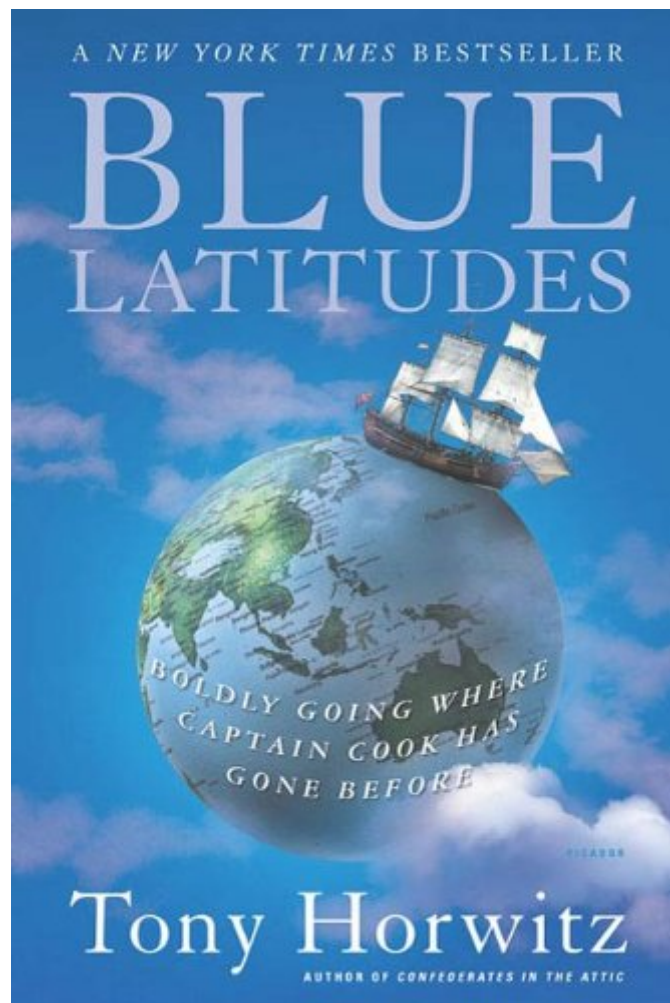




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Blue Latitudes: Boldly Going Where Captain Cook Has Gone Before



Synopsis

In an exhilarating tale of historic adventure, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Confederates in the Attic* retraces the voyages of Captain James Cook, the Yorkshire farm boy who drew the map of the modern world. Captain James Cook's three epic journeys in the 18th century were the last great voyages of discovery. His ships sailed 150,000 miles, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from Tasmania to Oregon, from Easter Island to Siberia. When Cook set off for the Pacific in 1768, a third of the globe remained blank. By the time he died in Hawaii in 1779, the map of the world was substantially complete. Tony Horwitz vividly recounts Cook's voyages and the exotic scenes the captain encountered: tropical orgies, taboo rituals, cannibal feasts, human sacrifice. He also relives Cook's adventures by following in the captain's wake to places such as Tahiti, Savage Island, and the Great Barrier Reef to discover Cook's embattled legacy in the present day. Signing on as a working crewman aboard a replica of Cook's vessel, Horwitz experiences the thrill and terror of sailing a tall ship. He also explores Cook the man: an impoverished farmboy who broke through the barriers of his class and time to become the greatest navigator in British history. By turns harrowing and hilarious, insightful and entertaining, *BLUE LATITUDES* brings to life a man whose voyages helped create the 'global village' we know today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was a book I didn't want to end. Tony Horwitz writes in such a easy going and humorous manner that he makes both Captain Cook the man, the times he lived and his discoveries accessible to even the most armchair bound explorer. Tony and Roger his rum guzzling skirt chasing mate criss cross the world from Seattle to Sydney, Tahiti to Yorkshire, Tonga to Alaska, and finally to Kealakekua bay Hawaii in search of the enigmatic Cook while describing in detail his amazing travels under the most extreme level of hardships. Moving both in and out of James Cook's amazing discoveries and their own escapades in Cook's footsteps makes for rollicking good fun. Highly recommended!

One of the best books I've ever read. Well researched. Well written. I now feel like I knew Captain Cook, personally. I read it while spending nine weeks in Australia and it had special meaning because I could visit many of the places discussed. I would read anything by Tony Horowitz. He's an impressive writer and a credit to the field and went above and beyond so we could better understand Captain Cook and the time in which he lived. My hat is off to you and you've now joined the group of people I'd most like to have to dinner!

"Being in a ship is being in a jail, with a chance to drown." I finished "Blue Horizons" on Waikiki Beach - an appropriate setting. My Hawaii vacation read gripped me from the getgo. When I turned the last page I felt that great book sadness. I am thankful Tony Horowitz shares his prodigious writing talent with us. His combination of travel, humor and exhaustive history is wonderful. I read a lot, both non-fiction and fiction. Tony Horowitz is one of my favorite authors. If you possess an interest in Captain Cook and South Pacific history, you won't be disappointed. Tony, please keep writing!!!

Author Tony Horwitz has an unparalleled mastery of the English language. Combined with a sense of humor that makes me smile and occasionally laugh so hard I tear up, I could hardly put the book (eReader) down. Reading this book stimulated me to order another book of his -- One For the Road -- about hitchhiking trip across the Australian Outback. In Blue Latitudes, he went the places Captain Cook went, as the title implies; but he did it with his friend Roger. The two of them come off

as amazingly compatible despite seeming to be the Odd Couple. Roger, the smoking, hard-drinking buddy adds to the humor, though you worry that he won't make it to old age with a liver more flexible than a baseball glove. I will probably read all of Horwitz's books.

This book combines historical accounts of Cook and his travels interspersed with the author and his sidekicks journey to retrace Cook's steps. The personal stories are filled with humor and color. The Cook stories told with an objective view of each side, that of the English and Cook, and that of the indigenous folks he encountered. And their respective ancestors in modern day. Thoroughly enjoyed this one.

Was looking forward to Captain Cook's Adventurers and travel, but ended up having WAY TOO MUCH political discourse of how native peoples hated him!! The discourse seemed to go on and on, almost just stopped reading it as it was so annoying when I just wanted to get on with Capt Cook's Voyages!!

The Author through himself and his traveling companion creates a funny, yet completing enlightening approach to understanding the voyages of Capt Cook. I thought his way of presenting history by blending journal inputs from Cook and his crewmembers with his own perspectives by traveling to many of places Cook visited made for a refreshing and engaging read regarding this period of history. I appreciate how this book brought a much forgotten, but great explorer and leader back to the forefront without any hero like bias, just his honest interpretation of the facts as they are recorded along with the favorable and unfavorable opinions of people who live today in the places where Cook made first contact with the Pacific people.

Bought as a gift but returned because of the poor printing quality. The paper is so thin that printing on the reverse side is clearly visible. While it may not matter to some, I found the book difficult to read for that reason. In addition, there were pinkish-red ink blobs on random pages. Shame to return a good book due to a quality control breakdown.

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