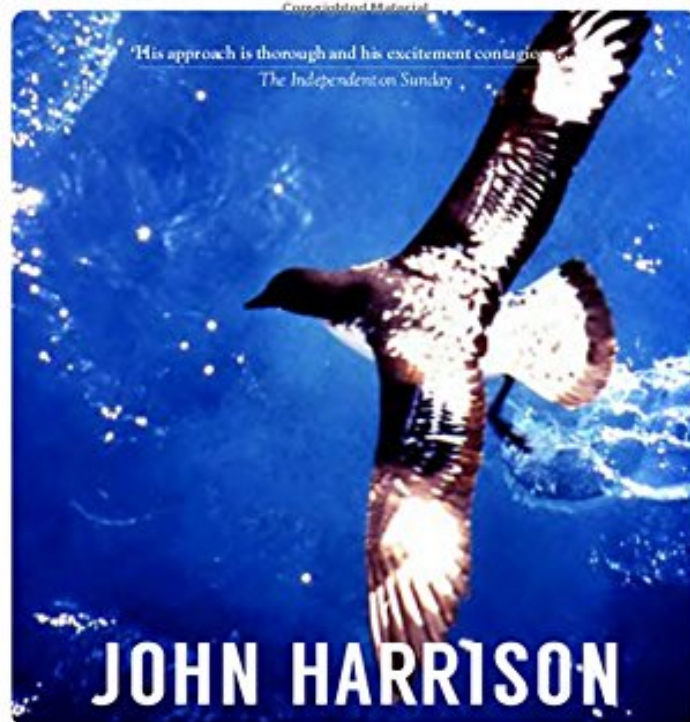


[Read free ebook] Where the Earth Ends

Where the Earth Ends

John Harrison

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



WHERE THE EARTH ENDS

{ A JOURNEY
BEYOND PATAGONIA }

Copyrighted Material

 Download

 Read Online

#3463866 in Books Parthian Books 2006-02-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x 1.30 x 5.50l, 1.00
#File Name: 1902638689424 pages | File size: 69.Mb

John Harrison : Where the Earth Ends before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Where the Earth Ends:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Delightful Travelogue. By aruna After reading Endurance by Alfred Lansing, I was interested in knowing more about Tierra Del Fuego. This led me to Where the Earth Ends. Harrison's travelogue presents a vivid picture of the place, the people of the past and present of this truly remote part of the world. The travelogue also covers his journey to Antarctica and part of Chile. The book is not only entertaining but

informative. He informs on the Indians who lived there and how they came to a tragic end arrival of adventurers in the sea faring age. He also interviews the last survivors of some of the the Indians, the Selk'man, the Kaweskar and the Yamana to give an insight as to how they cope with their legendary past and present predicament. What I found most engaging in this book was the connection he makes with some of the places he visits with the literary pieces they inspired. For me he contextualised the killing of the albatross in *The rime of the Ancient Mariner*, the background to *Robinson Crusoe*, *Don Juan*. It has inspired me to go revisit these masterpieces, in a more informed way. He has dwelt on the sea faring history attached to this southernmost habitation in the world. Would like to reread the *Age of Scurvy*. The travelogue is entertaining and spiced with humor. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Interesting travelogue and account of the human and natural history of Tierra del Fuego By Tim F. Martin_ *Where the Earth Ends_* by John Harrison is an informative and entertaining travelogue and history of southernmost South America, mostly about the lands of Tierra del Fuego but also other areas of Chile as well as the author's travels to Antarctica and Juan Fernandez Island. Harrison from an early age had wanted to visit this region of the world. His great-grandfather had sailed past the Horn in the great square-riggers, his grandfather sailed the Horn in steam and diesel, and the author himself had grown up reading accounts of the region, always wanting to "sail the waters of Coleridge's albatross and enter the watercolors' blue horizons and sit on Crusoe's imaginary shore." The indigenous inhabitants of the region were of great interest to the author as he provided accounts of their long lost ways of life, stories of first contact with Europeans, and sale tales of his seeking out the last full-blooded members of various tribes or information on extinct groups. The reader will learn something about the Tehuelche Indians (the name literally meaning "people of the South"), a people who once lived in toldos (guanaco skin tents) and hunted not with bows or arrows but with bolas. They later became such excellent horseman that several brought home the top lassoing and riding prizes from the 1904 St Louis World Fair, beating American cowboys and South American gauchos. Another Indian group was the Yamana, who once lived in shelters made of branches and beech leaves along the shores of the straits. They ate great quantities of mussels, throwing the shells outside the door, moving the door around as the wind changed; eventually, circular middens of trash grew up and were colonized by various plants fond of the calcium-rich waste. These circles are common in the area. Most Indian tribes seemed to have perished from disease and/or assimilation, but some were actively destroyed. The nomadic Selk'nam for instanced didn't build canoes or fish, but hunted guanaco. When the settlers came, drove off the guanaco, and brought in sheep, the Selk'nam hunted the sheep, and in turn the settlers hunted them. Bounties were placed on them, made on production of an Indian's ears. Much of the history of the region revolved around shipwrecks and mutinies. At Puerto San Julian, Ferdinand Magellan had to contend with a mutiny in April of 1520, when three of his five ships came under the control of rebel officers. Fifty-eight years later, Francis Drake in the very same spot (some of Drake's men made souvenirs out of parts of Magellan's ship that were found) had to contend with his own mutiny. In between that time, twenty-one other ships had been unable to repeat Magellan's trip, either wrecking or being forced to return home, and many other ships wrecked in the centuries since then, several vividly described by the author. Some ships were wrecked deliberately. Harrison visited the sunken hulk of a once great clipper ship. Once the *_County of Peebles_* which under clouds of canvas could reach 14 knots even in light winds rounding the Horn, it was now a partially sunken ship and part of a pier. Square-rigged sailing ships remained in service long after steamships had replaced them throughout most of the world because it could take months to unload two or three thousand tons of cargo (chiefly copper ore at first but later nitrates, much of it the product of vast seabird colonies). As steamers could not afford to be idle so long, what finally put the sailing ships out of business was not it seems replacement by steam ships but rather the invention of methods to synthesize nitrates at home in Europe. Not all disasters and sad tales involved ships. One story Harrison related was that of Captain Allen F. Gardiner, one of the first missionaries to attempt to work in the region and a "walking evangelical catastrophe...of a masochistic brand of religion." His 1850 mission plagued by hostile natives, lost supplies, storms, scurvy, and starvation, everyone on it died, leaving behind diary entries. The author visited many of the cities and towns of the region. He spent a good deal of time in Ushuaia, Argentina which is billed as the southernmost city in the world, a city originally founded by missionaries. Another Feugian town he visited was that of Puerto Williams, the most southerly town in the world, founded in 1953 to help consolidate Chile's claims to Antarctic territory. Interestingly, for many years the Chilean and Argentinean governments believed that the only way to settle the south was for convicts to build the town's infrastructure and for settlers to follow; Punta Arenas in 1842 was the first, which began with 600 convicts and prison guards. In 1851, there were 248 prisoners and families, 144 soldiers, and 44 free civilians. The next year new arrivals found ashes and skeletons, not a single survivor. Harrison saw a great deal of wildlife on his trip. He visited a Chilean colony of Magellanic penguins, 130,000 strong, and interviewed a researcher who had been working with them for twelve years. On his way to Antarctica the author viewed wandering and black-browed albatrosses, various petrels (which he said were named after St. Peter because sailors saw them pattering on the water), Minke whales, and dolphins. While in Antarctica he saw Adelie and gentoo penguins, snowy sheathbills, and leopard and elephant seals among others. The author spent some time considering the albatross that was shot in Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem of the *_Ancient Mariner_* and the one shot by a man by the name of Simon Hatley in 1726 (described in a book on the voyages of George Shelvocke around the world and a source of

inspiration for Coleridge). Another detective story the author related was the search for Elizabeth Island, a place discovered by Drake in 1578. For many years regarded as a lie or an erroneous report, later researchers determined that the island had been volcanic and had sunk beneath the waves. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Such an interesting book! By Dakota Nan Another fascinating and well-written book full of stories regarding the history of southern South America. I'm so glad I've read it.

An inspiring travelogue, this memoir follows a man who goes to the end of the world, beyond Patagonia, to Tierra del Fuego. In search of lost tribes, he pushes himself to the limits, sailing the waters of Coleridge's albatross and entering the watercolors' blue horizons to sit on Robinson Crusoe's imaginary shore.

"His approach is thorough and his excitement contagious." -- The Independent on Sunday "An engaging and entertaining narrative." -- Sunday Telegraph "An inspiring blend of new-look, literary, post-Granta traveller and intrepid adventurer. A glorious roundtrip to desolation and romance." -- The Scotsman "A fascinating book of insight, scholarship and adventurous travel, fired by childhood dreams perhaps, but fuelled by the skill of a writer from whom, I hope, we shall hear much more." -- Sunday Times "A most unusual and delightful book, full of surprises, ambiguities and strange quirks of knowledge, and written with attractive gusto." -- Jan Morris "Teems with erudition, anecdotes and facts that are a delight to retell... carries an echo of Raymond Carver, or even Carver's mentor Hemingway." -- South China Morning Post About the Author John Harrison is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He has traveled around Cape Horn 14 times and has also visited Antarctica and South America.