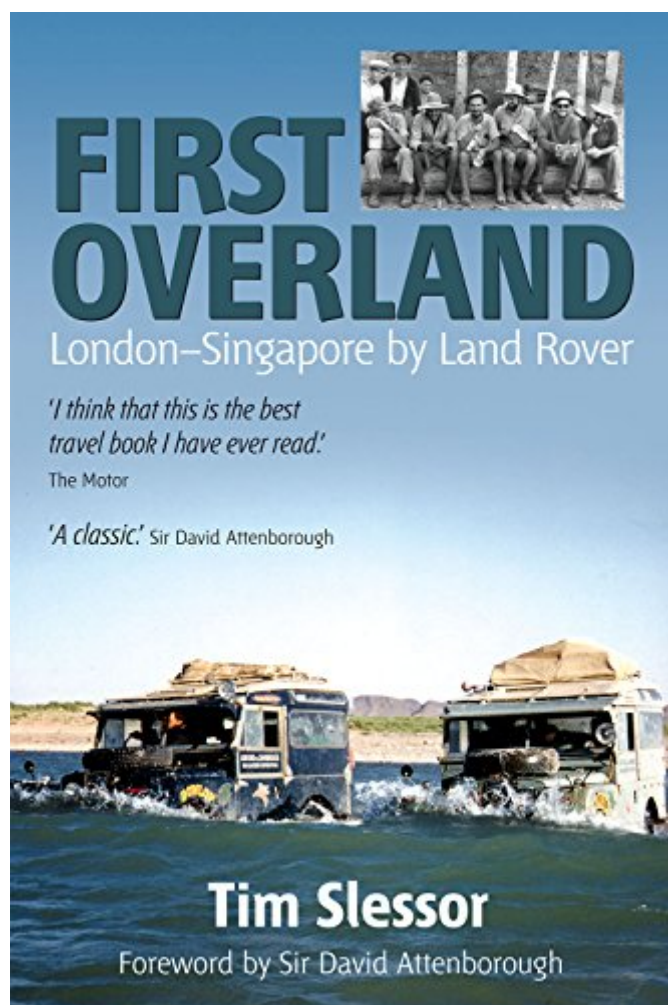


The book was found

First Overland



Synopsis

Why Not? After all, no-one had ever done it before. It would be one of the longest of all overland journeys – a half way round the world, from the English Channel to Singapore. They knew that several expeditions had already tried it. Some had got as far as the deserts of Persia; a few had even reached the plains of India. But no one had managed to go on from there: over the jungle clad mountains of Assam and across northern Burma to Thailand and Malaya. Over the last 3,000 miles it seemed there were – just too many rivers and too few roads –. But no-one really knew –. In fact, their problems began much earlier than that. As mere undergraduates, they had no money, no cars, nothing. But with a cool audacity, which was to become characteristic, they set to work – wheedling and cajoling. First, they coaxed the BBC to come up with some film for a possible TV series. They then gently persuaded the manufacturers to lend them two factory-fresh Land Rovers. A publisher was even sweet-talked into giving them an advance on a book. By the time they were ready to go, their sponsors (more than 80 of them) ranged from whiskey distillers to the makers of collapsible buckets. In late 1955, they set off. Seven months and 12,000 miles later, two very weary Land Rovers, escorted by police outriders, rolled into Singapore – to flash bulbs and champagne. Now, fifty years on, their book, – First Overland –, is republished – with a foreword by Sir David Attenborough. After all, it was he who gave them that film.

Book Information

File Size: 3461 KB

Print Length: 256 pages

Publisher: Signal Books; 3 edition (April 5, 2016)

Publication Date: April 5, 2016

Sold by: – Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0079KT2R6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #372,493 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #10

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Travel > Asia > Singapore #28 in Books > Travel > Asia > Singapore #479 in Books > Travel > Asia > General

Customer Reviews

A great read that will keep you engaged and reading on. Loved the story; takes you back in time to a point where everyone was prepared to have a go and the word "risk" wasn't automatically paired with the word "aversion", "management" or "mitigation". If you like travel and getting off the beaten track, this is the book for you.

One of the best reads I have ever come across. A great travel story that had me making bonkers plans to do something similar late at night. Take the warning seriously, you will want a land rover after reading this! Oh and maybe a nice cup of tea.

This book is a wonderful story and very well written. It is much about the adventure and not only about the trucks they used. It makes me wish I lived in a time where overlanding was a brand new idea (even though the adventure and danger is still there doing it).

Eagerly anticipated from reviews I had read in 4wd mags. Interestingly less about the Landrovers and more about the journey and the peoples and politics along the way. It was fascinating to follow the journey on maps. Would have liked more detail about the personalities and the daily hardships.

Great recount of a life changing expedition. Never to be repeated in a fast changing world. Get out and do things while you still can. Well done chaps!

An interesting book. I would have given it a 4, excepting it is so dated. It is an edited journal of a trip taken by 6 young men overland from London to Singapore in 1955/1956. Of course everything has changed a lot since then. I did especially enjoy the part about Syria, which one would not be able to traverse today, and Burma, which also is much changed I think. Someone interested in the history and politics of the 1950s or who has traveled in these countries would find it more interesting. I actually have traveled in Turkey and India - including Darjeeling and Sikkim, so could make comparisons between their experiences and how it is today. I read this book because of my daughter, who is a teacher. One of her elementary school students is currently traveling by car with

his family over this same route, using the book as a guide. Of course they had to skirt Syria. Currently they are in Burma, caravanning with 2 other cars of tourists whom they met on the road, with an in country guide. Burma is now open to tourists, but everyone MUST have a certified Burmese guide in that country. (First overland was written shortly before Burma was closed to the outside world, and now this family is experiencing the current day, shortly after Burma has re-opened their borders.) My daughter, of course, wanted to read the book to understand better the experiences of her pupil.

Decent read

I really enjoyed this book - the colonial British persnickety-ness combined with the college student campout mentality - back in a time when you could drive through Muslim and Arab countries without political implications.

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