "humorous tales" is a genial enough gathering of "misadventures" from some of travel writing's bigger names. And so Jan Morris shares the instant karma delivered upon her for not traveling first class, as she quotes the British navy as traditionally doing. Simon Winchester describes "the most perfect hotel in the world" (London's

Connaught) and the singularly remarkable event that once happened there. And the collection's venerable editor, George (he's now Lonely Planet's "global travel editor"), offers up his experience of grandly and unknowingly ordering an entire octopus in a Neapolitan restaurant. By design a lightweight book, this collection of 32 short pieces will provoke sympathetic nods, if not a steady flow of laughter, from its readers. For the larger travel collection. Alan Moore's Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved will provide a riotous howl and a yen to wander -- Publishers Weekly, July 11, 2005