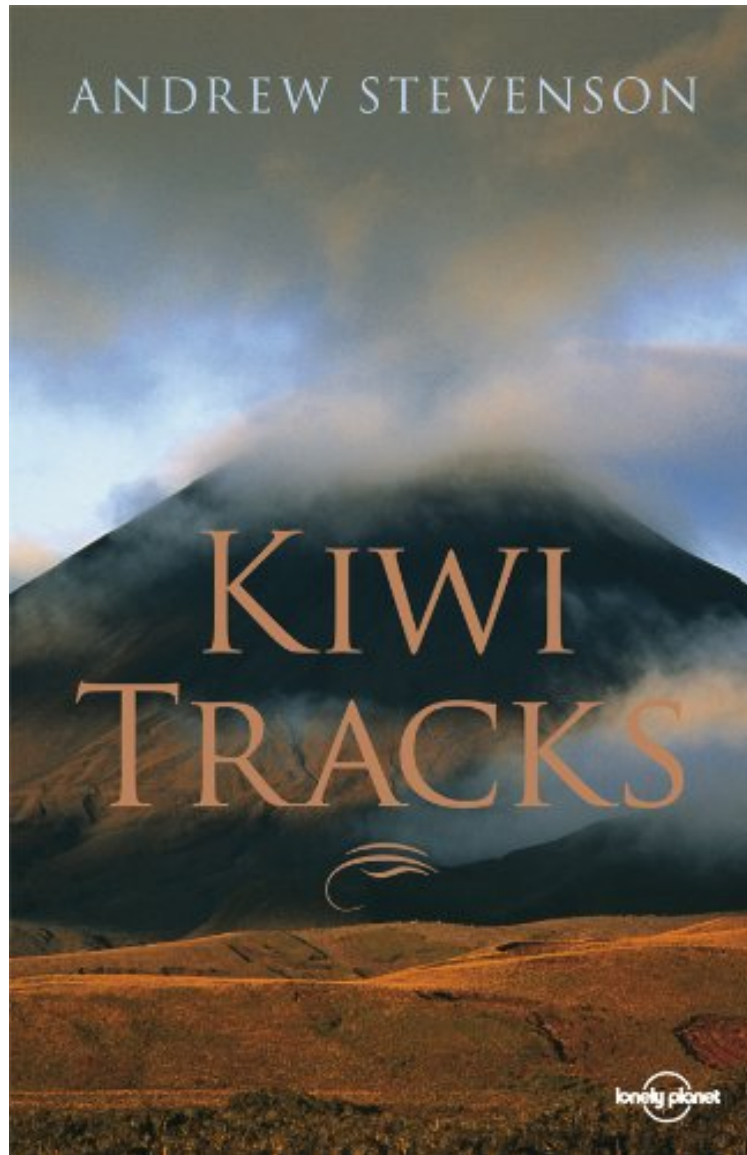


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Kiwi Tracks: A New Zealand Journey (Lonely Planet Travel Literature)

Von Lonely Planet
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Von Lonely Planet : Kiwi Tracks: A New Zealand Journey (Lonely Planet Travel Literature) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kiwi Tracks: A New Zealand Journey (Lonely Planet Travel Literature):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen11 von 11 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. funny,

insightful, a really good read
Von Ein Kunde
After reading his previous book, Annapurna Circuit, I was curious to read what the author would write about New Zealand. Having been to NZ nine times myself, I was almost reluctant to read this book, thinking it would be a disappointment. I mean, how could it live up to my own experiences in New Zealand? It was better than my expectations. Kiwi Tracks is a travelogue based on four months trekking. Lovely descriptive passages of tramping through the rainforest, some funny scenes where you laugh out loud, and some personal insights that keep you turning the pages. So many of his experiences I could relate to. Although there are criticisms he makes, he captures the country and people with insight. I loved his Annapurna Circuit and this book is definitely not a disappointment.
3 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Having the blues in NZ...
Von iThere are very few books that I haven't finished. I'm halfway through Andrew Stevenson's "Kiwi Tracks" and I'm wondering, if I can stand it any longer...
Stevenson writes about his experiences in NZ. So far so good. After he's split up with his girl friend, he packs his things and heads for the island of the long white cloud for four months of hiking. There he travels on his own, hasn't (as far as I have read the novel) any kind of social contacts, is constantly being depressive and ironically is offended by the mass tourism that destroys kiwi wild life, of which he is actually a part. His abilities as a writer and sense of humour can't make up for the poor plot. Actually nothing happens in the story, there's just a cynical depressive hiker wandering from place to place.
To be fair: Stevenson's book is travel literature, which isn't supposed to have a thrilling plot or a surprising show down. But one thing travel literature should do is giving one an impression of the country's culture, landscape or atmosphere. Except for describing NZ's people "Kiwi Tracks" fails even in that.
1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Nicht gut, nicht schlecht...
Von Nkind
Stevenson profitiert - wie m.E. die meisten Autoren von Reiseberichten bzw. -erfahrungsberichten über Neuseeland - von der Sehnsucht aller Menschen, die in "Godzone" waren, dort nicht mehr so schnell hinkommen und nun versuchen, jeden Schnipsel an Reiseliteratur über das Land als ... hm ... Ersatzdroge? zu verwenden. So geht es mir jedenfalls, und bisher ist mir noch kein Buch über NZ untergekommen, das meine Ansprüche an ein echtes "Buch" befriedigt hätte.
Stevenson schreibt für einen Laien durchaus akzeptabel, aber zu einem Schriftsteller gehört halt mehr als die Aufschreibung eines Reisetagebuchs, vermischt mit ein paar Informationen zur Landeskunde. Und so ist sein Werk kein Reiseführer über die großen Tracks geworden, weil dafür zu wenige konkrete Informationen kommen, aber auch keine Geschichte, weil sowohl Storyline als auch glaubhafte Charaktere, geschweige denn ein schlussiges Ende oder eine Aussage des Ganzen fehlen. Der Versuch, mit einem traurigen Hintergrund und traurigen Reisebekanntschaften eine gewisse Atmosphäre zu erzeugen, erinnert mich doch zu stark an Paul Theroux' "Die glücklichen Inseln Ozeaniens" (das zwar nur sehr kurz in NZ spielt, dafür aber ein wirklich empfehlenswertes Beispiel für "echte" Reiseliteratur ist). Und so bleibt "Kiwi Tracks" ein weiteres, einmal gelesenes Objekt der Ersatzbefriedigung für eine Sehnsucht, die es doch nicht stillen konnte...

Kurzbeschreibung
Andrew Stevenson takes to the tracks in the hiking heaven of New Zealand's famous wilderness areas. With insight and a gentle humour, he explores the spirit of this spectacular land and its people, provides an illuminating view of his fellow backpackers, and reveals that, however much or little you may have in your rucksack, the heaviest baggage is what you carry inside.
deLonely Planet has a reputation for publishing knowledgeable, quirky and enthralling travel literature, looking at familiar destinations in a new light. Their approach is different from more mainstream publications, focusing on the very essence and experience of travelling as much as the countries themselves.
New Zealand is the stated subject of Andrew Stevenson's Kiwi Tracks but his inner emotions, life history and candid backpacking experiences interweave to form an engaging subtext. Stevenson spent four months on the road, two months on South Island and two on North Island. He bypassed the urban centres as often as he could to walk through the National Parks, Fiordland and stroll along Ninety Mile Beach. In search of the spirit of the places, he talks to fellow travellers and locals, immersing himself in the "generosity and hospitality of Kiwis". Stevenson's beautiful, prosaic style expertly captures the country's sense of space and isolation, from the ancient forests of Gondwanaland to the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. He peppers his book with personal, sometimes painful experiences and in his quest to discover the true beauty of New Zealand's varied landscape, Maori heritage and culture, he reaches a truer understanding of himself and his need to travel. -- Anna Hornsey
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evidence that walking can be exciting, dangerous and, dare I say it, sexy' -- The Great Outdoors