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## Cycling the Mekong:: Cycling Through Southeast Asia (Cycling Adventures) (Volume 1)

Gerry Daly

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### CYCLING THE MEKONG A 10-WEEK BICYCLE RIDE THROUGH VIETNAM CAMBODIA, THAILAND AND LAOS GERRY DALY



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#2860897 in Books 2015-09-30Original language:English 8.50 x .28 x 8.50l, #File Name: 1514357534118 pages | File size: 75.Mb

**Gerry Daly : Cycling the Mekong:: Cycling Through Southeast Asia (Cycling Adventures) (Volume 1)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cycling the Mekong:: Cycling Through Southeast Asia (Cycling Adventures) (Volume 1):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable but not what I expectedBy JohnWhile an easy read and somewhat enjoyable I would have to say that the book really should have been published as a blog. Unless you have never bike toured and or never dipped a toe into Asia there is very little you will learn about planning your own bike tour of Asia. Gerry gives accounts of his own blunders, route finding misadventures and stories of alternate transportation (planes, trains, bus and boat). At times it sounds like he bit off more than he could chew, but give him credit. He got it done. His adventure does not sound like one you would want to replicate.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. South East Asia via Bicycle! An inspiring story!!!By hilpinCycling the Mekong is a fascinating story about one man's bicycle journey through Southeast Asia. As an avid traveler I really appreciated Daly's personal narrative. His vivid descriptions of small villages and large cities brought me immediately back to the region and fueled my desire to return and explore further. I could hear the noise and chaos of Khaosan Road and feel the tranquility of Sapa through Daly's writing. The book is well researched and has stunning photographs. I would recommend this book to anyone who loves adventure, stories of personal growth, or is planning to visit South East

Asia! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Of course all I remember is the intense heat and humidity but the photographs are really amazing. They totally reflect the feel of these places and not others, I think it is really accurate in the descriptions. Of course all I remember is the intense heat and humidity but the photographs are really amazing. They totally reflect the feel of these places .... the noise and swarms of people. And of course, Asia isn't the same without street food. I think the book is great - and would be great for anyone who can identify with the sights, sound and smells of Southeast Asia.

This is the engaging story of an intrepid unsupported cycling trip in Southeast Asia. From the ethereal beauty of Sapa's hill-tribe country in the Tonkin Alps on the Chinese border, to the Viet Cong tunnels in the south of Vietnam, this tale will captivate you. Become absorbed in the scene in Bangkok's backpacker ghetto and the frenetic energy-charged cities of Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. Follow the author along the Mekong River from the Golden Triangle in the north of Thailand on a slow boat to the alluring Laotian town of Luang Prabang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Cycle through the 1000-year-old alleys of Hanoi's Old Quarter to sample street food and enjoy a local bia hoi (fresh beer). - Read how to travel light and cheaply; - How to train for and complete a long distance tour; - How to stretch your budget by finding cheap digs and food while avoiding scams; - How to cut down on bike weight and get by with minimal gear; - How to be self-sufficient on a bike on the backroads of SE Asia; - Learn what are appropriate bikes and equipment for these cities and rural backwaters.

From Kirkus In this photo-rich debut memoir, an urban planner recalls bicycling through Southeast Asia, his camera in tow. Daly had been to Vietnam before, way back in the 1960s as a diver directing explosive ordnance disposal work for the U.S. military. But the journey he chronicles here is a much different, far happier one. From November 2013 to January 2014, Daly cycled from Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) north through Cambodia, east through Thailand and Laos, then south to Ho Chi Minh City again, hewing to the long Vietnamese coastline. Though he saw many of the same places he saw in different circumstances 40 years ago, little was familiar. Vietnam embraced consumerism and market capitalism, women on the street wore skirts instead of black pajamas, cheap consumer goods were hawked at every corner, and in a city like Danang, nothing was recognizable apart from misty, foggy views of Marble Mountain, the harbor and the Han River. Eschewing the daily journal format, Daly organizes his book like a long, in-depth, and personalized travel encyclopedia. Separate sections walk readers through guesthouses where he stayed and the state of their facilities, how to avoid dishonest touts and fixers smooth and slippery as an overripe mango, and what to eat and what not to eat. Cook it or peel it; if in doubt, boil it, a friend wisely cautioned. Color photographs accompany the text, mostly Dalys own colorful snaps but also maps and a handful of professional landscape shots. The photos are generally excellent, not professionally framed but, perhaps because of their casual quality, convincingly true to life. Readers are offered glimpses of riverboat vendors, idle boys killing time between jobs, the furious colors of a Hanoi street scene, the stillness of a large white Buddha. Daly is a competent, often eloquent writer, as when he describes an evening walk through Ho Chi Minh City, smelling the huge array of orchid varieties; the fresh-cut aroma of tropical hardwoods; smoky haze wafting through the streets and alleys as charcoal fires were lit at dusk. A few readers might be inspired to retrace his path.