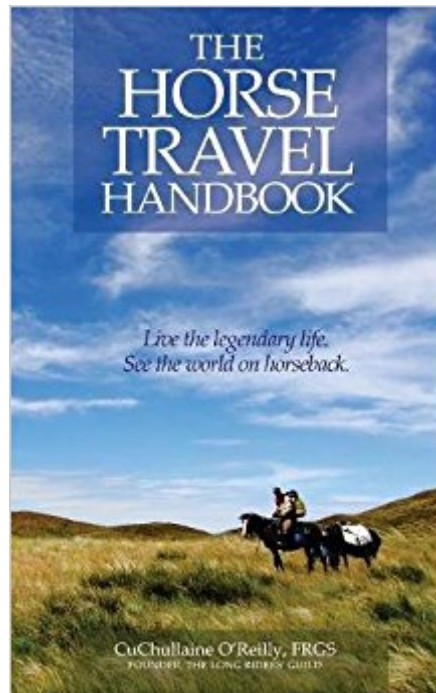




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The Horse Travel Handbook



Synopsis

For thousands of years we have travelled on horseback but until now no one has shown us the way. The Horse Travel Handbook, a field guide drawn from its parent edition The Encyclopaedia of Equestrian Exploration, is the most authoritative work of its kind and contains the hard-earned wisdom gained by hundreds of Long Riders during centuries of equestrian travel. The concise, easy-to-use volume covers every aspect needed to successfully complete a journey by horse, including how to organize the trip, plan a route, choose the proper equipment and purchase horses. Traditional challenges such as loading a pack saddle, avoiding dangerous animals, fording rivers and outwitting horse thieves are covered here along with ingenious solutions to modern dilemmas like crossing international borders, surviving vehicle traffic and negotiating with hostile bureaucrats. This handbook covers all aspects of equine welfare including feeding, watering, saddling and health care. Technical details such as daily travel distance, where to locate nightly shelter and ways to avoid cultural conflicts are among the hundreds of specific topics examined. Equestrian explorers have special linguistic needs. Vital words such as hay and farrier are not found in standard phrase-books. A special appendix contains the Equestionary that provides images of objects and situations most likely to be of use when language is a barrier. Created by the founder of the Long Riders' Guild after decades of travel and study, this comprehensive book is filled with the indispensable knowledge needed to resolve problems, overcome hardships and avoid dangers while travelling. Just as importantly, it empowers readers to turn their dream into a life-changing equestrian journey.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"The Horse Travel Handbook is destined to become the Long Riders' Bible. Only CuChullaine O'Reilly could accomplish this task. I know of no other person with the energy, dedication and the knowledge needed to put together such an incredible effort." Argentine Long Rider Benjamin Reynal rode in South America and is the author of 'Cuando La Distancia Revela'; "The Horse Travel Handbook is without doubt one of the finest equestrian books of any kind ever written. I can't say enough about this magnificent book. It preserves the wisdom of a thousand years and for that alone it is of paramount importance." American Long Rider Doug Preston is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, who rode across the Desplado Desert and is the author of 'Cities of Gold'; "Condensing centuries of lessons, practical advice, moral support, and broad guidance, CuChullaine O'Reilly's tireless work in creating the Horse Travel Handbook is an invaluable gift to all those wanting to pursue the magic of equestrian travel." Australian Long Rider Tim Cope is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society who rode from Mongolia to Hungary and is the author of 'On the Trail of Genghis Khan'; "The Horse Travel Handbook encourages the traveller to view the horseback journey from a philosophical perspective and explains how the trip serves as a gateway to self-discovery." Turkmen Long Rider Geldy Kyarizov is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society who rode across Central Asia and Russia. "The Horse Travel Handbook provides a valuable wealth of tips that will prove indispensable to any mounted venture. I would recommend it to anyone planning to make an equestrian journey." French Long Rider Louis Meunier is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society who rode across Afghanistan and is the author of 'Les Cavaliers Afghans'; "Many people have made equestrian journeys but CuChullaine O'Reilly is the first to document how problems and solutions would be discovered and then lost over and over again. The Horse Travel Handbook is a literary time capsule that stretches from the past and into the future." Swiss Long Rider Catherine Waridel is a Founding Member of the Long Riders' Guild who rode from the Crimea to Mongolia and is the author of 'Voyage dans les pas de Rubrouck';

The Horse Travel Handbook is a MUST READ for anyone even considering a long ride. It is the only primer available that details the unique experiences of those who set out on long distance equestrian journey. I wish it had been available when I was planning my first ride years ago -- it would have saved me the frustration of sifting through bad and inadequate information. However, even for experienced long riders there is always more to learn. I took the Horse Travel Handbook with me and read it on the trail during my recent 1,100+ mile long ride. I was so pleased to discover

new information within the book that I could apply to my journey. I even went back and re-read portions throughout my ride. The Handbook is comprehensive in its coverage of the preparation required to set out, the challenges faced once on the trail, and even the aftermath of a long ride. It does not romanticize the long ride or gloss over the dangers. It is honest in the reality of the long ride. The Handbook uses real-world examples from modern and historical long riders around the world so that we may learn from those who have gone before us. One of the things I have always appreciated about CuChallaine O'Reilly is his unwavering ethical core when it comes to equestrian travel. The Handbook makes it clear that the horse is a priority and that the journey is more important than the destination. It does not encourage fame-seekers or hucksters. Rather, the Handbook inspires riders to have a very deep, personal experience on the trail. The Horse Travel Handbook is the first thing that should be read by anyone planning an equestrian journey.

I am a writer of historical fiction. My current project covers a lot of territory over the old Silk Road in the 10th century CE. Modes of transportation at this time were exclusively animal drawn or were animals themselves. I find that Mr O'Reilly's effort to gather together in one, concise volume, all the wise counsel of past and present experts who have themselves embarked on such journeys to be absolutely invaluable to my own work! The Horse Travel Handbook has opened up several entirely new avenues of understanding of my characters, leaving only the necessity for me to research the cultural applications of the Laws of the Long Ride to my plot. Because of this book, I know what skill sets my characters will need if they are to stay on long-term with the caravan (or who will be create conflict later on due to 'chance encounters' on the trail), which of the characters are likely to only be local problems, etc. Additionally, I am much more deeply aware of the processes which my protagonist and her party will need to work through before they can even leave on their journey. My novel will be much more accurate and real feeling as a result of my purchase! Please note that this volume is remarkably dense, requiring several re-reads to fully absorb the data inside. I am eagerly anticipating the release of the full three volume Encyclopaedia of Equestrian Exploration, which I fully intend to purchase as soon as possible to assist with the more detailed bits of my novel series

The Horse Travel Handbook is receiving well deserved accolades from a growing number of Long Riders, who have been there and done that. To those who are becoming inspired to become legends, themselves, this book details the "how to" - down to the compass. However, for the millions of us, who ride a bit less, this book is of historic importance, because the Handbook, itself, honors the animals by providing all equestrians with a "moral compass" by

which anyone can understand our sacred responsibility to protect and defend our fellow travelers, upon whose backs we ride.

Things we take for granted every day, even when on vacation, become major dilemmas for the horseback traveler- will I actually be able to find enough food, shelter, and supplies when I need them? What exactly is the best way to secure a horse for the night when there are no fences? Do I need to learn how to trim my horse's feet myself? How much of various items do I need to bring? Why am I doing this and is it even possible?! All these questions and more are answered within the pages of O'Reilly's excellent book. From the long rider daily routine to emergency preparedness, from buying the ideal long ride horse to what to expect when your ride is done, he covers it all, with information gleaned from his own experience and from countless other long riders throughout history and modern times. Planning a horseback journey is so different than planning a trail ride or a pack trip or an endurance ride that it can be confusing about what is the best answer for each unusual and unique problem. In my own long ride preparations, I have been able to find most of the answers I need within this book. I've also found answers to questions I didn't yet know I had, and verified answers that I have had to muddle through on my own in the earlier part of the planning before this book was available. And if you ride horses but don't plan on doing a long ride ever in your life, you should still get this book! If only for the section on trail emergencies, including weather, wildlife, and illness, because these are issues all horse people deal with whether we ride one hour or one thousand miles down the road.

The Horse Travel Handbook is surely a lot more than merely a handbook. It is a masked poetry, a long poem disguised as an anthology of tips and advices for long distance rider. The tips and advice are very helpful, no doubt about that. But CuChullaine's love of horses and long-distance riding he breathes into his writings gives me a rich experience. It is similar to the experience I get every time I encounter a serious art-work based on horses. From the practical instruction of preparing an expedition to the aftermath, the book elevates me to a higher realm of understanding, an intellectual and spiritual journey altogether. On the surface, the book deals with knots and choosing horses; in the core it deals with how to be a new human, with new eyes for the world and everything.

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