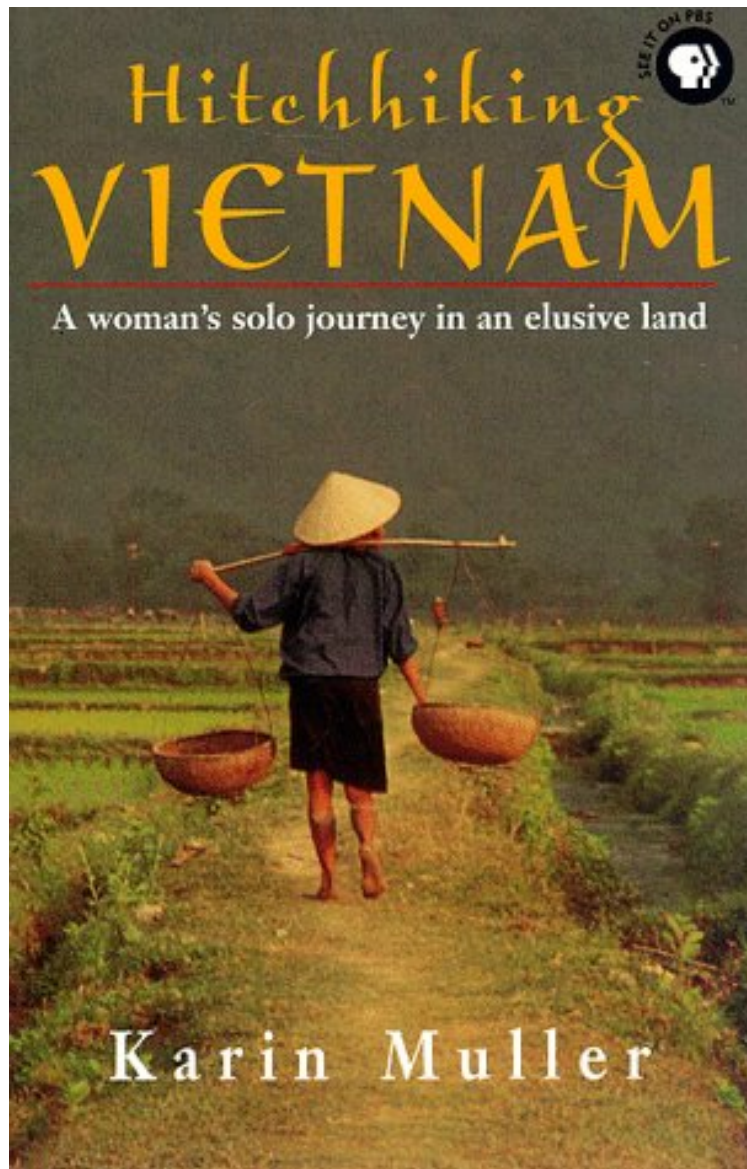


[Free pdf] Hitchhiking Vietnam: A Woman's Solo Journey in an Elusive Land

Hitchhiking Vietnam: A Woman's Solo Journey in an Elusive Land

Karin Muller

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Karin Muller : Hitchhiking Vietnam: A Woman's Solo Journey in an Elusive Land before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hitchhiking Vietnam: A Woman's Solo Journey in an Elusive Land:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A woman's solo journey?By Michael ValdivielsoHitchhiking Vietnam - A woman's solo journey in an elusive land by Karin Muller has a few flaws. The first two are in the title.

She was rarely solo and she was rarely hitchhiking. She wants to go to Vietnam to see the "real" Vietnam, the villages and people untouched by the encroaching West. In the last few pages she says she found the Vietnam she was looking for and, frankly, I doubt it. Nowhere in the book did I get a sense that she had found her goal. Half the time she was worried about being cheated by the people when not worried about being arrested or worrying about weird food. She complains so much about how she is treated and how bad things are in the hotels. Well, this is a Communist Third World nation which is finding out about tourism and how much money they bring in. Everybody is going to want a piece of the pie. In the end she even mistrusts one of the only real friends she made in Vietnam because of how paranoid she is. The other half of the time she lies to the government, fakes paperwork, and in general tries to beat the system by NOT following the rules. From what I can tell she did not bother to understand the rules at all or do any research before going. I am sure she left a great impression and that future visitors benefited from it. NOT. Half way through the book I realized this is the same author who wrote *Japanland: A Year in Search of Waand* and I was wondering if I should finish it. She runs all over Vietnam, barely staying in any one place long enough to learn anything yet she would make very broad statements of the culture and people of Vietnam. If you look at the other reviews, many from Vietnam-Americans, you understand that she may not have learned anything at all. Also, as this book was published in 1998, I think there has been a few changes. From what I can tell in my VERY limited knowledge of Vietnam, mostly from news reports and websites, I think the tourist industry has improved greatly. In the end, while an interesting book, I can't help but feel it was a waste of my time. I have already ordered a few others about Vietnam and will no doubt get to see OTHER views on the Asian nation. We will see if they match up with her's.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Hitchhiking Vietnam: A woman's Solo Journey in an Elusive Land* By Doug I served in RVN in the delta with the US Navy's Helicopter, Attack, Light, Three squadron during the final days of ground combat. Our mission was to cover SEAL operations, Navy river patrol forces, local VN outposts and villages. We lived with and worked closely with local South Vietnamese in training them to defend themselves. I am always curious as to what happened when we left in Feb. of '72. Karin Muller reports her 1998 adventure in a somewhat non-political, humorous light as she explores some of the places as we operated in and around the Mekong Delta. She starts her journey there and goes north to Hanoi and places in between, finding parts of the elusive Ho Chi Minh Trail, all in search of the "real" Vietnam. Her work is a clear-sighted, refreshingly human account of her close encounter in a now forbidden land. This book, along with her video, "Hitchhiking Vietnam, Letters from the Trail", completes the story. A great addition to my historical collection, giving some closure to my time in our turbulent Vietnam era. I recommend her work to any Vietnam vet.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Inspiring, Relatable Travel Writing* By Naboombu This book immediately reminds me of my own sentiments on travel and the appreciation of this world we share with more than just Americans. The perspective gained by experiencing other cultures is something I wish all Americans held dear. I am inspired by the way Muller writes and delivers the minute details, which would otherwise seem banal without her timing and creativity. Perfect for anyone wondering "what else is out there". Is the grass truly greener? What is a truly basic existence?

Imagine being a twenty-eight-year-old single woman, working your way up the management consulting ladder, with your own expense account, a fancy gym membership and salary to spare. Now imagine throwing it all away to hitchhike a country under the iron fist of communism with a dubious grip on the language, accompanied by a colorful and sometimes frightening menagerie of characters, human and otherwise, and carrying an illegal video camera in your backpack. That's exactly what Karin Muller did. At Globe Pequot, we specialize in travel guides, not travelogs. But every once in a while, we come across a tale so wonderful, we just can't walk away. It happened with *Size of the Worlds*. It's happened again with *Hitchhiking Vietnam*. What we love about this book is not just the adventure, the culture, the incredible vistas it opens up in our minds' eyes, but the grace, wit, and style with which Karin tells her story. Millions of PBS fans already agree! You will absolutely fall in love with Karin Muller. We did!

.com For seven months Karin Muller traversed Vietnam--sometimes by motorbike, often by foot--covering 6,400 miles from the Mekong Delta to the Chinese border. Along the way she survives 52 motorbike breakdowns, 14 arrests, and one awful bout with scurvy. She plants rice with farmers, saves a few leopard cubs from the black market, learns to drive a passenger train, and gets to know a lot of people on her Ho Chi Minh Trail trek. Told honestly and humorously, the culture, pace, land, scents, problems, and beauties of Vietnam are evoked as Muller and Vietnam interact. Snippets of letters home (like "I traded some of my antihistamines for Tampax yesterday. What a relief" and "Am I really blood type A? It's important") highlight the details, while the strong narrative holds them together. Her pictures are excellent, the story riveting, and the writing a pleasure--good reading for a flight to Asia or a day at the beach. --Stephanie Gold

From the Back Cover Imagine being a twenty-eight-year-old single woman, working your way up the management consultant ladder, with your own expense account, a fancy gym membership, and salary to spare. Now imagine throwing it all away to hitchhike a country under the iron fist of communism, with a dubious grip on the language, accompanied by a colorful and sometimes frightening menagerie of characters, human and otherwise, and carrying an illegal video camera in your backpack. That's exactly what Karin Muller did. This title comes from the

PBS documentary of the same name. PBS will be televising this film several times over the next three years and has an extensive site devoted to it at www.pbs.org which has developed a built-in audience. Karin has received thousands of e-mails asking, 'Where is the book?' Here it is at last!