

(Mobile ebook) Two Wheels and a Taxi

## Two Wheels and a Taxi

*Virginia Urrutia*

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#3305394 in Books Mountaineers Books 1987-12-31 2008-09-08Original language:English 9.50 x 6.50 x 1.00l, #File Name: 0898861411256 pages | File size: 37.Mb

**Virginia Urrutia : Two Wheels and a Taxi** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Two Wheels and a Taxi:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A perfectly delightful read!By Peg WillisI am loving this book! Virginia Urrutia was my sister's first grade teacher (and was always VERY highly spoken of in our community), so when I realized she'd written this book, I had to read it. She has a delightful and quirky sense of humor as she writes about her bicycle trip through Ecuador. Her writing makes me wish I could have gone with her!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Awesome lady! Inspiring.By RockyMrs. Urrutia was my school librarian when I was in the K-3 years until she retired (1960's), and a wonderful lady busy helping around town after that. Her can-do attitude, excitement about traveling the world, and such was such an inspiration to me. She taught me more than any classroom teacher I ever had. I could say more, but this review can't go miles. Now, in part because of her influence on me, I also became a teacher and will soon retire and travel the country... with my bike along for the ride too! You will enjoy her travels and experiences in this book, as well as her humorous way of telling the story. Daft is a great word... crazy and fun, but not insane. The lady was a real kick to know! Her writing style is also. In a time when ladies, especially "old ladies" shouldn't be doing such things (without a man to "protect" her), Mrs. Urrutia was out doing them. And having the time of her life!2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Age 70 and still bikingBy A CustomerA fascinating story of a 70 year young grandmother who biked through the Andes in Ecuador. She relates how she teamed up with a taxi driver come guide/body guard to help get her through the mapless wilderness.

Bicycling here there around the world, alone. has never fazed Virginia Urrutia. She's been doing it for 30 years: over the Swiss Alps, beside the Norwegian fjords, along the roller-coaster patches of New Zealand, through the snarl of London traffic, in out of a weaving line of Sunday drunks in Yugoslavia. But when she wanted to tour the Andes of Ecuador, the prospect seemed daunting--not the hills mountains, she had merely to go over them. However, there were friends' tales of robberies of tourists concerns over various lethal bugs snakes that inhabited the highlands. As well, the available hotels were farther apart than she could pedal in a day. So she hired a "support vehicle"--one Sr. Angel Godoy, a local taxi-driver-cum-guide, occasional translator. Thus began a freewheeling exploration of Ecuador where, from sea level to 14,000 feet, Sr. Godoy his shiny yellow taxi bobbed along with Urrutia her bicycle, like a balloon tied with an invisible string. Purchasing her bicycle for the trip to Quito, Urrutia had to settle for a single-speed, fat-tired, heavy, men's model whose front wheel persisted in wobbling off the straight and narrow. Sometimes faced with hills too steep to pedel up, Urrutia would have to walk push the bike, or wedge it into the taxi trunk from whence it would emerge when the grade leveled or the hills tilted the other way. Urrutia Godoy were an unlikely pair: at age 70, she was a footloose widow with a lifelong travel bug; at age 35, he was the sole support of a wife, 5 sons an extended family, had always stayed close to native Quito. Together they pedaled taxied all over the Andes, sharing the experiences of navigating backroads with maps little better than someone's wild guesses, searching out the best foods in remote villages, taking part in local celebrations political campaigns. All the while they also explored the similarities and differences in each other's countries, cultures and customs.

What a wonderful adventure! Like an intrepid Victorian lady traveler, with a strong sensibility and a splendid sense of humor, Virginia Urrutia wheels through Ecuador. Reading her book... was pure pleasure. (Luree Miller, author) An enchanting account of a feisty grandmother's journey by bicycle through Ecuador. Full of infectious good humor and charming insights. (Donald J. Montague, South America Explorer's Club) Proves that adventure travel is not just for the yong, but for the young at heart. (Adventure Travel)