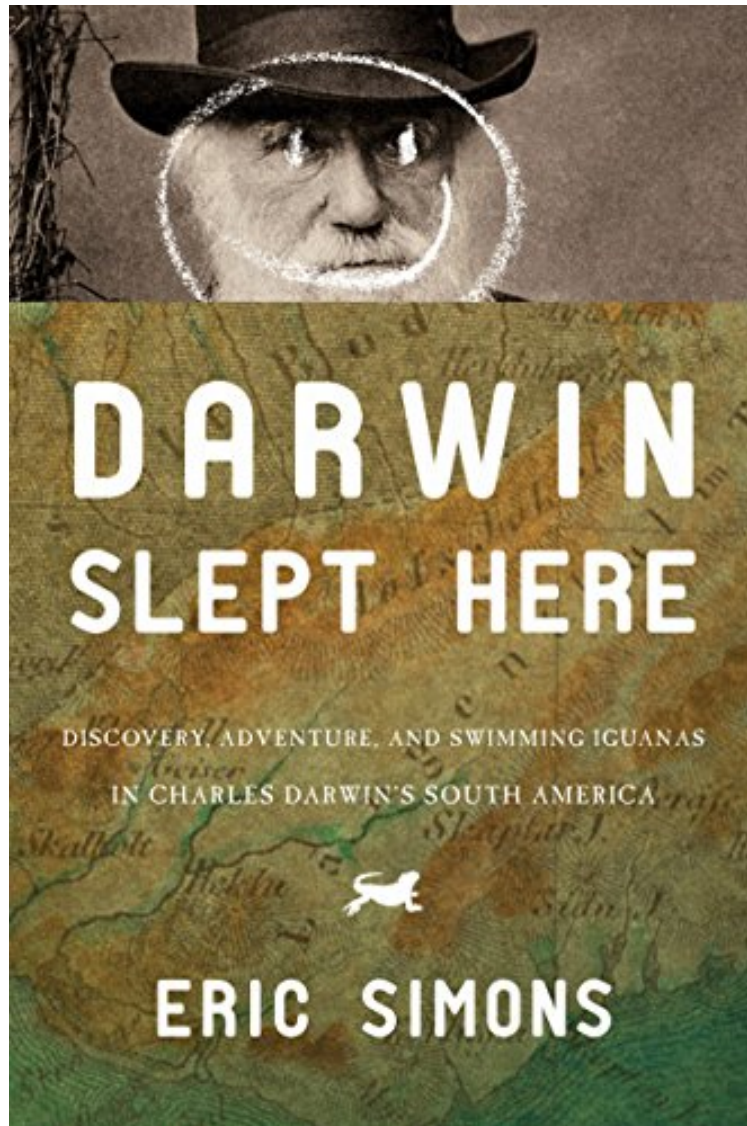


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## Darwin Slept Here: Discovery, Adventure, and Swimming Iguanas in Charles Darwin's South America

*Eric Simons*

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**Eric Simons : Darwin Slept Here: Discovery, Adventure, and Swimming Iguanas in Charles Darwin's South America** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Darwin Slept Here: Discovery, Adventure, and Swimming Iguanas in Charles Darwin's South America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. fun and lightBy Glenn D. RobinsonThis is a fun, light travelogue

about one man's pursuit of the places that Charles Darwin visited and studied while on his 5 year journey on the Beagle. Nothing profound or deep. Enjoyable read, but not earth shattering. Parts of Argentina have changed little since Darwin was there, so it is was fun to read what the writer encountered while he journeyed. I enjoy these kind of books. If you are looking for deep academic books, this is not one. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Easy read. By Agnes Lin Good for relaxation. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nowhere is a (fascinating) place By Art Shapiro I'm an evolutionary biologist and I began doing research in Argentina and Chile in 1977--so of course I HAD to read this book. My research has taken me all over Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego, and although I haven't been a student for a very long time, my lifestyle in the field converges to the author's--I take long-haul buses, stay in hostels and the cheap hotels where long-haul truck drivers sleep (if I'm not camping), and hang out in empanada bars drinking Quilmes. So I felt right at home with this narrative (probably not many readers know Puerto Deseado, Puerto San Julian, or Rio Gallegos intimately--I do) and unlike Bruce Chatwin's, it all rings true. For those who don't know the terrain, the book could use a map. If you don't, have a map handy. Even if you're a creationist, "Darwin Slept Here" is a hoot. And if you loved it and haven't read "Attending Marvels" by George Gaylord Simpson, do. In it the great paleontologist tells very engagingly of his adventures as a young bone-digger in the windswept Patagonian plains. Readers who find themselves in Montevideo should go to El Milongon at 1810 Calle Gaboto for the candombe dinner show. They will see some of the most athletically erotic dancing on the planet and get swept away by the rhythms of Uruguayan folk music. Afro-Uruguayan culture is the perfect cure for boredom--pity nobody cued in Simons! Memo to Overlook Press: Too damn many typos.

One snowy day in Ushuaia, Argentina, the self-proclaimed "southernmost city in the world," writer Eric Simons picked up a copy of Charles Darwin's Voyage of the Beagle. He had just hiked the mountains overlooking Beagle Channel, and found himself engrossed in Darwin's account. Like Simons, Darwin was in his mid-twenties when he traveled to South America. Simons followed Darwin further into the continent--to stand where Darwin had, and to explore the histories, legends and people that had fascinated the great scientist two centuries before. He trekked to as many of the locations Darwin wrote about as he could find, to see if he could view these places through Darwin's eyes, and to learn what South Americans know about Darwin. Innovative and amusing, Darwin Slept Here offers a new look at a familiar subject, by a fresh, compelling writer to watch.

"A bracingly fresh portrait... here is Darwin as only another young naturalist could find him... nothing less than exhilarating." - Michael Pollan "Hard to put down - lighthearted adventures that keep a reader wanting more." - San Francisco Chronicle "Simons celebrates a refreshingly different Darwin: a twenty-something traveler fond of hurling iguanas into the sea and charging up any tall peak he could find...." - Outside Magazine From the Publisher Praise for Darwin Slept Here "Eric Simons has given us a bracingly fresh portrait of the Young Darwin, the man long ago lost behind the great white beard. Here is Darwin as only another young naturalist could find him, and to see the world through those avid eyes, groping for the theory he would explain all he has so brilliantly observed, is nothing less than exhilarating." - Michael Pollan, author of The Botany of Desire and The Omnivore's Dilemma "Too often we forget that major accomplishments often stem from youthful abandon. Twenty-something Charles Darwin had a rippin' good time mingling with South America's gauchos and iguanas. Discovering this inspired young Eric Simons to retrace the great naturalist's rambling tracks. The result is this wildly entertaining reminder that science and exploration can be a blast." - Bob Sipchen, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and the author of Baby Insane and the Buddha "Vivid and exotic, Eric Simon's tale invites comparisons to Chatwin as he leads readers among guanacos and ostriches, assassin bugs and armadillos, through rough seas, swift currents and ascending jungles. This is a book full of zest and discovery with the deeper mission of appreciating one of humankind's great breakthroughs in the understanding our past." - Lou Ureneck, author of Backcast About the Author Eric Simons is the author of Darwin Slept Here, also published by Overlook. He is a contributor to NPR's Radiolab and lives in San Francisco.