

Tales of a Shaman's Apprentice: An Ethnobotanist Searches for New Medicines in the Amazon Rainforest by Mark J. Plotkin

A skillful blend of travel adventure, botanical and cultural history, and Amazonian research.

The Mapmaker's Wife: A True Tale of Love, Murder, and Survival in the Amazon
by Robert Whitaker

Relates the eighteenth-century story of Jean Godin and his wife, Isabel, stranded at opposite ends of the Amazon River after Jean's epic exploration of South America, and describes Isabel's journey to reunite with her husband.

Back from Tuichi: The Harrowing True-Life Story of Survival in the Rainforest
by Yossi Ghinsberg

Four backpackers meet in Bolivia and set off into the rainforest on a dream expedition. But what begins as the adventure of a lifetime quickly becomes a struggle for survival when they get lost in the wilds of the Amazonian jungle.

The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession with the Amazon by David Grann

Interweaves the story of British explorer Percy Fawcett, who vanished during a 1925 expedition into the Amazon, with the author's own quest to uncover the mysteries surrounding Fawcett's final journey and the secrets of what lies deep in the Amazon jungle.

Journey of the Pink Dolphins: An Amazon Quest
by Sy Montgomery

The author recounts her search for the pink river dolphins of the Amazon, describing their history and habits, threats to their survival, and their role as shapeshifting guides to another realm in the lore of local peoples.

Amazon Extreme: Three Ordinary Guys, One Rubber Raft, and the Most Dangerous River on Earth by Colin Angus and Ian Mulgrew

Documents the story of three adventurers and their journey on a raft down the Amazon River, describing the challenges and dangers they encountered during the five-month odyssey.

Passage Through El Dorado: Traveling the World's Last Great Wilderness
by Jonathan Kandell

A look at the places and the politics of the continent, with a special look at the ways in which the idea of the "frontier" has shaped the people living on the edges.



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Armchair Travelers



Chasing Che: A Motorcycle Journey in Search of the Guevara Legend by Patrick Symmes

A journalist describes his motorcycle odyssey through South America as he searched for the people and places in Che Guevara's "The Motorcycle Diaries," a chronicle of the future revolutionary's 1952 journey through Argentina, Peru, and Cuba.

The Motorcycle Diaries: Notes on a Latin American Journey by Ann Wright
and Ernesto Che Guevara

A chronicle of the author's seven-month motorcycle journey throughout South America reveals the beginning of his transformation into a dedicated revolutionary.

Annotations courtesy of **NoveList Plus**.

The Panama Hat Trail: A Journey from South America by Tom Miller

This exploration of the countries and cultures of South America examines how different cultures view one another, assesses the mythic appeal of the United States, and looks at the economics of world trade.

Lost Cities and Ancient Mysteries of South America by David Hatcher Childress

The author describes his travels in South America and shares his views on the Nazca lines, Machu Picchu, Cuzco, and archaeological theories about the region and its ruins.

Voyage of the Beagle by Charles Darwin

The great naturalist records his impressions of the flora, fauna, and geology of the South American coasts, detailing his five-year voyage aboard the HMS Beagle on an exploration of the terrain of South America, observing the region's people and landscape, recording data, and collecting specimens.

Darwin Slept Here: Discovery, Adventure, and Swimming Iguanas in Charles Darwin's South America by Eric Simons

The author documents his travels in South America as he followed in the footsteps of Charles Darwin.

My Colombian War: A Journey Through the Country I Left Behind by Silvana Paternostro

A Colombian-born journalist furnishes an eyewitness account of her homeland's history, detailing the drug trade, social inequities, and violence that wrack the country, and the impact that such factors have on the lives of ordinary citizens.

A Death in Brazil: A Book of Omissions by Peter Robb

Presents a political and cultural description of modern-day Brazil, with an emphasis on the violence and corruption behind the ongoing power struggles of political rivals for Brazil's presidency.

At the Tomb of the Inflatable Pig: Travels Through Paraguay by John Gimlette

Describes the author's odyssey through Paraguay, from the cities and towns of the east to the Gran Chaco of the west, a wilderness area populated primarily by native wildlife.

In Patagonia by Bruce Chatwin

Gives an account of Bruce Chatwin's journey through Patagonia, where he searched for almost-forgotten legends, Butch Cassidy's log cabin, and the descendants of Welsh immigrants.

On a Hoof and a Prayer: Exploring Argentina at a Gallop by Polly Evans

The author describes how, at the age of thirty-four, she decided to pursue her childhood dream of learning how to ride a horse by traveling to Argentina and saddling up among the gauchos, enjoying the colorful sights, sounds, people, and culture of Argentina.

Lost City of the Incas: The Story of Machu Picchu and Its Builders by Hiram Bingham

An historian and explorer recounts his discovery of the long-lost Incan city of Vilcabamba.

Eight Feet in the Andes: Travels with a Mule in Unknown Peru by Dervia Murphy

The eight feet referenced in the title belong to Dervia Murphy, her nine-year-old daughter, and an elegant mule, who together clambered the length of Peru, from Cajamarca near the border with Ecuador, to Cuzco, the ancient Inca capital—traveling over 1,300 miles in high altitudes.

Valverde's Gold: In Search of the Last Great Inca Treasure by Mark Honigsbaum

The author delves into a legend of lost Inca treasure, revisiting the notes of a botanist who was reported to have found the cache of gold and then lost it, and then mounting an expedition to Ecuador himself in search of the treasure.

The White Rock: An Exploration of the Inca Heartland by Hugh Thomson

The documentary traveler traces his rediscovery of the Llactapata ruin and what he learned about Incan civilization from his explorations there and through his research with local archaeologists.

My Invented Country: A Nostalgic Journey through Chile by Isabel Allende

The author explores the landscapes and people of her native country; recounts the 1973 assassination of her uncle, which caused her to go into exile; and shares her experiences as an immigrant in post-September 11 America.