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Destination Editors Evan Godt, Lauren Keith, Trisha Ping
Product Editors Paul Harding, Kate Mathews
Senior Cartographer Alison Lyall
Book Designer Wibowo Rusli
Assisting Editors Janet Austin, Andrea Dobbin, Carly Hall, Jennifer Hattam, Anne Mulvaney, Sarah Reid, Gabrielle Stefanos, Saralinda Turner
Cartographer Julie Dodkins
Cover Researcher Brendan Dempsey-Spencer
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RAY BARTLETT
Ray is a travel writer specializing in Japan, Korea, Mexico and the United States. He has worked on numerous Lonely Planet titles, starting with Japan in 2004, through to his current work on New York & the Mid-Atlantic.

Read more about Ray at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/raybartlett

MICHAEL GROSBERG
Michael has worked on over 45 Lonely Planet guidebooks. Whether covering Myanmar or New Jersey, each project has added to his rich and complicated psyche and taken years from his (still?) relatively young life. Prior to his freelance writing career, other international work included development on the island of Rota in the western Pacific; South Africa, where he investigated and wrote about political violence and helped train newly elected government representatives; and Quito, Ecuador, as a teacher. He received a Masters in Comparative Literature and taught literature and writing as an adjunct professor at several New York City area colleges.

Read more about Michael at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/michaelgrosberg

BRIAN KLUEPFEL
Brian has worked for LP across the Americas since 2006. He’s been the editor of the Bolivian Times in La Paz, a correspondent for Major League Soccer, and a contributor to Frontier Airlines inflight magazine. His LP adventures have taken him to Venezuela, Bolivia and even the pine barrens of New Jersey. His stories on Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and the mines of Potosi, Bolivia, feature in Lonely Planet’s Secret Marvels of the World. Brian graduated from the University of San Francisco’s MFA program and his thesis project turned into a children’s book, Anatoly of the Gomdars, featured in more than 50 accelerated reading programs across the USA. He’s covered the World Cup and Copa America soccer tournaments and worked as an accordion salesman and bar-room troubadour. He lives in New York, walking distance from the infamous Sing-Sing Prison.

Read more about Brian at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/brian.kluepfel

KARLA ZIMMERMAN
Karla lives in Chicago where she eat doughnuts, yells at the Cubs and writes stuff for books, magazines, and websites when she’s not doing the first two things. She has contributed to 40-plus guidebooks and travel anthologies covering destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and the Caribbean – all of which are a long way from the early days, when she wrote about gravel for a construction magazine and got to trek to places like Fredonia, Kansas. To learn more, follow her on Instagram and Twitter (@karlazimmerman).

Read more about Karla at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/karlazimmerman

Contributing Writer: Gregor Clark
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’.

SIMON RICHMOND
Journalist and photographer Simon Richmond has specialized as a travel writer since the early 1990s and first worked for Lonely Planet in 1999 on the *Central Asia* guide. He’s long since stopped counting the number of guidebooks he’s researched and written for the company, but countries covered include Australia, China, India, Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar (Burma), Russia, Singapore, South Africa and Turkey. For Lonely Planet’s website he’s penned features on topics from the world’s best swimming pools to the joys of Urban Sketching. Follow him on Instagram to see some of his photos and sketches.

AMY C BALFOUR
Amy grew up in Richmond, Virginia, and now lives in the Shenandoah Valley in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. A few of her favorite places between the Atlantic and the Appalachians include Sharp Top Mountain, Lexington, VA, Berlin, MD, and the New River Gorge. New top escapes? Scott’s Addition in Richmond, VA, downtown Staunton, VA, Chincoteague Island and Frederick, MD. Amy has authored or co-authored more than 30 books for Lonely Planet, including *USA*, *Eastern USA* and *Florida & the South’s Best Trips*. Her stories have appeared in *Backpacker*, *Sierra*, *Southern Living* and *Women’s Health*.

Read more about Simon at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/simonrichmond
Read more about Amy at https://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/amycbalfour

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