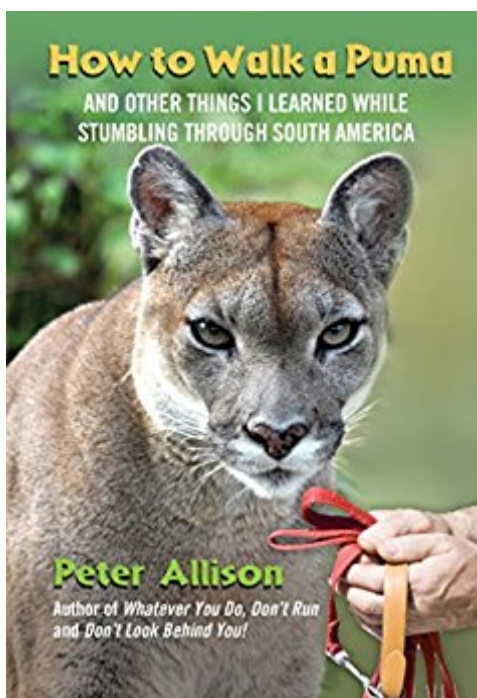


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How To Walk A Puma: And Other Things I Learned While Stumbling Through South America



Synopsis

On his nineteenth birthday, Peter Allison flipped a coin. One side would take him to Africa and the other to South America, the two places he wanted to explore before he died. He recounted his time spent as a safari guide in Africa to much acclaim in *Whatever You Do, Don't Run* and *Don't Look Behind You*. Sixteen years later, he makes his way to Santiago, Chile, ready to seek out the continent's best, weirdest, and wildest adventures, and to chase the elusive jaguar. In just the first six months, Allison is bitten by a puma (several times), knocked on his head by a bad empanada, and surrounded by piranhas while rafting down a Bolivian river—all because of his unusual fear of refrigerators and of staying in any one place for too long. Ever the gifted storyteller and cultural observer, Allison makes many observations about life in humid climes, the nature of nomadism, and exactly what it is like to be nearly blasted off a mountain by the famous Patagonia wind. Allison's self-deprecating humor is as delightful as his crazy stunts, and his love for animals—even when they bite—is infectious.

Book Information

File Size: 1133 KB

Print Length: 227 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0762777567

Publisher: Lyons Press (December 20, 2011)

Publication Date: July 29, 2014

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00MJD7ACW

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #308,704 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #64

in Books > Travel > South America > Chile #101 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks >

Nonfiction > Travel > Central & South America > South America #204 in Books > Travel >

South America > General

Customer Reviews

I bought this book after hearing Peter Allison on the radio doing a promo of the book. I was enthralled by the interview. Peter Allison spoke with humour & candour telling of life in the jungle, his travels and most importantly, of walking a Puma. I thought "I must have this book" and I was so happy I bought it. Allison documents his travels in a way that is grass-roots, telling of all things that can & do go wrong, the unexpected, the annoying, (especially when you are Un-co and have a knack for getting into a bind). In this book, basically a diary of Allison's adventures & travels through South America, we are introduced to Roy, the orphaned Puma, being cared for at a sanctaury, by volunteers who come and go. Now it's Allison's turn to "Walk a Puma". The writing is hilarious & at times sad. I'd say it is an Eye Opener. We in the cities have little idea how the rest of the world live and survive. This book is different, in a good way. Read it and just be entertained. I would like to know what has become of Roy since?

Peter Allison is a fun read. I devoured his books on Africa, often laughing out loud at his self-deprecation, humor and the wonderful absurdities he seems to walk into, eyes- wide. How to Walk A Puma is no less interesting but it is about South America which, no slur intended, does not charm me as Africa does. For those who are interested in his travels there (or simply enjoy spending time with a very down to earth nature/animal loving everyman) this book will be a pleasure. As always, I learned a lot. (Like army ants are scary as hell and, what true wanderlust looks and sounds like) I hope Peter keeps writing. He'll probably end up in an old folk's home in Timbucktu and his adventures via a wheelchair will continue to crack me up.

Second book of Peter's I've read, very funny writing style, and equally funny circumstances he seems to get himself into. (You think walking a puma is an exaggeration??) Laugh out loud moments, interesting characters, this book has a lot to offer. C'mon Peter, write some more books!

South America does not hold the fascination for me that Africa always has, but I love Peter's unfailing determination to wring the most out of his travels, and, as usual, I enjoy his perspective on life, travel, and our wildlife. And his unflagging humour in the face of some daunting challenges! Please, Peter....keep writing.....

Peter Allison has a delightful sense of humor, and I had to struggle not to laugh aloud in public a few times when I was reading How to Walk a Puma. It's a fun read between using a puking cat as a pick up line, dodging puma attacks, and surviving earthquakes and crazy drivers, there is a lot to enjoy.

At some point I became a bit annoyed at someone having the time to spend a year and a half just doing whatever came to his mind, but that was probably more jealousy on my part than bad writing on his!

This is a fantastic book for animal and adventure lovers. I would give it six or seven or ten stars if they were available. It is well written, really fun to read with an amazing sense of humor to keep you turning the pages. Peter Allison has another of these books, "Don't Look Behind You" as well and both are fantastic so order them together. You will be absolutely delighted. I promise!

Peter Allison took a much more introspective approach to this book. It's his experience as a traveler, vs being a guide for travelers. It was a very enjoyable read. His love for everything wild shines through.

I loved this book! Peter writes in a way that takes you along for the ride (or run) and his enthusiasm for the animals, people and places he meets is truly enjoyable and infectious. It had me looking out the window of buses and seeing parts of the world I've never been to and smiling at the things I was seeing. Full of good humour and amusing tales - definitely worth reading.

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