



BOOK RELEASE

Wanderlust
A Social History of Travel
Laura Byrne Paquet

Travel
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That longing, that ache, that anticipation — that's wanderlust.

— **Laura Byrne Paquet**

Whether your idea of fun is backpacking over the Himalayan Mountains or just reading about someone else accomplishing that feat, this book is for you. Think 'Everything You Always Wanted to Know about the History of Travel But Were Afraid to Ask!'

Wanderlust is packed with fascinating facts about all forms of travel — from the first cruise ships (actually ancient Roman grain ships that took on the occasional passenger), to stagecoach, rail, flight, and auto. Along the way you'll meet some of the pioneers of modern travel, including Juan Trippe, the charismatic founder of Pan Am airways.

According to Paquet, Trippe "had the raw nerve to take the luxurious, elites-only mystique of long-distance travel and make it the mind-numbing aggravation we know and love today."

You will also discover fascinating travel facts, such as why ship passengers in New Testament times wore gold jewellery or coins (if the ship went down, anyone finding their body would use the gold as payment for a decent funeral); why the first flight attendants, who did everything from helping with refuelling to rolling the plane to the hangar, never left the ground without their trusty wrenches (to tighten the bolts on the seats after take off). With its mix of historical fact and modern-day exploits, along with breezy allusions to pop culture and literary heavyweights, *Wanderlust* is an entirely new look at the travel experience.

"Why do we travel? I'd argue we travel because we can't help ourselves. For most of us, leisure travel offers at least the promise of salvation: from boredom, from routine, from insularity, from ignorance. It may be as simple as sunny salvation from the purgatory of a dark Canadian winter. But for many of history's earliest travelers, one particular type of trip — the pilgrimage — offered a much more literal form of salvation. And that's where I'll begin."

Take a trip through the history of travel with the engaging Laura Byrne Paquet as your guide.

— more —

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Laura Byrne Paquet is the author of *The Urge to Splurge: a Social History of Shopping*. Her articles have appeared in more than 70 publications in Canada, the U.S., and Europe, including *National Geographic Traveler*, *Arthur Frommer's Budget Travel*, *enRoute*, *Chatelaine*, *Canadian Living*, and *The Ottawa Citizen*. Laura has always loved to travel and can still remember one of her earliest adventures. "One of my very earliest memories is of sitting in my father's cousin's kitchen in Northern Ireland, aged 4, eating oatmeal! My parents love to travel and, luckily, took my sisters and me with them. It obviously rubbed off on us all." In between globe-trotting adventures she writes romance novels from her Ottawa home.

ACCOLADES FOR LAURA BYRNE PAQUET

"It's rare to find a writer who is both incredibly creative and has a meticulous eye for detail. Laura Byrne Paquet is one of those rare writers. And, even better, she's an expert on shopping. Could we have asked for anything more?" — *Ottawa City Magazine*

ACCOLADES FOR THE URGE TO SPLURGE: A SOCIAL HISTORY OF SHOPPING

"Didn't Christopher Columbus originally set out to see what he could pick up for his queen? One of the great motivators, historically, for exploring has been to buy or trade in things people didn't have at home, says Laura Byrne Paquet, author of *The Urge to Splurge*. Remember the spice routes, the trades in tea and furs and gold? And on the local level, she points out, the marketplace has been one of the few venues where different classes could mix and meet, and where people from surrounding areas would convene to exchange not only goods but news and ideas." — *O, The Oprah Magazine*

"Refreshing... Despite [Paquet's] light-hearted tone, she also understands the gravity of the situation." — *Toronto Star*

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