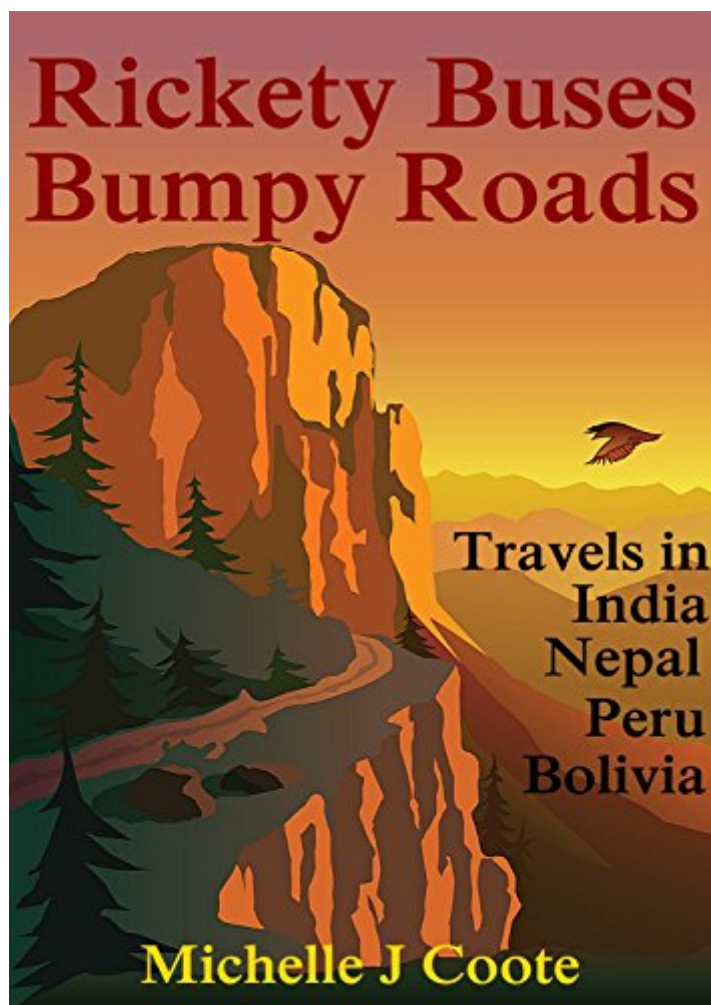


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Rickety Buses Bumpy Roads: Travels In India Nepal Peru Bolivia



Synopsis

Serendipity strikes in Bangkok, sending the author to a place she swore sheâ™d never go to again â€” India. Along the bumpy road to conquering Indiaâ™s challenges and finding her own spiritual path, she encounters erotic temples in Khajuraho, sacred rivers in Varanasi and beggar riots in Bodh Gaya. Then she jumps off a cliff in the majestic presence of the Himalayan Mountains. After almost drowning in a tent in Australia, she just makes it to South America before both her luck and youth run out. Rickety buses on bumpy roads are the rites of passage to the long lost city of Machu Picchu, a silver mine that eats men, a vast salt desert, the deep rainforest and an exotic holiday romance. Travelling in India, Nepal, Peru and Bolivia, the author goes on an extraordinary journey of rugged lands and quiet awakenings. So accept her invitation to: â€œTake my hand, jump on the rickety bus and join me for the bumpy ride.â€•

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Customer Reviews

Michelle J. Coote has been on adventures few of us could even dream about and even fewer attempt. Stretching from India to Nepal, her home in Australia through Peru and to Bolivia, this amazing woman has a tale, and she is willing to share in *Ã¢ÂœRickety Buses, Bumpy Roads:*

Travels in India, Nepal, Peru, Bolivia. On the recommendation of a new friend, this world traveler decides to forget her culture shock in India and never do India again and do India again. This serendipitous moment is the spark that ignites an adventure worth sharing. Michelle ventures forth to India, her second trip there, but her first full love affair with the country. Quickly remembering the hateful feelings she suffered on her previous trip a year before, she feels certain she has made a mistake, why did she ever come back to India? Soon, however, those trepidations fade, leaving peace and excitement. She truly sees India. She sees the glory and the wonder that is this great country through the eyes of her companion, Aruni, and through the veil of her own wonder. Intoxicated and educated by the splendor and poverty of India, Michelle and her companion set off for Nepal, where the terrifying adventure of Paragliding captures her soul. This book is relatively short, but intense. Not quite a travel guide, it will inspire you to travel, none the less. Seen through the eye of someone who has been there, done that - this is an amazing take on a world so many of us never see. One would think that Michelle would pack it up and head home and stay there - when her traveling companion, Aruni, had to depart and return to work, but no. While a brief visit and adventure is in store for Australia, it isn't long before Michelle is off again, proving that there is no moss growing on her back pack and inviting us along for the ride.

I recommend reading *Rickety Buses* in conjunction with *I Come Alone*, the author's first volume. Here *Rickety Buses* gives you for your money: Michelle Coote returns to Thailand and India, seasoned by her first encounters, and as game as ever for inevitable adventures. By this time she had time to study the countries' exotic history and brings a depth of understanding that the rollicking style of first volume lacked. All the better for it, in my opinion. As her understanding grows, so does ours. I noticed a distinctly deeper response to the Bodh Gaya beggars in this volume. Where before they were colorful background, now they become fully human beings who demand her response. And respond she does.

This is an exciting review of a single woman's courageous visit to India, Nepal, Peru and Bolivia. Her journey was taken completely alone and without any contacts to rely on. Her personal insights and encounters give a depth to her travels that one cannot find in any travel books. An interesting and informative book for those contemplating travels to these countries.

Outstanding travel stories with very appealing delivery. Truly fires up my desire for more travels. Highly recommended.

Travel adventures presented in an outstanding way. Makes me want to travel more.

Another pretty standard entry in the "middle-aged woman seeking fulfillment abroad" genre. It's a bit dry -- big sections of the book read like Wikipedia entries about the history and culture of the places she visited. She had a torrid romance with a Peruvian guide -- which happens and is resolved and finished in about three paragraphs. The whole book is rather short and can be read in a couple of hours.

Interesting story.

She certainly sought out places few people would have ventured alone and although in India she had a companion, who managed to ground her somewhat and show her a different side to India, she nevertheless set off fearlessly to exotic lands and breathtaking adventures. These she describes with fascination and reverence, seemingly immune to possible risks or dangerous situations. Either she was extremely lucky, or motivated by her naivety and cultural ignorance, diving in where wiser angels may fear to tread. Paragliding sounded terrifying at best and again she managed to remain unscathed if a little fazed by the experience. Here in Europe, complete novices would never have been allowed to undertake such a leap without a few days of training on the ground initially. I noticed though that typically, she ducked out of any real trekking either in the Himalayas or Machu Pichu, which would have been for me the highlight of trips to such places. Taking a bus is just toothpaste compared to hiking the trail, while having been told she was too unfit to trek in the Himalayas, she passively accepted this criticism and admittedly was totally unprepared for such ventures, not thinking of appropriate boots and apparel. I couldn't help but feel however, that all the young men who kindly saw her to her hotel after spending the evening drinking in clubs, was just a euphemism for being invited up for 'coffee'.

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