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OUR WRITER



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end –

broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Dublin, Beijing, and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.



SARA BENSON

After graduating from college, Sara jumped on a plane to California with just one suitcase and \$100 in her pocket. She has bounced around the Golden State ever since, including all over the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and the Sierra Nevada, where she worked as a seasonal national park ranger. The author of over 70 travel and nonfiction books, Sara also coordinated Lonely Planet's *California* guide.

My Favorite Trip 23 **Highway 49 Through Gold Country** let me wind along some of California's last remaining stretches of highway where smartphones blissfully don't work.

Read more about Sara at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/sara_benson

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