



Tropic of Capricorn

Simon Reeve

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In his greatest challenge yet, Simon Reeve sets out on a global adventure circling the world around the Tropic of Capricorn. He encounters sumptuous landscapes, spectacular wildlife, strange rituals and desperate poverty.

Tropic of Capricorn Details

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Author : Simon Reeve

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From Reader Review Tropic of Capricorn for online ebook

Tuck says

not bad, just kind of fluffy maybe because of the bbc cameras? but then, some exciting shit here, like going with the Afrikaners farmers rounding up illegal immigrants from Zimbabwe, crazy. getting ready to go myself. now i want to go to Mozambique and Madagascar too!! didn't visit very much green or sustainable things though. didn't even really mention it. odd.

Sbuckley says

Really enjoyed the stories of travel through africa, australia and south america. Good insight into the challenges faced by aboriginal people of these areas and the changing landscape of these countries. Interesting about the increase of Chinese in Africa. Eye opening stories of the challenges people used to living off the land are having adapting to new rules of capitalism.

Radiah says

If you enjoyed watching Simon Reeve trample through Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and their neighbours in the BBC's Meet The Stans and if you enjoyed watching him document BBC's Places That Don't Exist, you might enjoy this book. Written as he documented BBC's Tropic of Capricorn, the book elaborates his personal feelings and goes into more depth than the show as he explores the little known corners of the world situated on the Tropic of Capricorn.

I particularly enjoyed reading about his point-of-view of a Westener seeing first-hand the struggles some of the people he meets go through on a daily basis. A definite eye-opener, helped by the author's easy writing style, he talks about the effects of colonialism felt in modern day communities, pockets of beauty dotted across the Tropic of Capricorn, the effects of capitalism, ignorance, acceptance, resignation and prejudice. I found it an easy, flowing read and I highly recommend to lovers of travelogues for a unique journey through the world.

Kate Simpson says

Great Geography book!

Jennifer says

Liked it. The inequality in the world and the damage we do to the earth is unavoidable, even on a remote Capricorn line. Interesting, thrilling, and sad read--all at the same time.

Lindsey Paley says

Loved this account of Simon's journey.

Jerryat says

As a keen traveller and avid reader, when this book was given to me as a present I was really looking forward to reading it. It's not much more than a blog really and would have been far better presented in that format although when compared to many great blogs out there it would have only risen to heights of mediocrity. As a BBC publication I had high hopes for the book too.[return]Basically the book is a journal of Reeve's travels along the often devastated but also beautiful and inspiring line around our planet, the Tropic of Capricorn. [return]On a deadline, Reeve and his team travel around the world trying as best as probably anyone can, given their constraints, to stay true to this latitude. [return]The journal highlights the beauty of the lands and the people they encounter but unfortunately the book is laden with the author's values, which to me comes across as the remnants of the Victorian England era - condescending and filled with that limp-wristed arrogance that some British folk desperately/ridiculously try to cling on to in a world that has passed them by.[return]As this 'superior' attitude leeches its way through the journal, it is quite comical at times to come across several grammatical errors (quite un-British really) scattered throughout the book. These seem to be due to a spell-checker automatically correcting spelling mistakes but unfortunately substituting the wrong words - something you'd think a half-decent, even notional editorial review would have picked up. [return]Reeve, quite rightly, is concerned about the devastation being wreaked upon our planet and many of its indigenous populations. What is problematic though is as he cruises through, staying for perhaps a day or two, he is very quick to criticise, often with that condescending 'I know much better than you' attitude, wherever he happens to be and whatever he happens to be talking about, but does so with seemingly only a shallow understanding of the complexity of some of the problems he is writing about. [return]I speak from an 'Australian' perspective as it is through this section of the book that it became apparent to me just how little he understands of this remarkable country, its people (all of them) and the incredibly complex and tragic problems it is trying to deal with. Such sweeping generalisations are surely not befitting of an educated/well travelled English gentleman. I only hope he has a better grasp of the situations he writes about in the countries he breezed through in the rest of the book.[return]In truth I do admire his efforts and that of the BBC to be able to undertake such journeys, highlighting problems around the world. Hopefully, their efforts and influence are able to raise enough awareness of these tragedies to make a difference. As an author of considerable influence and with so many excellent resources available to him, it would be nice if something could be offered in the way of solutions as well as such value-laden criticism. Reeve should not forget that Britain itself has been a big contributor to the plight of many unfortunate people and places as he casts judgement on all and sundry.[return]Having said all that, the book itself is still an 'OK and relatively interesting read' and a very worthy reminder that a lot is going wrong around our planet at the moment that really needs some well-considered, but immediate action if we are to save it.[return]In summary, I would recommend it but with the caveat that perhaps the author doesn't have the depth of understanding of some of the situations that he is making judgements about, or has a values system (as we all do) that interferes with those judgements. The subject matter of the book is something that we should all be concerned about and cudos must go to him for his efforts in this area.

Daren says

The BBC series of the same name, consisting of four episodes, was on television and as I had a copy of the book in my shelf, I thought I would read the relevant chapters after seeing each episode.

The premise of the book is Simon Reeve travelling along the Tropic of Capricorn - the imaginary line of latitude running around the globe, (ie south of, and parallel to the equator) at the point where the sun can still be judged to pass directly overhead. As Reeve says in his introduction *"It is getting harder to find such a unique journey. Mr Palin has bagged many of the best, and I will not be the first to travel around Capricorn."*

It is a bit of a contrived journey. It is really three quite individual trips. Across Africa - Namibia, Botswana, the corner of South Africa, Mozambique and then the island of Madagascar. Then Across Australia. Then Across South America - Chile, Argentina, Paraguay & Brazil. Africa is split into two episodes.

Reeve has a couple of agendas in this journey. He seeks them both out at each opportunity or occasion. The first is the indigenous people - he visits the minorities, he sees their hardships (there are few indigenous people who don't suffer at the hands of the majority), and he passes criticism on the government - either of the time or in the recent past. He learns a little of their culture, but as he is passing through, it is a pretty shallow introduction.

The second is exposing the causes of impacts of global warming - reduced rainfall, deforestation and other environmental issues such as mining, the removal of non-renewable resources, soy production. Of course these things also effect the indigenous population.

Unfortunately in the book (as with the series) Reeve comes across as critical, as superior and judgemental. There really was no need - as simply providing readers / viewers with the facts, information and stories, and allowing them to draw their own conclusions would be infinitely more rewarding. It reached a point where you can see him building up the point where he gets his paragraph of criticism in.

It was readable, but for me this was very much *travel-lite*. He wasn't working very hard, he had guides and fixers, he wasn't far off the beaten track, and it nearly always went to plan. He also moved quite quickly, so didn't drill too deep into any location or issue.

This was very easy to read, and was of moderate pace throughout, so really is pretty middle of the road for me. 3 stars, but not 3 very challenging or glamorous stars!

Laurie says

Fascinating and enlightening

Aimee says

I am a fan of Simon Reeve's tv series and this was a perfect companion to his Tropic of Capricorn documentary series. I couldn't put it down.

Apratim Mukherjee says

This book is the detailed narration of what you didn't see on the BBC broadcast of Tropic of Capricorn and written a decade ago.

Some things have changed since then like the dry season in Australia is over, Nelson Mandela is dead, Mugabe is gone etc but many things that have been emphasised in this book like climate change, deforestation etc still remain. Simon Reeve seems great when you see him on television but he somewhat disappoints a travel writer as Sometimes there are too many details about something like Zimbabwe - South Africa border crossing which needed some editing. The photographs in the book are low quality black and white. Any travelogue is incomplete without good photos. So I deduct two stars. So in my opinion, if you are interested in details of Reeve's journey along the Capricorn or want to know how a significant part of Southern Hemisphere looked like a decade ago, you can read this book.

Tuff says

The author shares his experiences and observations of his travels to the countries that lie along the Tropic of Capricorn (southernmost border of the tropics). I enjoyed learning about the different cultures and how globalisation is challenging these cultures and their beautiful environment. It was well researched and discussed interesting societal issues. This book was a wonderful alternative to vacationing!

Thomas Land says

A true down to earth take about our planet and the people who live here...or at least live around the tropic anyhow. Simon Reeve takes you 22,835 miles around the world and you really do feel part of it.

Steve Aldridge says

Tropic of Capricorn by Simon Reeve BBC Books. A really absorbing travelogue by Simon covering a quite epic journey around the world. A fine blend of some of the most amazing things the planet has to offer and how horribly we can act as human beings, particularly the treatment of indigenous peoples. Some interesting commentary of climate change and also where our good intentioned efforts as individuals and countries are actually doing more harm than good, both in terms of charitable giving and move to bio fuels. Somewhat dated, nearly 10 years old now, it would be interesting to do the same journey and see what has changed, for better or otherwise.

Chris Steeden says

What an amazing trip and opportunity for Simon Reeve. In a very detailed book he visits some spectacular countries. Unfortunately what we end up getting in this book is Green Party propaganda. You've got to love

the middle-class white Hampstead self-haters or maybe not. They are very irritating.

He just seems to be looking at any opportunity to ram climate change down your throat and explaining how terrifying it all is. All these subjects are very important but the manner in which it's conveyed in this book just turns me off which is very disappointing.
