BOOK OF EVERYTHING

A Visual Guide to Travel and the World



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QUICK QUESTION

The Book of EVERYTHING? How can that be?



QUICK ANSWER

It can't be!

WE DID CONSIDER OTHER TITLES

THE BOOK OF ALMOST EVERYTHING

THE BOOK OF THINGS WE THOUGHT TRAVELLERS
MIGHT FIND INTERESTING

A WHOLE LOT OF FASCINATING
TRAVEL TRIVIA

HOW TO PLAY CROQUET, EAT BUGS IN THE JUNGLE,
DELIVER A BABY, SAY CHEERS
IN CHINESE AND ABOUT 78 OTHER THINGS

...and so on, but none of them seemed quite right.

So The Book of Everything it is.





PLEASE DON'T CONTACT US WITH COMPLAINTS SUCH AS

"I went on vacation to Belize in June, and it rained hard every day. My husband wants to know why that isn't in *The Book of Everything*."

Also, we should tell you right now that there's nothing about packing your suitcase or backpack, or prospecting for gold in Brazil, or surviving in the Antarctic, or climbing Mount Everest, or dancing at Carnevale, or anything at all about Mombasa, Mumbai or Montevideo, or about tattooing, or about those flaps on an aircraft's wings and what they do.

(Although we could explain that last one; it's just not very interesting.)

Anyway, if you are looking for any of that information, and have read this far but haven't bought the book yet, then don't buy it—it's not right for you.

But everything else is within these pages, so read on. It'll be fun. You'll see.

NIGEL HOLMES, JULY 2012



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A different world

What's a travel book without a map of the world? And why do we always look at it the same way? This view might help you to see countries in a new light. (Then again it might just be totally annoying.)





UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Is it really upside down?

Our custom of orienting maps with north at the top is arbitrary. The Greek cartographer and astronomer Ptolemy drew his maps that way around the year AD 150, and most mapmakers have followed his example.

Some people think that north-oriented maps have an implicit bias toward the northern hemisphere, and many classic (and still used) world projections do favour the northern hemisphere. This is because at the time these maps were made. most of the developed world was in the north and more room was needed to show the detail in this area.

When the famous photo of Earth taken from space (aboard Apollo 17) was first published, in 1972, it showed the South Pole like this:



Publications quickly turned the image round to fit the established convention.

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Around the world: the equator

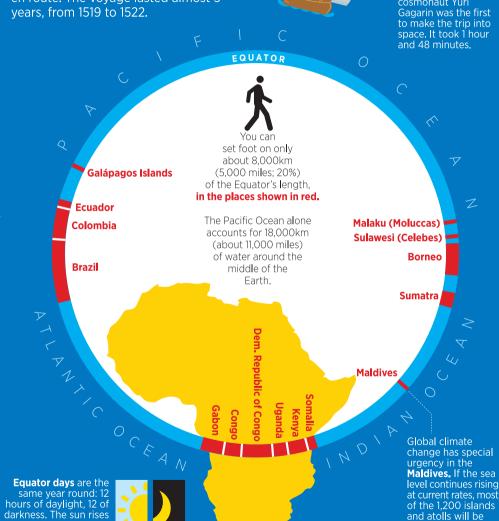
The first person to sail around the globe was Juan Sebastián del Cano, who took credit after his captain, Ferdinand Magellan, was killed en route. The voyage lasted almost 3 years, from 1519 to 1522.

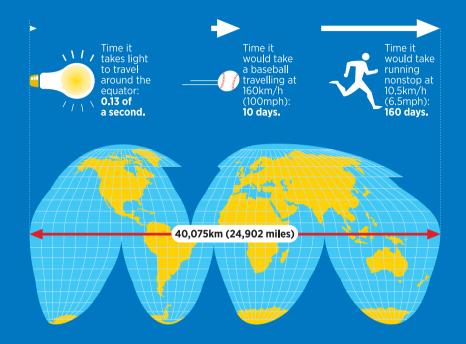


In 1961, Russian cosmonaut Yuri and 48 minutes.

under water by 2100,

according to the UN.





Why it's so darn hot

It's hot almost everywhere on the equator because the sun's rays hit the earth there straight on, heating the ground and the air above it. Elsewhere, the rays hit the atmosphere at an angle because the earth is curved. This dissipates some of the sun's energy.

Sun's rays are almost horizontal **Equator** Sun's rays are Of course, the sun directly overhead isn't as close to us as this. (But it sometimes feels like Elsewhere it on the equator.) Sun's rays are angled **Antarctic** Sun's rays are almost horizontal

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around 6am and sets

around 6pm.

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