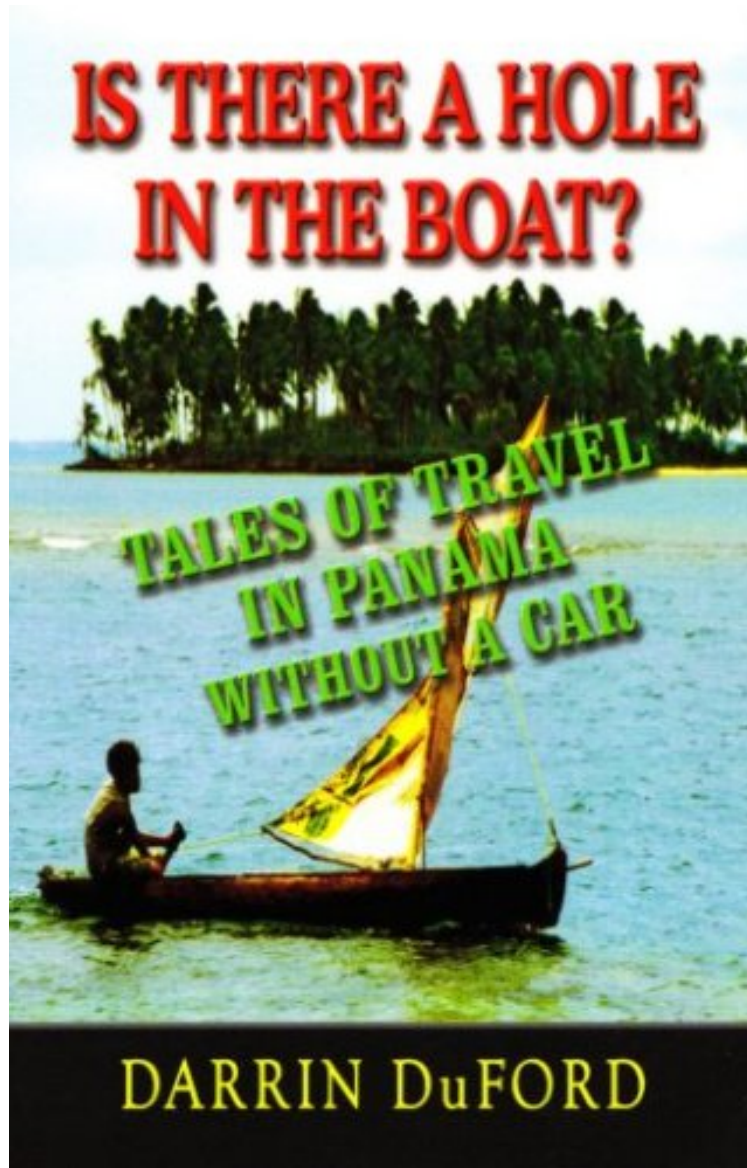


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## Is There a Hole in the Boat?: Tales of Travel in Panama without a Car

*Darrin Duford*

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**Darrin Duford : Is There a Hole in the Boat?: Tales of Travel in Panama without a Car** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Is There a Hole in the Boat?: Tales of Travel in Panama without a Car:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read. Aspects of Panama you don't get from ...By EdGood read. Aspects of Panama you don't get from the tourist books.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Delightful, entertaining, informative book, highly recommendedBy Laurel JohnsonWhatever the genre, I enjoy books that intrigue my mind and engage my emotions in unexpected ways. This ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year Finalist managed to intrigue and engage in the first page and didn't let up until the last word. Darrin DuFord shares a charming account of his Panamanian travels, through vivid descriptions of the country's topography, humorous details of his attempts to accept each new experience, and respectful acceptance of the cultural differences. As indicated by the title, this is NOT a dry how-to, where-to travelogue.DuFord deliberately set out to travel Panama as the natives do. By land, he hikes, bribes and barter his way from place to place in colorfully painted buses, dilapidated taxis and pick ups. By river and sea he crams his American frame into dugouts made for natives half his size, forced to bail water from leaky boats. Other times, he experiences the unique flora and fauna on foot with native guides who take delight in pointing out poisonous snakes and spiders and rats as big as cats. DuFord meets all the biting wildlife you can imagine close up. For nourishment, he bravely eats and drinks whatever the natives offer, delicacies not found in the North American diet.Except for the Canal Zone, most of Panama is a land without Western amenities. Potable running water is a luxury. Public transportation is a raucous adventure. Areas of clear cut rainforest deplete native food sources at an alarming rate. Still, Panama's people are hopeful and adaptable, cheerful, warm and welcoming. From native kings to sly guides to scientists, the stars of DuFord's travels are the people he meets along the way.This author's writing style is personable, his book delightful. Readers will learn a lot about Panama and its people, and enjoy themselves immensely in the process.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. take a trip to PanamaBy book.of.the.momentI'm not sure exactly what it is I was expecting when I started reading this book, but whatever it was, it wasn't what I got. I'm not saying I hated the book, because there were parts of it that I did enjoy. Other parts of it though, I found to be..well..boring.The book is about the author's travel through Panama, and is filled with tales of politics, food, and day to day life in a tropical no man's land. Parts of the book made me laugh out loud, and there were times when the world around me seemed to disappear and I was there in Panama with the author, up to my knees in mud. Other times I found my mind wandering, completely uninterested in the story before me.If you enjoy travel narratives, or are just interested in Panama, you should definitely check out this book. True, parts of it may have bored me, but just because it doesn't fall within my realm of interests doesn't mean you won't enjoy it. This book is full of information and description; those of you interested in Panama will LOVE it. The author also includes a pretty extensive bibliography at the end, for further reading pleasure.

Bring your appetite. Bring gifts for the king of the Naso tribe.Join Darrin DuFord as he hikes, bribes, and barter his way across Panama, a perennially overlooked filament of the tropics where DuFord encounters a startling richness of cultures between the nations two coastlines. Sitting down with everyone from scientists to town barflies, DuFord samples such local delicacies as fermented corn homebrew and slow-barbecued jungle rodent while, at every turn, taking the more vernacular--and much more enriching--options of transportation. Whether jostling in the back of a pickup truck serving as the local bus or uncovering how the country is tackling its ecological quandaries, DuFord opens a window into the little-known day to day struggles and pleasures of the Panamanian people. Is There a Hole in the Boat? reveals a Panama that is not simply a place to watch bloated cruise ships edge along the walls of the Canal. Its a land where the machete can slash through just about anything--except the nation's spirit.

"...a true, up close and personal picture of another world -- one full of vivacious human spirit, mouth-watering odors and vibrant color." -- Sue Vogan, BookPleasuresDuFord introduces us to the people of Panama, and he does it hilariously and most perceptively. -- The Panama News, August 20 - September 2, 2006From the Back CoverBring your appetite. Bring gifts for the king of the Naso tribe.Join Darrin DuFord as he hikes, bribes, and barter his way across Panama, a perennially overlooked filament of the tropics where DuFord encounters a startling richness of cultures between the nations two coastlines. Sitting down with everyone from scientists to town barflies, DuFord samples such local delicacies as fermented corn homebrew and slow-barbecued jungle rodent while, at every turn, taking the more vernacular--and much more enriching--options of transportation.Whether jostling in the back of a pickup truck serving as the local bus or uncovering how the country is tackling its ecological quandaries, DuFord opens a window into the little-known day to day struggles and pleasures of the Panamanian people. Is There a Hole in the Boat? reveals a Panama that is not simply a place to watch bloated cruise ships edge along the walls of the Canal. Its a land where the machete can slash through just about anything--except the nation's spirit.