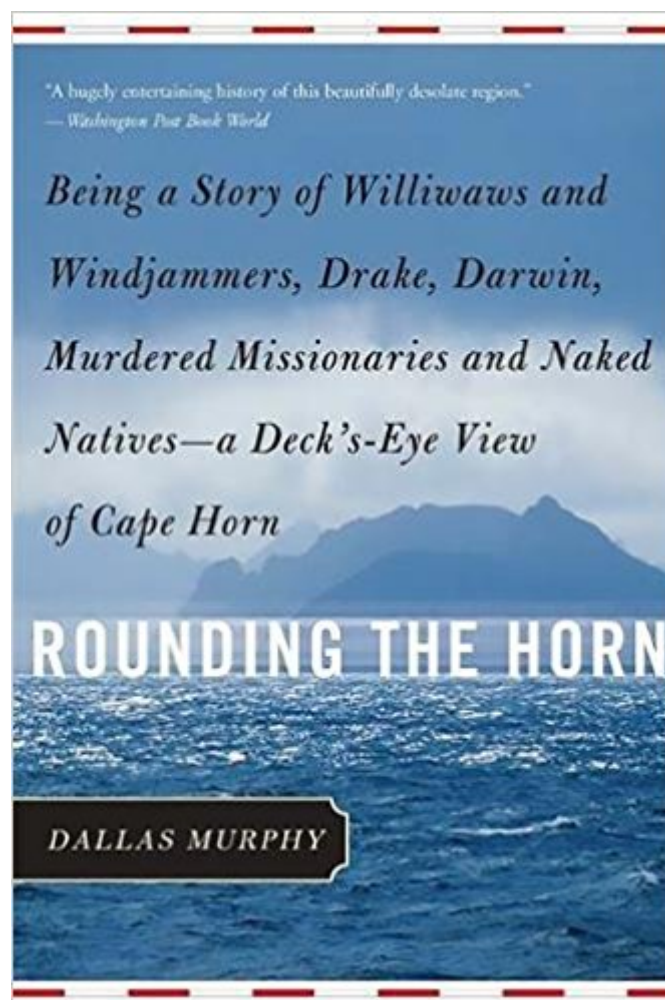




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Rounding The Horn: Being The Story Of Williwaws And Windjammers, Drake, Darwin, Murdered Missionaries And Naked Natives--a Deck's-eye View Of Cape Horn





Synopsis

Fifty-five degrees 59 minutes South by 67 degrees 16 minutes West: Cape Horn—a buttressed pyramid of crumbly rock situated at the very bottom of South America—is a place of forlorn and foreboding beauty that has captured the dark imaginations of explorers and writers from Francis Drake to Joseph Conrad. For centuries, the small stretch of water between Cape Horn and the Antarctic Peninsula was the only gateway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It's a place where the storms are bigger, the winds stronger, and the seas rougher than anywhere else on earth. Dallas Murphy has always been sea-struck. In *Rounding the Horn* he undertakes the ultimate maritime rite of passage, and brings the reader along for a thrilling, exuberant tour. Weaving together stories of his own nautical adventures with long-lost tales of those who braved the Cape before him—from Spanish missionaries to Captain Cook—and interspersing them with breathtaking descriptions of the surrounding wilderness, Murphy has crafted an immensely enjoyable read.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Even landlubbers may recognize Cape Horn as the Americas' southernmost tip. Between this crag of rock and Antarctica lies the Drake Passage, whose waters are the planet's most consistently violent. Of a trip through these latitudes, sailors warned, "Below 40 South there is no law, below 50 South there is no God." Murphy, a mystery writer and nautical journalist, sailed there from Ushuaia, Argentina, in a 53-foot sloop and carefully points out that he only visited the island rather than sailing around it. He revels in the tales of those who made the entire trip, however, and spends

much time vividly recounting their adventures, found in old books with thrilling titles like *The World Encompassed* and *A Two Years' Cruise off Tierra Del Fuego*. Nautical buffs will find some of these yarns familiar: Darwin's South American voyages aboard HMS Beagle were the subject of last fall's *Evolution's Captain*, by Peter Nichols, and Murphy's version adds little to the story beyond subtle interpretive differences. Another chapter touches upon the U.S. Navy's South Seas Exploring Expedition, chronicled at length by Nathaniel Philbrick in *Sea of Glory* (also published last fall). Yet such narrative retreads are offset by the details of Murphy's own voyage (his desire to explore almost set off an international incident with the Chilean government). As exciting as Murphy's historical yarns are, it's always a treat to return to him and his crew as they brave the elements at the end of the earth. Maps. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Cape Horn is the southernmost point of South America, in the Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Murphy, a novelist and journalist, sailed to Cape Horn in 2000. He chronicles the history of the cape and describes in detail the many ships that have made the voyage, battered by the unique weather with its treacherous winds. Francis Drake and Robert FitzRoy are two of the many explorers whose voyages Murphy recounts here. (FitzRoy was the captain of the Beagle and Charles Darwin was its most famous passenger.) Much of the book deals with Murphy's own trip to Cape Horn. In vivid prose, he describes the ship and observes and wonders about birds and other animals; he makes readers experience the island wilderness as if firsthand, and feel for themselves the driving rain and wind that he encountered. The book will interest those looking for an adventure but too frightened to actually make the trip. George Cohen Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I ended up being surprised how enjoyable of a read this has been. I am planning a trip around the horn on a cruise ship and this has definitely added to the enjoyment of the planning. Enjoy his take on history combined with bits of his own journey around the horn. He has me looking forward to my next read of the Uttermost part of the earth to learn even more about this fascinating region of our earth.

I think this book is brilliant ! It affords the ordinary reader reader an insight into The history and geography of the Cape Horn area . This is a first-hand account of modern-day sailing , interwoven with the journey of the the 'Beagle' ,which took a similar route , many years before with Darwin

aboard . One does not have to be a sailor to appreciate the excitement of sea-bound adventures , and this account is one if the best . The book is illustrated only with clearly-drawn maps , but perhaps a detailed sketch of the ships would have increased understanding for readers [like me] who have no knowledge of seaman's language , or a glossary of terms used to describe parts of a sailing ship and her rigging. I gave this book to someone after having read it months ago , but then wanted to read it again , so I ordered it 'used' from . Considering all the effort which the author must have put into research , it is a bargain at 1 cent plus \$3.99 postage ['Lysol' sprayed on arrival]

I found this book in the library, but bought it for my Ipad before I left on a tour that included rounding the Horn, and even climbing the 162 to walk upon it. Truly a high in my life. And this book added incredible depth to that experience. I felt the presence of all these adventurers as we smoothly sailed (February) out from Ushuaia, through the straits, to board Cape Horn...and Aguila Glacier, then more narrows until we reached Puerto Arenas. Captivating views from our lovely ship windows. I think, I hope I'll return! And probably retread this book if I do. Murphy is a delightful, humorous, knowledgeable guide. The stories alternate with his in- the-moment sailing and those of the earlier white men, with deep respect for the natives and deep work to unearth what little is known of them.

I wasn't sure what to expect from this book, but was pleasantly surprised to find it quite a good read. I am very glad that the author didn't dwell too much on his personal voyage as it was somewhat uneventful. While interesting and informative, I did not buy the book with the expectation it would be a travelogue; and it's not. Instead, the book is rich with insightful and entertaining descriptions of the early explorer's encounters with the climate, topography and indigenous people of that time. Covering everything from the earliest Spanish explorers to the present day territorial conflicts, he also includes wrongheaded missionaries and intriguing eyewitness accounts from clipper ship and windjammer voyages. The history of the Yaghan natives such as the "adopted" Jemmy Button and "Fuegia Basket" was wonderfully detailed for the small amount of time spent on them. The author is a keen observer of things many of us would overlook or fail to appreciate properly. This book is definitely a page turner, as the author expertly sequesters from his present situations to wonderfully told sea stories. Anyone who enjoys arcane history and anything to do with sailing or ocean adventures should enjoy this tremendously. Highly recommended.

I read this while on a cruise around the horn. After reading about the ferocious winds and weather

conditions, I realized just how lucky we were! The winds died down the day before we got there. The forecast called for rain, but it ended up being sunny with a great view. Other than the weather, the book was a great read. It added in a lot of history of the region and of the natives including the aboriginals - now mostly extinct, unfortunately - who lived there, completely naked in frigid, windy conditions.

I have rounded the horn before I read this book I am glad I did because it would have given me 2nd thoughts about doing it. I loved the book and also going around the horn

I'm very pleased with the book. If you are interested in learning more about Drake's Passage, this is the book for you. I just finished a trip to Antarctica and experienced Drake's Passage on that trip. It is easy reading and it gives you some very interesting facts about Drake's Passage and New World explorations. I think anyone that likes historical events would enjoy reading this book.

Beautifully and intelligently written, this multi-layered book reads like a novel, but much of it is too unbelievable not to be true. A brine-in-the-face journey via the stormy regions at world's end through the even more tempestuous seascape of the human soul - one littered with deeds of nobility, larceny, altruism, treachery, bravery, faith, and despair. The Horn is nature's key to these often frightening latitudes, and Murphy turns it brilliantly.

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