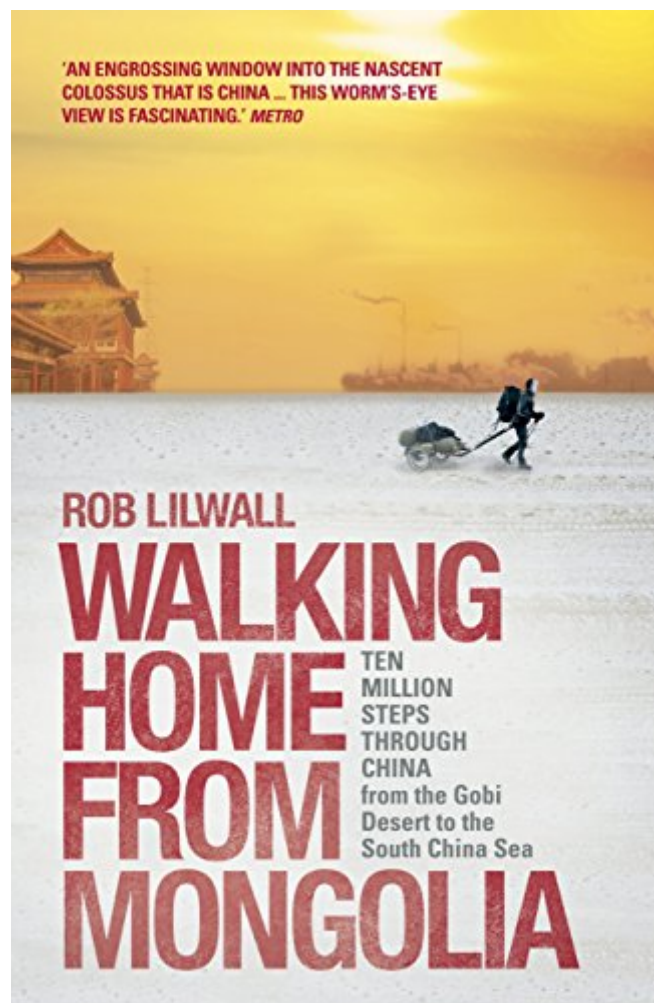




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# Walking Home From Mongolia: Ten Million Steps Through China, From The Gobi Desert To The South China Sea



## Synopsis

Starting in the Gobi desert in winter, adventurer Rob Lilwall sets out on an extraordinary six-month journey, walking almost 5000 kilometres across China. Along the way he and his cameraman Leon brave the toxic insides of China's longest road tunnel, explore desolate stretches of the Great Wall and endure interrogation by the Chinese police. As they walk on through the heart of China, the exuberant hospitality of cave dwellers, coal miners and desert nomads keeps them going, despite sub-zero blizzards and the treacherous terrain. Rob writes with humour and honesty about the hardships of the walk, reflecting on the nature of pilgrimage and the uncertainties of an adventuring career. He also gives a unique insight into life on the road amid the epic landscapes and rapidly industrialising cities of backwater China.

## Book Information

File Size: 4533 KB

Print Length: 304 pages

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (November 21, 2013)

Publication Date: November 21, 2013

Language: English

ASIN: B00GU2MW5I

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #866,504 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #45

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## Customer Reviews

Great read. I knew of Leon McCarron from his adventure "Into The Empty Quarter". What intrigued me was how the author outlined their challenges which centered on language as well as finance. I enjoyed the discussions on their gear selection. I thought using Google Earth / Maps on their mobile phone was interesting, but questioned their decision making when they decided to split up for several weeks and go it alone. It is apparent Rob is more incline to look for short cuts along the

route that don't always work out and I think this lead to their eventual decision to split for a few weeks. Admirable they did this for a charity foundation. Update I just watched the video of this expedition and have to say the book is much better. Quite a bit that is in the book is missing in the video. This isn't a negative comment and while I understand the video had some time limitations, if you hadn't read the book you might assume they walked straight through with few rest days which isn't the case. The same goes for equipment, Rob's wife resupplied them as well as took gear such as their cold weather stuff once they reached warmer climates. Also, it is very apparent in the video that Rob's decision making on route selection caused the team some serious issues and as I said above eventually lead to them separating for about three weeks. I think Leon is the strongest of the team but he seems to have willingly taken a back seat to be the photographer and allow Rob much of the decision making which didn't always work out.

An insightful account of an amazing trek. It will draw others to follow and make their own adventures in a surprisingly hospitable land

Then this is the book for you! Rob Lilwall's writing and story flows very well, and this book is very suitable to middle grade/teen readers as well as adults. In fact, I can see this book being an excellent accompaniment for geography and/or history curriculum. The landscape of Mongolia and China are very well described, as are the people. Lilwall's sense of humor and reflective tone keep the narrative personable and well-paced. Whenever I watch National Geographic I wonder what it's really like for those adventurous folk who are filming and roughing it with their heavy packs, and lack of access to fresh food and water. "Walking Home from Mongolia" is a great way to join two explorers, Rob and Leon, as they walk from Mongolia to Hong Kong to raise funds for a charity, Viva, and discover more about mainland China. Lilwall's insights about going on a long journey, and how that parallels with normal "boring" life are great. He shares the wonders of the trip, but also the hardships - like interpersonal conflict with Leon and the negative consequences of certain choices. I can't wait to watch the National Geographic show that was developed from this trek! If you want to see what it's like to leave your normal life behind for a big cause (Viva helps at-risk children, [...]) , and walk through Mongolia and China for six months of surviving crazy cold weather, speaking Mandarin, enjoying unexpected hospitality, and swimming in frozen rivers, to mention just a few wild moments, then this is the read for you.

Having devoured Rob's first book "Cycling home from Siberia" I eagerly awaited the launch of his

new book "Walking home from Mongolia". One thing is for sure, it was worth the wait! Rob's true talent as an adventure writer comes through once again as he brings to life a journey, about which an average person like me couldn't even conceive, yet made me feel like I was there, walking step by step with him through the highs and the lows. But by far my favourite part of Rob's books, which sets him apart from many other writers, is his honesty and humility. Here is a bloke who has every right to brag about what he has achieved, and can choose to edit out the less flattering details, yet he shares with us a warts and all narrative of the journey, making us feel better about ourselves and what an average armchair adventurer like myself could achieve! I can't wait for the next book!!

A very honest and well written narrative of an ordinary person with extraordinary ambition trying to stick to a commitment to adventure and walking across a very large country. Along the way, you are introduced to the geography and sights (to some extent) and to some extent the history of the region, as well as the challenges of doing something like this. For me what I appreciated most was the honesty involving the experience – the exhaustion, boredom, pain, and challenges involved in adventures such as these. But at the same time, it is vivid and beautifully written so you feel like you are along for the ride. It also fanned the existing sparks of doing a walk like this (which I have long wanted to do) across some place (not sure where). Greatly enjoyed the read! Very immersive book.

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