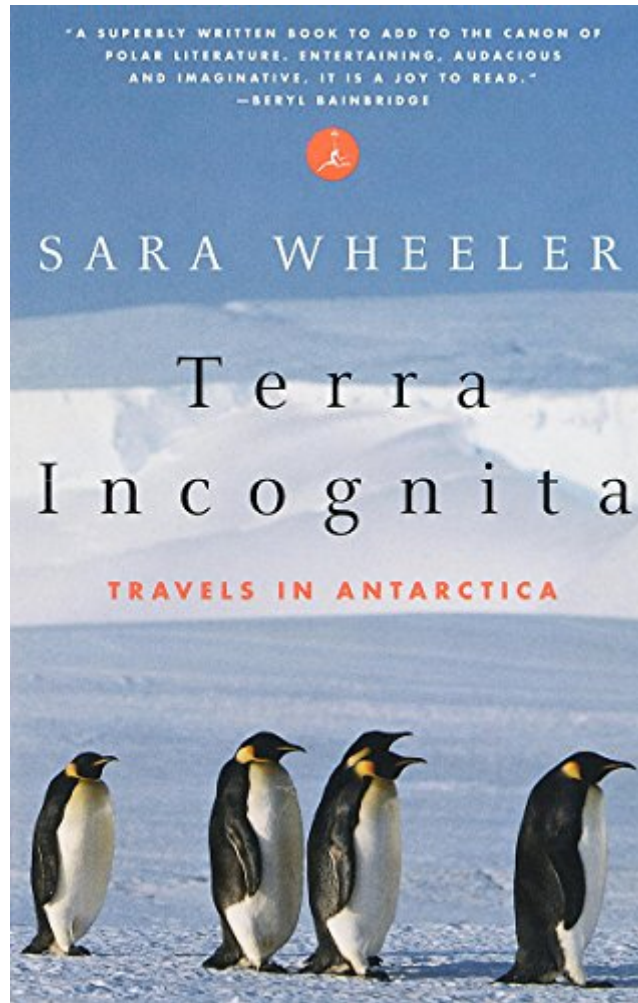




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Terra Incognita: Travels In Antarctica



Synopsis

It is the coldest, windiest, driest place on earth, an icy desert of unearthly beauty and stubborn impenetrability. For centuries, Antarctica has captured the imagination of our greatest scientists and explorers, lingering in the spirit long after their return. Shackleton called it "the last great journey"; for Apsley Cherry-Garrard it was the worst journey in the world. This is a book about the call of the wild and the response of the spirit to a country that exists perhaps most vividly in the mind. Sara Wheeler spent seven months in Antarctica, living with its scientists and dreamers. No book is more true to the spirit of that continent--beguiling, enchanted and vast beyond the furthest reaches of our imagination. Chosen by Beryl Bainbridge and John Major as one of the best books of the year, recommended by the editors of Entertainment Weekly and the Chicago Tribune, one of the Seattle Times's top ten travel books of the year, Terra Incognita is a classic of polar literature.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

S. Wheeler's book takes the reader to a fantastic world rarely seen by the ordinary visitor. Whoever

loves the Antarctic or is curious about the international research stations there will enjoy her book tremendously. Besides, she has a great sense of humour.

Terra Incognita is a delight. Wheeler is witty, charming and interesting, and her descriptions of both her outer and inner journeys in Antarctica are terrific reading. Along with her own experiences, Wheeler reviews the history of antarctic exploration with particular insight into the British character and experience. I still think Scott was a twit, but I understand his mentality a little better now. While Wheeler lacks the passionate introspection of Byrd's *Alone*, her depiction of her winter on the ice gives a sense of the changes such a powerful environment produces on the psyche. *Terra Incognita* is definitely on the short list of terrific Antarctica books.

Slow start but once I got into it this was a very good book.

I first read this book after checking out a copy from our local library, and was so impressed with the story that I wanted a copy of my own. Sara Wheeler is a fine writer, who uses exhaustive research and incredible word skills to tell her story. My only concern was that I had to keep a dictionary handy to stay with her! I consider it the best read I have had in years, and was most pleased to get my personal copy very quickly from .

The topic drew me to this book! I love reality-based adventure stories! With a woman as the protagonist---the seeker of adventure--it's the icing(ha-ha) on the cake for me---usually. While I truly found the book interesting, it was highly in need of merciless cutting and tightening!! I did enjoy the last third of the book the most (maybe in anticipation of the end being in sight???). I did find the book too repetitive--and too long. I began having difficulty differentiating one glacial mountain from the other; the endless night of winter felt--well--endless! The main benefit for me in reading the book over our weeks of record heat here in NC was in imagining being surrounded on all sides by ice! I liked the part about the early signs of lengthening daylight; but maybe that's because I do suffer from SAD (seasonal affective disorder). My winter depression is part of the reason I moved down from the Northeast to the Southeast to live. So everyone can take my impression of this book with a grain of salt! But I still think the book is overly long!

Going to the Southern tip of S.America and wanted to read about the penguins first; but got history lessons in almost every chapter. Great reading!

Sara Wheeler relates her months in Antarctica with vivid discription that as an artist I can "see" her experience. Any one who loves to travel will take this trip with her.

Found there to be too much about the group of travelers and not the destination.

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